

**Scotland's Gardens
open this weekend
Westerhall and
Tinnisburn**

SEE PAGES 5 & 7



**Youth Rugby
presents awards
Fantastic Fun Day at
Milntown**

SEE PAGE 15



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8597

Established May 1848

Thursday May 22, 2025

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

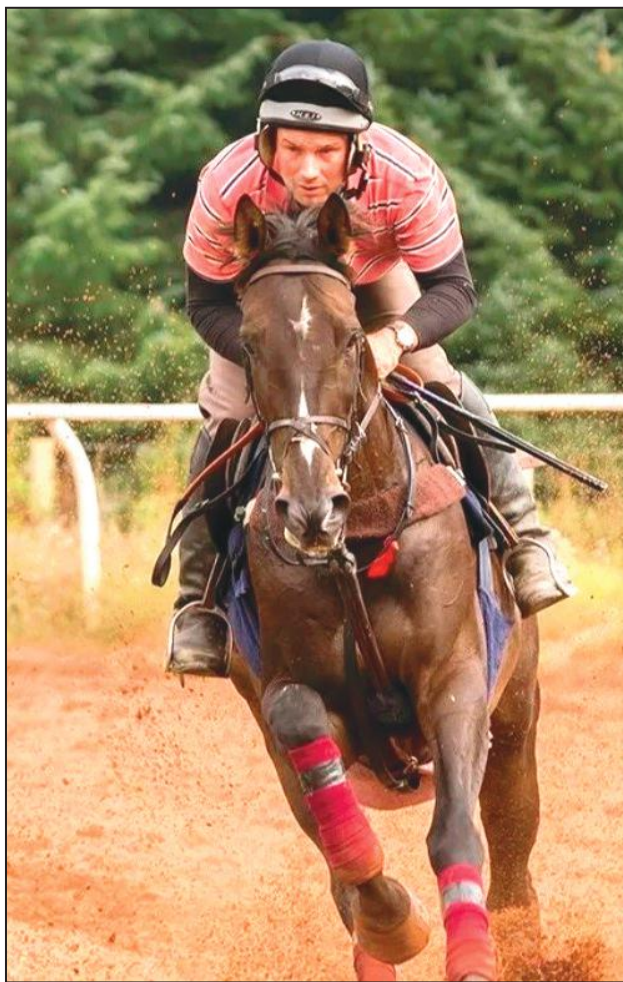
James Ewart Racing ends 21 years of training

Mairi Telford Jammeh speaks to Langholm trainer after surprise racing world announcement

James Ewart Racing's website says it's the 'end of an era' and states that is with very great sadness that James has decided to give up racing. The reason being 'financial pressures. This week I spoke to James and there's no doubt that he is loath to stop his involvement in this business that has given him, and others, so much pleasure over the last 21 years.

James' family moved to the Craig in 1983, and he remembers going to the Dumfries Point to Point when he was about eleven or twelve and that was where his obsession with horses began. He had ponies as a youngster and was a member of the pony club. James' father was an amateur jockey and had a permit and trained quite a few point-to-point horses. Various contacts that his family made meant that James could work for some top people in his holidays including Johnjo O'Neill and S J Ledbetter. He had his first ride in a point to point at 16 years of age.

Later James went to work for the late Ferdy Murphy in North Yorkshire, who is described by the Racing Post as one of the most successful jumps trainers of the last



RESPECTED: James Ewart has had to make a very difficult decision

forty years. James worked there for five years and then went to France to work with

Guillaume Macaire before working at Shadwell Stud. In 2004 with the support

of his family, James, along with wife Briony, set up James Ewart Racing at the Craig just to the north of Langholm. He had his first winner at Morebattle Kelso.

James says it's hard to count but thinks his team has produced 270 winners over the flat and jumps. One of his highlights was having winners at Doncaster and Musselburgh on the same day. He said:

"I've enjoyed working with some nice horses including Quicuyo which came to us as a lowly rated horse which we brought on, and which did well at Doncaster. I've enjoyed every winner. A horse that stands out is Aristo Du Plessis which won seven races on the bounce. For a small yard we have been very successful having been the season champion at Newcastle and Doncaster."

Another horse James mentioned was Beneficial Reform which had a great track record at Doncaster. He has worked with three big owners over the years who have had around forty winners each and has had a good relationship with them. James feels he has unfinished business and would like to have kept training horses.

>Turn to Page 2

INSIDE



Top trip to Ullswater

Langholm Academy third year pupils had a fantastic Outward Bound experience in the Lake District last week thanks to the generosity of The Stevenson Trust.

Full story and photos on centre pages.

Family Announcements

Thanks for Sympathy

McILWRAITH, Ivie

Carol, John, David and families wish to express their thanks for all the lovely cards of sympathy and tributes to Ivie and appreciate the support from those who attended the service in Canonbie Church. Also thanks to Mr Andrew Johnstone for conducting the service and to Nicholson's Funeral Directors for their valuable help.

In Memoriam



George Aitchison

Fondest memories of
Geordie who died 25/05/2018
also Mollie - 01/06/2006
and Rob - 26/07/1980

*You don't know how much you are
missed every day
Mary and Robin*

Funeral Services

SHAUN TURNBULL 24 HOUR
LOCAL, INDEPENDENT, FAMILY PROFESSIONAL
FUNERAL DIRECTORS CARE & SERVICE

28 LANGHOLM STREET
NEWCASTLETON
TD9 0DX

Chapels of Rest in
Langholm & Newcastleton
PHONE: 07896 557 941
EMAIL: shaunturnbullfuneraldirectors@outlook.com

Nicholson's
Funeral Directors
(Independent Family Run)

Bank House, Longtown &
33 High St, Annan

For a professional, compassionate
and caring service
24 hours a day Telephone
01228 791098 or 01461 759214

Chapels of Rest
in Langholm, Annan & Longtown
Pre-paid Funeral Plans available

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
- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust

Church Notices

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE PARISH
linked with
CANONBIE United Parish Church

Welcome to worship

Sunday 25th May

Rev Morag Crossan

led services

NEWCASTLETON

9.30am

LANGHOLM

11am

Contact us for transport
to/from Langholm service

Tel. 07989 168299

Worship Group led
services

CANONBIE 11.00am

Messy Church

Rev Morag Crossan

Tel: 07861 736071

or email

mcrossan@

churchofscotland.org.uk

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

D&G Chief pays visit to Langholm organisations

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Chief Executive Dawn Roberts paid a visit to Langholm on Tuesday accompanied by Councillor Denis Male and Ward Manager Stuart Hamilton. She was delighted to meet staff at the Xcel project, see for herself the sensory room in the youth centre and hear about the work the charity does with young people.

The Council team then went on to the Buccleuch Centre where they were welcomed by the Chair of the organisation, Deirdre Burnett. Deirdre showcased the facility and the cultural offering that the trustees and volunteers work so hard to deliver for local people and visitors.

Moving on to the Langholm Initiative, Dawn met Reserve Manager Jenny Barlow along with three of the organisation's trustees. Dawn had paid a previous



XCEL: Donna Hislop, John Innes, Dawn Roberts, Lauren McLean, Denis Male and Stuart Hamilton

visit to the Initiative and was pleased to get an update about the work being done to create the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve. She was also able to pay a site visit to Broomholmshiels where she saw the area and heard about plans for the barns and area as a whole. The group went on through the reserve past Cronksbank and on to Perterburn, Middlemoss and back to Langholm. Dawn was able to see for herself the scale of the area now in community ownership and hear about the ambitions in the five year plan.

Langholm has so many charities delivering services and developing projects in the area. It was very positive to see the Council's Chief Executive, along with the local Councillor, take time out of their busy schedules to spend time with three of them.



TVNR: Mark Hallam, Barbara Kite, Mairi Telford Jammeh, Dawn Roberts, Jenny Barlow and Denis Male

Financial pressures too great

<From Page 1

Over the years James says the yard has employed about 164 people and many of the young people have gone on to be successful in other fields. Langholm's Dale Irving started at Ewart's. The yard has undoubtedly been a key employer of young people over the years.

James said they have no plans to continue to allow local people to use the gallops as there are likely to be issues with maintenance and insurance. Asked if the horse culture of the area has been helpful James said that with the young rider's club,

the flapping, the pony club and Langholm Common Riding it undoubtedly had. Langholm has such a strong connection with riding and has been a big positive in the area.

James said "It has been a privilege to do something I love for the last twenty-one years. I've met some lovely people and enjoy working with animals. I would like to thank my family for giving me the opportunity to become a trainer here and my wife Briony for all her support. Also, everyone who has supported me over the years including members of this community."



James' last winner last week, Lucky Manifest with Ryan Mania at Kelso
Photo: Offthebit Photography

340 years have passed since Andrew Hislop's execution

“Truth's friends in Eskdale now triumph their lot, to wit, the faithful for my seal that got”

In March 2024 Hanna Casement from Eskdalemuir visited the grave of the murdered Covenanter Andrew Hislop on the hill in Eskdalemuir and on finding that the grave was so worn and that there was no information to be found about who this person was she decided to find out more and to see if there was help available to repair the grave.

On discovering the story of Andrew Hyslop and finding that he was killed at such a young age she felt it was important to remember him in some way. After some research Hanna found and contacted the Covenanters Memorials Association to see if they would be able to help with the repairs and then began to plan a way to mark the 340th anniversary of the murder of Andrew Hyslop in Eskdalemuir on May 12th, 1685, for being a Covenanter.

340th anniversary

To mark the 340th anniversary of his death a commemoration was held by the grave in Eskdalemuir on May 12th, 2025, and offerings of words and music were presented by some of the residents of Eskdalemuir. Clerkhill Farm kindly made it possible for there to be access into the field and a steady stream of people walked up from the Hub carpark to gather around

the grave in the field just north of the village, some travelling from Bentpath, Langholm and Canonbie and Dane Love from the Covenanters Memorials Association had travelled down from Ayrshire with his wife Hazel.

Covenanters

The story of the events leading to the killing of Andrew Hyslop was read out by Andrew Gordon. A beautiful lament and a Scottish air were played by local fiddle player Nicholas Jenkins. Julie MacLeod and Angie Ball read poems they had written especially for the event. Flowers were brought, adorned with a fused glass symbol of the Covenanters made especially by local artist Shen Chōkyi, which she placed by the grave. Afterwards Dane Love from the Covenanters Memorials Association gave a talk back at the Eskdalemuir Hub on the Scottish Covenanters in Dumfriesshire



and everyone found it fascinating to learn more about the history of those times in our region.

The Covenanters Memorials Association have received permission from their planning application and are very generously funding railings to be installed around the grave this summer, along with provision for an information plaque. They have also received permission to get the inscription re-inscribed by a stonemason. Dane Love will be returning to Eskdalemuir for this installation and plans are underway for a possible dedication ceremony this summer when this happens.



The inscription on Andrew Hyslop's grave will be re-inscribed

Child Benefit extension reminder

- Parents of 16 -19-year-olds are reminded to extend their Child Benefit claim by 31 August to continue payments

- Last year 870,000 parents extended their Child Benefit with the majority confirming online

- Parents extending via the HMRC app or the digital service guarantee their payments quickly and easily

Parents of 16-19-year-olds will receive reminders from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to extend their Child Benefit claim by 31 August if their child is staying in education or training or payments will automatically stop. Child Benefit will automatically stop on 31 August on or after a child's 16th birthday if it's not extended. Between May and July, letters will be sent to parents reminding them to go online to confirm if their teenager is staying in full time education or approved training after they finish their Nationals to continue receiving their Child Benefit. Parents can extend their claim quickly and easily via the HMRC app or online on GOV.UK. The letters also contain a handy QR code which takes parents straight to the digital service on GOV.UK.

Muckle Toon favourite celebrates 125 years

Langholm pipe band is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year and held a concert in the Buccleuch Centre last week. Billy Young, as compere, entertained the audience and provided everyone with a history of the pipe tunes that were to be played. As well as well known pipe tunes some lesser tunes such as 'Corriechoille', a march by Willie Ross and 'Teribus', Hawick's 'national anthem' as Billy put it, were played. Billy also gave a lovely rendition himself of 'The soft lowland tongue of the Border' a song written by William Anderson. He was accompanied by Henry Jeffrey.

A number of war tunes were played by the band including 'The road to Passchendaele', the 'Bloody fields of Flanders' and 'The 8th army crossing the river Po' as well as 'The Battle's O'er'. After the interval all the great tunes so much appreciated by Langholmites were played including 'Jeanie's black e'e', 'The Rose of Allandale' and of



course 'Highland Cathedral'.

David McVittie and Billy gave a well-researched presentation about the Pipe Band. There was no formal group of pipers in Langholm until 1900. According to "The Squeak" it was a local piper, John Ewart, who arranged for a group of local pipers to gather at Langholm Station to play four volunteers, Privates R. Irving, W. McCleary, John Graham and Joseph Turnbull home from the Boer War.

It was by all accounts a very grand occasion. The local Volunteer Corps, under Captain Bell marched to the station behind the pipers. And that is how the Burgh of Langholm Pipe Band came into existence.

“Over the Top”

It was the Great War which really bought pipers to the fore in the theatre of war. Time and again it was the kilted regimental pipers who, showing no regard

for their own safety, rallied the troops and led their comrades “over the top” and into hellish enemy fire. And this earned them the title “The ladies from Hell” from the Germans. One famous Border Piper was Daniel Laidlaw VC of the KOSB or The Piper of Loos. A local piper who also had a distinguished military was James Purgavie who was also a piper in the KOSB. It wasn't until 1913 that the band took part in the Common Riding proper when it was said that “the Pipe Band leads the way down the Kirk Wynd, the children cheering lustily the while”. A fascinating insight to the band was provided by the two raconteurs.

Following the presentation guest performer Seth Brown who goes off to university shortly, then performed two songs – ‘Take my hand’ and ‘Caledonia’. These went down well.

The pipe band concert was greatly enjoyed by all who attended who would agree that Langholm Pipe Band is a great asset to the town.

Book your eyetest today

Personal care and attention from your first appointment with us.

Spectacles and Contact Lenses to suit all budgets

ERIC HAGAN
OPTICIANS

www.erichaganopticians.co.uk

Longtown
Tel: 01228 791664
Brampton
Tel: 016977 42703

To advertise in the
E&L Advertiser,
please contact us on
013873 8012
or email
alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

Sunny Eskdalemuir

Eskdalemuir is often the wettest or coldest place in Britain but on Tuesday 13th May it was the sunniest place with 14.9 hours of sun being recorded. Reader Alan Murray consults the weather page in his daily national newspaper for the local forecast ad was amazed to find out this statistic. An internet search identified that Eskdalemuir holds one long standing record – the most rain to fall in half an hour, an incredible 80mm – about 3 and a quarter inches on 26 June 1953.

Wildfire prevention

- Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code's advice and never start a fire when a wildfire danger assessment is in place and during prolonged dry periods in areas.
- Do not have campfires or any outdoor fires when a wildfire danger assessment is in place.
- We want everyone to enjoy the outdoors so have a picnic instead of BBQ when a wildfire danger assessment is in place.
- Always fully extinguish cigarettes and dispose of them responsibly.
- Don't leave litter, take it home with you and leave no trace. Glass in direct sunlight can cause a fire. Ensure none is lying around.
- check firescotland.gov.uk.

Thirty-year old organisation remains on a firm foundation

The Eskdale Foundation gives an update on its activities

We're going to do a series of articles about some of the organisations in Langholm as people often ask what they all do so this week we start with the Eskdale Foundation.

The Eskdale Foundation has been in existence for almost thirty years and is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. The Board includes community council representation as well as two of the ward councillors. The Foundation currently employs an administrator who is based in the office at the Eskdale sports and leisure centre. This enables the centre to remain open on Monday and Friday mornings.

Some of the projects that Foundation has been involved in over the years include:

Lobbying and support for the creation of the Eskdale Sports and Leisure centre as well as fundraising.

Community Shop

Running the Eskdale Community Shop which is managed by the Langholm community centre management committee and a team of valued

volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome. Over the last sixteen years the shop has raised almost £100,000 for the community centre. Grants have helped to refurbish the shop including from Muirhall Energy.

Greenbank

The Foundation is a landlord of eight residential properties in Langholm. Greenbank housing complex includes fifteen apartments. The Foundation owns four of these properties which it rents to people over the age of sixty and who have a connection with Eskdale. The old police station was acquired by the Foundation in a community asset transfer from the council at the cost of £1 and at the request of the community converted into affordable housing. This comprises one three bed flat, one two bed flat and two one bed flats including an accessible ground floor flat. The total cost of the project was £623,070 and £120,885 was funded by the Foundation itself. Management of the properties is now done by Cullen Kilshaw.

Public toilets: the Foundation



Above: Langholm's Old Police Station was a major project for the Eskdale Foundation
Below: The organisation owns and rents four properties in the Greenbank development

is committed to helping improve the Council owned public facilities at the Kilngreen. Work to renovate the building has been done by the Foundation including roof repairs, installation of new windows and new rigging. Currently the Foundation is trying to improve water flow by trying to connect it to the mains. It's also working in partnership with the Council to create a Changing Places toilet facility which will cater for people with disabilities.



The meter is ticking on RTS

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service is warning people about the Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) which is ending from 30 June. Also known as Dynamic Teleswitch Service (DTS), the switch-off affects households with an RTS meter, and could mean that folks' heating and hot water supply stops functioning as normal.

If you have an RTS or DTS meter, you can upgrade to a smart meter. Smart meters are the only technical replacement for RTS meters because they can be programmed to deliver a similar service. Get in contact with your electricity supplier to find out when they can install your new meter. RTS is an industry-wide service. All electricity suppliers are contacting RTS customers to offer them a smart meter upgrade before the service ends.

If you aren't sure whether you have an RTS meter, check



for the following things or get in touch with your electricity supplier:

- There may be a separate switch box near your meter with a Radio Teleswitch label on it
- You use electricity or storage heaters for your heating
- There is no gas supply in your area – this could be the case in rural areas and high-rise flats
- You get cheaper electricity at different times of day – you may be on Economy 7, Economy 10 or Total Heat Total Control

In search of researchers

The Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian society is running a young researcher competition for young people in years S4, S5, S6 or recent school leavers who have not yet begun higher education. They want to get youngsters interested in the local heritage of Dumfriesshire and Galloway.

The idea is that students entering the competition will write an original piece of work on any topic relating to the human history or natural environment of D&G. For example, you could research the career of a local historical figure; the history of a significant local building/monument; or a study – perhaps a census – of local wildlife; or the importance of an exhibit in a museum. Articles should contain between 1,500 and 2,500 words and may include images, appropriately captioned.



The winner will receive a prize of £250 and his/her paper will be published on the Society's website. This is great publicity for anyone wishing to go on to university as if you get a prize, or take part in the competition, you can add it to your university entry form.

Deadline

The competition runs from 1st June 2025, with the deadline for entries being 31st October. This timing ensures that examination studies are not affected. Full details of the competition including the registration form and terms & conditions are available on the Society's website under the "About" tab: <https://dgnhas.org.uk>



Last of the season

The 15th May was Canonbie SWI's last session of the term. President Liz Walters welcomed everyone, gave a brief resume of the speakers, demonstrations and trips we've had this year. It has been varied and thoroughly enjoyable. We all shared the goodies that our members had supplied. We welcome members, new members and visitors to our next meeting in September.

The competition results for the year were: Joint 2nd place Pam Bell & Liz Walters; 1st place to win the trophy was Catherine Lithgow.

Results of the competition on the night were: Wool article 1st Catherine Lithgow; 2nd Gill Bailey. Wood item: 1st Diane Hope, 2nd Gillian Lamont. Results of the voting for the committee were: Liz Walters, Dorothy Watson, Karen Pearson, Pam Bell, Maureen, Nicola Donald, Gillian Lamont, Diane Hope

Scotland bans sale of single-use vapes

Retailers urged to comply with new law

Retailers across Scotland are being urged by the Scottish Grocers' Federation not to be caught-out by the upcoming ban on selling single-use vaping products.

The Scottish Grocers' Federation (SGF) is helping its members - covering more than 5,000 convenience stores - to ensure they stay on the right side of the law.

Single-use vapes - including those which are non-refillable and non-rechargeable - will be banned from June 1, with the Scottish Government bringing in the new law in-line with the rest of the United Kingdom.

SGF, the convenience store trade body, has issued an updated retailers' guide on regulations for vaping and tobacco compliance, as well as a poster which it is encouraging members to display in their stores.

Pete Cheema, SGF's Chief Executive, said:

"Our members are committed to responsible local retailing



and operating within the law. It's important that we do all we can to help ensure they are fully prepared for this significant change, so that staff and customers are all properly educated about what the new law entails. There is no transitional period in play here. From June 1, it will be an offence for a person or business to supply or offer to supply single-use vapes - or have them in their possession for supply.

"Any leftover stock come that

date must be discontinued and stored separately from items for sale, clearly marked as 'not for sale'. We are recommending that any of our members with concerns about complying with the ban contact their local trading standards team to ensure they are operating within the law."

SGF is working with Police Scotland and trading standards nationally to help ensure its members comply with the ban - as well as to clampdown on any illicit trade after June 1.

Westerhall Gardens Open day

Scotland's Garden Scheme



This Sunday sees Westerhall Gardens open day as part of Scotland's open garden scheme. The garden will be open from 1pm - 5pm with admission costing £5 and children go free. 60% of the charge will go to the Westerkirk Parish Trust.

The garden has an extensive collection of azaleas, rhododendrons, rare shrubs and mature trees. The glasshouse contains exotic plants collected from around the world. To get there from

Langholm take the B709 towards Eskdalemuir and at Bentpath turn right past the hall and over the bridge and then right again and follow the road past the white house and continue down that road into Westerhall estate. There will be parking at the farm which will be signposted.

To coincide with this event cream teas and refreshments will be available at Bentpath Village Hall from 1pm - 5pm costing £6 per person. It's best to take cash.

Capability Scotland drop-in

Capability Scotland will be holding a drop in at the Thomas Hope hospital in Langholm about self-directed care on Wednesday 28th May from 2pm - 3.30pm. They can provide free independent advice and practical support to everyone who is eligible for social care. They also assist people to recruit personal assistants and can help with advocacy. For further information contact:

Anne.mckie@capability.scot or phone 07395 794168.

Bridge results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 3, Scott Muir & Lesley McCartney.

E/W - 1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Louise Grierson & Christine Burton, 3, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop.

Take a seat in memory of Pauline and Andrew



A seat was placed on the Castleholm in memory of Andrew and Pauline Jones who died in 2019. Andrew worked at the dye house in Langholm. The seat was placed by Langholm Walks Group who were sponsored by their daughter Allison Jones and their nephew and his family. Above, family and friends toast the new seat

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk



✉ john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk

f [JohnLamontBorders](https://www.facebook.com/JohnLamontBorders)

☎ 01450 375948

X [@John2win](https://twitter.com/John2win)

📍 John Lamont MP
25 High Street,
Hawick,
TD9 9BU

IG [johnlamontborders](https://www.instagram.com/johnlamontborders)

globe johnlamont.org

Sign up to my monthly e-newsletter



The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

Farming on the Border



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



Farming with Gilly Fraser

Less windy than it was before!

Future generations of sheep may be less windy than their ancestors if current research proves successful.

SRUC and the Texel Sheep Society have teamed up with other major sheep-breeding nations in a bid to reduce the environmental impact of the animals.

It's estimated there are currently 1.2 billion sheep in the world, producing around seven million tonnes of methane into the atmosphere, approximately 6.4% of the total enteric methane from livestock.

Research from New Zealand suggests that selective breeding could reduce emissions by 1-2% per year, without compromising genetic improvement in other traits.

In the UK, hill sheep from SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre near Loch Lomond (approximately 450 lambs measured over four years), and performance-recorded Texel sheep flocks (around 500 lambs measured over two years) are participating in the

research, which will run to 2027.

Dr Nicola Lambe from SRUC says a crucial aspect of the project is to understand what effect reducing greenhouse gas emissions might have on other animal characteristics such as growth, feed intake and efficiency, and quantifying the effects of these.

"In the UK and other countries there is chronic under-adoption of genetic improvement as a means to meet policy targets for lower GHG emissions, and there are many barriers to taking up new outcomes from research by the sheep industry," she said.

"The robust science from the project will provide a mechanism for national and global comparisons to underpin Governmental GHG reduction targets for the successful implementation of science into policy."

SRUC 

90% would prefer to buy Scottish meat over imports

Industry gets a major thumbs up from consumers

Scottish beef, lamb and pork have been given a major thumbs-up from consumers.

In a survey, 90% said they'd prefer to buy Scottish meat even if imports from elsewhere were 30% cheaper.

They said this was because they wanted to support Scottish farmers and the local economy, because the quality was fresh, superior, and traceable.

Quality Meat Scotland Chief Executive Sarah Millar says people clearly value the high standards of local red meat.

"It is heartening to see this societal support and recognition of the wider value our agriculture sector brings across Scotland, including to some of our most remote and rural communities," she said.

However, despite this clear preference for domestic products, the National Farmers' Union Scotland's 2024 ShelfWatch report shows a 6%



QMS Chief Executive Sarah Millar

increase in imported red meat on supermarket shelves, sparking fears within the industry

about the long-term viability of domestic sourcing.

The UK will need an

additional 278,000 tonnes of beef per year to meet projected domestic demand by 2030.

For Scotland, this would mean producing another 22,000 tonnes of beef annually, which would need around 79,000 more breeding cows in the national herd by the end of the decade.

Underutilised

Currently, Scotland's red meat processing sector is underutilised, operating at just 69-73% of its capacity.

Sarah Millar says QMS will play its part in achieving the targets.

"We have a unique opportunity to grow Scotland's beef herd by nearly 80,000 cattle and QMS, alongside industry partners, will be focussing on building confidence and inspiring investment and action amongst farmers to meet our domestic demand."

Controlling pig disease

More than 160 pig farms in Scotland are taking part in a major initiative to boost disease control and biosecurity.

The Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) testing initiative is funded by the Scottish Government and supported by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), and forms part of the PRRS Control and Elimination of Swine Disease (PCES) project, managed by Wholesome Pigs (Scotland).

It marks a major step forward in improving herd health, strengthening disease resilience, and building a clearer national picture of on-farm biosecurity strengths and risks.

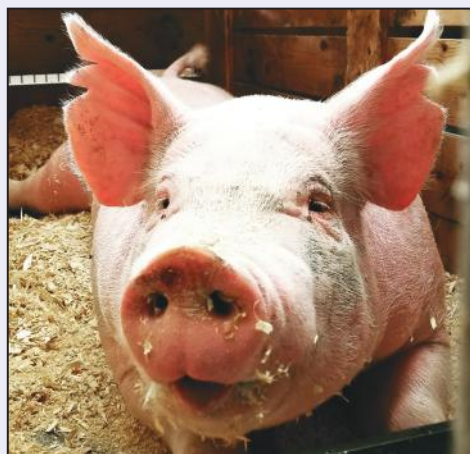
Dr David Strachan, PCES Veterinary Manager, says the project shows what's possible when industry and Government align around shared goals.

"We now have a solid foundation to tackle PRRS strategically, backed by science and shaped by farmers and vets on the ground," he said.

A new herd categorisation system has been introduced to reflect both vaccination and infection status, allowing for clearer planning and benchmarking at both farm and regional levels.

Alongside this, three regional producer meetings held in March 2025 confirmed strong interest from pig farmers in creating local forums to guide future control strategies.

Andy McGowan, QMS Board member and



Director of Wholesome Pigs (Scotland), says initiatives like this are really important.

"At a time when threats like African Swine Fever remain just across the water, these individual farm assessments and data-driven insights are vital to protecting our national herd. It's about giving farmers and vets the tools to have focused conversations and take meaningful action."

Early findings show that Scottish farms compare well to European counterparts, though common risk areas have been identified that mirror trends seen internationally.

Emmerdale at Scone

Members of TV's best known farming soap are taking part in a new challenge launched by Scotland's premier farming charity.

The Great Scone Palace Challenge is to be held on September 12th and 13th and will star favourite actors from Emmerdale.

The event will kick off with a welcome party at Perth Racecourse, then it's down to business when teams of five will experience what's being promised as an 'action-packed' time, with a tractor pull, obstacle course and mystery maze to negotiate.

The whole experience round off with a celebration ball featuring performances from the Emmerdale cast band and a charity auction as well as live music and dancing.

Pauline Macmillan Head of Fundraising at RSABI says the charity is always looking for new ways to put the fun into fundraising.

"Building on the success of The Great Glen Challenge over the last 10 years we are very much



Nicola Wheeler fronts up the team at Scone Palace

looking forward to heading to Scone Palace this September," she said. "We will be delighted to welcome back those who have taken part in The Great Glen in the past as well as new teams for an event which promises to be great fun as well as highly competitive."

Emmerdale actor Nicola Wheeler who has been playing Nicola

King in the popular soap since 2001 says she was delighted to join the RSABI team to help launch the event.

"We're really looking forward to coming up for the event in Perthshire so get your teams signed up for the challenge and support RSABI and we look forward to seeing you in September."

After 102 years, LAODS has a new name

Fresh talent sought for the stage

Langholm Theatre Group (formerly LAODS) have their sights set on finding new talent for their next musical production.

Members of Langholm Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society decided at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting to change their name as it was felt that the word "operatic" was probably a factor in putting people off joining the society.

The group hope that the name change will encourage new actors and anyone who wishes to become part of the production team to come along and join.

Throughout their 102-year history, there have been musicals, plays and concerts as well as Gilbert & Sullivan operettas. Previous musicals have included The Sound of Music, The Wizard of Oz and Calamity Jane as well as last year's hugely successful Annie Get Your Gun



A scene from the 2025 production 'Annie Get Your Gun'

and it is hoped that more members will come along to secure the future. Anyone over the age of 14 can join.

Director

The group are also on the hunt for a producer/director for the March 2026 show which is yet to be decided upon.

President Jackie Beckett said: "It has been fantastic to see new members coming along to join the Society in recent years, but we need

more! If anyone has ever wanted to be on stage, or even help in other ways, please get in touch. You don't need to live in Langholm as we have members who travel from outwith the town. And you will be made most welcome."

Please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing alison.aston@yahoo.com for further information and especially if you would like to join this friendly group of am-drammers.

From Scotland's Gardens to Chelsea Flower Show

Helen wins Gold at RHS event



Tinnisburn Plants is another of 'Scotland's Gardens' to open this weekend. Helen Knowles is opening her garden from 10am – 4pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Helen's garden has been developed over the last 36 years and is a one acre, plantsman's garden which is home to an eclectic mix of hardy perennials, trees and shrubs. Admission is £5 and children go free. Helen has nominated two charities for this event – Fauna and Flora and Macmillan Cancer Support.

To get to Millsteads and Tinnisburn Plants take the B6357 north from Canon-

bie and at Harelaw turn left onto the B6318. After one mile turn onto the track which is 1.5 miles long and is not tarred but is suitable for all vehicles.

The E&L would like to congratulate Helen who has just been given an award at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show for both her Meconopsis complexa and for the Meconopsis Group's exhibit of meconopsis species and cultivars. The group has been given a Gold Medal which is a great achievement. Helen has thanked everyone who has been involved and said 'it has really been a team effort.'

More homes for key workers

More homes are needed to tackle recruitment challenges in health and social care, schools, policing, forestry and farming, according to new research on key worker homes in the South of Scotland. The groundbreaking research – published last week was carried out by South of Scotland Community Housing in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, South of Scotland Enterprise and Scottish Futures Trust, and will bring partners together across the region and nationally.

The new research has demonstrated that a shortage of the right homes in the right places is having a significant impact upon key worker recruitment and retention in Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders, affecting thousands of staff and posts in health, social care, education, policing and the land-based industries. The aim of the new research is to inform efforts to deliver more key worker homes in the region. Based on the evidence, key priorities for action have been identified to deliver more key worker homes where they are most needed, and the report makes a series of recommendations for how these actions can be implemented.

Men's health sessions

Following the success of the 'Hot Flash Café' focusing on women, the Langholm Alliance is now holding men's health sessions called 'Man2Man'.

The first of these was held on Friday past at the rugby club and looked at physical health and fitness with speaker Chris Topping of the NHS along with Thomas Scott giving a strength training session. The next session will be on Friday 23rd May and will look at substance misuse with Recovery Coaching Scotland and will take place at 6.30pm. Future sessions will look at topics like work, life balance and managing stress, prostate and male cancers, yoga for me and will culminate in a social evening with Andy's Man Club on Friday 20th June.

With the NHS under considerable pressure at the moment it is even more important that we all look after ourselves and each other, keep ourselves as healthy as possible and know when to seek medical advice. These sessions sound like a great opportunity for men in our community to do just that.



Youth Beatz volunteering

Youth Beatz Festival, the free Dumfries and Galloway festival which takes place in Dumfries is back for 2025 and signups have now opened for young people and adults to register their interest in volunteering at this year's event.

This opportunity is specifically for people who want to support the delivery of the event over the Youth Beatz festival including our region-wide Fringe programme that will see free events delivered across every Ward area throughout Dumfries and Galloway, and the main event days. The line up this year includes Jax Jones and Liberty X.

Volunteering roles during the main event days range from photographers to stage support, welfare to customer service, content creators to donation points collectors and more! There are also opportunities for those who would prefer to volunteer behind the scenes in the week leading up to and following the main event with a call out including people who want to give their time to physically transform the site from field to festival.

This is the perfect opportunity for people interested in:

- Gaining experience working in live events industry,
- Building their skills and working as part of a motivated team to deliver an award-winning experience for young people,
- Sharing their expertise and experience,
- Getting more involved in their community!

Sign up is now open until 31st May 2025.

Sign up form can be found at the following link:

forms.office.com/e/fnvRU2aF5r

For more information

please email Jenny McLean

jenny.mclean@dumgal.gov.uk



Writers Wanted!

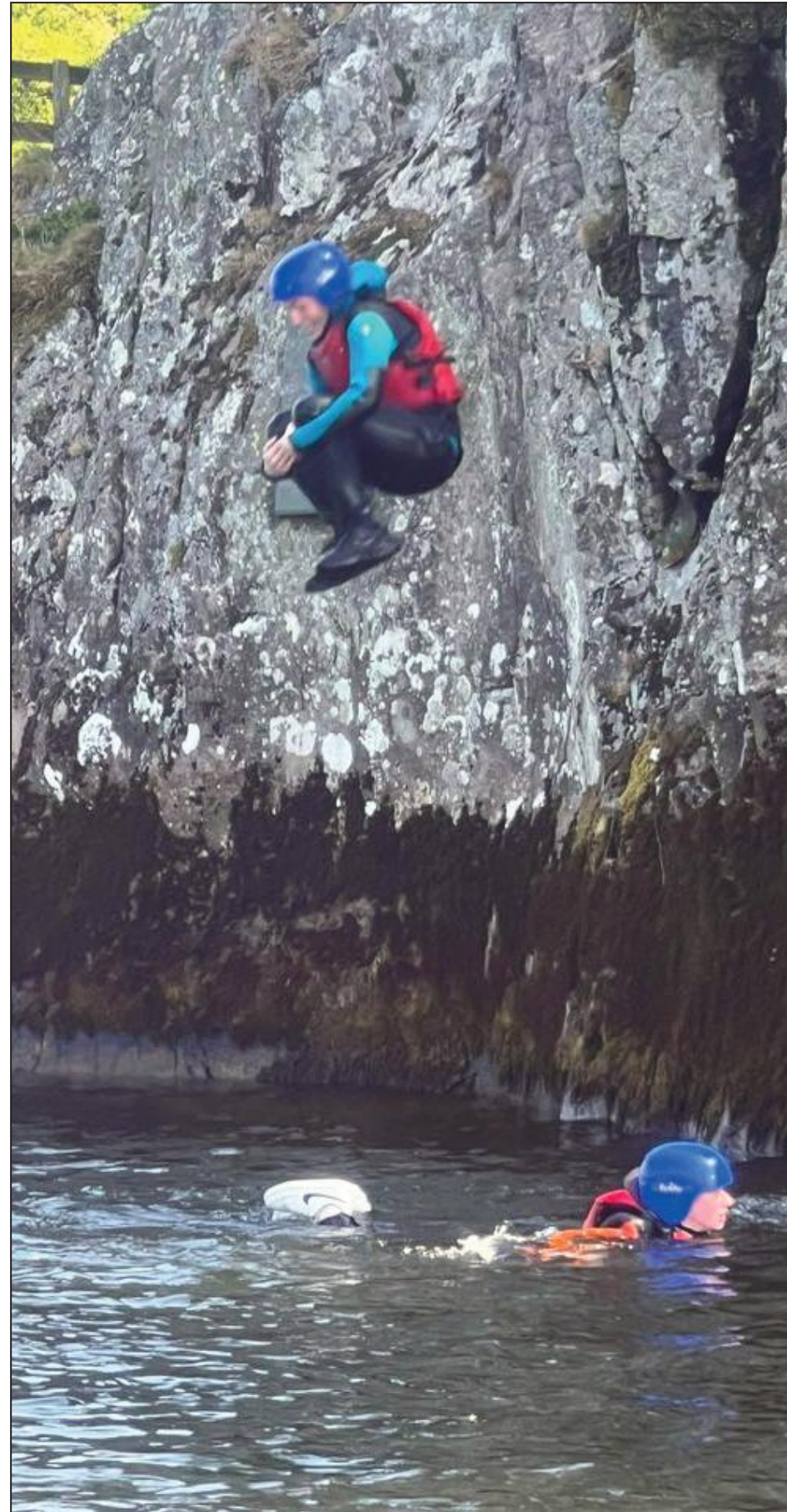
To make the E & L a truly community and local paper we're looking for people willing to write on a wide range of subjects such as nostalgia ▪ sport ▪ farming forestry ▪ cookery or whatever else is your area of expertise!

Please get in touch if you are interested in contributing by emailing us on: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk or by phoning the office on 013873 80012



Once more, Ullswater trip is a huge success

Stevenson Trust-funded outward bound adventure enjoyed by Langholm's S3 students



LEAP OF FAITH: Cliff diving into Ullswater was a favourite activity

Since the 1990s, The Stevenson Trust has been funding Langholm Academy's Third Year Outward Bound trip to Ullswater.

As a result, hundreds of young people have benefitted from the experience, learning resilience and teamwork alongside having a whale of a time.

The activities on offer at the site are many and include abseiling, cliff diving, canoeing, sailing, hiking and many others.

The team that work at the site are highly trained and very professional, giving the pupils the chance to learn new skills and have a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Pupils and school staff alike are very grateful to David Stevenson for the opportunity to take part in all these exciting and appreciate the Trust's generosity.

The E&L asked a few of the pupils to tell us what they thought of the trip.

Here are some of the responses:

"Every activity was a different adventure with new things to learn" - Tabitha Wright

"The part I enjoyed the most was the tunnels as it was terrifying, but I've also never laughed so hard" - Holly Moss

"Being at Ullswater taught me a lot about myself - what I am capable of. It gave me confidence in myself and memories I will never forget". Zara Park

"Eating forest plants and jumping in the lake was fun". Owen Rose

"Our instructor, Anna, told us why we shouldn't leave apple cores in the countryside". Calum Bain

"Getting to the top of the hill and realising you had made it. Also the instructors were amazing, especially with some of the complaining we did with the heat!" Amber Smith

Zoe Brown, one of the teachers who accompanied the pupils

said: "I'd like to thank the Stevenson Trust for their continued investment in developing the young people of our community. Each year I see pupils overcoming challenges they never imagined and growing together as a team. The experience is invaluable and every year at leavers' assemblies pupils look back on their time at Outward Bound as some of their best memories of school"

Head Teacher, Lauren McLean added:

"I am hugely grateful to the Stevenson Trust for once again providing this amazing opportunity for our pupils to experience learning in new, unfamiliar contexts. Our pupils develop leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills, which we know they will put to good use both in school with their studies, and within the community in the coming months. Thank you again, our pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their time at Ullswater!"



HIGH ON A HILL: Part of the 'big hike' with spectacular views



CONCENTRATION: Man makes fire!



ALL ABOARD: A few pointers before setting sail



PERFECT: Great weather and great fun form the third year pupils



STEADY: Sailing through the abseiling



WATER BABY: Zara sits in a waterfall for some reason!



TUNNEL VISION: Facing your fears



TEAMWORK...can make a dream work

...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Commons clash for Lamont and Starmer

“Nobody sensible supports his crank policies”

Borders MP John Lamont and the UK Prime Minister have clashed in the commons over plans for a super-highway of giant pylons carrying electricity from Scotland to England.

During Prime Minister's Questions the Conservative MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk said that people were disgusted by Energy Secretary Ed Miliband's obsessive pursuit of Net Zero at any cost.

“The Scottish Borders is under attack with solar farms beside towns, massive wind farms and now mega pylons scarring unspoiled landscapes,” he said.

“Nobody sensible supports his crazed, crank policies which will put jobs at risk and rip up farmland.

“So when will the prime minister step in and stop the energy secretary throwing taxpayers money at this nonsense?”

In response, Keir Starmer accused him of being defeatist.

“Only a few years ago dealing with the climate challenge was a shared endeavour across this House,” he said.

“This is yet further evidence of how far his party has fallen that they cannot see the significance and importance of



LOGGERHEADS: John Lamont MP and PM Keir Starmer



tackling one of the major challenges of our time.

“I think we should rise to that challenge and not be defeatist about it.”

Meanwhile reports that the Energy Secretary may be considering scaling down the original plans have been welcomed by campaigners in the Borders.

The National Energy System Operator (Neso) says the government's plan for a clean power system would require £60bn worth across the electricity network which would include 4,000 miles of new undersea cables and another 1,000 miles of

overland power lines.

Neso has now been told to assess whether this could be reduced through switching to a zonal system under which households would pay electricity prices according to supply and demand in their area.

Supporters say this would lessen the need for cables spanning the country, and if fewer cables were needed, would lower the cost of achieving net zero. Scottish Power and SSE say this would risk plunging their investment plans into uncertainty and would endanger the 2030 target.

Finely-crafted Fayre promised

Annual event this weekend



Newcastleton Village Hall will be a hive of activity today (Thursday) as crafters, artists and helpers set out their stalls for the weekend's Craft Fayre.

Running from Friday to Monday, the Craft Fayre is always a hugely popular event in the village and also brings in visitors from far and wide.

The stalls will feature favourite local crafters, and there will also be some new faces and new skills on display.

The Fayre always promises and delivers a great variety of home-created items, ranging

from seedlings and young plants in the gardening section, to artwork, wood carvings to woven wraps, candles, ceramics, jewellery, artisan liquors, handcrafted chocolate, cards, clothes and much more.

It's a well-known fact that shopping can make you peckish and the Craft Fayre comes complete with its own pop-up café in the Village Hall Supper Room, featuring scrumptious homebaking to satisfy even the hungriest soul.

The Fayre opens at 11am on Friday and runs till 5pm each day.

Like mother like Tub

Voters went to the polls on Saturday and elected 21-year-old Oli Downey to hold the village's most prestigious post for the next year and to carry the Pureous Bunkumus flag with pride and honour.

Oli, who works as a Theatre Technician and is also a hardworking member of the village Fire Service, says it's a childhood dream come true.

He follows in the footsteps – or in this case the bicycle tracks – of his Mum Paula Downey who served as Tub for a record-breaking three years, due to Covid.

She says she's absolutely delighted and so happy for him – and she has these words of advice for him – “Enjoy every minute of your year of Tubship, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity.”

The loyal supporters of former Nurse Paula dubbed themselves Tub's Scrubs – Oli hasn't yet revealed what his crew will be called – for the moment he says, that's classified information. So, watch this space.



Two Tubs together – Mum and son Paula and Oli

Bereavement counselling available in Newcastleton

People suffering the grief of losing a loved one are to be given the opportunity of speaking to a bereavement counsellor in Newcastleton's Buccleuch House.

The one-to-one sessions, beginning in June, will be taken by fully qualified bereavement counsellor Alison Hotchkiss from the Langholm-based Blueheart Counselling.

She says at times of sadness, talking to someone can make a huge difference.

“The death of a loved one has a unique impact on the lives of those missing them. We can go through a range of emotions and sometimes it can make us feel isolated and alone. Talking to someone who understands our grieving process and appreciates the difficulties of loss and change may bring you comfort.”

The sessions have been made possible by funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, but participants are being told that a donation towards admin costs is requested.

If anyone would like to find out more or to refer themselves for a counselling session, Buccleuch House has more information.



COUNSELLOR: Alison Hotchkiss

BLUEHEART COUNSELLING

The E&L Gallery



HOT RODS AT THE HUB: Photo by Mairi Telford Jammeh

Camera: Samsung mobile phone

Patrick Feeney was born to sing!

Patrick Feeney was born to sing and from the tender age of four he wanted to be on stage with his father who played in a local band. His phenomenal success, especially over the past few years, is summed up in three words from the title of Patrick's first album, back in 2003 – that title says it's all... Thanks to You.

It's 18 years since the then teenager released that debut Album, and while he has recorded countless songs since, he still lives by the motto that it's thanks to you, the fans, that he is such a success today.

Patrick has legions of fans across Ireland and is a regular guest on TV and Radio. Patrick is known nationally for his remarkable tenor voice. He has won many prestigious awards over the years and is a versatile performer.

Why not join one of our finest for an unmissable night of inspirational Country and Gospel.

the

Buccleuch Centre
LANGHOLM

JMG
MUSIC GROUP

Patrick Feeney *Live In Concert*



SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025
THE BUCCLEUCH CENTRE
LANGHOLM



BOX OFFICE 01387 381 196
WWW.BUCCLEUCHCENTRE.COM

A Memoir from "Coomassie..."

...by David Murray

Looking back...

On our birthdays we usually had a party; nothing expansive or expensive, but I had Mary and Eddie 'up for their tea'. On one occasion, after we had been fed and watered, Mary and Eddie offered to render a duet. They started off quite well but halfway through Mary stopped singing and slapped Eddie's face, saying he was singing out of tune! Years later a group were singing carols outside Eddie's house with Mary leading the alto part, when her father shouted at her to come into the house, as he had never heard anything so out of tune!

Through the entry at John Street at the back of No 17, up a rickety stair lived William Scott. He was a bit of a recluse, but he sold potatoes and was known as "Tatta Wull". He always wore a grubby daidle and was a stranger to personal hygiene. One day Auntie Maggie, who lived next door, sent cousin Gabriel and myself to William's for a penny stamp. Up the stairs we went and when Gabriel was giving William the penny it fell on the floor near William's bed in the recess. We looked for it but couldn't find it, but William said never to heed as he would get it later. When we came out our hands and knees



Langholm's John Street, No 17 was on the right

were as black as the back of the fire from William's floor. Gabriel said it was worth it as he had found the penny right away but never let on! When I was 14, we actually came to live in William's house but only after it had been gutted and modernised.

My brother John and his pals used to sit upstairs at the window in Chalmer's Church that overlooked William's house and watch him sorting out his potatoes and going up and down the "golden stair" as they christened it. John wrote a poem about the worthy gentleman.

William Scott (Gentleman)

*On the quiet Scottish Border, in a little Border town;
Lived one of Scotland's hoarders, a man of much renown.*

*A quiet man, a lonely man, and educated well;
With money, minus happiness, and a face as black as *****

*His money was his only care, and guarded with his life;
They say he was a millionaire because he had no wife.
No mansion house, no fine Rolls Royce, which he could well afford;
William was never heard to voice the wish for even a Ford.*

*His butler, valet, cook and maid, the United Free Church beadle;
Arranged the papers on the bed, and adjusted William's daidle.
His residence in John Street, was of a dismal kind;
No big lodge gates, no winding drive, each window minus blind.*

*Members of a nearby church could view the sight so fair;
William doing his morning rush down the Golden Stair.
But William now has passed away, along with many others;
And all who knew him said he'd pay the passage for Ann Carruthers.*

*Here ends the tale of William Scott, Potato King and Hoarder;
His days of happiness he's got, and now he's crossed the border.*

*To a land where daidles are unknown, a land of milk and honey;
Where potato seeds are never sown, where he won't need any money.*

*Moral: Where there's life, there's hope,
And where he's gone, let's hope there's soap.*

I joined the cubs and then the boy scouts and I was in the "Owl Patrol". We used to meet in 'the Hut' in Henry Street and then moved to the old Farmer's Store premises in Drove Road. I remember passing my cooking

test in the Whitshields Wood. In 1929 we attended the World Scout Jamboree at Arrows Park in Birkenhead with Scout Master Brown. It lasted for a fortnight, but we went for the second week. The first week rain had fallen continuously, and the Park had been a sea of clinging mud but we had a week of hot weather and the muddy clay became baked hard.

It was a great experience as there were scouts there from every corner of the world. We were the largest party from any troop in Scotland as some troops in Dumfriesshire didn't send any scouts and we took up their quota. We were encamped with a troop from the Orkney Isles.

Liverpool

We were taken to Liverpool by ferry one day and the fare was three-halfpence. To test our initiative we were each given a shilling and told to find our own dinner. Henry and I paired up and when we saw a restaurant in a basement, we thought it would be inexpensive. On entering we found the place full of city gentlemen having lunch. Realising we had made a mistake we were about to leave when two of the gentlemen made us sit down and they paid for our lunch! They would probably see the heather coming out of our ears.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 15th May 2025

CONTACT NUMBERS:

John Walton 07880 527 066
Daniel Lynn 07584 200 489
Norman Douglas 07786 366 833
Helen Rickard 07741 313 029
Joe Conley 07771 685 073



C&D Auction Marts had forward an entry of 9,049 sheep comprising of 115 Spring lambs, 5,447 hogs and 3,487 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 15th May 2025.

SPRING LAMBS

An increased show of new season spring lamb sold to the same trade as last week. In spec lambs meeting high demand whilst heavier lambs will see improvements in trade in the coming weeks. Please keep in touch with our auctioneers who will be advise on when best to market your spring lamb.

Topping the sale at £172 was a single Suffolk lamb from Hillside

Top price per kilo went to a Texel lamb at 400p from 5 Kirkhope Steading

Overall average of 334.4p (SQQ 350.89p)

Principal prices (Per kilo)

Texel - 400p, 384p 5 Kirkhope Steading, 380p Paradise, 373p Studholm, 372.7p Guardsmill, 372.5p Kimmeter Green Cottage, 371.4p Wellbank Mains
Suffolk - 370p Paradise, 368.3p Wellbank
Hampshire - 321p, 320p Barnhill Mews
Principal prices (Per head)
Suffolk - £172, £162 & £156 Hillside, £156 Wellbank Mains, £155 Guardsmill
Texel - £164 Guardsmill, £164 The Knock, £161, £157 Kimmeter Green Cottage, £156 North Cowshaw, £156 Wellbank Mains
Hampshire - £154 & £153 Hartbush

PRIME HOGGS

An increased and very mixed show of hogs proved harder to sell albeit trade at Longtown better than held its own this day. Customers are advised to keep selling as the season nears the final curtain. Please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers.

Topping the sale was a Texel at £215 from

Merkland
Top price per kilo 368p for Texels from High Dalrioch
Overall average of 285.34p (SQQ 294.07p)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel - £215 Merkland, £180 Thackwood, £176 Sykehead, £170 Yatesfield & Ireshope Plains, £168 Northway.
Beltex - £182 Easter Balgillo & Newton Cottages, £180 Easter Balgillo & Balcairn, £176 Easter Balgillo, £173 Baldovie, £172 Easter Balgillo.
Blue Texel - £178 Easter Balgillo
Dutch Spotted - £176 Newton Cottages, £148 Hillside
Dutch Texel - £168, £146, £134 Howard House.
Hill Cheviot - £168 Newton Cottages, £155 Copperthorns, £154 Maidencots, £150 Kirkland of Longcastle, East Deloraine, The Old Gas House & Easter Balgillo, £148 Sykehead.
Suffolk - £162 Sykehead and West Scales, £160 West Newlands and Nook-close, £158 Beckfoot, Harbarrow, Hillside and Upper Auquhadlie, £156 Larkhall and Sykehead, £155 Netherofts & Sykehead, £154 Ireshope Plains.
Cheviot Mule - £157, £154 Kirkland of Longcastle, £142 Cassington, £139 Purdomstone, £124 Cassington.
Kerry - £155, £145 West Scales, £129 Copperthorns.
Charollais - £152 Upper Auquhadlie.
Blackface - £150 Yatesfield, £148 Hillside, £143 Newhouse, £142, £140 Heathery Hall, £139 Dyke Farm.
North Country Cheviot - £148 Hillside, £142 Catslackburn, £132 Moss Edge, £129 Torrikra, £128 Dairy Barn.
Easycare - £145 Balcairn, £142 Sykehead, £133, £119 Castle Farm.
Leicester - £144 Belzies.
Cross - £143 Sykehead, £142 Corsencon, Maidencots, Heathery Hall & West New-

lands, £140 Ireshope Plains, £139 Tullochallum, £138 West Newlands.
Welsh Mule - £140 Tetcott
Herdwick - £140 Sykehead, £132 Bridge End, £127 Ashley Park, £113 Cardewlees.
Half Bred - £136 The Hagg, £124 Monk-kilw.
Swaledale - £130, £128 Ireshope Plains, £124 Pasture House, £112 Newfield, £111 Heathery Hall.
Zwartbles - £129 Harbarrow, £127 Heugh.
Ryeland - £128, £126 Morrell Hill.
Oxford - £127 Guards.
Hampshire - £126 Killinlochonocho.
Badgerface - £121 Heathery Hall.
Romney - £114 Crown Square.
Jacob - £110 Shethin.
Kendal Rough - £110 Heugh.
Dorset - £110 Crown Square.
Rouge - £108 Hillside.
Dartmoor - £108, £98 Burnhead
Shetland - £100 Hillside, £95 Westcott, £82 Upper Rigg.

Principal prices (Per kilo)

Texel - 368p High Dalrioch, 352p Howard House, 345.5p Hillside, 335.1p Ballochgar, 333p East Raffles.
Beltex - 357p, 350p Easter Balgillo, 341p Yatesfield, 340.9p Pasture House, 338p Easter Balgillo.
Hill Cheviot - 331.7p St John's Kirk, 325.6p, 325p Plumpe, 324p Heathery Hall, 323.7p Twislehope.
Suffolk - 328.6p St John's Kir, 326p Tor-more & Dunbeath 319p Harbarrow & Copperthorns, 315p Hillside, 313.2p Westerhopeburn.
Blackface - 323.1p, 321p, 320.6p, 319p Heathery Hall, 311p Copperthorns.
Cross - 319p, 302.1p Heathery Hall, 302p Tullochallum, 295.5p Heathery Hall, 295.3p High Croft House.
Herdwick - 314.3p Bridge End, 302p Ashley Park, 280p Sykehead, 275.6p Cardewlees, 267p Pasture House.
North Country Cheviot - 312p, 310p Dairy

Barn, 300p Moss Edge, 258p Torrikra.
Cheviot Mule - 295.7p Purdomstone, 253.6p Cassington, 253.2p, 248p Kirkland of Longcastle.
Badger Face - 295.1p Heathery Hall.
Zwartbles - 293.2p Harbarrow, 276p Heugh.
Dartmoor - 290.3p Westcott, 233p Burn-head

Dutch Texel - 289.7p, 286.3p Howard House.
Rouge - 277p Hillside.
Dutch Spotted - 274.1p Hillside, 248p Newton Cottages.

Half Bred - 273.2p Newfield, 257p The Hagg, 253.1p Monkilw.
Charollais - 271.4p Upper Auquhadlie.
Welsh Mule - 269.2p Tetcott

Leicester - 244.1p Belzies.
Blue Texel - 237p Easter Balgillo
Easycare - 305p Castle Farm, 290p Syke-head, 289.1p Castle Farm, 264p Balcairn.
Swaledale - 295p Ireshope Plains, 284.6p Heathery Hall, 284p Ireshope Plains, 269.6p Pasture House.
Ryeland - 263p Morrell Hill, 252.2p Pasture House.

Jacob - 268.3p Shethin.
Shetland - 287.9p Westcott, 286p Hillside, 241.2p Upper Rigg.
Romney - 271.4p Crown Square.
Oxford - 288.6p Guards.
Kerry - 293.2p Copperthorns, 274p West Scales.

CAST EWES AND RAMS
A huge show of ewes for the time of year as Longtown delivers the numbers again. Heavy ewes remain in big demand whilst plain ewes would meet slight resistance.

Heavy ewes topped £360 for a single Texel ewe from M/s Duncan, Low Edge
Lightweight ewes topped at £225 for a pen of 19 Cheviots from M/s Shaw, Smallholm
Rams to £360 for 3 Texels from Robson, Yatesfield

Light ewes
Cheviot - £225, £210 Smallholm, £188 Dalmore
Blackface - £156 Mouldyhill, £155 Corsencon, £150 Syke Head, £150 High Farside
Jacob - £154 & £128 Edisford Bridges
Woodlan - £145 Marygate
Swaledale - £140 Morley Hill, £132 Ralphshild
Kendal Rough - £110 Lynnsfield
Herdwick - £96 Great Bidlake, £90 Causey View, £88 Romanway, £80 Arkleby House
Shetland - £92 Hill Field, £70 Copperbeech

Heavy ewes
Texel - £360 Low Edge, £340 Edisford Bridge, £320 Lords Lot, £315, £310 & £300 Low Edge, £300 Shethin, £300 Edisford Bridge, £300 Arkleby House
Beltex - £315, £290 Haas Side, £255 No2 Newton Cottage.
Charollais - £315 Beckfoot, £245 Baldovie, £245 Thackwood, £220 Paradise
Suffolk - £250 Ballodvie, £240 (x2) & £235 Beckfoot, £235 Shethin, £235 Wellbank Mains, £235 Edisford Bridge
Blue Texel - £230 Wellbank, £155 Easter Balgillo
Millennium Bleu - £225 Drumreach
Bluefaced Leicester - £222 Romesbeoch, £200 Morly Hill, £188 Purdomstone
Cheviot Mule - £215 Shethin, £210 Jethart, £192 Howard House, £190 Ormiston
Cross - £215 Barnhill Mews, £208 Shethin, £198 High Machriemore, £198 Edisford Bridge
North Country Cheviots - £210 Bleakfield, £210 & £195 Aimster, £190 Ballinloan
Zwartable - £210 Cleughbrae £195 Drum-reach
Lleyan - £192 Ashley Park, £172 Thirwell
Dorset - £142 Preston Tilrey, £140 Oak Tree
Easycare - £130 Villa View, £128 Clachan Mor
Border Leicester - £118 Achalona Croft
Ryeland - £112 Romanway

Goat - £80 Moss Edge
Hebridean - £70 & £60 Villa View

Rams
Texel - £260 Yatesfield, £235 Merkland, £230 Thackwood, £230 Shethin
Beltex - £235 Yatesfield, £225 Hill Field, £200 Banks Head
Blue Leicester - £210 Cleughbrae, £200 Clonrae
Cheviot - £210 Catslackburn, £180 Achalona, £180 Hindhope, £180 Catslackburn
Blue Texel - £200 Banks Head
Blackface - £170 Yatesfield, £160 Mouldy-hills, £155 4 Wellapr, £150 Granton Mill
Dorset - £170 Beckfoot
Swaledale - £168 Cleughbrae
Zwartable - £165 Hill Field
Suffolk - £160 Guards
Easycare - £155 Clachan Mor, £152 Castle Farm
Kerry Hill - £98 The Kennels

Averages:
Spring Lambs
Standard to 400p (348.65p)
Medium to 380p (351.18p)
Heavy to 335p (327.06p)
O/Weight to 294.5p (288.89p)

Hogs
Light to 368p (264.66p)
Standard to 345.5p (291.08p)
Medium to 341p (300.73p)
Heavy to 357p (276.05p)

Ewes
Light to £225 (£100.23)
Heavy to £360 (£169.64)
Rams to £260 (£152.39)



LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
CREATION MILL W/C 26th May 2025
Connect | Inspire | Create

Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Spring Fling! Handmade Craft House @ Creation Mill	10-3	Creation Mill
Tues	After school club	4-5:30	Xcel Youth Club
Wed	Packing & Sorting Wednesday All Welcome!	10-3	Creation Mill
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-3	Social Club DG13 0DN
	Tangled Galashiels!	10-5	Hayward Scout Hall, TD1 3JX
Sat	Tangled Galashiels!	10-5	Hayward Scout Hall, TD1 3JX

Please note - we have put a pause on our weekly sessions in our current space and we are not currently accepting donations until July to allow us to prepare for our big move! Thank you.

Summer Craft Fayre

Newcastleton Village Hall
 Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May
 11am to 5pm daily
 Tea Room open 11am - 4pm
 Adults 50p accompanied Children FREE
 Raffle on Monday

Langholm Ex-Comets Association

AGM

Friday 23rd May
 8pm
 Eskdale Hotel
 Subs now due

Centre Stage Community Theatre

AGM

& Get to Know the Show
 Wednesday 28th May
 7pm
 Telford Room - Town Hall
ALL WELCOME



Westerkirk Parish Library Trust
 A Scottish Registered Charity no: SC020308

Annual General Meeting

will be held in
 Wester Kirk Parish Library, Bentpath
 On Wednesday, 28th May at 6.00pm

Everyone welcome to attend

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Advertise on the NOTICEBOARD
 this size 5cm x 2col
 only

£20 inc VAT

Contact: alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2519 answers next week

- Which US president appears on the one-dollar bill?
- The llama is a native animal of which continent?
- Who undertook three voyages of exploration in the Pacific Ocean in the 1760s and 1770s?
- What name was shared by noted father and son Viennese composers of waltzes in the 19th century?
- What was the Greek counterpart of the Roman love god Cupid?
- In which sport is the Lonsdale Belt awarded to British champions?
- What is the name of the dog breed created by crossbreeding a Labrador and a poodle?
- Also the name of a fabulous bird, what is the state capital of Arizona?
- Mildendo is the capital of which island in a work by Jonathan Swift?
- What is the minimum age for a juror in the UK?
- The adjective aqualine means pertaining to which bird?
- Which singer-songwriter duo originally performed under the name Tom & Jerry?
- What was the title of the third movie in Edgar Wright's Three Flavours Cornetto trilogy starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost?
- In astronomy what term refers to the point on the celestial sphere directly above the observer?
- What was the first name of Russian composer Mussorgsky?
- Which race was won by BNevis in 1980?
- Which cheese from the Scottish region of Ayrshire shares its name with a well-known manufacturer of motor tyres?
- Alexander Waverly was a senior figure in which organisation in a cult 1960s TV series and a spin-off?
- The religious sect known as the Shakers was founded in 1747 as an offshoot of which other sect?
- Complete the title of this 1974 book by Robert M Pirsig: Zen and the Art of ?



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

23rd to 26th	Newcastleton Summer Craft Fayre	Newcastleton Village Hall 11am - 5pm each day
Sat 24th	Save Warblaw Action Grp Ceilidh Ian Anderson Dance Band	Langholm Social Club 7.30pm
Sun 25th	Westerhall Gardens Open Day	Westerhall, Westerkirk 1pm - 5pm
	The Everlys & Friends	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Fri 30th	Hard of Hearing Group 'Brew 'n' Bletcher'	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12pm

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

Mon 3rd	LEW Community Council Town Meeting	The Buccleuch Centre 7pm
Fri 6th	Man2Man: Prostate and Male Cancers	Langholm Rugby Club 6.30pm
Sat 7th	Seriously Collins Phil Collins Tribute	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 14th	Whisky tasting for Father's Day	Gilnockie Tower
Sat 21st	David Michaels International Entertainer	Langholm Cricket Club from 2pm
Sun 22nd	LEEW Parish Churches Church Fête	Langholm Parish Church from 2pm

Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2518

- Fall
- Corsica and Sardinia
- Emma, Lady Hamilton
- Germany
- Rogers & Hammerstein II
- Oval
- Al Murray
- Salmon
- Jack Straw
- Oscar Wilde
- Doc Martin
- Peter Pears
- Louisiana
- Sergio Garcia
- Keep it simple, stupid
- Tatlooin
- Sixteenth
- Parrot
- Helium and Nitrogen
- Brisket

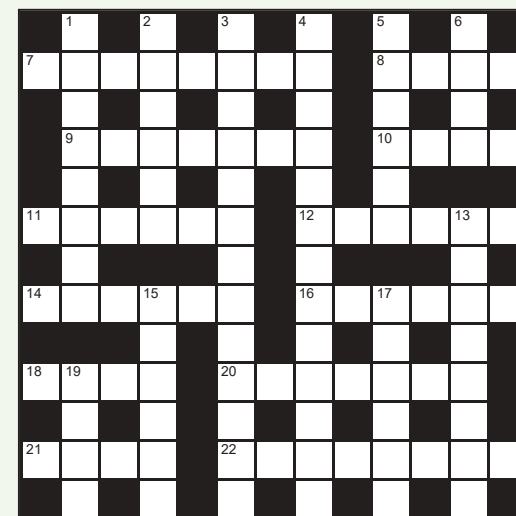
Crossword 2518

Across: 6 Abdicate, 8 Yaks, 9 Salad dressing, 10 Climatologist, 14 Reincarnation, 17 Weatherperson, 20 Anon, 21 Solidify.

Down: 1 Lira, 2 Bandit, 3 Cereal, 4 Eyesight, 5 Akin, 7 Braille, 11 Monotony, 12 Our, 13 Show-off, 15 Ageism, 16 Nipple, 18 Etna, 19 Reds.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2519 answers next week



Across

- Set free (8)
- Horse's gait (4)
- Difficult question (7)
- Among (4)
- Flowing water (6)
- Composer of "The Messiah" (6)
- Hedge plant (6)
- Have no obligation to (6)
- Increases (4)
- Nightclub (7)
- Midge (4)
- Compulsive slimmer (8)

Down

- Duce (8)
- Lower (6)
- One skilled in algebra, for example (13)
- Directory of contact numbers (9,4)
- Achieve (6)
- Central Chinese desert (4)
- Physicist (8)
- Calls on (6)
- Weirder (6)
- Ridge of sand (4)

E&L CLASSIFIEDS

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

POP-UP SHOP

LANGHOLM **POP-UP SHOP** May 2025

■ **Sat 24th May** (74 High St) –
 Katrina Kenny - Anthony Nolan Fundraiser

To book a space:
 Call Sharon Irving on 07862 367209 or email:
 sharon@ashleybank.co.uk

CHIMNEY SWEEP

MARK FRASER CHIMNEY SWEEP

Chimneys and
 Stove Flues swept.

Wood Burning
 Stoves Serviced

t. 01228 791617
 m. 07810 023819

SCRAP METAL

CUMBRIA METALS FARM SCRAP URGENTLY WANTED

Wire • Tin
 Machinery • Lorries
 Cars • Vans
 and all other scrap metal
 Big or small
 we remove it all
 Registered Dealer
 Call Patrick: 07979 877391

BLINDS

DATS BLINDS

3 Blinds for £160
 (70 x 50)

Your local manufacturer of top quality blinds
FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE

Special Offers on
 Conservatory Blinds

Perfect fit blinds ideal
 for tilt & turn windows

Vertical • Venetian • Roller • Roman • Blackout
 Wooden Venetians • Pleated • Velux • Fly Screens

For a free, no obligation survey and
 to view our extensive range, call

01461 20 48 42 or

01461 20 61 48

or text your name and contact number to

077 382 192 88

www.datsblinds.co.uk

TO LET

OFFICES-STUDIOS-WORKSHOPS-STORAGE TO LET - LANGHOLM

- Ashley Bank House
- The Old Post Office
- The Old Bakery, Well Close
- BFA - Enquiries welcome

for further information, please contact
 Gillian McCartney, Ashley Bank House, Langholm DG13 0AN
 Tel: 013873 81066 | email: gillian@ashleybank.co.uk

JOINERS



Rab McConnachie

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Floors
- Doors
- Decking
- All joinery work

Based in Langholm, D&G
 wide area covered
 e. rabbydabbydu@gmail.com
 m.07876 655790

*Eskdale & Liddesdale
 Advertiser*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Online subscriptions to the

*Eskdale & Liddesdale
 Advertiser*

are now available at
www.eladvertiser.co.uk

A new way to read the 'Langholm Paper'.
 Published weekly and available to read
 anytime and anywhere using multiple devices from
 mobile phone to tablet and laptop.

GREAT IDEA FOR A GIFT! STARTING AT £1 A WEEK

ADVERTISING

gROW
 Your Business with the E&L!

Employers!!

- Do you have vacancies to fill?
- Are you seeking to expand your business?

We have a wide readership covering Langholm and Eskdale,
 Newcastleton, Longtown, Annan and Lockerbie and very
 competitive rates.

To discuss your employment needs contact us on 013873 80012
 or email alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

**Advertise in the E & L....
 You'll be surprised how little it costs!**

*Eskdale & Liddesdale
 Advertiser*



Duns went and did it!

Football



By David Borthwick
On Saturday, the boys made the long journey east to face Duns in the league. 14 boys made the journey. We were missing a few key players and it was always going to be a tough game.

The game started and it was the home side who took an early lead. We picked ourselves up and kept fighting for everything but by half time we found ourselves 2-0 down.

Determined to try and get something from the game and avoid the playoff, we had several

chances but it was Duns who got the next goal. 3-0. Chris Gardner came off the bench and his well placed pass found Daniel Winter who made no mistake this time and gave us a life line. We kept pushing but it was Duns that struck again making it 4-1.

Proud of the lads who made the journey today, some have only played one game this season, some were playing out of their normal position but everyone of them gave their all for the team.

Thanks to John Blaikie for officiating. Next week we face Highfields at home.

Gordon Brown's Kelso preview

Ladies' Day this Sunday

Horseracing

A dozen horses have been entered for Sunday's £20,000 Ladies Day feature race at Kelso.

This year's renewal of the Elliot Henderson Group Handicap Hurdle, part of a card boasting five hurdle races and a bumper, sees the borders venue bring down the curtain on its spring campaign.

Among the entries is Klitschko, trained by Lucinda Hughes, who has already booked her three-time champion jockey husband Brian for the mount. The Teesside raider won at Sedge-

field in March before disappointing at last month's Perth festival.

Cumbrian trainer Tristan Davidson is represented by Rewired, who is also entered at Uttoxeter on Sunday.

"He's gone up 4lbs for winning at Hereford earlier this month and is suited by nice, good ground," Davidson said. "We've still to decide which meeting he runs at but Kelso is obviously a lot closer to home!"

Fergal O'Brien, the winning trainer in 2023 with Castel Gandolfo, has pencilled in Carrageen Kampala, who is top-rated with a BHA mark of 123.

Sunny Fun Day for Youth Rugby kids

and great chance to thank everyone for their support

Youth Rugby

By Caroline Jardine

Langholm Youth Rugby recently held their end of season awards and fun day.

In great tradition the season was discussed by all the coaches, awards were given for various achievements, and a slide show of their best moments was shown on the big screen.

We were even sent a message from Kevin Sinfield encouraging all the kids to stick in and follow their dreams.

Niall Cubbon kept the day going smoothly as compare and we even had a visit from Milton the Lion on this extremely hot day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors who we are greatly appreciative of, WM Armstrongs Ltd who once again helped out at our Borders Festival. Our new jacket sponsors Simon Richardson, Cochrane's Nurseries and Telford's coaches - these have kept us very cosy on cold winter days! Our current shirt sponsors, The Grange Quarry, Martins Tyre and Auto services, Gary Foster, Craig Sterrick, Allan Cartner and J and S Hotson.

We have some exciting news ahead for next Season... watch this space!

The Youth section is going from strength to strength with over 80 boys and girls registered. We are trying hard to encourage more secondary boys to play, a new lunch time training session has just started on a Monday. Please see Mrs Nichol at the Academy for more information.

Mrs Nichol had also started a girl's training session after school this season which is great to see. We have a few girls at our primary level and hopefully we can keep them keen in secondary.

Last of all thank you to all our coaches, helpers, parents and everyone that helps in anyway; without you we wouldn't have a club. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Langholmryouthrugby@gmail.com



Top: Langholm Youth Rugby award winners: Ollie Bell, Douglas Elliott, Murray Cubbon, Evie Phillips and Charlie Elliot
Middle: Primary 1 with their certificates
Bottom: The girls enjoying the sunshine

Irish trainer Cian Collins, who is based at Navan, could saddle his first Kelso runners and he has several entries during the afternoon, including Fiveonefive and Impero in this contest.

The action gets underway with the J.A. Wilson Contractors Novices' Hurdle, which sees Lucinda Russell triple-handed with Bishop Hill, Blazer Two and Green Bonnet.

Maurice Barnes has seen his horses run into a place or two recently so it would come as no surprise if Veer improved for his hurdles debut at Market Rasen just over a fortnight ago.

Northumberland-based Paul

Robson has hit the ground running in the early stages of the new jumps campaign and Away She Goes bids for more course success in the Molson Coors Handicap Hurdle. The mare, who carries Paul's own racing club colours, has been raised 7lbs for her comfortable recent Kelso strike over slightly shorter.

Susan Corbett is a great supporter of the track and she has booked Henry Brooke for the ride on Les's Legacy in the Borders Growers & Distillers Handicap Hurdle. The partnership were a close second over 2m 6f at Kelso just under three weeks ago.





Eskdale Curlers present prizes

Curling



The end of season dinner and Presentaion of prizes was held in Lockerbie Ice Rink on Sunday 4th May in conjunction with Waterbeck Curling Club.

Following an excellent meal by Jodies Café, Chairman Norman Imrie officiated and Linda Imrie presented the prizes.

Billy Middlemas Cup kindly presented to the Club by Mrs Wilma Middlemas in memory of her husband Billy.

Winners Duncan Greenhaugh, Norman Imrie, Marilyn Muir and Robin MacLeod

Duncan Baddon Cup kindly presented to the Club by Mrs Pat Baddon in

memory of her husband Duncan.

Winners Robin MacLeod, Norman Imrie, Terry Benest, Liz Ewart

The Eskdale Perpetual Cup

Winners Norman Imrie, Liz Ewart, Norman Elliot, Berty Waugh

Bonspiel with invited guests **Winners** Pat Faulder, William Peile, John Ross Margaret Reavely

Ladies Cup

Winner Liz Ewart

Reid Cup

Winner Norman Imrie.

Picture shows left to right Norman Imrie, Berty Waugh, John Ross, Liz Ewart, Marilyn Muir and Duncan Greenhaugh.

Beaten by the better side

...but onward for LCC

Cricket

After last week's defeat where Langholm only had themselves to blame, this week's 8 wicket loss to Edenhall can be squarely put down to being beaten by the better side. Langholm did well batting first to post 112 against a decent bowling attack mainly due to a superb 44 from skipper John Bell. However, on the lightning quick Toll Barr outfield this proved impossible to defend and Edenhall knocked the runs off in less than 17 overs.

The Langholm skipper John Bell had no hesitation in batting first on winning the toss, the good wicket and fast outfield made that an easy decision. The skipper had done well to get 10 men on the field, hopefully when the winter sports seasons eventually finish availability will improve. Against a decent bowling attack Langholm found themselves 37 for 4, but Bell ably supported by Jan Piszczykiewicz took the score to 73 before Jan fell for 17. Captain Bell (to some observers

playing his best knock for the club) had made 44 before he was caught and bowled by Carp with the score on 82. The remaining batsmen led by Ewan Coates (17) supported by Jason Hall (6) and Ryan Johnstone (6) got the score up to 112 before the last wicket fell.

This was always going to be a difficult total to defend on the hard dry track and fast outfield. Tony Steele as usual was the pick of the bowlers and he claimed the first wicket bowling Collin for 1 with the score on 8. This was to be a false dawn as Carp and Kidd added 88 before Graham Park removed 16yo Carp for 56. Hoyle now joined Kidd, and they took the score easily past the Langholm total in the 17th over. In the bowling Steele had 1 for 22 and Park 1 for 8.

Next week we are on our travels once again as we travel to the Priory to play Lanercost 2nds.



Nine points for Langholm RFC

Rugby



Back row: C Helling, A Wilson, E Dirom, L Miller, J Brown, F Douglas, Front: C Henderson, S McMichen, F Forbes, B Jardine

By Kenneth Pool

With a bus load of supporters in tow, Langholm RFC took to the road for the final time this season to play at Jedforest sevens on Saturday. They were drawn in the first round against premiership side Musselburgh. Playing in the searing heat of the afternoon, they didn't let the premiership get into the game and scored 5 good tries to win the tie 31-20.

They are drawn against the favourites Jedforest in the quarter final. In the first half

they matched the hosts both in attack and defence and scored 2 converted tries. Jed matched this and the score was 14-14 at half time. In the second half Jed took the lead before Langholm hit back with another good try. With time running out Jed scored another 2 converted tries to win the tie 35-19. A great effort by the lads who never gave up and Langholm ended their sevens campaign with creditable 9 points in the King of the Sevens table.

Old and New Clubs in Caldbeck match



Bowling

Langholm bowlers from both Old Town and New Town Clubs had a great day's bowling at Caldbeck in Cumbria on Sunday.

It was an excellent club and green to play, with 24 triples competing from Cumbria and south of the border.

The first prize went to - Steven Barker, Mark Grieve and Booba, and second place to Luke Tolson, Duncan Ritchie and Roy Park, third place to Ian Scott, Roddy Innes and Wag.

Young bowler numbers augers well for the future



Youth Bowling

Langholm Old Town Bowling Club had an amazing start to the youth bowling season last week. There was a great turnout and a fun day had by everyone. It's great to see youth involvement in this sport which is one of the ten sports to feature in the Commonwealth games in Glasgow next year. Who knows? We may see a medallist in the future hailing from Langholm.

**E&L
SPORT**

