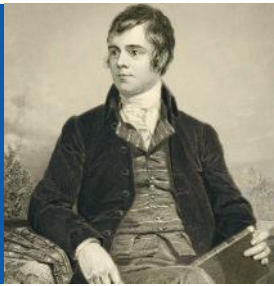


Burns season is upon us once more

List of celebrations to get your fill of the Bard SEE PAGE 3



Review of 2024... a strange old year

Part 1 of a look-back at the E&L headlines SEE PAGE 8 & 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8578

Established May 1848

Thursday January 9, 2025

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Copshaw's golden boy adds to his medal haul

Paralympian Stephen Clegg receives an MBE in King's New Years Honours list

By Gilly Fraser

Paralympic gold medallist Stephen Clegg who was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List has been described as a true inspiration and a fantastic role model.

28-year-old Stephen who grew up in Newcastleton, achieved his dream of Olympic gold not once but twice last year at the Paris Games – beating all comers in both the S12 100m backstroke and the S12 100m butterfly. He also set a new world record time for the backstroke event.

He was awarded the MBE

for services to swimming, following in the footsteps of older sister Libby who won two Paralympic golds in sprinting events in Rio in 2016 and also has an MBE.

Libby, Stephen and their brother James all have an eye condition called Stargardt's Macular Dystrophy which causes deteriorating vision.

Privilege

Stephen only found out about his MBE late last year and says it was a huge privilege and nice surprise.

"To receive this recognition from your own nation is a really nice addition to the medals you win," he said.

"I think the challenges make the successes more worth it and add more meaning to it all."

In November last year Stephen attended the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group for Visual Impairment where he gave a talk about his experiences as a swimmer and explained that with the correct support, sport can be inclusive for all.

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth, who is a member of the cross-party group, says it was a great honour to meet Stephen and to discuss inclusion and accessibility in sport with him.

"Like all our Olympic and Paralympic athletes, he is a

true inspiration, and it was really great to hear his unique perspective," Colin said. "Winning gold takes a huge amount of dedication and sacrifice and Stephen is a fantastic role model. Watching Stephen win those golds on TV was definitely one of my family's highlights during the Paralympics and we are looking forward to watching him win more in the future."

"It's great that Stephen is hoping to take part in future big events, including hopefully the Paralympics in Los Angeles in 2028. We joked about the fact that he needs to keep going until he has more medals than his sister Libby!"



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Family Announcements

Deaths

ELLIOT, Carol née Byers

Peacefully on 27th December with her family by her side.

Beloved Wife of Walter (Wattie). Loving Mum to Valerie, Alastair, Carolyn and Jackie, much loved Granny and Great-Granny and friend to many.

Funeral service to be held in Liddesdale Parish Church on Wednesday 15th at 10.30am followed by interment into Ettleton Cemetery. Refreshments thereafter in Legends.

All friends and Family respectfully invited.

Info at Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

LIGGINS, Ian

Peacefully on the 24th December at the Cumberland Infirmary, Ian aged 92 years. Loving husband of Rena, much loved Dad of Penny and Pamela, adored Papa, Great-papa and friend to many. A private funeral service will be held at Ian's home.

A committal service will be held at Langholm Cemetery on Monday 13th January at 12:00 noon, to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend.

At Ian's request colour may be worn.

MOFFAT, Robert (Bob)

Peacefully at Dumfries Royal Infirmary on 27th December aged 92. Loving husband of the late Rita, Much loved father of Keith.

A private funeral service will be held in Ewes Churchyard.

Info at Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

WEIR, Isaacina Johnston (Ina)

Passed away peacefully in Lanercost House Nursing Home on 28th December. Loving wife of the late Russell Weir, beloved mam of Janice and Tania, son-in-laws Ian and Gordon. Loving Granny to Keith, Barry, Stevie and Rachel and Great-Granny to Bella, Noah and Ivy.

A short service of remembrance will be held in Langholm Social Club on Friday 17th at 11.30am followed by a committal service and interment into Langholm Cemetery. Refreshments thereafter back at the Social Club. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Friends of the Thomas Hope.

All Friends and Family Respectfully invited.

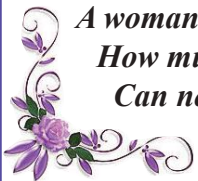
Info at Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

In Memoriam

Marion Aitchison

~ 24th December 2022 ~

*Two years ago we lost Marion,
A woman with a heart of gold,
How much we all miss her,
Can never really be told.*



Ian, Gillian, Jim and families

Stella Geddes

In loving memory of Stella Geddes who sadly passed away 13th January 2021.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

Gone but never forgotten, Your loving family

Church Notices

CANONBIE UNITED & LIDDESDALE PARISH CHURCHES

Liddesdale and Canonbie Churches welcome you to Sunday worship on

Sunday

12th January

10am Liddesdale

11.30am Canonbie

Rev Morag Crossan

07861 736071 or email

mcrossan@

churchofscotland.org.uk

LANGHOLM, ESKDALEMUIR, EWES & WESTERKIRK PARISH CHURCHES

Church Services
Sunday 12th January
Langholm 10am

Contact us for transport
0744 885 8818.

Tel: 013873 73755.

Charity no. SCO11946

A Memorial Service for Richard Cattermole

The family of Richard Cattermole welcome you to join them in celebrating his life on Saturday 18th January 12-2pm.

The Celebration is to be held in Canonbie Village Hall DG14 0UX

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

Gilnockie Tower in marvellous miniature

Locals create model of historic 'keep'

Gilnockie Tower has created a limited-edition model of the tower which features original sandstone from the west tower. During the tower's renovation some original sandstone couldn't be reused and rather than let it go to waste, the stone has been given a new life. The damaged stone has been ground down and incorporated into these keepsakes which have been designed by Sandra and Norman who formerly worked for Border Fine Arts. These are now being advertised for sale to collectors offering a unique piece which offers a tangible piece of Gilnockie Tower.



Watch out for that Winter weather!

The cold weather is keeping us all in the deep freeze this week with temperatures estimated to drop as low as minus 7 or below in our area on Wednesday night. Elsewhere in Scotland it's predicted to fall as low as minus 15 centigrade. We haven't had such a cold winter in a long

while. Fortunately, we don't have snow on the ground to hamper our travel. A yellow weather warning has been issued for northern Scotland and Northern Ireland from noon on Wednesday until midnight on Thursday as sleet and snow showers come in, but our area seems to escape the

worst. Watch out for slippery surfaces on roads and pavements and look in on your neighbours to make sure they are managing during the cold weather.

If you have any nice Wintery photos taken during the sunny and frosty spell please send them to newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Festive Fayre at the Hub



Eskdalemuir community council funded a community lunch which was held at the Hub on 18th December. A delicious spread was on offer and it was a very sociable occasion with lots of people catching up with old friends and new.

Castleholm meeting sees healthy reponse from public

Locals come up with lots of suggestions as project moves ahead

The Castleholm Community Trust held an Open Day including an inaugural General Meeting and Annual General Meeting on Sunday 29th December in the Buccleuch Centre. The Castleholm came into community ownership in October 2024 and includes the site of the Cricket club, Langholm Castle and the Duchess' bridge, woodland on the opposite side of the Esk, some of the banking and gardens on Mary Street and the walk along the riverbank to the school.

The Trust is looking for views and ideas from the community about how best to use and develop the Castleholm and had post it notes and sheets at the drop in for folk to record their ideas. The meetings were chaired by Roger Maxwell who is Chairman of the Trust which will now be applying for charitable status – at the moment it is a company limited by guarantee. The Trust has now elected two new trustees – Nicole Beattie and Duncan Elliott and co-opted Calum Graham as a third.

There's quite a lot of general maintenance and repair works

to be done initially which might take up to two years to get the area into a better state of repair as the first steps to convert the Castleholm into a community country park. There are ideas for creating permanent buildings on the site. The trust feels it's important to engage with the community to get ideas of what people would like to see.

Duchess' Bridge

One person asked about the implications to the Trust of owning the Duchess' bridge, a Grade A listed structure. David Stevenson said this is simply part of the deal and the Trust will work with Historic Scotland to ensure the bridge is properly maintained. At the meeting the interim Board of the Trust – Roger Maxwell, Kenneth Pool and David Stevenson retired but all three were then reappointed to the Board of the Trust along with Nicole, Duncan and Calum. The Trust has the power to co-op people for advice and support.

A Castleholm Users Group has been set up, which the Trust will liaise with and which, includes representatives from each of the main groups which use



FIELD OF OPPORTUNITY: The Castleholm now belongs to the community of Langholm

the area such as the cricket club. This will be particularly beneficial in the future as more users are introduced.

Roger Maxwell, Chairman said "Our priority is to create an Action Plan for the next 12-18 months where we focus on improving the basic amenities of the Castleholm – entry roads, paths, fallen trees, seating, fencing and a general tidy-up. Dumfries and Galloway Council cur-

rently has a lease of the top half of the Castleholm where the rugby and football pitches are located, and we shall be interested to hear their plans for their future development. We also have to find the money to do all this."

Encouraging

Kenneth Pool another trustee said

"The turnout was encouraging in terms of numbers. We had a

lot of good questions and a good level of interest. The meeting also gave us a chance to talk to people, exchange ideas and discuss what we might do going forward. The hard work starts now and with new trustees in place we are excited about the future of the Castleholm for the community. Overall, we were happy how the meeting went and thank all those who attended."

Long waits continue for A&E in D&G

New figures have shown long waits in Accident and Emergency in Dumfries and Galloway over the Christmas period. The week ending December 29th saw 900 attendances at Accident and Emergency with just 73.8 per cent seen within four hours. 94 people waited over eight hours and 52 over 12. The previous week, saw 942 attendances but 76.3 per cent seen in four hours.

South of Scotland MSP Colin Smyth said:

"Every year our NHS is subjected to terrible winter pressures as flu season and Covid add huge strains to overstretched services. But time and time again the Scottish Government fails to properly prepare our NHS for winter and with the busiest winter months for A&E still to come, my fear is these figures will get worse.

"These figures show that for far too many people in our region, the Christmas holidays meant a terrible wait for treatment.

"The four-hour target is there for a reason, yet more and more people are having to wait in Accident and Emergency for more than half a day and that's just appalling."

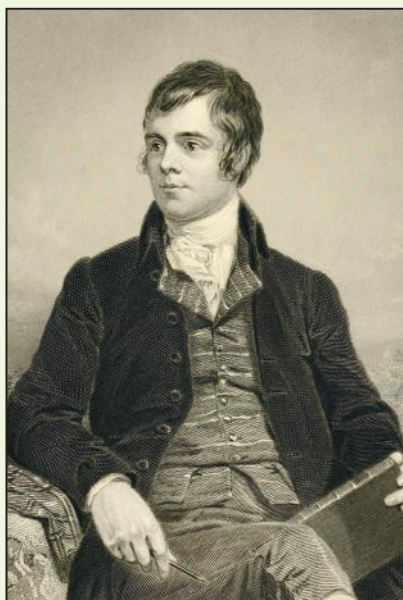
Burns season is here again 'an' a' that'!

As soon as we hit the new year we're into the Burns supper season. First of the year is the Ewes Women's Institute Burns supper which is going to be held this evening in Ewes Hall. Everyone is welcome to go along and people don't need tickets in advance – they can just pay the £14 entry fee on the door. It starts at 7.30pm.

The Buccleuch Centre is holding 'The Muckle Toon Burns Supper' on Friday 24th January at 7pm. This supper is organised by young people from Langholm and is followed by a family ceilidh with Iain Anderson and his band. Young people will organise everything including speeches, songs, waitering and marketing of the event which is funded by Big Lottery and the Big Burns Supper.

The Eskdalemuir community hub is holding a Burns ceilidh with supper on Saturday 25th January at 7.30pm with music from Jink and Diddle. Tickets cost £20 and include food and £5 for under 16s. Gilnockie Hall at Claygate, sometimes known as the 'tin tabernacle', is holding its Burns supper on 31st January at 7.30pm.

Canonbie Community Enterprise is holding a Scottish Quiz night on 25th January



in the hall there with a haggis, neeps and tatties supper. Tickets are £8 a head. People are asked to pre-book for food numbers by emailing

canonbielcommunityenterprise@gmail.com

The Dumfries based 'Big Burns Supper' which is a mini festival run over several days, kicks off on 17th January with a

carnival parade, family singalong bingo, jazz club and rock fit – a work out with a high energy band and an instructor.

The 18th sees a family silent disco which is for all ages. This is followed at night by the 'Paris is Burning' supper club hosted by Sylvain Philippe. The programme culminates in 'Burns Night Live on 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday which will be held at the Loreburn Hall in Dumfries and will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.

A wide range of events is taking place and most of these are in Dumfries where Robert Burns lived out the last years of his life. For full details of the programme and bookings see the website <https://big-burnssupper.com>. Graham Main, executive producer of the festival said

"We're really excited by the quality and breadth of this year's programme. Big Burns Supper is about celebrating the life and work of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, but not in a way that's dry or academic. Our aim is to create a festival that's accessible and inclusive, bringing Burns to a wider audience and showing that he's as relevant today as he's ever been."

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Look out for dippers

We have a number of dippers on our rivers and even before Christmas I spied three of them meeting up on the Esk at Codgie.

The dippers are one of the first birds of the year to pair up and lay eggs and these small birds are often spotted on the river because of the white flash which contrasts with their dark brown plumage on their breast. You can see them bobbing up and down on rocks by the river before diving in to catch their prey.

Dippers can walk under water and often nest under waterfalls. The dipper will defend its territory along a stretch of water and juveniles have a more mottled grey appearance according to the British Trust for Ornithology.



Look out for these lovely little birds as they fly up and down our rivers.

Hilltop Leaf responds to questions about the project

CEO Hamish Clegg brings us up to speed with the development

The E&L have been asked a number of times recently about the Hilltop Leaf project based near Langholm and what progress is being made.

Hilltop Leaf is a private medicinal cannabis cultivation and extraction business for cannabis based products for medicinal use in humans (CBPMs)

We posed a number of these questions to the company and received a comprehensive update from CEO Hamish Clegg.

When do you expect to be fully operational?

• In the last two years the recent macro environment has significantly impacted global capital markets, and therefore Hilltop's funding pathway, delaying (and reducing) investment in our facilities.

• That said – last year Hilltop Leaf invested modestly in some infrastructure and has become a fully operational Wholesaler meeting the needs of c10,000 in the UK.

• As a wholesaler the company has grown a nationwide pharmacy client base and posted >£3m of sales of CBPM medicines in the 2024 calendar year supporting eight local jobs.

• Investments have included c5,000m2 of concrete and drainage (installed by RD Nairn), and electrical works by CBR Electrics and other local suppliers.

• Furthermore - the recent good news is that the company is finally funded for the next phase of capital expenditure with a c£2.5m capital raise completed in late 2024.

• This new funding will allow the company invest in infrastructure to both grow and manufacture by the end of 2025.

• The development will improve Hilltop's profitability, therefore creating jobs and allowing supply of a Scottish made medicine to patients across the UK.

In the original introduction to the company, it was stated that you expected to create around 50 jobs, locally, is that still the case?

• The business currently has eight local staff, soon to be ten
• Hilltop has exercised very tight financial controls – including hiring - throughout



the period to ensure the business is well capitalised, sustainable and can weather the turbulent macro economy.

• Hilltop hopes to create a further six-ten jobs in 2025 – depending on progress and profitability

• **If so, could you give examples of the kind of jobs that will be created?**

• Facilities (working with our

site manager to support the day to day safe running of all amenities on site). This will be a lower income unskilled roles with the opportunity to be mentored by an experienced Operations manager (1)

• Cultivation - Assistants our Head Grower (1-2), Trimming staff (contractor/temps 2-3)

• Quality management (1-2) – science based qualifications to support our Quality

Management Administration, System import workflow and validation work.

• Sales (1) – account management and order fulfilment

• **Are all your licences and permits in place?**

• Yes. We hold all the necessary licences to carry out our current and future operations.

Eskdalemuir Warm Hub features on the BBC's new 'News at Seven'

BBC Scotland launched its 'News at Seven' programme on Monday night following a decision to end its hour-long TV news programme 'The Nine', entertainment news show 'The Edit' and weekly news review 'Seven Days'. BBC Scotland said News at Seven would have a conversational and informal tone and bring stories from communities across the country.

One of the first stories presented on the programme on Monday night was about the Eskdalemuir warm hub. Cameron Buttler of BBC Scotland visited it and interviewed people there about their experience of the warm hub which is held three days a week and offers free food, tea and coffee and a cosy environment. It's on every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 mid day to 2pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The stove is normally on too and people



can enjoy sitting around it.

The BBC's Cameron Buttler

The warm hub is funded by Eskdalemuir Community Council, The Stoneypath trust, the Ainslie Charitable Trust and the Stevenson Trust and the people of Eskdalemuir are very grateful for that support.

The hub brings people together, reduces social isolation and offers a safe space for everyone to get

together and enjoy company and warmth in the depth of Winter.

The Hub was delighted to be able to tell others about the work that they do to support their rural community. They aim to offer a welcoming space for everyone and ensure that older and more isolated people are supported.

Westerkirk Library gets expert preservation advice from bookbinder

A busy year in Westerkirk Parish Library ended with a visit from Mia Heath from her Book bindery in Dumfries.

Mia, the bookbinder, showed those who attended some examples of her conservation work. She was returning some valuation roles to the library that she had restored for us. Mia gave some advice on looking after your books from the use of shoe polish to ironing creased pages to mending torn pages with special tape, thus avoiding the use of Sellotape – the source of nightmares for many a book restorer.

The library would like to thank all of those who have visited in 2024 and those who have attended one of our many events. We would like to thank those who have made donations. January 19th 2025 3pm-4.30pm, is our first event of the year, when we welcome Clark Dawson to the Library. Clark will be chatting about the amazing discoveries he has made with his metal detector. From silver Roman coins to ancient horseshoes, Clark will be sharing his adventures in the local area. We have a few spaces left. To secure a seat please email westerkirkparishchurch@gmail.com or leave a Voicemail on 01387370221.



Canonbie trust has its eye on Cross Keys Hotel

Potential purchase of historical inn presented to local residents

Canonbie Community Enterprise held a meeting in the public hall on Tuesday night to give an update about the post office and present to people the possibility of purchasing the Cross Keys hotel. It's estimated that almost seventy members of the public attended to hear the presentations from members of the Enterprise group.

There is no progress with the proposed takeover of the post office by the group and accounts are still awaited from Mr Scott. This has been the case for some time and was reported in the paper on 7th November. More than a year on from when the first meeting was held at the behest of the vendor, Canonbie Community Enterprise still await trading figures.

Grants have been secured by the group but will not be paid until agreement on the post office transfer is in place. Post Office, the company are willing for the group to take it on.

The Crosskeys Hotel closed in November and is on the market for a price of £450,000. A presentation was given on the benefits that community ownership of this business could bring to the community. Examples of other community owned pubs and hotels were given. Some of these are at Kilsyth, Morebattle, Kelso and in Argyll and the group has some information about these. There are opportunities in the area given the holiday park developments at Langholm and near Hawick and the popularity of cycling. If the community do purchase the hotel the plan would be to keep the post office where it is just now.

Grant

Discussions with the Community Land Fund have taken place and they would be interested in helping to buy the hotel for the community by providing a grant towards the price of it. Match funding from another source would be needed. Other com-



munities have issued community shares to help with that process and Canonbie can learn from them how they have done that.

The Community Land Fund has a two-stage grant process. At stage one, funding is given to help with the valuation and development of a business plan. Stage two could provide cash

for the purchase of assets.

The Enterprise group require more community support and for people to sign a petition as well as more folk on the Committee. Forms were available for people to do this and in general people seemed supportive of the idea of the project proceeding.

Canonbie residents turned out in large numbers to hear the proposals put forward by Canonbie Community Enterprise regarding the community buy-out of the Cross Keys Hotel

Open Mic at the Hub

Eskdalemuir Community Hub and Old School is holding an open-mic session on Saturday 11th January from 2pm.

All acoustic acts are welcome to drop in and perform and people are urged to bring their voices, instruments and songs along. Everyone is welcome.

It's hoped that these sessions can become a regular feature at the Hub in 2025.

Curling D&G

Dumfries and Galloway has a reputation for producing world-class curlers and events, and for the next three years will welcome top curlers from across Scotland to the region to compete in the Men's and Women's Scottish Curling Championships at Dumfries Ice Bowl.

Dumfries Curling Ltd has been awarded the contract from Scottish Curling to host the Scottish Curling Championships from 2025 to 2027, which given the Olympics will take place in 2026, means there could be great excitement on the ice over the next few years.

The decision by Scottish Curling to award the contract to Dumfries Curling Ltd was the result of a thorough evaluation of several bids from across Scotland.

The sincerest form of flattery?

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

It was Oscar Wilde who said that 'Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery that mediocrity can pay to greatness', but some might disagree that this is what is going on here. In the last few weeks quite a few posts have been put onto an Instagram page called 'the elappetiser' even using our logo but saying 'Eskdale & Liddesdale Appetiser'.

The posts feature some quite apocalyptic photos including one of the Erskine Kirk steeple on fire with a camel wandering past. The big dowie features in several posts and a picture of the old EWM building has a sheep and a Christmas tree outside its wrecked façade. The same man appears in several pictures pulling a small suitcase and carrying a shopping bag. It seems



An example of the EL_Appetiser's satirical artistry

that someone is having fun creating AI images of places around Langholm. A picture from below the monument features a bear in it wearing an outfit with the stars and stripes on it and behind is our same man and above

him a flying saucer. We liked the 'ramper recognition' noticeboard. If you want a laugh, take a look but please don't think the E&L Advertiser is in any way involved.

In fact, face the courage, and reveal yourself as it were!

the Buccleuch Centre
LANGHOLM

Vacancy – Part Time Theatre/Admin Assistant

Located in Langholm, the Buccleuch Centre is a thriving small theatre and event venue, promoting arts & entertainment in southern Scotland. We are now looking for a part time Theatre/Administration Assistant to join our team with a 'can do' attitude.

In this role you will assist the management team in the day-to-day running of the Buccleuch Centre. Tasks will include invoicing, monitoring and update of our supporters' database. Stock control and ordering of coffee shop, bar and sundry supplies as required by the Centre.

Additionally, you will manage the Studio diary and accounts and assist the management team in the organisation and smooth running of day-to-day tasks and local events and shows. A good customer service background would also be desirable, either face to face or over the telephone.

You will have excellent time management skills, be 100% reliable, flexible, and adaptable with the ability to multi task.

You will be self-motivated and be able to work independently or as part of a team.

The post requires a minimum of 2 years' experience of working in a busy office environment, together with a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook and Office. Experience of cash handling is desirable.

This is a part time role of circa 21 hours per week (which includes 3 hours funded) to be worked flexibly and includes occasional evenings and weekends. The role will be based in Langholm.

Further details are available by emailing Michele Lowe (michele.lowe@buccleuchcentre.com)

Applications by CV & covering letter to be submitted by Sunday 19th January
The Buccleuch Centre, Buccleuch Square, Langholm, DG13 0AW

Farming on the Border



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



Farming with Gilly Fraser

Tramlines Farming Podcast

This month's featured podcast doesn't sound particularly farm-oriented on the face of it – it's called Tramlines. However it's produced by a group called Agrii, which describes itself as a leading provider of agronomy services, technology and strategic advice, providing farmers across the UK with unrivalled expertise and support.

To do this, Agrii say they harness the latest research and innovations across crop protection, seed, fertiliser, and technology - all trialled and tested at their network of iFarms and technology centres.

The podcast is hosted by Tony Smith and promises to examine everything from soil health and forage tips to variety selection and global supply chain disruption.

The very first episode featured a chat with Speyside farmer Bill Smith and Agrii's Sustainability Project Manager Amy Watkins.

Together they looked at ways of farming in an environmentally

Agrii

sustainable way, crop production output and farm business sustainability.

Subsequent episodes in the first of four seasons ranged far and wide between boosting bugs in soil to the importance of analysing soil health to spring fertiliser options.

Since then the podcast has tackled such diverse topics as "Why there is more to farming than wellies," to "Making potatoes profitable" to "Managing Wet Winter-Worn Soils for Performance and Profit."

Coming right up to date, season four offers an insight into the craft of growing Christmas trees, the opportunities to be found in Young Farmers Clubs and even takes a deep dive into the reality of carbon trading.

The podcast can be found through the Agrii website.

Hilda the calf could provide a net zero breakthrough...

...as part of the world's longest-running livestock genetics project

A Dumfries-born cow called Hilda could play a major role in helping dairy farmers to achieve net zero.

The calf is part of the Langhill Herd in Dumfries which was first established in the early 1970s and is the focus of the world's longest-running livestock genetics project. Hilda was the first member of the herd to be born using IVF.

The technique allows for faster genetic progress, doubling the rate of genetic gain and enabling the breeding of more methane-efficient animals.

Scientists say this meant the next generation of the herd arrived eight months earlier than was previously possible.

Scotland's Rural College the SRUC is one of the partners in the project. Professor Richard Dewhurst said it was potentially a hugely significant moment for the UK dairy industry.

"We will use a new genomic assessment alongside existing production and environmental efficiency indices to select elite, methane-efficient heifers for breeding," he said.

The Cumbria-based Paragon Veterinary Group has also played a major role in the initiative. Paragon Vet Rob Simmons says improving the methane efficiency of dairy cows is key to improving the sustainability of the sector.

"Paragon were delighted to help develop and deliver this important project to help support sustainability in the dairy sector," he said.

"Genetic improvement in methane efficiency is going to be key to continuing to provide nutritious food to the public, while controlling the impact of methane emissions on the environment in the future."

Stuart Martin, from Digital Dairy Chain, which funded the



Hilda is the first Langhill Herd calf to be born through IVF

project, said they were very pleased to have supported this groundbreaking project.

"With the environmental impact of farming being a critical

global issue, projects that look for innovative solutions to mitigate this impact are vital to the industry."

Burns day show of unity for UK farmers' protest

Protesting farmers from all over the UK have chosen Robert Burns Day to demonstrate their unity and strength of opposition to the government's proposed changes to inheritance tax.

Scotland will see tractor rallies staged in every region, with local politicians invited to attend to hear for themselves the impact the changes will have on farmers.

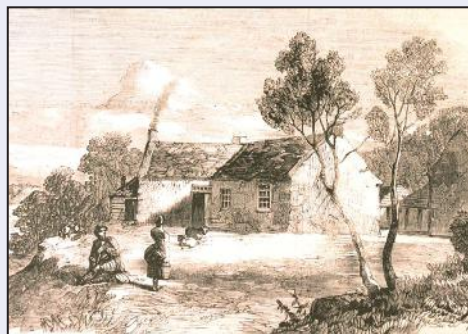
The country's farming unions say they share the same belief that the family farm tax proposals will damage and threaten family farms and, in turn, undermine UK food production.

NFUS president Martin Kennedy says it's a call to action and he's urging his members to take part in the organised rallies to show the continued strength of feeling.

"This activity is part of our wider plan to highlight the damage these tax plans will have in the lead-up to the UK Government's Spring Statement in March 2025, where we will be demanding formal changes to its plans," he said.

"We need the UK Government to stop; reset; reflect; and properly engage and consult on an alternative approach – one that does not have deep, unintended consequences for the future of farming.

"The planned changes to taxation are wide of the UK Government's stated target but will, instead, hammer family farms. These plans for



SYMBOLIC: Robert Burns' farm, Ellisland

January 25, show that all UK farming Unions are totally committed to having this reversed and we will be relentless in our efforts to do so.

"Farmers and crofters are already facing unprecedented challenges in their efforts to produce food, and this ill-conceived measure is the straw that has broken the camel's back. Enough is enough.

"We will announce more details in the New Year on the specific details for Scotland on 25 January and how our members can get involved, and this will be part of a unified show of strength across the UK."

Five candidates in running for NFU Scotland lead roles

As NFUS President Martin Kennedy prepares to stand down from the union's top job, election fever is hotting up among the contenders hoping to replace him.

The five candidates who will contest the positions of President and Vice-President are all touring the country this month to take their messages to every region.

The two current Vice Presidents – Andrew Connon and Alasdair Macnab are standing for President with the successful candidate elected to the post for a two-year term. Martin Kennedy has held the office for four years – the maximum term allowed under the Union's constitution.

Michael Davis, Duncan Macalister and Robert Neill will go head-to-head for the two Vice Presidential posts. Vice Presidents are also elected for an initial two-year period before being eligible for re-election on an annual basis.



TENURE: NFU Scotland President Martin Kennedy is stepping down after four years in the job

Hustings events, which will be attended by all Presidential candidates, will take place in all ten regions of Scotland.

NFU Scotland CEO John Davidson says strong teamwork has always been central to NFU Scotland's lobbying efforts.

"We have excellent candidates for the President and Vice-Presidential posts, and I encourage each and every member to take

part in the forthcoming hustings events in January prior to feeding back to their Council members on who they believe is best suited to fill these influential roles when it comes to the vote on Friday 7 February," he said.

Hustings will be held at the Market Inn Hotel in Dumfries on Thursday 16th January and at the Carfraemill Hotel in Lauder on Monday the 20th.

The Romans in Scotland



New website is a great historical resource

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

We know that the Romans came to Eskdale and there is evidence of three marching camps here. The furthest south is at Claygate, further north there was one at Broomholm and even further north at Raeburnfoot in Eskdalemuir. There was also a large Roman site at Netherby just across the Esk from Kirkandrews on Esk church. That site was called *Castra Exploratorum* and was a large Roman fort and civil settlement.

The Romans reached quite far north in Scotland and as well as having created Hadrian's Wall they also created the Antonine Wall which stretched from the Firth of Clyde in the West to the Firth of Forth in the East across the central belt of Scotland.

Dr John Reid of the Trimontium Trust in Melrose has written about the Romans in his book 'The Eagle and the Bear' and his book provides a fascinating insight into their explorations in Scotland.



Castra Exploratorum and was a large Roman fort and civil settlement on the site of Netherby Hall
Photo: By Simon Ledingham

Now a website has been set up by Andy Wallace, an amateur historian, mapping out the Roman sites in Scotland and it includes lots of fascinating articles. For anyone with an interest in history, Romans and archaeology this is well worth a look.
<https://romansinscotland.com/>

The site is a mine of information, and the maps are fascinating. We discover that Roman coins were found at Carlesgill, Canonbie glebe and on Whita Hill. This should prove of interest to metal detectorists, and anyone interested in the Romans in our area.

Valuation day with Eskdale History Group



Paul Laidlaw of Bargain Hunt fame

Eskdale history group, formerly the Eskdale and Liddesdale Archaeology group, has announced their Spring programme. On Wednesday 19th February the group is holding an antiques valuation day at Eskdalemuir Hub with Paul Laidlaw of Laidlaw Auctions and 'Bargain Hunt' fame. This will be from 11am to 4pm and people are invited to pop in with their treasures and find out the origin of their item and possible value.

On 20th March Dr Andy Nicholson, County Archaeologist is given a talk about 'Archaeological developments in Eastern Dumfriesshire'. The

time and venue for this has yet to be confirmed.

Following that on Thursday 17th April there will be a talk by Nick Henderson and Anna Giecco entitled 'Uncovering Roman Carlisle'. Nick and Anna are both involved with the Roman bath house excavation project at Carlisle cricket ground. Nick is an economic development officer who secured funding for the project and Anna is an archaeological photographer who amongst other things has documented the large number of intaglios found in a Roman drain at the site. Time and venue for this event have also yet to be confirmed.

Canonbie man accused

A Canonbie resident accused of killing his passenger in a crash on a dual carriageway faces trial next year. Matthew Oliver Newton died in a single vehicle collision on the A69 at Throckley just outside of Newcastle at 11.30pm on November 28.

It was reported that a grey Ford Raptor car was travelling westbound when it left the road. Emergency services rushed to the scene to treat Mr Newton but despite the best efforts of medics, the 28-year-old died at the scene.

The driver of the car, Ross Neville, was arrested and subsequently charged with causing death by dangerous driving. Appearing at Newcastle Crown Court via video link from custody on Monday, the 34-year-old of Canonbie, pleaded not guilty to the charge. He was released on bail pending trial.

Bridge results

20th Dec

1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 3, Ann Smart & Lesley McCartney, 4, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 5, Lorraine Morton & Phil Walters, 6, Nancy McLure & John Packer.

3rd January

N/S - 1, Nancy McLure & Scott Muir, 2, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 3, Jim Muir & Alison Mullock.

E/W - 1, Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney, 2, Andrew Tyler & Janet Ivison, 3, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop.

Bus travel is FREE in Scotland for those under 22 and over 60

Scan the QR code or visit getyournec.scot to apply

From wind farms and wind damage to kinship and Cornets

As we turn the page on 2024, and start a new chapter, we take a look back at stories that made the E&L front page (Part 1)

January

Third Sector D&G report on visit
Organisation seeks to help revitalise town

LRFC review of 2023
A look back at the highs and lows of rugby year

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday January 11, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Victory for Faw Side wind farm campaigners

Scottish Government refuses permission for massive Ewes Valley installation



Lattimers of Langholm FURNITURE SALE NOW ON...NOW ON...NOW ON

GREAT SAVINGS ON SOFAS • CHAIRS • RECLINERS • LIFT & RISE CHAIRS • DIVANS • BEDROOM AND DINING FURNITURE

We kicked-off 2024 with a tumultuous victory roar from the mainly Ewes Valley members of the Fawside Community Action Group as the news was announced that the Scottish Government had refused Community Windpower planning permission to erect 45 wind turbines between the Ewes Valley and Teviothead.

Scotland's National Bard Born this day in 1759

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1023 Established May 1848 Thursday January 25, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Isha puts paid to a Langholm landmark

Much-loved Castleholm chestnut succumbs to the power of nature



Lattimers of Langholm FURNITURE SALE NOW ON...NOW ON...NOW ON

GREAT SAVINGS ON SOFAS • CHAIRS • RECLINERS • LIFT & RISE CHAIRS • DIVANS • BEDROOM AND DINING FURNITURE

Later in the month we reported that the beloved Centuries-old Chestnut tree on Langholm's Castleholm had succumbed to the power of nature when it was uprooted by Storm Isha on the 21st/22nd of the month. Someone said "it was like losing an old friend".

February

Hopes were high in the town, last February, when the Shetland-based owners of Langholm's derelict Erskine Church were given permission to demolish the spire of the building which had been considered dangerous for decades. Nearby residents were growing increasingly concerned that both the scaffolding on the spire and the masonry on the building were in a state.

Valentine's Day proposals
From a jeweller's perspective

Langholm Girls nominated for award
Women in Sport accolade a possibility

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1023 Established May 1848 Thursday February 1, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Demolition of Erskine spire receives approval

Shetland based owners of Langholm's Erskine church have further plans for body of the building



A rumour had been doing the rounds for some time that the new owners of part of Langholm Moor, namely Oxygen Conservation Ltd, of Devon were planning a cull of the feral goats which have live in these hills for centuries. The company denied that it had any 'immediate' plans for such a cull.

Windfarm Windfalls! an 8-page 'all you need to know' supplement

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1023 Established May 1848 Thursday February 20th 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Langholm Moor goat population safe for now

Gilly Fraser reports on rumours of an imminent cull of our popular Tarras neighbours



50 years on, a cap for Alan

March

There's a bright, golden haze...
LAOSs prepare for trip to Oklahoma!

Langholm Youth Rugby Festival
Over 300 players compete in Miltown event

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday March 7th, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

A good old tidy up, or is it environmental vandalism?

As the banks of the River Esk are cleared of overgrown vegetation some, but not all, say 'thank goodness'



Let's hear it for the girls!

For many months Langholm residents had been complaining about the state of the riverbanks on the River Esk. A massive clean-up took place at the beginning of March with the most noticeable difference being at the Parish Church Bridge. Some however labeled this as environmental vandalism!

Right Care, Right Place
Healthcare options for rural areas

Langholm's Super 4s super-champs
Jessica picks up top spot in cross country

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1029 Established May 1848 Thursday March 14th, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Far-reaching implications for rural landowners

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



Inside...

Across in Newcastle, a couple who moved to the valley 12 years ago found themselves in an on-going battle with a large telecomms company who wanted to erect a communications mast and create access over the couple's land. This has far-reaching implications for Scottish landowners.

April

Community-led tourism supplement

Season-end win for Langholm RFC
Nervous wait to see if they stay in League 1

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday April 11, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Proclamation of Kinship from Wapakoneta, Ohio

Neil Armstrong's home town sends declaration of friendship and co-operation to the Muckle Toon



Blindfolded and dumped for 'The Drop'

The thriving Langholm Girls' Football Club received a huge accolade at a Borders event in April when they were awarded 'Team of the Year' at the Melrose Sevens Women in Sports Awards. The event was promoted as the first award ceremony in the Scottish Borders to celebrate women in sport and an evening to bring together the community and celebrate the region's inspirational sportswomen.

Eck retires from Day Centre
Devoted volunteer will be missed by all

100 games for Langholm Legion
All Little: A stalwart of the club since 2009

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday April 18, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Langholm Girls FC are toast of Melrose awards

Melrose Sports' Women in Sport Awards vote for LGFC as Team of the Year at inaugural ceremony



Inside...

Muckle Tooners take on London Marathon

May

Young and old work in greenhouse
Day Centre welcomes Play Care's help

P7 kids inspire the younger ones
Volunteers boost P1-3's sports skills

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday May 1, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Six men in the running for Langholm Cornet

Common Riding's future is secure with so many young men willing to put their name forward



INSIDE... This is a once in a lifetime opportunity

The future looks bright for Langholm Common Riding as six young men put their names forward for the election of Cornet for 2024. It is the first time since 1964 since there have been this number of candidates. The six lads are all worthy of the position and as the years progress, they will all get their turn.

Normandy landings remembered
Timothy McCracken tells John Main's story

Two wins on the bounce for Langholm
Steelm in 'devastating' form

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday May 20, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

All talk and very little action at the Murtholm

Agencies involved with the development are considering including private housing on the site



INSIDE... Crafty Copshaw

It appears that the promised housing development at the Murtholm site in Langholm is just going from one disappointment to another as, in May, it was 'all talk and very little action'. "As part of Loreburn HA's review of future projects, construction activity at Murtholm Farm has temporarily been paused. A delivery model is currently being explored with a private developer that may also enable the construction of private homes on

June

Sound advice for dog owners
Canine physio gives some tips

Max takes the triples prize
Old Town's young bowler helps team to win

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday June 6, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Castleholm meeting sees positive public reaction

Upkeep and financial sustainability are the main concerns but everyone largely in favour of takeover



INSIDE... D&G to host Lunar Symposium

The first main event for Langholm's newly-elected Cornet, Bailey Donaldson was to represent the town at Hawick Common Riding on June 7th. Accompanied by RHM Christopher Tait and LHM Ruairi Hotson along with a healthy cohort of Langholm Riders the Front Three did the town proud, as ever.

Thomas Hope Trust to fund AGTS car
Search for volunteer drivers continues

A walk on the Wester Kirk side
Walking group returns with a remote local walk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 1024 Established May 1848 Thursday June 13, 2024 www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Langholm's Front Three all smiles at Hawick's Big Day

Canobie Post Office Deal on hold



INSIDE... Canobie Post Office Deal on hold

Despite the best efforts to secure an agreed commercial transfer with the current owners of the Canobie Post Office premises, the current owners will not be able to sell the Post Office premises until the end of the year. The deal is currently on hold.

Ensuring a Mexican family has a Feliz Navidad

Copshaw trio lends a hand to house building in the jungle for a family in need

By Gilly Fraser

A trip to Mexico might seem like the holiday of a lifetime to many of us, but when three Copshaw residents visited the country in November last year, they didn't have sunbathing or sightseeing in mind. Instead of beach towels and guidebooks, Libby Kennedy and Steve and Lorna Longmoor needed trowels and instruction manuals – because they were going there to help build a house for a family in need.

The amazing trip happened thanks to a long friendship with a couple who used to live in Copshaw.

"When Elaine and Paul Little lived here, they set up a group called Grafted and did a lot of wonderful work with people with alcohol and drug addictions," Libby explains. "Paul is a builder and when they decided to move to Mexico, they joined a missionary organisation which was doing a lot of work there both with sports outreach and building houses."

Paul and Elaine now live in the inland area of Leona Vicario, far removed from the well-known tourist hotspots like Cancun. The township was created by a small group of people who cleared a small area of jungle in order to build houses. Working in partnership with a local church Minister called Pastor Santos, they have been able to forge an important relationship with the local community.

Respected

"Local people had been living in extremely basic conditions in shacks with tin roofs and tarpaulin, and there was a great need. In the past four or five years they have built around forty houses, which is incredible. Paul has passed on his building skills by teaching a number of local men and he has finetuned the ideal template for a house. He and Elaine are very well respected in the area."

Over the last year or so, the

Littles have been inviting groups of people to come to Mexico to help them with their building mission but also to enjoy a time of retreat.

Generous

"Nine of us went from the UK as a team on this particular mission," Libby says. "We came from very different backgrounds, but we became a very strong team. We had been invited to join a ten-day project and as well as building the house we also contributed to the costs. So, each one of us self-financed our trips, in some cases by fundraising beforehand. It was amazing to hear from members of the group just how generous people and church groups had been."

"We would do building work every morning, from 8am till 1pm, then in the afternoons we would have time for retreat, maybe read the Bible together and just have the experience of learning and sharing together."

"Learning building skills was definitely something very different for me, but it was lovely to see that the Mexican team overseeing us did trust us. And I think we all felt a strong connection to the house we built. "Apparently Pastor Santos said later that we did quite a good job, considering we were old people!"

When the house was complete, the keys were handed over in a special ceremony and the team shared a celebration meal with the lucky family.

Then, for Libby, there was a much-deserved opportunity to relax and visit more of Mexico before heading back to the UK.

"We visited several cenotes, they are gorgeous big open ponds with fresh water where you can swim. One was actually underground. Then we had a wonderful trip to the Caribbean where we went snorkelling and had such an incredible experience seeing turtles and amazing fish."

Libby freely admits she was nervous about the trip, because she was going into unknown territory, and she really wasn't sure how she would cope with the heat and the inevitable beasties. However, it proved to be an adventure and an experience she will never forget.



DEDICATED BUNCH: All smiles for a job well done



NEW SKILLS: Libby had to learn building skills to be able to lend a hand



BEFORE & AFTER: Construction almost complete



BRICK BY BRICK: Teamwork can make a dream work



AND TIME TO RELAX: A little down time in the Caribbean

Christmas lunch loveliness at Langholm Day Centre

The staff of the jewel in Langholm's crown treated members to a slap-up feast



SMILING: Elaine Anderson, May Wylie and Doris Mitchell in festive disguise!



HUNGRY: One table of lunchers look forward to their Day Centre Christmas meal



CHRISTMAS CHEER: The irreplaceable Day Centre staff



HE'S THERE AGAIN: Santa Claus sure does get around



HAPPY: Christmas fayre prepared with care at Langholm's marvellous Day Centre



Looking back...

Langholm As It Was... ...Lord Maxwell became protector of Border Clans

Whilst in Canonby, the King dwelt in his own pavilions, but he seems to have transacted some judicial business at the Priory, hanging, as we have seen, some of the "thieves" but the most important part of the work was afterwards done at Dumfries.

Some of the principal Eskdale lairds were fined for non-appearance and more thieves were hanged. Of course, at these justice "ayres" held by the King, it was only the more important men – barons, lairds and chiefs of clans – who were arraigned. The common free-booter was tried in the barons' or Wardens' Courts or by the Sheriff. To James V, the Borders represented an attraction greater even than that of the restoration of law and order. The forests of Eskdalemuir and Ettrick provided him with sport, to which the pursuit and execution of thieves and raiders formed only an interlude. In 1534 James came to the Borders to hunt, after having made proclamation that "na man hunt in Megotland, Askdalemure or Tweedmure unto the King is coming".

The Battle of Flodden brought in its train many misfortunes to the Borders. One of its immediate results was to encourage the English King and his captains to invade Scotland. Dacre aided by the Armstrongs who had been outlawed by the Scottish Government, made his notorious



James V with his second wife, Mary of Guise whom he married in 1538

incursion into the Border dales. This occurred one month after Flodden when he and his troops three thousand cavalry and three hundred infantries, marched through the Border villages burning every house and putting to the sword all the men they could seize.

Having desolated the country with many cruelties upon a people whose spirit had already been broken by the disaster of Flodden, Dacre exultingly reported his successes to the Council. He said he had laid waste "the water of Ewes being viii myles in length in the said marches, whereupon was vii ploughs ... lyes all and every one of them waist now, noo corn saun upon the said ground".

He went on to say that "upon the West marches I have burnt and destroyed the townships of Annand ... and the water of Esk from Stabulgorton down to Canonby being vi myles in length whereas there was in all tymes passed four hundred ploughes and above which are now clearly waisted and noo man duelling in any of them in this daye, save only in the towrys of Annand, Steepel and Walghopp".

Walghopp

This invasion was undertaken by the order of the English King, who should have been perfectly satisfied with Dacre's execution of his orders. Included in this summary description of places

laid waste were Broomholme, Walghopp, Baggraye, Murtholme, Langham, and the Water of Esk from Stabulgorton down to Canonby. In this same raid Dacre reports sending "diverse of my tennents of Gillislande to the nombre of lx persones in Eskdalemoor upon the middill marches, and there they brynt vii howses, tooke and brought away xxxvi head of cattle and much insight". On the following day his brother, Sir Christopher Dacre, "roode all night into Scotland and on Thurisday in the morning they began upon the said middle merches and brynt Stakeheugh with the hamlets belonging to them down Irewyn bwrne, being

the chabrelain of Scotland oune lands and undre his reule, continewally birnyng, from the Breke of day to oone of the klok after noon and there wan tooke and brought away cccc hede of cattell ccc shepe certaine horses and very much insight, and slew two men, hurte and wounded diverse other persones and horses and then entered Ingland ground again at vii of the klok that night".

These dangers from invasions by the English had the effect of drawing together the various Border clans, who, for their mutual protection, placed themselves under Lord Maxwell, many of the lairds even, giving him bonds of man-rent. In Liddesdale the same effect was produced, the lairds there giving bond to Ker of Ferniehirst.

During the year following Dacre's raid, the unrest on the Borders grew more pronounced, and from Eskdale, Ewesdale and Wauchope as well as from the other dales along the Borders, cattle-lifting and fire-raising were rampant. No security existed either for life or property. In 1524 apprehensions were again aroused that the English contemplated a dash over the Marches and the headmen of the clans were commanded by the Government to repair to the Borders to be in readiness against the advance of the English which, however, did not take place.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 2nd January 2025



C&D Auction Marts Limited had forward an entry of 6,046 sheep comprising of 4,099 prime hogs and 1,947 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

The weekly sale of cast cows resumed with a buoyant trade for all classes. The sale topped at 249p and 245p for Friesians shown by CT & J Wigham, Hethermill, Kirkinton, which also topped per head at £1,469 and £1,372. Limousin cows sold to £1,196 from Shankbridge End Farms, Hethersgill.

A smaller show of 4,099 prime hogs were forward, with fed hogs of every class proving very good to sell. Under finished, grass fed hogs are better sold in the store on a Tuesday here at Longtown to gain maximum returns. Heavy hogs definitely the call of the day with several runs of 50kg+ hogs averaging over £180, with runs of export hogs regularly achieving 360ppk +. Hogs travelled from all corners of the United Kingdom with all vendors going home highly delighted with their days trading. Many more fed hogs wanted for the coming weeks to satisfy an ever increasing demand at Longtown.

The sale topped at 424p for Suffolks shown by J Thompson & Son, Farlam

Hill, Brampton.

Top per head of £240 for Beltex from A Taylor, Heathery Hall, Lanark.

Overall average of 342.4p (SQQ 343.5p)

PRINCIPAL PRICES (PER KILO)

Suffolk 424p Farlam Hill, 367p North House, 357p Shethin, 356p Rowanburnfoot, 355p High Greenhill.
Texel 423p Oaklands, 390p Lingey Field, 386p Shethin, 383p High Stenries, 379p Shethin & Lingey Field.
Beltex 421p Maidencots, 408p Burnside, 404p Glendearg, 400p Heathery Hall, 391p Oaklands, 390p Cadgillhead.

Blue Texel 366p Glendearg.
Cheviot 364p Roxburghmill, 362p South Bogbain, 359p North House, 357p Cadgillhead, 354p Catslackburn & Glendearg.

Blackface 358p, 353p Heathery Hall, 345p Rowanburnfoot, 340p Heathery Hall.

Charollais 356p Cortiecrum, 347p Park Nook.

Cheviot Mule 351p Longburgh Fauld, 350p Shethin, 349p Thornship.

Herdwick 348p Ashness, 335p Orthwaite Hall, 334p Pendicle.

Kerry Hill 344p Thornship.

Mule 341p Nunsleugh, 336p Westernhopeburn, 330p

Paddockhole, 329p

Westernhopeburn, 328p High Greenhill.

Hampshire 334p Dyke.
Easycare 332p Shethin, 330p Catslackburn.

North Country Cheviot 329p

Allanshaws.

Dorset 323p Knock & Maize.

Swaledale 307p Westernhopeburn,

304p Orthwaite Hall.

PRINCIPAL PRICE (PER HEAD)

Beltex £240, £212, £210 Heathery

Hill, £204 Glendearg, £200 Beckfoot.

Texel £217, £210 Beckfoot, £206

Overton of Knaven & Glendearg,

£200, £199 Slealands, £199 Shethin.

Charollais £214 Beckfoot, £209

Cortiecrum, £198 Park Nook.

Suffolk £205 Burnfoot Hill, £200

Beckfoot, £199 Overton of Knaven,

£199, £195 Beckfoot.

Cheviot Mule £184 Thornship.

Blue Texel £183 Glendearg.

Hampshire £182 Dyke.

Mule £173, £170 New Hall, £170

Oakshawhill, £166 Corsencon, £165

Fardingjames, £164 Pitland Hills.

Cheviot £172 Ettrickshaws, £163

Glendearg, £158 North House, £155

Thornship.

Half-bred £170 High Moat.

Dorset £166, £154 Knock & Maize.

North Country Cheviot £164

Allanshaws.

Blackface £143, £141 Heathery Hall.

A smaller show of 1,947 ewes and

rams with trade unbelievable from

start to finish. All classes off the clock

with all vendors having a New Year

trade to remember. Numbers way

short of purchaser requirements and

big numbers of ewes wanted every

week to satisfy a serious demand.

The sale topped at £310 for Texel ewes

shown by E Astley, West Stobs Wood,

Morpeth.

Beltex peaked at £270 from JA & LA

Thompson, Woodhead, Scaleby.

Mule ewes sold to £218 from DA &

MA Teasdale, Grindon Hill, Haydon

Bridge.

Hill ewes topped at £162 for

Blackfaces from R Vevers & Co.,

Burnfoot Hill, Eaglesfield.

Rams to £225 for Texels from J

Thompson & Son, Farlam Hill,

Brampton.

All classes of primestock are wanted

here at Longtown on a weekly basis to

satisfy an ever-growing demand.

Primestock travel from all four corners

of the United Kingdom to take

advantage of the competitive

purchasers who operate on a weekly

basis providing a very transparent and

competitive marketplace 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.

John Walton 07880 527 066

Daniel Lynn 07584 200 489

Sam Hogg 07584 207 323

Norman Douglas 07786 366 833

Helen Rickard 07741 313 029

HEAVY EWES

Texel £310 West Stobs Wood, £300

Auchengool Cottage, £295

Roxburghmill, £285 Lairdlaugh, £265

West Stobs Wood, £260 Hilton of

Culsh & Beckfoot.

North Country Cheviot £270 High

Moat, £212 West Stobs Wood, £210

High Moat, £208, £202 Hilton of

Culsh.

Beltex £270, £265 Woodhead, £235,

£230 Lairdlaugh, £230 Brigview.

Cheviot Mule £238 Hilton of Culsh.

Suffolk £232, £220 Beckfoot, £220

West Stobs Wood, £210 Brigview,

£202 Powheads & Chaseside.

Mule £218, £200 Grindon Hill, £188

Staffler, £184 Mill View.

Blue Texel £210 Cardew Grange.

LIGHT EWES

Blackface £162 Burnfoot Hill, £148,

£138 Fardingjames, £128 Hightown &

Kinning Hall.

Cheviot £136 Huntly Lodge, £130

Brigview, £128 Castle Crawford.

Kerry Hill £120 Thornship.

Swaledale £115 Aspatria Hall.

Herdwick £110 Farlam Hill.

RAMS

Texel £225 Farlam Hill.

North Country Cheviot £195

Ettrickshaws.

Cheviot £192, £175 Castle Crawford.

Suffolk £175 High Stenries.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 375.0p (336.0p)

Standard to 421.0p (341.3p)

Medium to 424.0p (345.1p)

Heavy to 408.0p (346.4p)

Overweight to 400.0p (330.4p)

Ewes

Light to £162.00 (£110.01)

Heavy to £310.00 (£175.03)

Rams to £225.00 (£150.66)



The E&L Gallery



A winter's day in a deep and dark January captured by Langholm's own Stan Wilson

Camera: SONY RX10

New series of The Traitors promises much deceit

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

The third series of 'The Traitors' started on BBC 1 on New Year's day and is once again proving popular with many folk. Set in the lovely Ardross Castle to the north west of Invergordon in Ross-shire it is a fascinating watch.

Hosted by the Claudia Winkleman dressed in her usual black or tweed and with a large pot of money to be won, it is a reality show of trust and betrayal. A group of 22 strangers – although this series includes two sisters – meet up to be transported to the castle by train and landrover where all are interviewed by Claudia.

Some are secretly told that they are traitors while the rest are known as the 'faithful'. The traitors' task is to meet in the tower every night and silently 'murder' the faithful without being identified.

During the show the entire group have to earn the prize pot by being involved in outdoor adventure type tasks which challenge all of their skills. There are lots of mind games involved in the show but it seems that people are well supported afterwards or if they are 'murdered'.

The setting and scenery are beautiful and the castle is 'set dressed' with an interesting array of items in a colourful way. The group have a number of rooms they can move around between and the breakfasts they share look fabulous.

I have been fascinated by this programme since the first series in 2023 and also enjoy the after show 'Traitors Uncloaked' which is hosted by Ed Gamble. If that's not enough for you there's also a BBC podcast of the same name. Hard to guess who will win the 2025 game.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Enrolment for Infant Beginners

Children in Scotland usually start school between the ages of 4 years 6 months and 5 years 6 months old. All children who are 4 years old at the start of the school year can defer and start primary one the following year.

Parents are asked to attend their catchment school to request a place at either their catchment school or to request a place at a non-catchment school for their child(ren). Parents are required to bring along proof of address and the child's date of birth and baptismal certificate/supporting letter (for Roman Catholic schools only), between Monday 27 January 2025 and Friday 31 January 2025.

Details of catchment schools can be found on the Council's website (www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/schools-learning). Enrolment by the appropriate date is particularly important in light of the legislation regarding parents' choice of school to be attended.

Further information regarding the enrolment process can be obtained from your catchment primary school and on the Council's website.

Enrolment for Secondary 1 August 2025

Your child's primary school will send out a catchment enrolment form to apply for your catchment secondary school, this is done in January. If you wish to apply for a non-catchment secondary school, please contact your primary school office. As your child's primary school have seen your child's birth certificate this is not required for S1 enrolment. If your child is baptised Roman Catholic and you wish them to attend the Catholic Secondary School, please provide evidence of Baptism to your current school office as this entitles them as a catchment pupil.

John Thin, Head of Education Resources

(B7068 LOCKERBIE - LANGHOLM) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2025

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close B7068 between Hallbank and the C84a at Highfield, Tundergarth from 0930 to 1530 on 20/1/25. The closure is necessary to facilitate Openreach pole replacement works. Alternative route available via B7068, B722, B725, B7076, B723, B7068 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

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. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 23/01/2025 (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
24/2525/S42 (A)	Land Adjacent To Burn Cottage, Westerkirk, Langholm - Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank and soakaway at variance with Condition 2 of Planning Permission 18/0375/FUL (restricting occupancy of the dwellinghouse)



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser is part-funded and supported by the following charitable trusts, organisations and individuals from the community of Langholm.



- The Ainslie Charitable Trust
- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
- Crossdykes Community Benefits Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland
- Dumfrieshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust

Eskdale & Liddesdale
Advertiser

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
CREATION MILL W/C 13th Jan 2025
Connect | Inspire | Create

Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Scrap Store Mending Monday	12-3 1-3	Creation Mill space
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Canonbie Hall DG14 0UX
	Afterschool Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill
Wed	Welcome Wednesday & Scrap Store	10-1	Creation Mill space
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall DG113AU
Thurs			
Fri	Scrap Store	10-12	Creation Mill
	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-3	Social Club DG13 0DN

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

The ESKDALE FOUNDATION

AGM

TO BE HELD ON
Thursday, 6th February 2025
 in the ESKDALE HOTEL
 at 7pm
 Members Only

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Thu 9th	Ewes SWI Burns Supper Open to all	Ewes Hall 7.30pm
Sat 11th	Open Mic Session	Eskdalemuir Hub from 2pm
Wed 15th	Hearing Aid Clinic	Langholm Day Centre 1pm - 3pm
Thu 16th	Langholm Day Centre AGM	Langholm Day Centre 3pm
Fri 24th	The Muckle Toon Community Burns Supper & Family Ceilidh	The Buccleuch Centre 7pm
Sat 25th	Canonbie Church Soup Kitchen & Table-top Sale	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1pm
	Burns Ceilidh with supper	Eskdalemuir Hub 7.30pm
	Canonbie Community Scottish Quiz Night with supper	Canonbie Public Hall 7.00pm
Fri 31st	Gilnockie Burns Supper	Gilnockie Hall 7.30pm

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

The E&L Quiz of 2024

No. 2449 answers next week

- Who became the Prime Minister of the UK in July 2024?
- Which major festival took place in Bath from January 25th to February 18th, 2024?
- What significant event did the UK commemorate on June 5-6, 2024?
- Which famous boat race occurred on April 7th, 2024?
- What was the outcome of the 2024 UK General Election?
- Which major horse racing event took place from April 11th to 13th, 2024?
- Which flower show was held from May 21st to 25th, 2024?
- Which festival took place from May 23rd to June 2nd, 2024?
- What was the significant weather event in January 2024?
- Which music festival was held from June 26th to 30th, 2024?
- Which artist's tour included performances in the UK in June and August 2024?
- What major carnival took place on August 25th and 26th, 2024?
- Which UK city hosted the Eurovision Song Contest in 2024?
- What significant change in VAT occurred in January 2024?
- Which UK sports event took place on July 14th, 2024?
- What was the significant political event in Scotland in 2024?
- Which UK-based spacecraft landed on the Moon in February 2024?
- What was the major technological regulation implemented by the UK in 2024?
- Which UK city was named the European Capital of Culture for 2024?
- What significant event took place in Portsmouth on June 5th, 2024?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

- ### Christmas Quiz 2024
- Four: The ghost of Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.
 - Two: Buzz and Jeff
 - Britain
 - 364
 - 1994
 - The Polar Express:
 - Germany
 - Jump by The Pointer Sisters
 - Three: Dancer, Dasher and Donner.
 - A silver threepenny
 - Oslo, Norway
 - Capricorn
 - Bing Crosby singing White Christmas
 - Five years. The last episode was the Christmas special in 2019.
 - 3pm
 - White
 - Green
 - Macy's
 - "Snow is falling, all around me"
 - Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

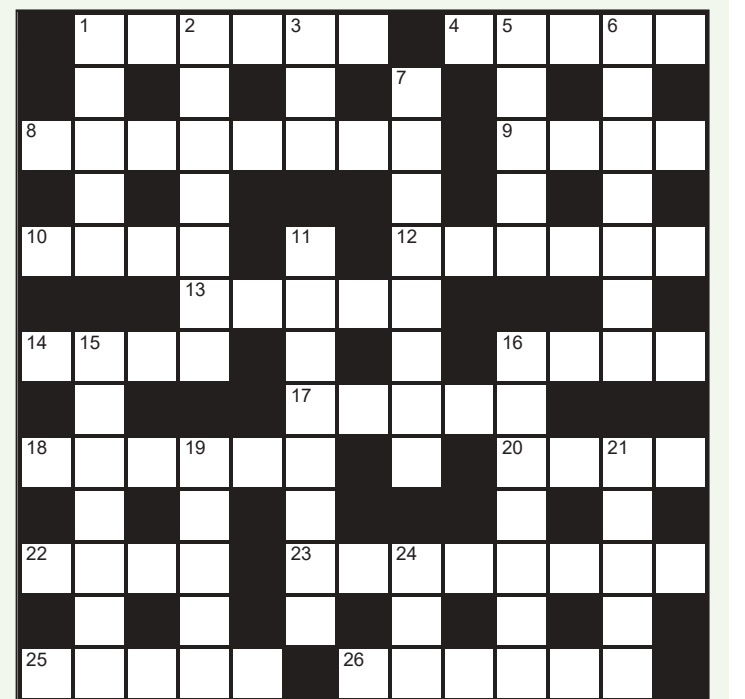
- ### Christmas Crossword 2024
- Across:** 3 Libya, 5 Mulled Wine, 7 Fried Chicken, 11 Miami, 14 Advent, 16 Jingle Bells, 17 White Christmas, 20 Poinsettia, 22 Fairy Lights, 23 Long Jumper, 24 Germany, 25 Christmas Crackers
- Down:** 1 Garland, 2 Quality Street, 4 Panettone, 6 Capricorn, 9 Santa Claus, 10 Clarence, 12 Sleighbells, 15 McCallister, 19 Sugarplums, 21 Pantomime

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2449 answers next week

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

- Across**
- Spread about (6)
 - Where rakes end up? (5)
 - Grassy plains (8)
 - Altar exchange (4)
 - Body shop job (4)
 - Fully renovated (3-3)
 - Available for immediate use (2,3)
 - Like some grapes (4)
 - Spandau's last inmate (4)
 - Pass fast (3,2)
 - Beat conclusively (6)
 - They might be diplomatic or subocular (4)
 - Clan costume (4)
 - "... with God all things are ---": Matthew 19:26 (8)
 - Simple seat (5)
 - Unexpected changes (6)
- Down**
- Gaze fixedly (5)
 - Atom splitter (7)
 - Succeeded (3)
 - Shack (5)
 - Do wrens decode sad tales? (7)
 - Leaving stir too early? (8)
 - Ear bones (8)
 - Trying to drop stones? (2,1,4)
 - Cross-breeds (7)
 - Tube in Paris (5)
 - Swallows hastily (5)
 - Mother to a litter of Tamworths, for example (3)





Skelton surpasses but Idem impresses

Review of last meeting of 2024 and preview of the first of 2025

Horseracing

By Gordon Brown

Thurs 29th December 2024

Harry and Dan Skelton dominated the final meeting at Kelso in 2024 when teaming up for a hat-trick which was returned at odds of just over 20/1.

The Warwickshire-based brothers, on the mark in Grade 1 company at Newbury on Saturday with rising star The New Lion, struck with Ace Of Spades, Beat Box and Komedya Kicks in the Scottish borders.

"The horses are in great form at the moment and it's a big effort from all the team," Harry Skelton said. "We set off at 5am this morning and it's a long way to come but this makes it all worthwhile."

"Ace Of Spades was the main one and the others helped to keep him company. He stayed on really and saw out the longer trip nicely."

Lucinda Russell was all smiles after Idem bounced back to his best in the Slainte Mhath Handicap Hurdle under Patrick Wadge.

"He can be tricky but he put



Idem (I) in the Slainte Mhath Handicap Hurdle under Patrick Wadge.

his best foot forward today," Russell said. "You can't even plait his mane but on a going day he definitely has ability."

Skyhill, trained near Hawick by Alison Hamilton and owned by her husband Gavin, landed the AJA Amateur Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

The 10/1 winner was a first ride at the track for Heidi Palin, who is attached to the invincible Skelton stable.

Sunday 12th January 2025

Sandy Thomson is looking to uphold the good recent record of Scottish trainers in the £15,000 feature race at Kelso

on Sunday. Based just a few minutes away from the track at Greenlaw, he saddles four-time course winner Empire Steel in the Chairman's Cup, which is staged over 2m 7f.

In the six runnings since 2018, Lucinda Russell has been successful twice with Jackie Stephen and Paul Robson, both operating from Hawick, when recording one win apiece.

Ryan Mania-riden Island Steel has only won twice away from his local venue and his most Kelso recent victory came over slightly shorter last

February off his current BHA rating of 142.

Opposition to the eleven-year-old could include Lieutenant Command for the father-and-son combination of Tim and Harry Reed. Having been trained in Ireland by Noel Meade, his second, and most recent run, for new Northumberland stable came when a fine second at Carlisle just before Christmas.

The card gets underway with the Every Race Live On Racing TV Mares' Handicap Hurdle, which is a qualifier for the Go North Lady Buttons Series.

Ayrshire trainer Mike Smith could be double-handed with Belle Of Annandale and Breadalbane Lass as he has already booked three-time champion Brian Hughes for the former and his son Ben for the latter.

Uptown Harry, another trained in Northumberland by Jane Walton, is after more Kelso prize money in the Racing TV Handicap Chase, a qualifier for the Go North Monet's Garden Series.

A former winning point to pointer, he won his maiden hurdle over slightly further in December 2019.

Local lad Stuart deserves a dram



Whisky Run

In what has become an annual favourite for the running and walking fraternities, Langholm's "Whisky Run" attracted 40 runners and walkers to the town for the New Year's Day event.

Winner of the Famous Grouse this year was Langholm lad, Stuart Bell, and the fastest woman was Marie Marshall.

The amount raised by the Whisky Run was £114 which was donated to Langholm Day Centre.

Gemma Skelton won the raffle.

Festive Season Tournaments

Bowling

By Luke Tolson

Open Triple
Saturday 21st December

Open triples were played on Saturday 21st December for the J&S Hotson Trophy, sponsored by Kevan Hotson.

Winners were - Gary 'Scuba' McClarty, Kenny Patterson and Brian Ritchie.

Runners-up were - Lee Beaully, Gina Laurie and Jan Oliver.

Beaten semi-finalists were - John Kinstrey, Stewart Hogg and Wag and David Orchiston, Rachael Simpson and Aidan Lockhart.

Thanks to the 32 entries and to the bar staff, catering staff and raffle ticket sellers. It wouldn't have been a tournament without these people working hard all day.

Janie presented the prizes on behalf of the Hotson family. A massive well done to Frances Jeffrey winning the bonus ball draw of £300.

We also held our Christmas top competition judged by the social club bar staff, the winner was Grant Buchanan and runner up was Stacy Wood. Well done everyone who joined in. Happy New Year to everyone from Langholm Social Club Carpet Bowling and see you in 2025!



Janie Hotson presents Gary 'Scuba' McClarty, Kenny Patterson and Brian Ritchie. Christmas Top winners - Grant Buchanan and Stacy Wood

New Year's Day Open Pairs 2025

A huge thanks to the 64 pairs that entered this competition. We wouldn't have a successful day without these people coming and supporting us.

Winners were Ryan Wood & Danny Hotson who finally got over the winning hurdle after coming second in 2 finals in previous years.

Runners-up were Ryan Simpson and Allan Nixon.

Beaten semi-finalists were - Callum Hall & Ben Jardine and Alasdair Cavers and Simon Tweddle. Last 8 - Matt & Ian Hall, Jake and Corey Park, David Orchiston & Rachael Simpson, Gordon McCamon & Kevin Jack. Thanks to the sponsors - Gavin and Frances Jeffrey, Paul and Carole Warwick, Tracey and Eric Goodfellow and Ross Haldane. Everyone who organised and did their bit to make it another excellent New Year's Day tournament. The Open Rinks Tournament is on Sunday 26th January

E&L SPORT

