

**Right Care,
Right Place**

**Healthcare options for
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in cross country**

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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Far-reaching implications for rural landowners

Gilly Fraser investigates couple's rural retreat
which is under threat from 'big-telecomms'



Marjorie and Charlie Coffee retired to Abbotshaw Cottage from Merseyside but now access to their home is threatened

A Newcastle couple caught up in a David and Goliath battle say many other people in Scotland could find themselves in the same position.

Marjorie and Charlie Coffee moved to the Borders twelve years ago after retiring from careers in the police force in Merseyside. Their dream of finding a quiet, rural home came true when they spotted a For Sale sign a mile or so outside Newcastle.

Abbotshaw Cottage was set well back from the road in the middle of land originally owned

by the neighbouring farm, also called Abbotshaw. It had its own private access road which had been created some years beforehand by the then farm owner. At the time, rights of access legally termed heritable and irredeemable servitude had been added to the property deeds.

The Coffees accepted that the maintenance of the track would be their responsibility and assumed their rights of access were enshrined in law thanks to the clause in the deeds. But around two years ago, their

peaceful, rural existence suddenly came under threat when they discovered out of the blue that a telecommunications mast was to be built beside their access road.

Over the years Abbotshaw Farm had changed hands a couple of times and the then owner did not want construction traffic going through his property, so he instructed the Telecoms company to use the Coffee's access road instead.

A number of local residents lodged objections to the original proposal and the company

decided not to go ahead with it. However the Coffees' relief proved short-lived.

"The entire property was then sold to an investment company in London. They subsequently sold the farmhouse along with 30 acres and a cottage next door, but kept the rest of the land to plant for forestry," said Marjorie Coffee. "Which meant another potential battle for us."

"Meanwhile, WHP Telecoms put in a planning application for the original mast site and that was successful," added Charlie.

"We objected to the proposal and pointed out that it would interfere with our access and the landowner even offered them an alternative, but WHP said no, they specifically wanted that site. For us it was like trying to stand in the path of a juggernaut."

"On the first of February this year we came home from shopping to find a variety of trucks at our gate. And we were informed in no uncertain manner that work was about to start on the mast."

The Coffees say this has made life very difficult not only for them but also for anyone trying to get to their house. The track is now very rough and difficult to manoeuvre in places, and heavy machinery is often parked right across it. On one occasion a friend had to wait for forty minutes before vehicles were moved to let her through.

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Inside...



Roman Rugby Holiday

As Scotland rugby fans lick their wounds after defeat by Italy in the Rugby Six Nations Championship a number of local fans took the trip to support their country.

Take a look at the centre pages for a selection of photos of their trip

Family Announcements

Deaths

GLOVER, John Alexander

On 23 February 2024, in the Alexandra Unit, after two years of stoically borne illness, John Alexander Glover aged 73 years. Beloved husband of Marion and much loved father of Joanne, Kirsty and Lindsay and dearest father-in-law, Papa, mentor and friend to so many. Memorial Service will be held in St George's Church, Dumfries on Tuesday 19 March at 2pm. All friends respectfully invited to attend. This will be preceded by private cremation.

MITCHELL, Greig (Papa)

We are greatly saddened to inform you of the passing of William 'Greig' Mitchell. Beloved brother of David, Douglas, Helen and Maimie. Greig left us peacefully at home with loved ones alongside.

He will be greatly missed.

Funeral proceedings will be held at St. Andrews Church, Dumfries at 10am on Friday March 22nd. He will then be laid to rest alongside Marjory and Sarah at Ewes Cemetery near Langholm followed by a gathering of remembrance at the Caledonian Hotel, Dumfries at 2pm. All who wish to attend are welcome.

Donations can be made to Macmillan Cancer Support in his honour.

Father to few, mentor to many.

TWEDDLE, Kenneth Johnstone (Kenny)

Tweddle Kenneth Johnstone (Kenny) peacefully after a long illness aged 73 on Monday 4th March at Dumfries Royal Infirmary with Joann and stepdaughter Nicola by his side.

Loving partner of Joann and dear brother of Moira, Dot, and the late Jim. Much loved stepdad, brother-in-law, uncle and papa.

Graveside service to be held at Canonbie Cemetery on Friday 15th March at 12 noon, to which all friends are invited, and afterwards at the Cross Keys Hotel. Family flowers only please, donations may be given in lieu to Canonbie surgery and Macmillan nurses

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896557941

Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale and Canonbie Churches welcome you to Sunday worship 10am Liddesdale and 11:30 Canonbie.

Rev Morag Crossan
07861 736071 or email
mrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

Church Services
Sunday 17th March
Langholm 10am

Contact us for transport
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Tel: 013873 73755.

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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

Response to public transport concerns

In an article in the E&L last week, Councillor Denis Male commented on the £13.8 million of levelling-up to decarbonise roads in Dumfries and Galloway.

He asked how the isolated community of Eskdale could become involved in the initiative when there are no direct public services into the rest of the county including no access to D&G Royal Infirmary or Annan hospital where all the day hospital treatments are based.

The response from Dumfries and Galloway Council to Councillor Male's questions is as follows:

"The £13.8m Levelling Up Fund monies are capital funding that can only be used for the three areas of investment included in the Council's submitted Bid as below:

- Multi-modal transport hubs in five towns with mini-hubs in smaller settlements, with EV charging for cars, bikes and Council fleet vehicles
- Bus improvements (electric buses and charging infrastructure; bus stop improvements), focused on routes serving our



Councillor Denis Male

transport hubs.

- Cycle route improvements on the long-distance Coast to Coast route and local improvements around our transport hubs.

Funding required to deliver service improvements would need to come from existing revenue streams which are currently fully committed and unfortunately without additional funding there is no opportunity to deliver any changes as suggested.

John Galloway, Chairman of

Langholm Ewes & Westerkirk Community Council asked who from the council was involved in the bid and what criteria was used to decide on the five towns' hubs and the mini hubs.

Insult

"I feel if our town and area was not considered it could be interpreted as an insult and an injustice, considering we have been calling out for years for better transport connectivity and with our council also supposed to be supporting the campaign for the Borders Railway extension" he said.

"I feel this subject must be pursued and a guarantee that consideration be given in the next round of capital expenditure. I would also be interested to know if the people involved were aware of the work undertaken in delivering our community action plans with sub-groups to address the needs for improved transport and infrastructure.

"It looks like they are perhaps not aware, which if this is the case, is very concerning" he concluded.

Thanks for Sympathy

IRVING, Jock

Jill, Donald and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind words of sympathy in the cards and messages received following the sad loss of Jock. Thanks to everyone who attended the funeral service and also for those who kindly donated to the collection in memory of Jock, a total of £320 was raised for Canonbie Surgery.

TAUDEVIN, Michael

Anne and family would like to thank everyone for the support, lovely flowers, cards and condolences received after the sad loss of Michael.

Thank you to the Rev. Morag Crossan and all who attended the service and the graveside. Thanks to the Eskdale Hotel for refreshments, Cochranes for the floral tribute and to Nicholson's Funeral Directors for making all the arrangements and their expert support and guidance. Anne would like to thank all the staff at Langholm Health Centre and the DGRI for their kindness. Finally our thanks to all who generously donated to Langholm Day Centre in memory of Mike.

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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

'People could be sitting on a timebomb'

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However, the couple say the inconvenience isn't the real issue and that they have, albeit with great reluctance, come to accept that the mast will be erected. They are far more concerned about their access rights being completely ignored.

"If we or our heirs ever want to sell the house, we could find it's effectively landlocked without a right of access, making it worthless," Charlie says. "So we have to fight. But the company seem to think we will have to take them to court."

Marjorie has been doing a great deal of research into the issue and so far has not found a single in-

stance where it says a landowner has the right to over-ride the deeds. But she says, it's shaping up to be a grossly unfair fight between two pensioners and a mighty company.

"And that's what we really want to highlight – that there could be thousands of other people in Scotland who currently believe they are safe because they also have heritable irredeemable rights in their deeds. The truth is that they could be sitting on a timebomb if companies can go ahead and do what they like regardless of what the deeds say."

The E&L has approached WHP Telecoms for a comment but so far has received no response.

Right Care, Right Place for community care?

IJB okays consultation on options for care in region's communities

OPTIONS for providing care in communities across Dumfries and Galloway are to be written up and assessed - in the next stage of the Right Care, Right Place programme.

On Tuesday, members of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) agreed plans to advance the work focused on the care which does not require the services of an acute facility and is not delivered in someone's own home.

IJB Chairman Andy McFarlane said: "A great deal of work has taken place within Right Care, Right Place, looking at the provision of care, gathering views and insights, and looking at future models.

"With our region's changing demographics and increasingly complex care needs, we know that we need to adapt our approaches in order to best serve our communities - now, and over the longer term.

"Last year, Right Care, Right Place gathered a huge amount of valuable insight and understanding from local stakeholders, including public and staff.

"In recent weeks, the team

have been undertaking focused workshop sessions with stakeholders to take all that we'd learned and start planning, in real terms, how we can adapt to meet the care needs in our communities.

"This takes in everything from the roles played by our care homes to the services embedded in our cottage hospitals.

"A range of options for each of our eight Home Teams areas has been identified. And yesterday we agreed the next stage - to work with stakeholders to assess and shortlist the options, taking the most viable approaches out for public consultation.

"This consultation is expected to begin later in the spring, and we'll be encouraging everyone to have their say.

"We are working to ensure that, by September, the Board have the necessary information to make the decisions that will provide the best outcomes for all involved, and begin implementing models of care that are best placed to meet the needs of communities both in the short term, and for years to come."

Councillor Denis Mail said:



The Right Care, Right Place programme will be linked to the Murtholm development and the reinstatement of services in Langholm's Thomas Hope Hospital

"The right care right place programme is what will be linked to the Murtholm Development of elderly care. With that project delayed the meeting of the Community Council with Health Board officers recently was to look at

what can be done with services in the meantime.

"This follows on from the meeting held in the Day Centre recently.

"The reforming of the Health sub group that was working with Health Board officials before COVID, was decided at the Community Council

Meeting attended by the Health Board officials in December.

Interaction

"This allows interaction with Health Board officials to look initially at the return of services, removed from the Town prior to COVID and understand the full implications of right place

Fancy an allotment?

A well-managed allotment has become available at the New Town Bowling Club. It has a raised bed with strawberry plants as well as a blackcurrant bush and established rhubarb. If it seems daunting for one person, perhaps two friends might like to take it on. The benefits of growing your own fruit and vegetables are well documented. For more information, contact Avril Grieve on 013873 80529.

Bridge results

N/S - 1 Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2 Derek Scott & Avril Bannatyne, 3 George & Brenda Bullamore
E/W - 1 Phil Walters & Steve Miles, 2 Scott Muir & Jim Muir, 3 Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney

right time and how it will impact the Community."

John Galloway, chair of Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council welcomed the press release from DGHB, but added "We are still pushing, as far as we can, with all stakeholders, to find a solution to get the work on the Murtholm Housing Development back on track as soon as possible".

Full details on the paper to IJB on 5th March 2023 can be found by visiting: <https://dghsco.co.uk/integration-joint-board/integration-joint-board-meetings/>

Favourite walk closed

Easton's Walk has long been a favourite ramble for locals and visitors alike ever since Mr Easton the First Master of the Free Church School had the walk named after him in the 19th century.

However, the increased rainfall in recent years has taken its toll on the condition on the banks and the part of the walk between Buccleuch Park and the Beechy Plains has suffered a number of landslips. On top of this, the concrete walkway/bridge along the highest part of the walk has become so unsafe, that the concrete can be seen moving underfoot.

Taking all this into account, Langholm Walks representative, Gavin Graham has recommended to Ross Gemmell, warden for D&G Council Access Department that the route should be closed.

This has been followed up by the Council and maps with alternative routes have been posted at either end of the walk.

Any updates on this will be published in the E&L.



SERIOUS: The concrete walkway above the Esk has become unsafe for walkers
Photo by Gavin Graham

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Vehicle deliberately damaged

Early on Sunday evening, around 6.30/7pm a resident in the Moodla Point area of the town had their vehicle 'keyed', i.e. deliberately scratched using a key or similar metal object.

The incident took place within a short space of time as the resident was going back and forward to the vehicle packing for a trip.

A number households in the vicinity of Moodla Point have CCTV cameras mounted on their property and it is believed that the incident was captured on at least one of these and the police have been informed.

If anyone saw anything suspicious at the time, please contact the non-emergency police line on 101.



NEEDLESS: The foot long scratch on the side of the vehicle

No formal plans - yet - for 23-mile deer fence

Oxygen Conservation responds to some concerning rumours

By Gilly Fraser

The new owners of the former Hartsgarth and Blackburn farms on Langholm Moor say they haven't yet drawn up formal plans for erecting deer fencing round the property. A number of local people had heard rumours of plans for 23 miles of deer fencing, but Oxygen Conservation who bought the 11,500-acre site in April 2023, say they're still at the exploratory stage.

In a statement, the company said, "We will be exploring what fencing needs are most appropriate, and once thoughtfully considered this will be shared at our next consultation event."

The Spokesperson also responded to fears expressed by local farmers that no measures are to be put in place to control vermin including foxes, which could endanger new lambs.

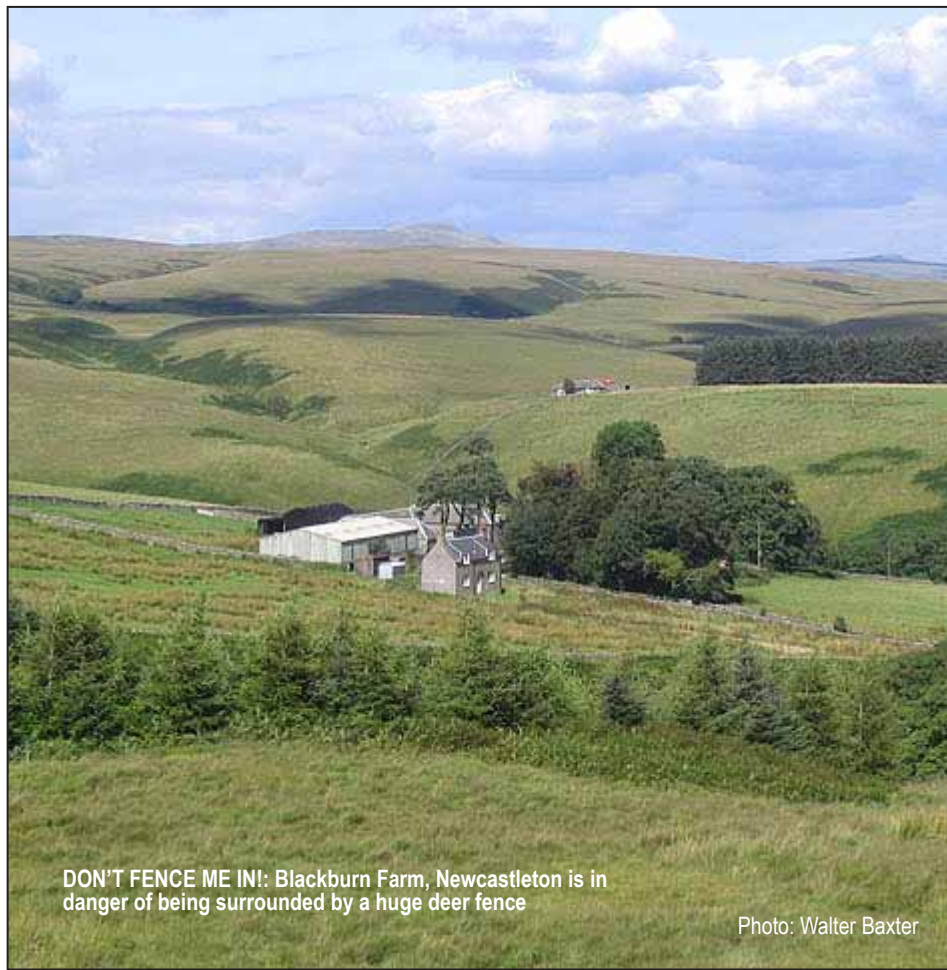
"We are a Conservation company and don't view any species as vermin, or even use this language. We won't

be killing species in our landscapes. An exception however is acting for the impact of conservation.

"For example, we are very transparent about our approach to deer management, which is an action we have taken on other sites for habitat restoration and tree planting, and one we consistently monitor and manage with respect and only implement where our data tells us action is required.

"We are not farmers, (although we have huge respect for what they do) and as a team do not claim to be, so with regards to other landowners/farmers and the protection of their lambs, it is not our place to provide any direction as to how they should manage their land."

Oxygen Conservation say they hope anyone interested will find time to attend their next local consultation. The date hasn't yet been announced but is likely to be within the next few months.



DON'T FENCE ME IN!: Blackburn Farm, Newcastleton is in danger of being surrounded by a huge deer fence

Photo: Walter Baxter

S5 pupils mark International Women's Day raising an admirable £500+

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

International Women's Day on 8th March was marked by a group of fifth year pupils at Langholm Academy. Between them they baked over 150 cup cakes and iced them with 'boob' decorations to promote breast cancer awareness and raise money for Breast Cancer Now.

This charity raises awareness of breast cancer, provides support to people who have breast cancer and funds research into secondary breast cancer. This is where a cancer that started in the breast has spread to other parts of the body.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and about 1000 women died of the disease every year in Scotland. The charity was started in 1973 and its aims are that by 2050 everyone diagnosed with breast cancer live and be supported to live well.

As well as selling the cup cakes the young women of Langholm Academy

sold cancer ribbons and gave people glitter tattoos, for a donation. They had also made a photo 'booth' frame from recycled cardboard and had props available for their customer to take their photos.

As one who sampled their wares, I can testify that the cakes were delicious.

The pupils raised the fantastic sum of £500 for the charity.

If you'd like to donate to 'Breast Cancer Now' you can do that through their website

<https://secure.breastcancernow.org/appeal/donate/#/>

Clockwise from top left:

Jenna Robb, Beth Porter, Jessica Smith and Ruby Irving

Chloe Shepard and Jenna Robb

The boob-decorated cakes

Amy Smith, Beth Porter and Jenna Robb



Star of Caledonia set to light up the border

Cecil Balmond's design would tower 35 metres above Gretna Green

Plans for a landmark sculpture on the border between Scotland and England have taken a major step forward, with permission being sought for a new site beside the M74.

The Star of Caledonia will be taller than the Angel of the North and is set to provide a huge economic boost for the south of Scotland, attracting around 500,000 tourists each year.

The team behind the project is now reapplying for planning permission to Dumfries & Galloway Council, having moved the proposed site less than a mile up the motorway.

The £11 million illuminated sculpture, which would be adjacent to Gretna Green, promises to create jobs in the local area and drive more than £50m of additional tourism revenue.

Reaching a height of 35 metres, the Star will be clearly visible from the M74 and form a stunning welcome and farewell to Scotland for travellers.

The project has secured funding pledges from Community Windpower, one of Scotland's

largest green energy operators, as well as from Scottish Government agency South of Scotland Enterprise and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

The new plans include a state-of-the-art visitor centre that will showcase the Star and act as a gateway to promote tourist trails across Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders.

The centre will highlight local attractions such as the Robert Burns House in Dumfries, The Devil's Porridge Museum in Eastriggs and Kirkcudbright Dark Space Planetarium, as well as others further along the border including Hadrian's Wall.

Its spiral design is inspired by the work of James Clerk Maxwell, the Scottish physicist best known for his formulation of electromagnetic theory, who lived near Castle Douglas.

Balmond has said he hopes the sculpture will act "as a metaphor for the dynamism of the Scottish nation, symbolising the energy and power of Scottish invention".

It is also hoped that the Star



An artists impression of how the Star of Caledonia would look

will put the south of Scotland on the map as a leader in the transition to renewables, as the illumination could be powered by renewable energy.

Susan Houston, chair of the Star of Caledonia Trust, the team behind the project, said:

"We have always believed this project would happen. And with a new site and new plans, we have a new start.

"This revival is transformational and marks a pivotal moment for Gretna Green and the surrounding area, symbol-

ising resilience, and adaptability in the face of challenges.

"As the Star of Caledonia gets a new home, the project is not just about a landmark sculpture but a catalyst for tourism, local economies, and community pride."

Rod Wood, managing director at Community Windpower, said:

"We believe the Star of Caledonia to be a special project and we are doing all we can to see it built. We are heavily invested in Dumfries and Galloway already through our

operational wind farms, but we have significant plans for future developments in the region and look forward to working with relevant stakeholders to see them delivered.

"The Star of Caledonia should be seen not only as a symbol of culture and growth, but also how wind turbines can bring environmental, economic, and social benefits as well as community benefits for a huge range of organisations. We must continue to capitalise on these exciting opportunities."

Beware Microsoft scammers

The E&L was contacted this week by a Langholm senior citizen who was distressed by almost being caught out by a scammer purporting to be from the multi-national Microsoft organisation.

The caller claimed to have knowledge that there was a problem with the customer's computer and continued, in a very convincing manner, to explain the problem.

When the reader said that she would seek help from someone locally, the mood changed and the caller became more aggressive and said she would essentially shut down access to her computer. At this point, the reader hung up.

Here are a few tips to deal with a situation like this:

If someone claiming to be from Microsoft tech support calls you:

- Do not purchase any software or services.
- Ask if there is a fee or subscription associated with the "service." If there is, hang up.
- Never give control of your computer to a third party unless you can confirm that it is a legitimate representative of a computer support team with whom you are already a customer.
- Never provide your credit card or financial information to someone claiming to be from Microsoft tech support.

'Deadly Crisis' in south Scotland A & E service

MSP reports waits of up to 122 hours

South Scotland's Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments are in the grip of a 'deadly crisis' with long delays endangering lives, according to South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth.

Statistics obtained by Scottish Labour have revealed shockingly long waits at A&E departments across Scotland last year.

According to Public Health Scotland, in 2023 over 7,300 patients waited more than a day in A&E departments across Scotland before being discharged, admitted or transferred.

In NHS Ayrshire and Arran's University Hospital Crosshouse, a patient waited in A&E for 122 hours – well over five days.

In Borders General Hospital someone waited over 88 hours, whilst NHS Lanarkshire's University Hospital Wishaw recorded a wait of over 72 hours.

These eye-watering delays in South Scotland have continued into 2024, with patients in NHS Borders and NHS Lanarkshire facing unacceptably long waits



Colin Smyth MSP presents some alarming statistics

this year.

The appalling situation in A&E departments has continued with the latest statistics showing that just 65.5 per cent of attendances were seen within four hours across Scotland.

In South Scotland just 66.9% in NHS Ayrshire, 60.3% in NHS Borders, 75.8% in Dumfries and Galloway, 55.1% in NHS Lanarkshire and 59.3% in Lothian were seen within four hours. The legal requirement is that 95% should be seen within four hours.

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine have

calculated that there will be an excess death for every 1 in 72 patients who spend between eight and 12 hours in an Emergency Department.

Based on the numbers waiting over 8 hours in Scotland in 2023, this would equate to up to 2,000 excess deaths.

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth said: "Our local Accident and Emergency Units are in the grip of a deadly crisis because of excessive waiting times. That some people have waited days to be seen is shocking and downright dangerous.

"We know NHS staff are working round the clock but the mismanagement of the Scottish Government means there are not enough of them and these figures show that it's patients who are suffering with excessive waits.

"We need a proper plan from the Scottish Government to support our A&E departments by tackling delayed discharge to free up beds and investing in primary care such as GPs to avoid as many people ending up at A&E."

Oh what a beautiful day!

Langholm Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society presents

in association with Concord Theatricals

Ok!lahoma!

by Rodgers & Hammerstein



in The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm

Tue 19th - Fri 22nd March 2024 at 7.30pm | Sat 23rd March at 2.30pm

Tickets £15/£12 available from

Box Office 013873 81196 | or online at buccleuchcentre.com

Farming on the Border



In association with
C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Farming with Gilly Fraser

NFU Scotland finance firm

NFU Scotland has gone into partnership with a County Durham-based business to create a new company to offer bespoke business finance solutions to the union's 9000 members.

NFU Scotland Finance will offer tailored loans, commercial mortgages, asset finance, business credit cards, and refinancing opportunities.

It brings the union together with Anglo Scottish Asset Finance which has extensive experience in funding agricultural machinery and vehicles, as well as diversification and green energy projects to help agricultural businesses achieve their growth and sustainability goals.

NFU Scotland CEO John Davidson says the new partnership is based on a shared philosophy.

"We've seen how impactful and innovative our members can be when they are supported by reliable financial services, and we expect many of them will use this opportunity to grow

their businesses, and thus create a stable future for Scottish agriculture," he said.

The company will be led by Andrew Laird, Head of Agriculture and Food Finance at Anglo Scottish, and supported by a team of farming finance specialists. He says the team will attend NFU Scotland events to discuss new projects and commercial opportunities.

"As an organisation, NFU Scotland is dedicated to representing and advancing the interests of farmers and crofters in Scotland," he said.

"By joining forces, we are committed to providing NFU Scotland members with tailored commercial finance and asset finance solutions to help them achieve their growth and diversification objectives."



Multi-national showcase of dairy farming excellence

UK Dairy Expo 2024 at Carlisle's Borderway Mart

Thousands of farmers, traders and industry experts will be converging on Harrison and Hetherington's Borderway Mart in Carlisle this weekend for UK Dairy Expo 2024.

Described as a world class, multi-national showcase for the best the British dairy industry has to offer, this year sees a record entry of more than 460 cattle representing seven different breeds.

The spotlight is going to be on the future, with the upcoming generation of breeders and farmers very much to the fore.

Organiser, Glyn Lucas says the event's success is a vital demonstration of the health and dynamism of British dairy farming.

"The continuing development of our dairy industry is absolutely crucial to the supply of the highest quality dairy produce for UK consumers," he said.

"We are absolutely delighted to be able to give our industry a globally respected stage to show their wonderful cattle and

the advances that are being made in technology and systems that are helping our farmers to futureproof their enterprises and build a successful future.

The global panel of experts includes Australia's internationally respected Brown Swiss breeder and show winner, Ben Govett, who will judge the Holstein, Brown Swiss, and Dairy Shorthorn classes.

Fellow countryman Daniel Bacon will judge the Jersey, Red & White, and Ayrshire classes.

Holstein Master Breeder John Cousar will make the comparatively short journey south from Ayrshire to judge the British Friesian classes, and Wisconsin based genetics expert Roger Turner will run his rule over the International Showmanship classes.

The event also includes a trade exhibition with one hundred organisations sharing the latest industry trends, research, ideas and developments, providing visitors with



Winner of 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, Ayrshire dairy farmer Hugh Kennedy

a comprehensive shop window for the exchange of advice, information, contacts and knowledge.

H&H have ensured there are classes specially tailored for the youngest in the industry.

The Showmanship Championship aims to recognise their

commitment and dedication, and to offer them the guidance and encouragement of some of the best in the business.

The Rising Star Award will recognise the knowledge, work ethic and sportsmanship of an outstanding young person in dairy farming.

Women in Agriculture hold first conference

Nearly two hundred people came together for the first Women in Agriculture conference to be organised by the Farm Advisory Service.

Held at Murrayfield Stadium, the event featured speeches from a number of key figures in the industry including the Scottish Government's newly appointed Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, Jim Fairlie.

He outlined the Women In Agriculture development programme and gave details of an initiative called Be Your Best Self, which is designed to help women in rural Scotland to improve their skills and confidence levels.

The importance of wellbeing and ensuring quality of life even during busy schedules was highlighted in an address by Smallholder Nikki Yoxall, who is also Head of Research at Pasture



KEY FIGURE: Jim Fairlie

For Life. It was set up in 2009 by a small group of British farmers who wanted to spread the word about the benefits of producing meat from animals fed exclusively on pasture. It now has members throughout the UK.

She told the audience that they must all value themselves and their time – because if they didn't,

why should anyone else? The advice was well received.

Wellbeing was also the buzzword in a workshop run by a team from Farmstrong Scotland which invited participants to consider the things that drained them as against the things that boosted them.

They then discussed the importance of wellbeing to improve the resilience of the farming and crofting community across Scotland.

QMS Chief Executive Sarah Miller rounded off the conference with a pep talk because she said, women often talk themselves out of things or even talk themselves down.

"We need to all start leaning into new opportunities and believing in your ourselves if we are to truly unlock the talent pool that Scottish food and farming has."

10,000 hectares re-wetted

The restoration of peatland in Scotland has reached a significant milestone with 10,000 hectares now re-wetted.

It's the result of work carried out over a number of years by Forestry and Land Scotland and it's estimated that it will result in emissions savings of 87,800 tonnes of CO2 per year.

The work forms part of the FLS Peatland Restoration Strategy with FLS a key delivery partner for NatureScot's Peatland ACTION Project – together they aim to restore tens of thousands of hectares of forest to bog and improve a similar amount of existing blanket bog to peatland.

The Scottish Government has set a target of restoring 250,000 hectares of degraded peatland by 2030.

Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon says peatlands are an integral part of Scotland's cultural and natural heritage and can play a major role protecting



Peatland work on Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

the environment.

"When in good condition, they can help us fight climate change, support biodiversity, improve water quality and reduce the severity of flooding and fires," she said.

"I am proud to mark FLS hitting 10,000 hectares of peatland restoration. Every site we restore adds to the scale of the contribution we make to our environment, to biodiversity, water quality, to our future, and to the people of Scotland.

FLS Chief Executive Simon Hodgson says the work is the result of a great deal of hard work.

"Reaching this milestone is a testament to the dedication of FLS teams and our partners in efforts to transform and restore one of Scotland's largest degraded ecosystems to create a far healthier landscape," he said.

"One that not only benefits the wider environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people and nature."

Westerkirk SWI



SECURE: Margaret Sanderson under lock and key

Report by
Beverley Eyre

On March 5, the Westerkirk Rural ladies gathered in the Benty Hall for our monthly meeting. All were in good spirits with the promise of spring just around the corner.

We began, as usual, with the business part of the evening. We heard news from the Federation and discussed upcoming competitions, shows such as Langholm show and visits to other Rural groups.

We ran two competitions, a dyed egg and a jar of marmalade. These were to be judged later in the evening.

President Ann Hislop then welcomed Margaret Sanderson speaking on behalf of D & G Handy Van. They are a charitable organisation, delivering small repairs, home support services and advice on where to turn for help that they cannot provide themselves. These services are provided mainly for free across all of Dumfries and Galloway region. Margaret spoke in detail about the service and the special dementia-friendly design, for example, coloured grab rails. Margaret also brought along a range of locks, door security and key boxes to show us. It was a very

interesting and informative talk. Margaret answered questions and then was thanked and presented with a plant by Diana Stewart.

As always, the competitions were then judged by our guest speaker. Diana Stewart won both the dyed egg and the jar of marmalade competitions.

The remainder of the evening was spent sharing sandwiches and home baking, chatting and enjoying a raffle.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2 April and will include a sales table. It is a visitors' night, with some members of Canonbie and Ewes WRI coming along. Why not join us at 7:30 pm in the Benty Hall to see what we are all about?



One of the dyed eggs on display



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Cool, clear water...from a Top-Up Tap

Top-up your water bottle at Langholm's latest outlet.

The original location proposed for the Top-up Tap was Buccleuch Park but it was not technically possible, so the Kilngreen was suggested as the other major parkland in Langholm.

A site survey of Buccleuch Park was carried out to assess the suitability of the location and in particular the existing water supply to the old fountain.

The existing water supply could not be located at site, so the matter was referred to the local Water Operations team who have extensive knowledge of the area and water supply network.

Ultimately there were concerns regarding the suitability of the existing water supply at Buccleuch Park and also what level of turnover there would be in the supply pipe, which is a key concern to ensure water

quality. Furthermore, the unique make-up of this site would have made it prohibitive to bring in a new water supply due to the distance and the bridge crossing.

As a result of the findings and feedback, an alternative site was proposed at the Kilngreen Car Park, which was technically achievable. While it is regrettable that Buccleuch Park could not progress, the nearby Kilngreen was a welcomed al-

ternative. This location is included as part of five new sites in wider Dumfries and Galloway currently under review.

■ The Tourism Group are working with D&G Council to help make the bandstand area more attractive to visitors and the roof of the structure is due to be cleaned this Spring.



White Rabbits, Alice and a load of snowdrops

Out and about with Langholm Play Care



QUEEN OF HEARTS: Taking a seat on the Alice in Wonderland sculptures in Buccleuch Park



Checking-out the snowdrops



PLAY CARE'S ADVENTURES: The White Rabbit keeping a eye on the time as he receives a cuddle



Langholmmites in Rome

We catch up with some local rugby fans visiting the Eternal City



ARCICONTENTO: The Italian rugby team were chuffed to be sharing a hotel with a Langholm Ex-Cornet, Kevan Hotson and his wife Wendy!



STADIO OLIMPICO: Bird's Eye view of the opening ceremony



FANS: Rachael and Chris Stewart soaking up the atmosphere in the Piazza del Popolo in Rome



STEPPING-UP: Raes, Beatties, Dicksons and Tweedles pose for a group photo on Rome's Spanish Steps



Johnstones, Hotsons and Donaldsons this time

Saturday's Six Nations fixture between Italy and Scotland ended in a 31-29 win for the home nation, leaving Scottish supporters greatly disappointed. In a last-minute attempt to close the gap, Scotland battled on but it was a knock-on that ended the match and Scotland's hopes were dashed. However, despite the result, a number of groups of Scotland supporters made the trip to the Eternal City to enjoy the atmosphere, the food and the birra! Thanks a lot to Jackie Johnstone, Chris Stewart and Stephen Rae for sending in some photos from their weekend jaunt.



GOOD SEATS: ready for kick-off



ALMOST TIME: Rachael and Chris take their position in the Stadio Olimpico



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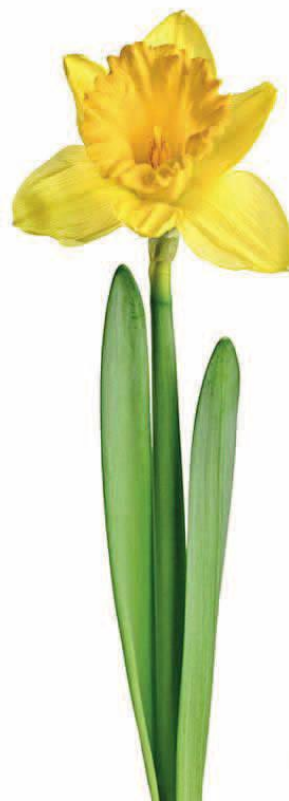
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LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK W/C 18th March 2024			
Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Scrap Store	12-2	CM Space DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	After School Club	4-5:30	CM Space DG13 0ES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	CM Space DG13 0ES
Wed	Eskdalemuir Hub In Stitches	10-12	The Hub DG13 0QJ
	Welcome Wednesday & Scrap Store	10-3	CM Space DG13 0ES
Thurs	Make a Scrappy Rabbit	10-4	CM Space DG13 0ES
Fri	Scrap Store	10-12	CM Space DG13 0ES
	Langholm In Stitches	1-3	Social Club DG13 0DN
Sun	Patchwork cushion	10-4	CM Space DG13 0ES

Booking required - visit www.creationmill.org/2024-events

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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Sun 17th	Adventures from Westerkirk	Westerkirk Parish Library 4pm - 6pm
19th to 23rd	LAODS presents OKLAHOMA!	The Buccleuch Centre Tue - Fri 7.30pm Sat - 2.30pm
Fri 22nd	Talk by 'Oor Bees' Eskdale Gardening Club	Cross Keys Hotel, Canonbie 2pm
Sat 23rd	Firefighters Charity CAR WASH	Langholm Fire Station 9am - 1pm
	Spring Session for children P1-P7	Eskdale Wildlife Watch eskdalewildlifewatch@outlook.com
	QUIZ NIGHT in aid of Eden Valley Hospice	Langholm Social Club 8pm
	Volunteer Tree Planting TVNR	Broomholmshiels 1pm - 3pm
Tue 26th	Brew & Blether 'Muckle Toon Shed'	Langholm Social Club 1pm - 3pm
Wed 27th	Langholm Baby & Toddlers Group	The Studio Easter Holiday Activities open to schoolchildren
Sat 30th	Canonbie Parish Church Soup & Sweet Lunches	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1.30pm
	Archie Irving Live	The Douglas Hotel from 9pm

The E&L Scottish TV Trivia Quiz

No. 2410 answers next week

- 1) Kerberos, a gigantic three-headed hound is said to guard who's gates?
- 2) What is the name of Woody and Buzz's owner in the Toy Story film franchise?
- 3) What is the most common name of British monarchs?
- 4) In a pack of standard playing cards, which card is also known as 'the dame'?
- 5) The Giulia, Giulietta and Stelvio models of car are produced by which Italian car company?
- 6) Which English football club play their home games at Priestfield Stadium?
- 7) In the fairy tale, what is the name of Hansel's sister?
- 8) Billy McFarland and rapper Ja Rule were behind which problematic "luxury" music festival?
- 9) Which 'L' is a British sports brand best associated with boxing kit?
- 10) Which Peruvian city represents the letter 'L' in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
- 11) Tom Cruise plays Ethan Hunt in which movie franchise?
- 12) Duroc, Berkshire and Mangalica are breeds of which type of animal?
- 13) What is the surname of the character who owns Roy's Rolls in Coronation Street?
- 14) The BFI acts to preserve filmmaking and television in the United Kingdom. What does BFI stand for?
- 15) Which Irish comedian and actor starred opposite Richard Ayoade in The IT Crowd?
- 16) Which British actress played Claire McGory in 'Save Me' and Dr. Gemma Foster in 'Doctor Foster'?
- 17) In Dutch folklore they are known as Kabouters, but what are they known as in Ireland?
- 18) Fans of which US singer-songwriter call themselves the 'Fanilows'?
- 19) The phrase "Let them eat cake" is often wrongly attributed to which Queen of France?
- 20) What flying insect is the symbol of Manchester?



Crossword Solutions from last week

Scottish TV Quiz 2409

- 1 John Le Carré
- 2 b) J. B. Priestley
- 3 Maggie Smith
- 4 Paddington Bear
- 5 c) Liverpool
- 6 Aldous Huxley
- 7 Cornwall
- 8 c) Hamish Bowles
- 9 BBC Radio 1
- 10 Alan Rickman
- 11 Alaska
- 12 Amazon
- 13 Istanbul, Turkey
- 14 Pitcairn Island in Polynesia
- 15 Russia
- 16 Venezuela
- 17 North America
- 18 Canada
- 19 Europe
- 20 Dublin

Crossword 2409

Across: 1 Based, 4 Mid-air, 9 Camilla, 10 Audit, 11 Cushy, 12 Trendy, 14 Accumulations, 17 Guinea, 18 Wharf, 21 Alarm, 22 Eyeball, 23 Easily, 24 Sadly.

Down: 1 Backchat, 2 Sumos, 3 Daley, 5 I have it, 6 Added to, 7 Rats, 8 Party leader, 13 Usefully, 15 Cougars, 16 Minimal, 18 Weeks, 19 Award, 20 Faze.

Never a Crossword!

No. 2410...answers next week

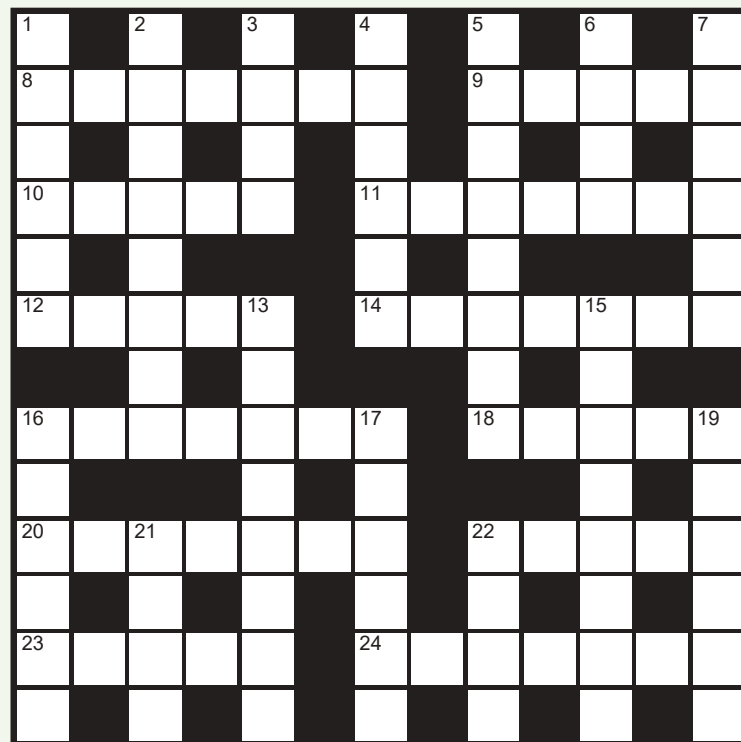
A wee mix of cryptic and general knowledge puzzles to get the grey cells moving!

Across

- 8 Where to scrub Skodas or mop Mazdas (3,4)
- 9 Runs moderately fast (5)
- 10 Tiny particles (5)
- 11 Defiant remark (2,5)
- 12 Disgrace (5)
- 14 Tire out (7)
- 16 Willingly obedient (7)
- 18 Lebanese city and ancient Phoenician port (5)
- 20 Tympanic membrane (7)
- 22 Thick sweet liquid (5)
- 23 Sudden forward thrust (5)
- 24 Of little consequence (7)

Down

- 1 Orts (6)
- 2 Disdainful (8)
- 3 It's said on Sunday (4)
- 4 Virginal (6)
- 5 Sudden side pains (8)
- 6 Completed (4)
- 7 Give the green light (6)
- 13 Carried out badly fed crone (8)
- 15 Be beneath (8)
- 16 Makes a home (6)
- 17 Bounds (6)
- 19 Incendiary gel (6)
- 21 South African money (4)
- 22 Dirty (4)





Looking back...

Langholm As it Was ... The "broken-men" on the Scottish Border

According to some authorities there were eighteen recognised clans on the Scottish Border besides a number of what were known as "broken-men". The latter were numerous groups, more or less closely bound by family ties to act in co-operation, though not necessarily recognising one head.

The principal clans, such as the Maxwells, Scotts and Johnstones, held their baronies from the Crown, and their chiefs exercised a firm control over their members and retainers. The chief of the clan was loyally obeyed by his followers, and possessed more disciplinary power over them than did the most powerful baron outside the clan. This suggests that the clan system was really a survival of the old tribal laws of the Celts, modified by the altered conditions of tenure.

The head of the clan was looked to by the government to pledge the good behaviour of his followers and was frequently required to give hostages as guarantees of this assurance. These hostages or pledges could be changed for others. The Privy Council Records of the period contain lists of the pledges and their substitutes, and also indicate the various castles where such are to be warded.



The clan system, to which much of the lawlessness of the Borders was, no doubt, attributable, was a corollary of the feudal system. The well-regulated clan made for law and civil order; but with the "broken-men" things were different. Every man's hand was against them. When the Border barons combined against the "broken-men" in 1569, the latter were not permitted "nor their wives, bairns, tenants, or servants to dwell, remain or abide or to pasture their gudies upon any landis outwith Liddesdale". Their raids, plunderings, and feuds, however were often the result of

the weakness of the central government and of the political relationships existing between the two countries.

Amongst these clans or "broken-men" the Armstrongs, Elliots, Littles, Beattisons and Irvings were the most numerous and powerful in Eskdale.

The Lyndsays

The Lyndsays were amongst the earliest settlers in Eskdale. They possessed lands in Langholm, Stapelgortoun and Wauchope as early as 1285 and for several centuries they maintained a

connection with Wauchopedale, more or less broken by forfeitures. These arose from their dual position as barons in both England and Scotland. Their sympathies, for the most part, were with the English King and at Bannockburn, Lindsay of Wauchope fought against Robert the Bruce and was taken prisoner.

In Crawford's Lives of the Lindsays it is said that several of them sided with Edward, one of these being Sir Simon Lindsay, son of Sir John Lindsay, of Wauchope. It is clear, however, that at the Battle of Otterburn the Lindsays fought bravely on the

side of Douglas, Alexander Lindsay, Lord of Wauchopedale being one of the most conspicuous. According to the plan arranged by the Scottish commanders, Lindsay was to advance by way of Carlisle, taking with him the baggage of the Scottish army, and then effect a junction with the other leaders. The head of the House of Lindsay at this time was Sir James of Crawford and he, too, fought for Douglas at Otterburn.

Their stronghold was Wauchope Castle, adjoining the present kirkyard. Here they kept state as lords of Wauchope and here many an exciting incident occurred. One such, indeed, resulted in the Lindsays losing, for a time at least, their possessions in Wauchope.

The sheriff of Eskdale at this time was Bartholomew Glendinning, in whose family the office was hereditary. In 1505, in pursuance of his official duties, he had to proceed to Wauchope to distraint the lands of the Lindsays in respect of the third portion which formed the jointure of Margaret, widow of John Lindsay. His son John, who was in possession, resisted the distraint with the full muster of his feudal retainers and in the skirmish which ensued, Glendinning and his brother Symon were both killed.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 7th March 2024



C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward 10,203 comprising of 5,534 prime hogs and 4,669 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 7th March 2024.

A larger and mixed offering of cast cows were forward. A busy ringside of buyers ensured all classes met a brisk trade throughout with more numbers required on a weekly basis here at Longtown. The sale topped at £1,605 and £1,482 for Holsteins shown by Hewson Bros., Jerriestown, Blackford. Limousin cows sold to £1,384 from Wanwood Partners, Wanwood Hill, Alston with Angus to £1,262 and £1,203 from Skipness Estate, Skipness, Tarbert. Blue Greys to £1,164 from Bridgewater & Wood, Potholm, Langholm. Top per kilo of 228p and 223p for Holsteins from Jerriestown and to 218p for Limousins from Wanwood Hill.

A similar show of 5,534 hogs were forward to another increased ring of purchasers ensuring all classes sold to record rates of return with all vendors leaving highly delighted with their days trading at Longtown.

Incorporated in the weekly sale of prime hogs was the prize show and sale of Cheviot hogs kindly sponsored by PJ Tractor Parts, Longtown. The directors, auctioneers and all the auction mart staff would like to thank all parties involved with today's show and sale. Judging was left in the very capable hands of Billy MacTaggart who awarded the prizes as follows:

20 HILL CHEVIOT PRIME HOGGS
CLASS 1 - UP TO 38 KILOS
1ST - Reid, Glendearg 33kg £120
CLASS 2 - 39-44 KILOS
1ST - Reid, Glendearg 41kg £156
2ND - Jardine, Yett 43kg £165
3RD - Bell, Bloch 42kg £160
CLASS 3 - 45 KILOS & OVER

1ST - Carruthers, Woodhall 51kg £184
2ND - Carruthers, Woodhall 48kg £176
3RD - Bell, Kirkton 49kg £178
CHAMPION - Reid, Glendearg
RESERVE CHAMPION - Carruthers, Woodhall
20 NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT PRIME HOGGS
CLASS 1 - UP TO 44 KILOS
1ST - Muir, Cleughbrae 43kg £171
CLASS 2 - 45 KILOS & OVER
1ST - Eastham, Longburgh Fauld 52kg £190
2ND - Muir, Cleughbrae 47kg £180
3RD - Bell, Kirkton 49kg £178
CHAMPION - Longburgh Fauld

Competition for hogs was fierce from the start to the finish, achieving an unprecedented overall sale average of 365ppk, with 155 hogs selling over £102, countless pens of hogs selling £195+ and 425ppk+
Hogs topped at £232 for Texels from GW Young & Sons, Hawick.
Top per kilo of 523p for Beltex shown by EJ & AM Fox, St Johns Kirk, Biggar and from D Smith, Scobshaugh, Kirriemuir.

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 easily and efficiently, so please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers who will be pleased to take your calls and assist you and your business in any way possible.

Overall average 364.6p (SQQ 366.9p)

John Walton 07880 527 066
(Prime Sheep Auctioneer)
Daniel Lynn 07584 200 489
(Prime Sheep Auctioneer)
Sam Hogg 07584 207 323
(Prime Cattle & Cast Cow Auctioneer)
Norman Douglas 07786 366 833 (Fields Person)
Helen Rickard 07741 313 029
(Fields Person)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Beltex 523p St Johns Kirk & Scobshaugh, 485p, 484p, 481p High Airyolland.
Dutch Texel 446p Kirkhouse.
Texel 431p Kirkhouse, 427p Govals, 421p Kirkhouse, 419p Ballochgar, 417p Viewley, 410p Newton Cottage.
North Country Cheviot 398p, 383p Cleughbrae, 376p Longburgh Fauld.
Herdwick 397p, 388p Orthwaite Hall.
Charollais 397p, 392p Rigg Garth.
Cheviot 391p High House, 390p North House, 388p The Land & Yett, 387p Crosslee, 386p Sandbed.
Suffolk 391p Westernhopeburn & North House, 390p Slampont Hill, 388p Govals, 386p Gartvaigh.
Mule 380p Gartvaigh, 373p Westernhopeburn, 372p Burnfoot, 369p Gartvaigh & Galleywreay.
Easycare 378p Stewartfield.
Cheviot Mule 374p, 373p Nether Albie.
Blackface 369p Galleywreay, 367p, 365p Finland, 365p Brackley, 363p Stud Farm, 362p Finland & Barnakill.
Swaledale 366p Nunsclough.
Dutch Spotted 365p Westernhopeburn.
Welsh Mule 340p Allfornaught.
PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)
Texel £232 Flex, £230 Oulton Hall, £218

Bombie, £216 Whitelaird, £215 Strathglen House.
Beltex £219 High Airyolland, £218 Flex, £218, £211, £210 Newton Cottage.
Charollais £218 Oulton Hall £184 Strathglen House, £181 Viewley.
Suffolk £216 Kirkhouse & Viewley, £195 Kirkhouse, £192 The Land, £188 Strathglen House.
Dutch Texel £210 Kirkhouse.
Dutch Spotted £208 Strathglen House.
Cheviot £192 Glendearg, £190 Longburgh Fauld, £188 Becks, £184 Newton Cottage, Sandbed, Barnakill & Woodhall.
North Country Cheviot £190 Carruthers & Beckfoot, £188 Longburgh Fauld, £184 Hownam Grange.
Mule £187 Kirkhouse, £175 Overton of Knaven & Killipol, £171 Newton, Strathglen House & Burnfoot.
Blackface £186 Silloons, £174, £170 Finland, £168 Nunnerie, £166 Arnicle, £165 Finland.
Herdwick £159, £151 Orthwaite Hall.
Swaledale £150 Nunsclough.

A similar show of 4,669 ewes were forward again to an increased ring of purchasers with all classes in a biblical demand, prices increased by a further £10-£12 on the week with best Texel ewes breaking records.

The sale topped at £350 for superb Texel ewes from JP Gray, Unthank, Whittingham, a further 4 pens of sheep sold over £300 and countless pens over £250.

Hill ewes to £138 for Cheviots consigned by Kelsocleugh Farming, Yew Lane Yetholm. Blackface ewes sold very well topping at £132 and achieving an average with a further 16 pens or 288 ewes selling over £118. Messrs Wallace, Finland brought forward a

tidy run of strong Blackies topping at £128 and Messrs Wallace, Mains of Collin returned to his roots being very well rewarded topping at £126 achieving an average of £111 for 121 sold, being £7 per head in front of other centres.

Rams topped at £245 for Texels from HW Sloan, Rigghead, Dumfries.

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

HEAVY EWES

Texel £350 Unthank, £320 Rae Field, £310, £300 Fallaw, £300 Mainside, £295 Fallaw.
Beltex £270 Govals, £222 Bowsden Moor, £220 Unthank, £215 Chapelton of Menmuir & Fallaw, £215, £210 Hobbiesburn.
Charollais £250 Rigghead, £210 Unthank, £200 Rigghead.
Suffolk £225 East Ingliston, £210 Bowsden Moor, £195 Beckfoot.
Bluefaced Leicester £168, £160 Burgh Head, £160 Unthank.
Cheviot Mule £156 Uras, £146 Shawhill, £138 Penlaw.
Mule £155 Fala Hill, £143 Chapel, £140 Breconiehill, Dunjop & Unthank, £130 Gibbs Hill & Saddell Home.
North Country Cheviot £140 Hownam Grange, £136, £135 Carruthers, £135 Hallhill & Lymiecleugh.

LIGHT EWES

Cheviot £138 Kelsocleugh, £128 High Dalrioch, Lurgan & Branteth, £126 Hownam Grange & Overton of Knaven.
Blackface £132 Belvedere, £128 Finland, £126 Mains of Collin, £122 Kingside, £120 Mains of Collin.

Easycare £118, £108, £100 Barnside, £100 Stewartfield.

Welsh Black £118 Knockhill.
Shetland £100 Hallhill, £98 Belvedere.
Welsh Mule £93 Allfornaught.
Swaledale £90 Naa Croft & High Parkfoot, £84 Branteth, £82 Whitton.

RAMS

Texel £245 Rigghead, £180 Aldermanseat, £165 Kelsocleugh.
Beltex £220 Burgh Head.
Charollais £180 Stewartfield & Viewley.
Badgerface £160 Newton Cottage.
Cheviot £158 Bloch, £138 Potholm, £128 Bloch & Lawesknowe.
Bluefaced Leicester £155 Sourhope, £148 Viewley.
Suffolk £155 Beckfoot, £130 Kelsocleugh.
Millenium Blue £152 Aldermanseat.
Blackface £145 Finland.
North Country Cheviot £138 Kingside.
Swaledale £126 Skipness.

Averages:

Hoggs	419.0p (325.3p)
Standard to	523.0p (354.6p)
Medium to	485.0p (376.9p)
Heavy to	452.0p (363.2p)
Ewes	
Light to	£138.00 (£90.29)
Heavy to	£350.00 (£136.44)
Rams to	£245.00 (£121.24)

The E&L Gallery



It's even beautiful at night! The Milky Way and the Andromeda Galaxy from Whita Hill: Captured by Jarek Pow

Tarras Valley hosts its first dark skies night!

With the stunning Aurora Borealis making another appearance in Langholm earlier this month, the town's dark skies really are spectacular on a clear night. The Tarras Valley hosted a community event last week at Broomholmshiels to celebrate our dark skies and find out more about what we can see when we look up on a clear night.

Even though it was a cold night, the group wrapped up, enjoying hot chocolate and space-themed snacks. They were joined by Hayden Goodfellow, an Astrophysicist and Science Communicator, who works at Kielder Observatory. Hayden gave a fascinating virtual tour of the universe, explaining the different types of stars and planets, what people can see through binoculars and telescopes, and how our understanding of the universe has changed over time.

By all accounts, it was a fascinating talk, full of beautiful



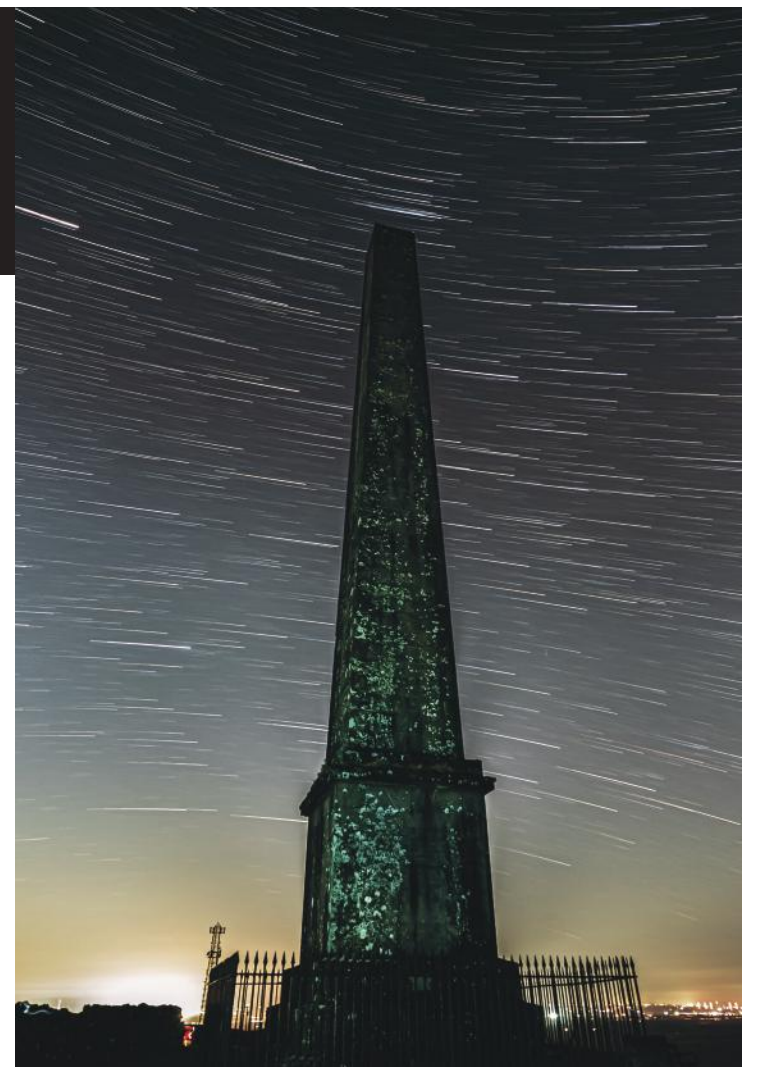
pictures that showed that there is much more to the night sky than meets the eye.

Kat Mayer, Project Officer at the Tarras Valley said "Although

the view of the real stars was unfortunately blocked by cloud on the night, the insight into the universe that Hayden gave us will definitely impact how

we see the night sky in future! Since this was so popular, we're hoping to host another event like this soon."

Photos by Jarek Pow



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Racecourse Learning for P7 pupils

Funded by LANGHOLM FUNDERS FORUM



Langholm Primary 7 pupils had a fantastic day at Carlisle Racecourse last week.

They were there for their Racing To School day which involves looking at maths in a real context.

The class would like to say a huge thank you to The Jock and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust who kindly sponsored the event and also to The Bowman Little Trust who provided the transport.

John Elliot of Langholm Funders Forum said:

"The Jock and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust has sponsored Langholm and Burnfoot (Hawick) P7's to attend Carlisle and Kelso racecourses respectively since 2012 to take part in the Maths in Action programme run by the Racing to School charity.

On the morning of race meetings the pupils get to see areas few racegoers can ever visit - jockeys' changing rooms, weighing room and stewards'

room. They also take part in measuring the parade ring perimeter, walk on the course and appreciate the dimensions of fences/hurdles and are always surprised to see just how far before the obstacles that the horses take off.

Much of the time is spent in interpreting real world maths for jockey's weights, equipment and horse size and scope. A highlight is always seeing horses in the parade ring for the first race and then watching that race.

As often happens, the pupils were asked to judge the best turned out horse in that race. The pupils each receive jockeys silks to wear during the visit and are usually the noisiest cheering their favourite horse home! This year the transport to/from the racecourse was sponsored by The Bowman Little Trust. The feedback is almost always positive with many saying it's the best-ever school outing."



Jessica is A & E's Super 4s overall winner

Cross Country final held in Langholm

Cross Country

By Calum Graham

The final of the Annandale and Eskdale Schools Super 4s cross country league took place in Langholm on Monday evening following events in Lockerbie, Annan and Moffat.

The Super 4s are designed to promote cross country running for primary 5-7 children with the emphasis on encouraging runners of all abilities whether that be to increase fitness levels, improve past performances or quite simply for enjoyment.

The races offer an ideal progression to the Annandale and Eskdale Primary Schools Cross Country Championships and the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships.

After the final race at Langholm Rugby Club, presentations to the winners in each category were made by Ann Crawford representing the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards who sponsor the school sport programme -

OVERALL WINNERS

Girls Winner – Jessica Cuthbert (P6), Langholm Primary School
Boys Winner – Jake McEwan (P7), Carrutherstown Primary School

SUPER 4s AGE GROUP RESULTS 2024 | PRIMARY 5 GIRLS

1st Sadie Muir, Kirkpatrick Fleming Primary School
2nd Olivia Nelson, Newington Primary School
= 3rd Lexi Robb, Canonbie Primary School and Ivy Carruthers

Carruthers, Eaglesfield Primary School

SUPER 4s AGE GROUP RESULTS 2024 | PRIMARY 5 BOYS

1st Daniel Patterson, Lochmaben Primary School
2nd Oscar Sproat, Newington Primary School
3rd Murray Cubbon, Langholm Primary School

SUPER 4s AGE GROUP RESULTS 2024 | PRIMARY 6 GIRLS

1st Jessica Cuthbert, Langholm Primary School
2nd Gabriella Forrest, Elmvale Primary School
3rd Matilda Lamb, Langholm Primary School

SUPER 4s AGE GROUP RESULTS 2024 | PRIMARY 6 BOYS

1st Joseph Palmer, Moffat Primary School
2nd Roan Jamieson, Langholm Primary School
3rd William Kerr, Eastriggs Primary School

The Bob Morgan Memorial Trophy presented to a young athlete who had shown great effort, endeavour and dedication throughout the race series was presented to Letti Sproat from Newington Primary School.

A council spokesperson said "Congratulations to all the children who have been competing during the last seven weeks. It is excellent to see a large number of children taking part". They added "these events have been supported by a number of young people, volunteers and organisations and we are very grateful as we could not run these events without them."



OVERALL WINNERS: Jake McEwan and Jessica Cuthbert are presented by Ann Crawford of the Welcome to Langholm Future Champions Awards



P5 GIRLS: 1st Sadie Muir, 2nd Olivia Nelson 3= Lexi Robb and Ivy Carruthers



P5 BOYS: 1st Daniel Patterson, 2nd Oscar Sproat and 3rd Murray Cubbon



P6 GIRLS - 1st Jessica Cuthbert, 3rd Matilda Lamb



P6 1st Joseph Palmer, 2nd Roan Jamieson, 3rd William Kerr

WELCOME to LANGHOLM FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS



12-length lead and a positive ride for Nells Son

Another impressive win for Danny McMenamin at Kelso

Horseracing

By Gordon Brown

Nells Son, ridden by Danny McMenamin, was an impressive winner of the £12,500 feature race at Kelso on Sunday.

The well-backed 8-11 favourite, was given a positive ride as he came home twelve-lengths ahead of Go Boy in the KOSB Novices' Limited Handicap Chase.

"He doesn't have to be ridden like that but he enjoyed himself out there today," said winning trainer Nicky Richards. "He won the Grade 2 hurdle here last spring and I thought he was the class horse in the race."

"We will sit down with his owners, who also bred him, and see where we go next. He stays a bit further but we wouldn't want to run him anywhere if the ground got a bit too lively."

Sandy Forster, based just a few miles from the track, struck in the Rubstic Handicap Chase with Lewis Stones-ridden Duty Calls.

The race is named after the locally trained hero who landed the 1979 Grand National and his trainer John Leadbetter was on hand to help with the presentation to the winning connections.

Shoeshine Boy, racing off bottom-weight for Craig Nichol, followed his Ayr success for Hawick trainer Donald Whillans in the Bruce Farms Handicap Hurdle.

Lucinda Russell and Derek Fox warmed up nicely for Cheltenham when Myretown landed the Racing TV 100% Profits Returned To Racing Maiden Hurdle.

The odds-on favourite carries the same colours as Ahoy Senor, who goes for the Ryanair Chase on Thursday.

For more information contact Gordon Brown on 07850 258063 for Scottish Racing

Top: Nells Son (red, black & white sleeves)

Bottom: Shoeshine Boy (pink & grey)



Carpet Bowling

It was another good night at the Benty Pairs Tournament! Well done to winners Matt and Ian Hall who beat Derek and Brian Murray in the Final (pictured)

Semi finalists were John Kinstrey and Colin Little, Sparky and Al Sloan.

Quarter finalists were Stuart Hogg and Cavie, Eck and Rory Sloan, Layton Foster and Jack Hotson, Chris Wood and Danny Hotson

Thanks to everyone who came and supported the tournament, Anne and Val for keeping everyone well fed in the kitchen, Stuart behind the bar, Wag for his great job selling raffle tickets and all who took a turn umpiring! (Allan Nixon)

No rain in Spain in '99

Golf Nostalgia

The annual winter golfing holiday took place in Majorca for the third time.

The party left Langholm early on Friday morning. The flight from Newcastle was on time and the plane landed in Palma at 1.00pm local time.

After a slight problem with the lack of roof racks and having to pay a deposit of 10,000 pesetas per car, the cars were loaded up and the short journey to Magaluf took no time apart from the car that went the tourist route through Palma.

No golf is booked on the first day just in case the flight is delayed and the fees are lost. A phone call to Ponete Golf Club secured a

tee-off time for the party at a reduced rate for nine holes. All but one went for a practice round before the real competition started.

With the exception of one, all finished at either the 14th or 15th hole which was beside the Clubhouse but one member insisted on playing the full 18 holes. At the end of the day the sweep was decided over 14 holes with Jim Murray, Richard Moore and Dennis Little sharing first place with 23 points.

A lot of damage to a golfer's game can be done in the hours of darkness. Without naming names, a few golfers jeopardised their first day scores by testing their recovery properties to the full with a slight over-

indulgence of the free facilities of the hotel.

The presentations of the trophy took place in the hotel after dinner. Chairman Ian Borthwick kept order as only he can. Team prize went to Ian, Dennis Little and Arthur Bell. Strongest prize went to Arch Irving. Raymond Bell won a prize for something which I cannot remember and Stevie was delighted with his prize for the par three competition.

Total scores were: Arthur 126 points; Jim M 126 points; Dennis 119 points; Ian 111 points; Neil 111 points; Robbie 107 points; Stevie 107 points; Jim A 106 points; Richard 104 points; Raymond 102 points; Arch 99 points.



Robbie Trussler and Ian Borthwick in the driving seat during the trip to Majorca by members of Langholm Golf Club in 1999

Report by Dennis Little from the E&L on March 11, 1999

E&L SPORT

