

**Chelsea Gold for Helen's garden**  
**Poppy perfection in supreme RHS show** SEE PAGES 8/9



**Aoiffion wins Rising Star award**  
**Young athlete honoured at Melrose event** SEE PAGE 16



# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8598

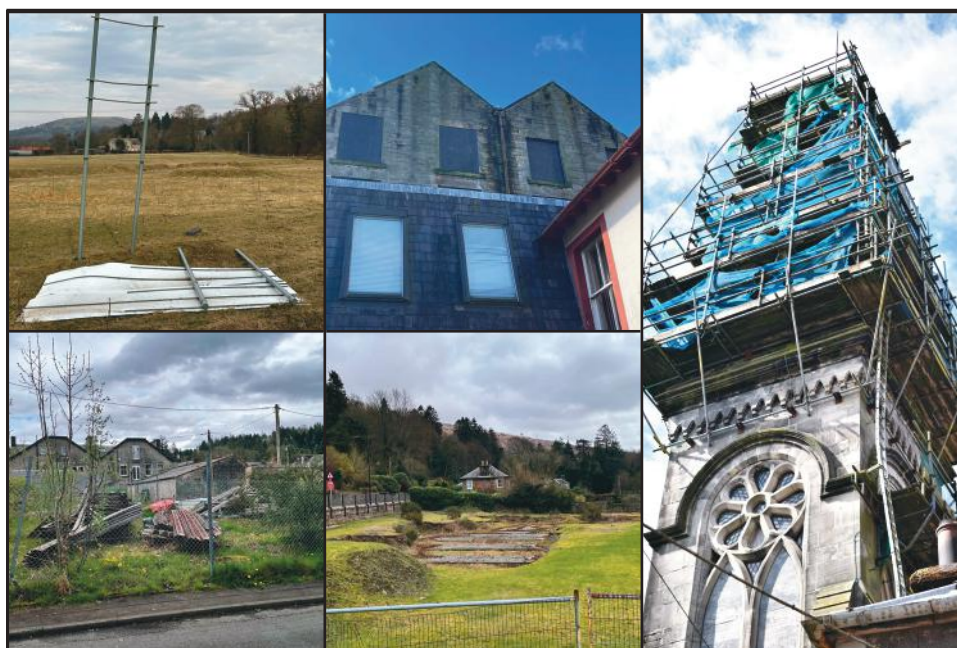
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## Let's get the Muckle Toon back to its former glory

Community Council to chair event where you can have your say on what needs to be done about the increasing number of derelict sites



DERELICTION: Clockwise from top left: The abandoned Murtholm site, Waverley Mill, Erskine Church, Townfoot Hole and William Street site

Langholm, Ewes, and Wester Kirk Community Council is urging as many residents as possible to attend the town meeting next Monday 02 June, at 7pm in the Buccleuch Centre.

Emma Harper MSP, Oliver Mundell MSP, and Colin Smyth MSP will be in attendance, along with the Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Councillor Gail Macgregor, and Councillor Denis Male. Representatives from Wheatley Homes South, the Council's Economy and Infrastructure Department, and the Scottish Environment

Protection Agency (SEPA) will also be present.

The meeting has been organised by the Community Council, and Dave McVittie, following Dave's social media post earlier this year regarding the state of Langholm. In his social media post Dave said:

"Wee opportunity for someone; derelict tours o the Muckle Toon; start off at the Murth'um field, pointing out where hooses were going to be built, before heading up to see the abandoned EWM building.

From there we head up to see

the "black hole of Toonfit", which has sat since the flats were knocked down over twenty years ago and sits behind more of this beautiful herras fencing.

We may be able to add into the tour the ha'f dozen containers that have been dumped in Toonfit to do some work in Holmwood! (Cost effective).

We then head down to view the overgrown site of where the ford mill stood before heading over the swing brig to see the derelict Reid and Taylor's mill,

>Turn to Page 2

Langholm, Ewes and Wester Kirk Community Council presents...

**TOWN MEETING**  
**MONDAY 02ND JUNE, 7PM**  
**BUCCLEUCH CENTRE**

A chance to put your views to the people who can **MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN**

**MEMBERS OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**



Emma Harper



Oliver Mundell



Colin Smyth



Joanne Threlkeld, Head of Housing

**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL**



Gail MacGregor, LEADER



Denis Male, Councillor



Stuart McMillan Head, Economy & Environment



**SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY**

To submit questions in advance, email (or FB message) David McVittie (davidmcvittie96@gmail.com) by Friday 30th May

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions on the day

# Family Announcements

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contact us on 013873 80012 | alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

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 1st June  
 Rev Morag Crossan  
 led services  
**LANGHOLM 9.30am**  
**CANONBIE 11am**  
**WESTERKIRK 1.30pm**  
 Contact us for transport  
 to/from Langholm service  
 Tel. 07989 168299

Worship Group led  
 services  
**LIDDESDALE 10am**  
 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

## Increase in pedal power brings benefits to area

Significant progress was made in 2024 to ensure the South of Scotland achieves its aim of becoming one of the world's leading cycling destinations. The latest South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy annual review highlights the various achievements and activities by businesses, community groups and public sector across the region over the last 12 months.

The 10-year strategy – launched in 2022 – aims to deliver a thriving legacy from the South's success as a host destination for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships.

Some of the 2024 achievements are

- Scottish Borders hosting the Tour of Britain, bringing an economic boost of £2.5million
- Dumfries & Galloway the location for the first-ever sanctioned British Enduro Championships in Ae Forest – hosting 500 competitors over the weekend
- Official launch of the Kirkpatrick C2C, South of Scotland's Coast to Coast cycle route which offers 250 miles of uninterrupted joy for experienced cyclists from Stranraer to Eyemouth via Langholm.
- South of Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund which supported 30 tourism businesses, social enterprises and organisations to improve their facilities for visiting cyclists
- Hosting of the Scottish Mountain Biking Conference, attracting 200 delegates from across the world including industry leaders, as well as the Women in the Bike Industry Summit
- Hosting of various events including Raiders Gravel and The Gralloch, Tweed Love and Light Up the Trail.



Langholm and Newcastleton are benefitting from the increase in cyclists in the area

The South of Scotland Cycling Partnership is made up of a series of local and national organisations representing thousands of people across the region. Councillor Maureen Johnstone, Chair of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Education, Skills and Wellbeing Committee said:

"This review is a welcome one and shows how strong an offer we have as an area in relation to cycling. I would like to say thank you to all the partners who have come together to collaborate in this work to date, and long may it continue."

## This is your chance to question the major stakeholders

<From Page 1

stopping mid-brig to view the longest serving scaffolding in history upon the Kirk Spire at the Langholm Brig.

Stuart Clement JP, Chair of the Community Council, said, "The Community Council acknowledges the strong sentiments within the community regarding the growing number of derelict buildings, waste land and numerous other concerns. For example, the Erskine Church, the Reid & Taylor's building and the Old Council yard, the collapse of the Murtholm development, the hole at Townfoot and the absence of a care home. I encourage as many residents as possible to attend, so our elected

officials and statutory agencies can understand how the community feels about the state of Langholm. While a quick or easy solution is unlikely, it is essential that our voices are heard to collaboratively develop a solution-focused approach to this issue".

Dave said, "Can I urge all those who are affected or offended by the state of our town to try and attend if you can. I hope there is a good turnout so we can show them the depth of feeling we have on this issue. This once beautiful town has been allowed to fall into a truly sorry state. Something will have to be done to make it more inviting because the state of the town just now is ridiculous".



The old Reid and Taylor site is seen as one of the blots on the landscape

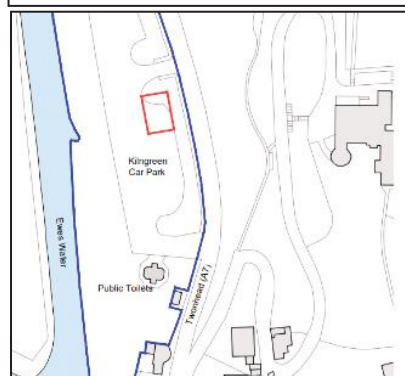
# A new multi-modal transport hub for Langholm

Dumfries and Galloway Council is developing nine multi-modal transport hubs throughout the region with funding from the UK Government's levelling up fund. The aim of the hubs is to make sustainable active travel more accessible to residents and visitors by joining up everyday journeys, improving links between towns and reducing car trips while increasing bus, walking and cycling trips and boosting visitor numbers.

The Langholm hub will be located at the Kilngreen and will include a public cycle pump and repair station, secure cycle storage lockers, electric cycle storage lockers with internal charging points, bike and dog wash, car club hire car parking bay with EV charger and electric vehicle charging points.

Active travel can boost health and wellbeing while communities benefit from being better connected. Also, businesses benefit from people who 'stop and shop'. People also benefit from reduced congestion and pollution.

If you have any feedback on this proposal, please send comments to [newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk)



The diagrams show the position of the hub on the Kilngreen (left)

And in more detail, above, next to the existing electric vehicle chargers

# 'Community Living Room' at the Hub



Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Awareness Week in 2025 is from Monday June 2nd to Sunday 8th June. That same week the Eskdalemuir old school and community hub are to launch their new social club, 'The Community Living Room' in association with, and kindly funded by, Meeting Centres Scotland.

Meeting Centres are community-based centres that offer a welcoming and supportive environment for people living with dementia. They provide a range of services and activities tailored to the needs and interests of individuals with dementia and support for their families and care

partners. At the heart of the Meeting Centre is a social club where people meet to have fun, talk to others and get help that focusses on what they need. Meeting Centres are based on evidence of what helps people to cope well in adjusting to living with the symptoms and changes that dementia brings.

Everyone is welcome to go along to the Hub on Tuesday 3rd June from 11am-2pm so that folk can get to know each other and find out what people would like to see happen in 'The Community Living Room'. There will be plenty of tea, biscuits, conversation and maybe a couple of activities.

## Mundell at Lydiafield

There are several Langholm people in Lydiafield care home at Annan and last week MSP Oliver Mundell enjoyed a cuppa and a chat there with residents. He was invited to the retirement and assisted living complex in Standalane after enjoying conversations with several residents and staff attending the recent VE-Day ceremony in the town centre.

Mr Mundell said: "It was good to catch-up with residents and staff, plus being given a tour of the modern facilities by activities co-ordinator June Fitzpatrick. There appeared to be a real sense of community on the morning I was there and I enjoyed learning more about residents, their lives so far and activities and outings."

## Bridge results

1, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 2, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 3, George & Brenda Bullamore, 4, Doreen Taylor & Janet Ivison, 5, Tom Stothart & Lorraine Morton, 6, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford.

# Langholm Walks presents new bench to Castleholm

The latest bench gifted by the Langholm Walks Group was originally meant to be placed at The Monument to replace the broken seat there. Langholm Walks Group raised money from one of the wind farms administered by Langholm, Ewes, and Westerkirk Community Council amounting to £750.

After the bench was ordered and just before it was due to be placed at the Monument we discovered somebody had repaired the seat at the monument. We had tried to find out who had placed the original seat there and had discussed it with The Castle Craig's Club but that remains a mystery.

At the recent AGM the new organisation responsible for the community purchase of the Castleholm, the seat was offered to them, and they



Gavin Graham of Langholm Walks Group and Kenneth Pool of the Castleholm Community Trust give the new bench a test-drive

immediately accepted and requested it replace the seat in the Castleholm opposite The Buccleuch Centre. The original had been placed there about 10 years ago by The Pie Club but was now in a poor state. Any wooden seat placed in Langholm should last no more than 10-

15 years depending on how exposed they are to the elements. These Recycled Plastic seats are made in Dumfries and will last up to 50 years without any maintenance.

To date Langholm Walks Group has placed 2 Picnic Tables and 13 seats around

Langholm. The only one not made of Recycled Plastic is being placed soon on Gaskell's Walk and it will be a refurbished wooden one to replace the badly weathered one placed there by The Pie Club. The recycled plastic one would be too heavy to get there.

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## Benty cream teas

Cream teas were served in Benty Hall on Sunday 25th May. Visitors had the opportunity to call in for tea either before or after visiting the gardens at Westerhall. The weather could have been kinder, nevertheless a steady stream of visitors enjoyed the cream scones, cakes & traybakes provided by the hard-working ladies of the committee.

Total for hall funds, after expenses, will be around £400.

## Graduation season

We are fast approaching the time of year when our youngsters (and not so young, maybe) graduate from college or university having spent the previous three or four years studying their little socks off!

If you have anyone who is about to graduate, son, daughter, friend, grandparent, we'd love to publish their graduation photo in the E&L.

Please send in a note of their degree, from which college or university, and maybe a note of what they would like to do.

Also, if anyone is taking up an apprenticeship, we'd love to publish that too. Tell us the trade and the employer.

Send this in by email to [newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk) or drop it into the office at 47A High Street.

# Man2Man on work/life balance



**This week at Man2Man, the team will be addressing Work-Life Balance and looking at stress management with Richard Smith, PHI Health and Wellbeing who will be showcasing what local support is out there. Malcolm Struthers Hypnotherapy will also be in attendance with practical coping techniques to help you re-focus when life is throwing everything at you.**

Stress is a significant factor contributing to various common health issues in society today impacting one in six adults and influencing their quality of life. It also places

demand on health and social care systems. At a critical time for mental health across society, having the tools to address and manage symptoms of stress is more important than ever.

Unfortunately, many people turn to harmful products like tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy foods as coping mechanisms. The relationship between these products and mental health is bidirectional. Join us at Langholm Rugby Club on Friday at 6.30 pm to work on achieving a better work/life balance and benefit from the associated physical advantages.

# SOSE look to appoint new board members

South of Scotland Enterprise has announced that Scottish Ministers are seeking to appoint a new member to their Board. The region's economic and community development agency is looking for an applicant who can demonstrate current experience in either renewables, energy or Net Zero. The main duties of the Board members are to provide leadership, governance, direction, support and guidance.

In addition, Board members are expected to ensure that SOSE

delivers its functions effectively and efficiently and in accordance with the aims, policies and priorities of Scottish Ministers.

Applicants need to demonstrate an understanding of the following

- Current and future challenges and opportunities facing SOSE
- Communication and influencing
- Working co-operatively
- Working collaboratively and flexibly with colleagues
- Innovation and creative problem solving.

Successful applicants will be fully supported, given access to training, and will work alongside the existing Board members to help us progress with delivering its ongoing mission to make the day to day lives of local people better. For further information and if you have any questions, contact Susan Cannon, our Corporate Governance Lead, on 01750 535917 or email [susan.cannon@sose.scot](mailto:susan.cannon@sose.scot).



# Joshua and his rosettes

By Gilly Fraser

Canonbie youngster Joshua Graham had an excellent day while riding for Carlisle Riding for the Disabled at the North Area Regional Championships.

12-year-old Joshua has diplegic cerebral palsy which affects his legs and he needs special frames to help him stand and walk. However he's obviously completely at home in the saddle.

At the championships he won his Dressage class and came second in the Countryside Challenge – and qualified in both the attend the RDA National Championships later in the summer.

Joshua's noble steed in both classes was Sunshine Toblerone – better known to all as Toby.

Joshua's Mum Michelle has said a big thank you to all the volunteers and helpers who do so much to make these events possible.



Joshua with his rosettes beside Toby's stable

# SWI jamboree held in Dumfries

The Dumfriesshire SWI Federation Show was held in Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries on 17th and 18th May.

There were hundreds of entries from all over the county in the baking, floral art, and handicraft sections. Many people came to view the plethora of talent on show on the Sunday. Members of the Eskdale group comprising Canonbie, Westerkirk and Ewes did extremely well across the sections coming second in the group team test entitled 'Summer is Coming'.

In Canonbie Institute, Liz Walters won the May McCormick trophy for the exhibitor with the most points in the handicraft section. Canonbie as a whole, won the challenge cup for the most points in the handicraft section for institutes with more than twenty members. Ewes also did well, being runners-up in handicrafts for institutes with more than twenty members. The Marion Bell trophy (for someone who has never previously entered a federation show) was won by Maureen Brown and Marjorie Pringle was runner-up.



# Speed awareness for Probus Club

By Keith McCord

For the second time in a couple of years Langholm Probus welcomed Alan Hope for a talk on traffic accidents. Alan was a senior policeman and police college lecturer on traffic accident analysis.

This time he chose to speak about a complex accident on the A74 near Moffat. It involved a group of soldiers on their way to Canterbury in a hurry. They collided with a lorry while speeding at over 100mph. A car from Moffat that had just joined the motorway stopped to avoid the crash and was hit from the rear by two cars travelling back home from their holidays. The driver or the first car was killed while the soldiers only received minor injuries.

Alan explained the meticulous methodology used by the crash investigators to establish the sequence of events and to calculate the speeds of the vehicles. Experiments are done to simulate the skid marks using an identical vehicle and the degree of crushing can also give speed information. The two cars which ran into the stationary one were doing 75mph. Alan said that had they been doing 70mph they would have stopped in time so speed can kill. Legally they could only



be charged with careless driving. The soldier was charged with dangerous driving and driving without insurance.

In the subsequent discussion George Whillans asked Alan's opinion on testing elderly drivers and whether he had seen many accidents caused by old people. He said that most accidents were caused by 18–24-year-olds. There was also some discussion on Langholm's new 20mph limits and Alan said that the police were short of resources to monitor it.

After listening Alan's talk, I will perhaps be a little more patient when held up on the motorway due to a crash realising that the police have an important job to do.

SCHOOL DAYS

# Glowing report for Langholm Nursery

## Staff delighted after “Very Good” Care Inspectorate visit

Staff and parents of pupils at Langholm’s Nursery were delighted to receive a glowing report this week from the Care Inspectorate.

The unannounced inspection took place on April 28th and 30th with the inspector witnessing both morning and afternoon sessions at the nursery. As part of this inspection, they undertook a focus area and gathered specific information to help them understand more about how services support children’s safety, wellbeing and engagement in their play and learning. From their two days in the Nursery, the inspector said that the key messages they took from their observations were:

- Children enjoyed a relaxed and social experience at mealtimes.
- Children were having fun playing together and making friends.
- Management and staff were knowledgeable about each child’s needs.
- Staff were enthusiastic about delivering the best outcomes to children and families.
- There was a positive staff ethos, and staff worked well together through effective communication and supporting each other through respectful interactions.

The inspection provided marks of 5 out of 6 (Very Good) in the following



JUSTLY PROUD: Pupils and staff of Langholm Nursery are chuffed to receive ‘Very Good’ inspection report from the Care Inspectorate

### categories:

The 10-page report went on to give detailed evaluations of each of these categories including:

**Play, care and learning:** “Children experienced warm, caring, and nurturing approaches. This supported children to be secure, happy, settled, and confident. Children approached staff for cuddles and invited staff to participate in their play and learning. Parents told us, “It is a very friendly and welcoming environment. Staff are hardworking and have a good rapport

with the children in their care,” and “The team are great, my child loves nursery!”

**Setting:** “The setting was extremely comfortable and welcoming, with plenty of natural light and ventilation. Furnishings were of a high standard. Children had ample space to play and explore their surroundings. We observed children enjoying a story in the quiet area, which was furnished with comfortable sofas and cushions. This gave children a sense that they mattered.

**Leadership:** “Throughout the inspection,

management and staff engaged well and responded to advice and encouragement when suggestions were made. We found good relationships within the team, and management and staff were committed to the development of the service. The team worked well together to establish a shared vision to deliver the best outcomes for children and families. As a result, they were well placed to continually develop the service.

**Staff team:** The staff team were warm, welcoming, and caring. This promoted a positive environment for children and families. The nursery was appropriately staffed, and staff were suitably deployed throughout the day to meet children’s needs. Throughout the service, there was a focus on the children as individuals; this ensured that individuals’ needs were consistently met.

Head Teacher Lauren McLean said: “I am delighted the hard work and care our nursery team give our youngest pupils in our school has been recognised as Very Good by the Care Inspectorate. The team put our pupils’ needs at the heart of everything they do, providing high quality care, support and education for our little people in Langholm school.

Congratulations to Donna Nicol, the Nursery Manager and her fantastic team for a super report!”

## Sixth-year pupils on the BBC’s Debate Night



POLITICAL ARENA: L-R: Amy Smith, Jenna Robb, BBC Debate Night producer, David Walter Smith, William Nowicki-Price and Darrie Foster

Four S6 pupils from Langholm Academy, and teacher Stuart Clement, were invited to attend the audience of last Wednesday’s BBC Debate Night at The Bridge in Dumfries.

Stephen Jardine hosts the political debate programme. The panellists included Emma Harper MSP, Rachael Hamilton

MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, The Scotsman journalist Katharine Hay, and former President of NFU Scotland, Andrew McCormick.

### Former pupil

Pupils Darrie Foster, Jenna Robb, William Nowicki-Price, Amy Smith and Mr Clement were given a guided tour of the set and backstage area by the

producer of the show, former Langholm Academy pupil David Walter Smith, who lived in the old flats at Townfoot. David’s mother was Irene Beattie.

Amy asked about the limited career opportunities in the hospitality industry, while Darrie asked about the lack of transportation links in Dumfries and Galloway.

## Lauren and Karen “Get their Yomp On!”

Lauren McLean, Head Teacher of the Langholm and Canonbie school cluster and Karen Vidler, Deputy Head of Langholm Primary school are taking part in the Cateran Yomp in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund in Perthshire in June.

The Gold challenge involves a walk of fifty four miles in 24 hours and Lauren and Karen have been training hard in the Lake District. There are three stages of the walk – bronze, silver and gold so depending on how things go on the day there is an option to end the yomp earlier if they wish.

The Cateran Yomp is the biggest, toughest event of its kind. Every year, hundreds of Yompers gather in the Scottish wilderness to battle through the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains, walking continuously for 54 miles over 24 hours. Based on an infamous long-distance military training march, it takes every ounce of grit folk possess. And every single step helps the fund’s



GOOD LUCK: Karen Vidler and Lauren McLean will take on the Cateran Yomp of 54 miles in 24 hours!

mission: to be there for soldiers, for veterans, for their families, for life.

The Yomp takes courage, discipline, integrity and teamwork which are qualities that Lauren and Karen are keen to encourage the young people in the schools they lead to develop. The Benevolent fund awards grants to individuals and families and fund leading charities and organisa-

tions to ensure help is there when you need it. In financial year 23/24, they helped 75,000 people in 51 countries worldwide, and funded 86 other charities and organisations that deliver frontline services.

Hopefully the weather will be kind for Lauren and Karen on the day and they will achieve their goal of going for gold. We wish them all the best.

# Farming on the Border

In association with

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## SRUC directors

Scotland's rural college has appointed five new non-executive directors, including outgoing Dumfriesshire MSP Oliver Mundell.

He says the appointment is, "an exciting opportunity to continue to contribute and share the knowledge I've built up over the past decade as a parliamentarian."

He joins the SRUC Board in June along with Jamie Baker, the Lead for Economic Development and Regeneration at East Lothian Council; Chartered Accountant Simon Cunningham; Kes Juskuwiak, the Director of Transformation at Scottish Water; and Vet Neil Robertson who was until recently the Head of Operations at Benchmark Animal Health UK Ltd.

SRUC Board Chair Linda Hanna says the calibre of those who applied for the posts was exceptional.

"This is a critical time for SRUC as we continue to build on opportunities presented by gaining taught degree-awarding



Oliver Mundell  
MSP

powers and address challenges, very much in keeping with those in the wider academic sector and industry," she said.

"As we navigate the road ahead, it is important the SRUC Board has the right mix and diversity of skills and experience to help do just that. I'm delighted the new Board members announced today bring a wealth of experience and expertise from a broad range of backgrounds as well as a strong passion to help achieve our ambitions for our students as well as the natural economy.

# Red tape to be cut for Scottish exports

## Agreement reached between UK and EU

Scotland's farming leaders have welcomed the agreement reached in principle between the UK and the EU to establish a new Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement.

The deal, which is part of a broader UK-EU summit package, is expected to cut red tape significantly for Scottish exports including beef, lamb and dairy and will allow the trade in seed potatoes to resume.

NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon says the agreement marks a welcome shift towards reducing costs and bureaucracy that have frustrated Scottish farmers and food exporters for years.

"While details are still emerging, anything that helps restore smoother trade with our largest export market is a positive step," he said.

"We support practical solutions that reduce friction and support our members' ability to compete. This is about improving trade flow while maintaining high



NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon

standards, not about returning to rule-taking."

The new SPS framework is expected to remove Export Health Certificates for many consignments; ease trade in Scottish products and resolve the issue of seed potato exports; eliminate routine border checks and simplify certification

processes for animal and plant goods.

### Engage

NFU Scotland will now engage closely with the UK and Scottish Governments and with the wider UK farming unions, to help shape the new agreement. Mr Connon says the detail

will inevitably be in the detail.

"We need to ensure this works across all sectors - from livestock to seed potatoes and delivers real benefits on the ground. The principle of the deal is dynamic alignment with EU policy-but we need to understand what the exceptions might be and how this might work in practice."

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# 2024 declared worst year for bumble bee numbers

There has been an alarming decline in the number of bumblebees in the UK, with 2024 officially declared as their worst year since records began.

Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust research found many invertebrate groups decline in cold, wet years and struggle to recover when weather patterns shift unpredictably.

Red-tailed bumblebees particularly suffered from the conditions of 2024 when the UK had its warmest Spring on record but also one of the wettest. GWCT researchers recorded only 30% of the red-tail workers seen across the same sampling areas in 2019.

As one of the 'Big 8' common UK bumblebees, the red-tails should be among the most common bumblebees seen during

the summer. Their falling numbers shows there is a much larger issue for pollinators. Unreliable, cooler and wetter summers reduce bees' ability to gather nectar, limiting food for both adult bees and their developing colonies.

Mild winters also confuse bees and other wildlife, causing hibernating species to emerge too early. When warm spells in January or February trigger early activity, sudden frosts can be fatal.

These trends are also affecting many other insects. A study found a 37% decline in invertebrate abundance in cereal crops since 1970, with some key beneficial groups like ground beetles and ladybirds dropping by over 75%. Similar declines have been seen in butterflies, moths and other



When warm spells in January or February trigger early activity, sudden frosts can be fatal for the bumblebee

pollinators.

Habitat loss, pesticide use, and even increased predators all contribute to the growing crisis facing pollinators.

The GWCT says farmers can

help by reducing their use of pesticides, and herbicides, encouraging natural vegetation, planting hedgerows as field boundaries and improving soil health.

# Headstones labelled unsafe

Recent headstone safety inspections which took place at Langholm old cemetery (the one next to the cemetery that is currently in use) on 5th May found several headstones which have failed.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is trying to contact members of the families listed below. If you are aware of any relatives of these people, please ask them to get in touch with headstonesafety@dumgal.gov.uk or phone 030 33 33 3000. The stones have had yellow notices placed on them advising people not to touch them.



|                  |                     |                    |                  |  |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Aitken William   | Edgar Margaret      | Henderson William  | Morrison Annie   | Warwick Helen  |
| Ballantyne James | Forsyth Margaret    | Hope Jane          | Moses Thomas     | Warwick Thomas   |
| Beattie Mary     | Glendinning Douglas | Hyslop Christopher | Oliver Archibald | Wilson Janet   |
| Bell James       | Graham Henry        | Hyslop Henry       | Phillips Walter  |  |
| Bell John        | Graham Margaret     | Irvine John        | Pringle William  |  |
| Bell Mary        | Graham William      | Irving Margaret    | Reid Thomasina   |  |
| Charles Thomas   | Grieve James        | Jackson George     | Scoon Fergus     |  |
| Cowan George     | Edgar Margaret      | Jordan James       | Scott Jessie     |  |
| Dalgliesh Mgt    | Forsyth Margaret    | Little Christina   | Scott William    |  |
| Douglas Isabella | Graham William      | Little Janet       | Slack Elizabeth  |  |
| Douglas Matthew  | Grieve James        | Little John        | Smith Evelyn     |  |
| Douglas Robert   | Halliday William    | Milligan Chrissie  | Thomson Andrew   |  |

## Keep dogs on leads

Tarras Valley has seen the arrival of many migrant birds in the last few weeks some coming from Sub-Saharan Africa whilst others have arrived from other parts of Britain to nest here. There are several kinds of birds that are ground nesting, both on the reserve and in town, and many of us have been enjoying watching the oyster catchers near the suspension bridge.

These birds are so vulnerable to disturbance at the moment due to them being on the ground and the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve team are asking people who are visiting the nature reserve just now to keep dogs under control if they choose to walk them there.

This is the same for the birds who nest on the stones in the town as every time a bird moves off a nest because of a dog in the vicinity the eggs cool. Once chicks are hatched this makes it even more of a problem. If you hear a bird screeching a warning or see wildlife being disturbed by your presence whilst nearby with dogs, it's best to move away from the area.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code states that:

“During the breeding season (usually April-July) keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel in areas such as moorland, forests, grasslands, loch shores and the seashore to avoid disturbing birds that nest on or near the ground.”

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

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# Poppy perfection wins Helen's team a gold at Chelsea

## The Meconopsis Group impresses the judges with their display at 'the greatest flower show on earth'

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show, often hailed as the greatest flower show on earth, was the only RHS show that I had never exhibited at so when it was suggested that The Meconopsis Group stage a display of Himalayan Poppies there I instantly yes. It was only later, as preparations began, that I remembered the hours of work, the stress and worry of would the plants be flowering in time, the doubt creeping in of could we really fit all of that stuff into that van, the endless health and safety forms to fill in and numerous other things to be done when there just weren't enough hours in the day. At least this time we had a small team, comprising members of The Meconopsis Group and their long-suffering spouses, to plan the display plus a small army of volunteers to staff it at Chelsea.

Planning for Chelsea started long before an application was submitted to the RHS. We had to wait until July 2024 to formally apply but as early as May 2023 we were thinking about what we could do to showcase the plants that we are all so passionate about. Confirmation of our space at Chelsea didn't come until November 2024, which didn't leave much time at all, so it was a good thing that we had begun to plan so far in advance.

### Promotional

We already had seeds collected ready to pack up for selling at the show, various Meconopsis and companion plants were potted up and growing on, the new promotional leaflet was being drafted, and the layout of the display itself was coming together. As soon as that final confirmation that we would be going to Chelsea came through it was time to step up preparations.

In terms of the plants the weather in the run up to Chelsea did not help but fortunately I was able to



put up lots of shade netting to keep the plants cool and hold some back while those that needed some encouragement could sit out in the sun before being rushed back into the shade as they were then coming on too

quickly. Despite all of this endless planning and preparation the plants didn't always do what I wanted them to do so less than 48 hours before the van was heading to London, I was going around the garden, selecting perfect clumps of flowering Meconopsis to lift the and pot up for use in the display.

### Challenging

Anyone who has ever had anything to do with Meconopsis will know how challenging they are. Their leaves are brittle so break and bruise easy and those tall flower stems can snap even when secured to a cane. It took two of us over 7 hours to carefully stake, tie and wrap all of the display plants and load them into the van. All of that care was worth it though as the plants travelled well and the risk of lifting some at the last minute paid off too.

The main structure of the display was a 'flat-pack', designed and made by Michael to divide our 12ft diameter circle into 3 sections. One of these would be a 'wild' landscape showing Meconopsis growing alongside other Himalayan plants, one was to show cultivars and species that grow well in UK gardens, and the final section was full of information about where Meconopsis come from, how to grow them and the work that The Meconopsis Group is doing to conserve rare species in cultivation.

While we were working



The triumphant display team



Meconopsis in the wild



Meconopsis punicea in the wild section



That's it in writing, a Chelsea Gold!



Meconopsis in the garden



Visitors enjoying the display

on the display, we were getting wonderful comments from other people on site about the plants and how the display was looking, all very encouraging. The Meconopsis were generating a huge amount of interest and this continued through Press Day too. The judging panel came round and the

greatest surprise for me was to have them award a Cultural Certificate for a plant of Meconopsis x complexa that I had been nurturing since 2022. It had finally chosen this year to flower and was having its moment of glory at the show as it's a monocarpic plant so will sadly die after flowering

but will produce literally thousands of seeds. The final confirmation of how highly the judges rated the whole display came on Tuesday morning when we went in to find that we had been awarded a Chelsea Gold medal! Not bad for a first attempt. The Meconopsis Group

will be at the Scone Palace Garden Fair on Friday 30th & Saturday 31st May so why not go along and find out more about these fabulous plants and how to grow them. There is also a wealth of information on The Meconopsis Group Website [www.themeconopsisgroup.org](http://www.themeconopsisgroup.org) and

there is a National Plant Collection of Meconopsis on your doorstep at Tinnisburn Plants, Upper Millsteads, Canonbie, DG14 0RY [www.tinnisburn.co.uk](http://www.tinnisburn.co.uk), plus a Meconopsis rich garden at Cragieburn, near Moffat and another National Plant Collection at Holehird Gardens [www.holehirdgardens.org.uk](http://www.holehirdgardens.org.uk)



...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

# New Tub, Oli, will fight to save Music Festival

## Moves afoot to save 56 year old event

Copshaw's newly elected Tub is launching his year in office with a mission.

21-year-old Oli Downey is determined to do all he can to save the Newcastleton Traditional Music Festival, which is currently under threat.

The Festival has been a much-loved highlight of the local social calendar ever since it was first held in the village 56 years ago, bringing in singers, musicians, poets and storytellers from far afield.

Sadly, the event was dealt a severe blow by Covid and has struggled to recover its previous popularity.

None of the current organisers live locally which has also added to the difficulties, and earlier this year the committee announced that 2025 could be the Festival's last year unless new people stepped up to the plate to take it over.

Tub Oli Downey will have a busy year as it is, carrying out any and all CCR duties required of him, while working as a Theatre Technician and serving as a Fireman with the village service.

But now he is also spearheading the campaign to keep the Festival alive. A meeting held

earlier this month in the village found a healthy number of villagers keen to do what they could to help.

Both the Festival and Copshaw Common Riding are held in the first weekend of July and Oli says he's determined to see that continue.

### Iconic

"It's always such a great weekend for the village when those two iconic events come together, and I really believe most people would be really sad to see the Festival end. So now we're getting together to look at the future of the Festival and we're very open to ideas and suggestions and to more people joining us, so please do get in touch if you'd like to take part."

This year for the first time special tee-shirts are being produced which link the Festival and the Common Riding. Destined to be real collectors' favourites, they'll be available in the village Middle Square during the big weekend.



Copshaw Tub 2025  
Oli Downey

# Ken Laidlaw Sportive to stop by The Holm



Competitors in an earlier Ken Laidlaw Sportive

An event held to celebrate one of Hawick's great sporting heroes will see participants being fed and watered in Newcastleton next month.

The Ken Laidlaw Sportive is staged to remember the achievements of the first Scottish cyclist to complete the Tour de France, back in 1961. He also represented Great Britain at the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

Ken now lives in America but was born in Hawick and began his cycling career in the town's Cycling Club which lays claim to being one of the oldest in Scotland.

In the 1961 event he was awarded the accolade of being the most aggressive rider after he held the lead over several mountain passes.

It's the first time the event's being held in June after being transferred from its traditional date in August. Up to 450 people are expected to take part, which has three distances – the gold is 104 miles long, the silver is 80 and the bronze is 55. They'll be joined by Brian Smith, former Scottish racing cyclist turned manager and commentator.

Refreshments are being laid on in Newcastleton Village Hall before the riders face the rigours of the ride back to base in Hawick.

# Summer Fayre fair good, as ever

Customers from far and wide came in hope of finding that special something among the wide variety of high-class items featured in the Fayre, most created by local artists, craftspersons, bakers, chocolate-makers.

All of the Crafters reported selling items from their stalls, so the customers went home happy.

As always, the Fayre was well organised and run by a loyal and hardworking crew of helpers and supporters who looked after everything from setting up the stalls, to collecting payment, to serving teas, coffees and home baking in the Supper Room and of course washing up afterwards.

The next Craft Fayre will be held in the Village Hall from Thursday October 23 to Sunday 26 – a perfect opportunity for some early Christmas shopping.

The Fayre in action, teas being served in the Supper Room, money being taken at the desk – and of course the essential task of washing up!



# Total triumph for Toovie's Trekkers

## Lassies' Trek26 raises £7k for Alzheimer's Society

Four women from Langholm calling themselves 'Toovie's Trekkers' walked 26 miles at the weekend in aid of the Alzheimer's Society raising almost £7000. Louise Keeney, Caroline Phillips (whose father's nickname is Toovie), Vickie Bell and Katrina Alys Macleod took part in the challenge to walk the Northumberland Coast. The weather was kind and Louise Keeney said

"What an amazing day for a very worthy cause. Massive thank you to Trek26 all the volunteers, great event, also to all of you from the sponsorships, supporting our events, lovely messages and to our lovely support team yesterday. You're all amazing and we couldn't have done it without you."

Caroline Phillips said "Thanks ladies for joining me on this rollercoaster of a Journey. It was an emotional day but we got through it. Well done ladies, fantastic effort, training paid off, injuries set aside and we went



and we conquered Trek 26. When we get all the monies in and added to our page we're sure to have cracked an amazing £7,000. Never ever did I think we would get anywhere near this amazing amount. Thank you all." The Just Giving pages will continue to be open for a couple of weeks in case anyone still wants to make a donation.



# And Mollie and Ruaridh run in aid of the Roy Castle Foundation

Mollie and brother Ruaridh Phillips took part in the Edinburgh Running Festival last week. Both siblings really enjoy running and this seemed like a great way to raise some funds after their Nana was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

Mollie ran in the Junior 5k, and Ruaridh ran in the Junior 2k both of which were very well organised events. The kids thoroughly enjoyed them and are already talking about running them again next year. There were 391 people taking part in Mollie's run aged 11-18yrs and 595 aged under 12 in Ruaridh's race.

So far, they have raised £1,926 for Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. This is the only UK charity to focus solely on lung cancer in the UK, and they offer

help and support online, on the phone or in person. They also want to raise some awareness over lung cancer as a lot of people still think it's a smoker's cancer which just isn't the case.... "Anyone with lungs can get lung cancer!"

Lung cancer is the third most common type of cancer in the UK with over 49,000 diagnosed each year. Cases of lung cancer in women have increased by 32% in the last 30 years. Know the symptoms and if something doesn't feel right, please seek help. Symptoms can include - cough, fatigue, chest/shoulder or back pain, croaky voice, weight loss.

The Phillips' fundraising page will be open for another couple of weeks so there is still time to donate either in person or on our just giving page.



Mollie and Ruaridh ran in the Edinburgh Running Festival to raise some funds after their Nana was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

#### POLICE SCOTLAND

Langholm .....101  
Newcastleton ..... 101

#### COUNCILS

Dumfries and Galloway Council  
.....030 3333 3000  
.....www.dumgal.gov.uk  
Fault reporting (potholes/streetlights etc.....030 3333 3000  
Langholm Town Hall/Library  
.....013873 80255  
Dumfries and Galloway bus timetables  
www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables  
Scottish Borders Council .  
0330 100 1800  
out of hours 01896 752 111  
Scottish Borders bus timetables  
.....www.scotborders.gov.uk

#### UTILITIES

Scottish Water  
.....0800 0778 778  
.....www.scottishwater.co.uk  
Scottish Power  
.....105  
.....www.scottishpower.co.uk  
Scottish Gas emergency ..  
0800 111 999  
National Rail enquiries .....  
03457 484 950  
.....www.nationalrail.co.uk  
Floodline SEPA  
.....03000 996 699  
.....www.sepa.org.uk  
BEAR Scotland (A7)  
.....0800 0281414  
.....www.bearscoot.com

#### POST OFFICES

Newcastleton 013873 75361  
Canonbie ...013873 71348  
Rowanburn 013873 71542

#### HOSPITALS

D&G Royal Infirmary  
.....01387 246246  
Cumberland Infirmary  
.....01228 523444  
Borders General Hospital  
01896 826000  
Thomas Hope Hospital  
.....013873 80417

#### DOCTORS

Langholm ..013873 83100  
Newcastleton 013873 75100  
Canonbie ..013873 71313  
NHS24 .....111

#### CHURCHES

Langholm, Eskdalemuir Ewes and Westerkirk Parish churches  
Session Clerks  
Jackie Henderson/Aileen Cavers  
07902 718985  
Canonbie United Parish church  
Liddesdale Parish church  
Session Clerk..013873 25255

#### SCHOOLS

Langholm Primary  
.....013873 80900  
Langholm Academy  
.....013873 80418  
Newcastleton  
.....013873 75240  
Canonbie  
.....013873 71336

#### CHEMISTS

Davidson Chemist, Langholm  
.....013873 80220  
Monday to Friday  
8.45am -1pm; 2pm-5.30pm.  
Saturday 8.45am-12.30pm.  
Boots Pharmacy, Longtown  
.....01228 792859  
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm.  
Saturday 9am-5pm.

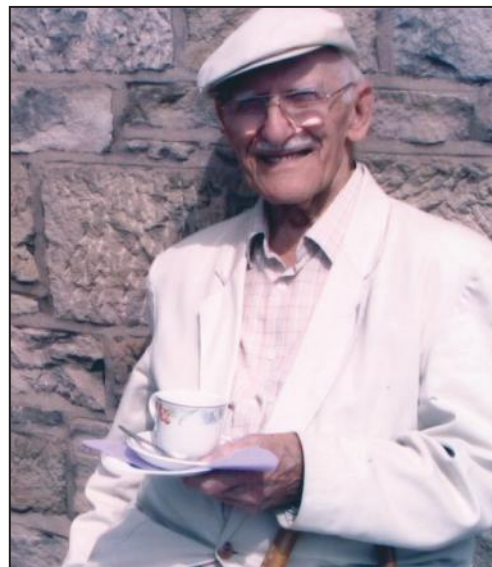
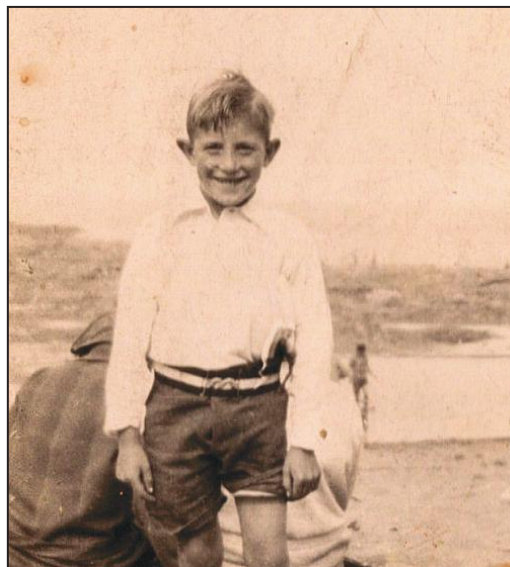
# A farewaeall from "Coomassie..."

The last chapter of David Murray's memoirs

Looking back...

**M**y first job was delivering milk for C&D Edgar at six o'clock in the morning. Then I delivered messages after school for WS Malcolm. I left school at 14 and started a four-year apprenticeship as a grocer at the same shop. We worked from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night on weekdays but stayed open until 7 o'clock on Fridays and 8 o'clock on Saturdays. It didn't leave much time to follow any sport at the weekend as in those days there was no sport on a Sunday. We had Thursday half day and Mr Malcolm gave me an old set of golf clubs and I became quite keen. After a while Mr Malcolm said he would give me a game on the half day, and I won! I remember Tommy Roddick telling me afterwards that it would have been more diplomatic if I had let my boss win!

There was great excitement if a Circus came to town. I usually fell heir to the free pass given out for displaying a bill in the shop. When the 'shows' came to the Kilgreen we were always thrilled when 'Biddle's Ghost' came with them. The performance was weird and



LONG LIFE, WELL LIVED: David Murray as a youngster and in later life

At the piano with sister, Mary

wonderful, and all done by a sloping sheet of plate glass. Dr Bodie used to come to the Buccleuch Hall with his strange electrical experiments, and I remember on one occasion when he blew every fuse in the hall.

On the lighter side of things, we had regular visits from the "Meltonian Concert Party". Lex McLean played the piano and did a comic turn and he had a TV Series before he died. Bert Mack was a fine yodeller and altogether

they presented a good all-round show.

Another highlight in the Scouting year was when the local troop went camping for a fortnight at Burnmouth in Berwickshire. I had no trouble getting off work as by this time Mr Alex Malcolm was assistant Scout Master. Our camp was situated in a newly mown hayfield on top of the cliffs and the main Edinburgh-London line ran along the top of the field. One

night after 'lights-out' the lads in our tent were talking which was strictly 'taboo' and we were turned out in our pyjamas and bare feet and made to run round the area of the field. When we crawled into our blankets again with feet bleeding from the sharp stubble, silence reigned. Towards the end of our stay, we entertained the natives with a concert, and it was there in the Village Hall that I first sang in public, singing a song "Jubilante".

**W**e were delighted to publish David Murray's memoir from his days in "Coomassie" and we have received a number of comments about how much folk have enjoyed reading it.

If you have anything similar tucked away in your family vault, and you think it might interest our readers, please bring it in to the office or email the editor on [alan@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:alan@eladvertiser.co.uk)

## C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

### Thursday, 22nd 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 6,780 sheep comprising of 224 Spring Lambs, 4,256 hogs and 2,301 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on **Thursday 22nd May 2025**.

#### PRIME LAMBS

A larger show of spring lambs forward, with in-spec lambs in high demand and out of spec heavy lambs seeing a slight resistance. Please keep in touch with our auctioneers who will be advise on when best to market your spring lambs.

Topping the sale was a single Suffolk reaching £170 from H. Martindale, The Land  
Top price per kilo was 382.70p for a pen of 4 Texels from Messrs Elkin, Hall Farm  
Overall average of 327.77p (SQQ 344.46p)

#### Principal prices (Per head)

**Suffolk** - £170 The Land, £158 Shandford, £155 The Land, £150 North Cowshaw  
**Texel** - £168 Broomhills, £167 Kimmeter Green Cottage, £150 Kimmeter Green Cottage  
**South Down** - £156, £149, £145 Steel Hall  
**Blue Texel** - £150 Edendales  
**Charollais** - £142 Hundalee Pastoral  
**Romney** - £138 & £133 Lowfield House  
**Oxford** - £137 Guards  
**Dorset** - £130 Hazelbank

#### Principal prices (Per kilo)

**Texel** - 387.2p, 387.1p & 362p Hall, 361p Broomhillbank  
**Suffolk** - 361.5p, 340p & 337.1p Hall  
**South Down** - 355p Steel Hall  
**Charollais** - 322.7p Hundalee Pastoral  
**Blue Texel** - 319.1p Edendales

**Dorset** - 317.1p Hazelbank  
**Romney** - 316.7p Lowfield House  
**Oxford** - 269p Guards

#### PRIME HOGGS

A slightly smaller show of hogs on offer with a very mixed show forward once again, less then quarter of the sale being ideal export weights. 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 pen of 3 Texel hogs making £182 from Messrs Tudhope, High Parson Bridge.

Top price per kilo 369.6p for a Dutch Spotted from D. & H. Thompson, Fairfield.  
Overall average of 285.56p (SQQ 289.41p)

#### Principal prices (Per kilo)

**Dutch Spotted** - 369.6p, 362.1p Fairfield  
**Texel** - 353p Muirfield, 344.7p Hall Farm, 343p, 336p Rose Farm, 335p, 331p Byreburnside  
**Beltex** - 351p, 334p, 327p Drumcairn, 349p, 338.5p Pasture House,  
**Suffolk** - 340.5p Muirfield, 310.5p Haresteads, 308.5p Fala Hill, 304.4p Syke Head, 302.2p South Port O Spittal, 302p Pasture House  
**North Country Cheviot** - 324p Sourhope Farm, 291p Whitecroft Mains, 290p Cleughbrae  
**Cheviot** - 318p Becks Farm, 316p Heathery Hall, 315p, 315p Muirfield, 314.8 Dunrobbin  
**Blackface** - 316p Haresteads, 315p Heathery Hall, 309.8 New House, 306p, 305p Sonoma, 305p Heugh Farm, 304.8p Galleywreay

**Cross** - 315.2p Haresteads, 305p High Croft House, 302.3p Heugh Farm, 300p Whitton  
**Cheviot Mule** - 309.1p 6 Stonehouse, 281.5 Shop Farm  
**Herdwick** - 308.1p Haresteads, 294.9p Mid Harrietsfield, 280p Pasture House  
**Jacob** - 297.3p Haresteads, 263p Threepwood  
**Badgerface** - 295.2p Heugh Farm  
**Charollais** - 293.8p Haresteads, 276p Ireshope Plains  
**Zwartbles** - 289p Haresteads, 279.1p Heugh Farm  
**Shetland** - 284p, 248p, 246p, 230p South Port O Spittal, 246.9 Pasture House  
**Woodland** - 283.7p South Port O Spittal  
**Hampshire** - 277.2p Justenlees Farm  
**Swaledale** - 277p Shield Farm, 267.4, 256.4p Pasture House, 259.1p Whitton,  
**Clun** - 265p Coldhome  
**Lleyn** - 244p Dolphinston

#### Principal prices (Per head)

**Texel** - £182, £173 High Parson Bridge, £172 Byreburnside, £170 Nether Locharwoods, £170 Drumreach, £170 Fiddleton Bank End  
**Beltex** - £175, £165 Nether Locharwoods, £174, £163 Crakeplace Hall, £165 Rose Farm  
**Suffolk** - £174 Wileysdown, £170, £166 Whitelumbs, £160 Syke Head, £160 The Land, £157 Balglassie  
**Dutch Spotted** - £170, £150 Fairfield, £150 Rose Farm  
**Hill Cheviot** - £170 Becks Farm, £159, £157 Isauld Farm, £156, £155 Ireshope Plains  
**Charollais** - £160 Ireshope Plain  
**Blackface** - £160, £158 Heathery Hall £149, £144 New House, £146 Dyke Farm, £144

**Sonoma**  
**Hampshire** - £158 Justenlees  
**Cheviot Mule** - £152 Shop Farm, £136 Stonehouse  
**North Country Cheviot** - £150 Syke Head, £148 Cleughbrae, £134 Whitecroft Mains  
**Cross** - £151 Ellenbank, £150, £147 Syke Head, £144 Whitton, £144 Wood Farm  
**Clun** - £130 Coldhome  
**Badgerface** - £124 Heugh Farm  
**Swaledale** - £123 Pasture House, £122 Shield Farm, £114 Whitton  
**Lleyn** - £122 Dolphinston  
**Woodland** - £122 South Port O Spittal  
**Wood** - £115 Mid Harrietsfield, £114 Haresteads, £112 Pasture House  
**Jacob** - £110 Haresteads, £100 Threepwood  
**Shetland** - £108, £88, £82 South O Port Spittal, £100 Pasture House

#### CAST EWES AND RAMS

All classes of cast sheep in high demand with the plainer ewes seen dearer on the week, number needed every week to fulfil buyer requirements.

Heavy ewes topped at £365 was a Texel from Messrs Wilson, Wood Farm  
Lightweight ewes topped at £178 for a Cheviot from Messrs Smith, Dyke Farm  
Rams to £245 for a Charollais from Messrs Towler, Balgreen and a Texel from T.H. Grant, Bayldon

#### Heavy ewes

**Texel** - £365 Wood, £300 Raefield, £290 Whitelumbs, £270 Beckfoot, £270 Craigslea, £250 Bank House, £240 Whitelumbs  
**Beltex** - £260 Hallhill, £205 Wallend, £200 & £180 Drumreach  
**Charollais** - £248 Bogra, £240 Beckfoot,

£215 Whitelumbs, £215 Wood, £200 South Port o Spittal  
**Suffolk** - £240 Ryan Hope, £238 Hall, £230 Beckfoot, £225 Findowrie, £220 Beckfoot, £212 (x2) Hall, £212 & £210 (x2) Wood  
**Dorset** - £210 Flagstaff, £192 Justenlees  
**Cross** - £200 Balgreen, £194 Balglassie, £188 Beckfoot, £185 Wallend, £182 High Parson Bridge, £180 Balgreen  
**Zwartbles** - £200 Evertown, £185 Holmlea  
**Cheviot Mule** - £195 Hallhill, £192 & £190 Hall, £188 Balgreen, £185 Fala Hill, £182 Wardford, £180 Barneglies  
**Border Leicester** - £188 Justenlees  
**Dutch Spot** - £180 South Port o Spittal, £132 Fairfield  
**North Country Cheviots** - £180 West Stobs Wood, £168 Fala hill, £150 West Stobs Wood, £144 Fala Hill, £136 Falgunzeon  
**Blue Leicester** - £178 Rowanburnfoot  
**Lleyn** - £175 & £148 The Height, £138 Kilknowe  
**Romney** - £174 Border Livestock  
**Millennium Bleu** - £170 South Port o Spittal  
**Hampshire** - £160 Deuchrie  
**Ryeland** - £158 & £130 Lowfield House  
**Bleu Du Maine** - £148 Monk  
**North Country Cheviot** - £160 & £150 Drumreach

#### Light ewes

**Cheviot** - £178 & £162 Dyke Farm, £156 Hall, £150 Balgreen, £148 Hallhill  
**Blackface** - £154 Dyke, £138 Winterhope, £134 West Stobs Wood, £130 Dimanean  
**Badgerface Texel** - £150 Drumreach  
**Easycare** - £138 High Trewitt, £130 Hall  
**Swaledale** - £136 Falgunzeon, £134 Whittin  
**Shetland** - £116 Castletown Estate, £110 West Stobs Wood

**Valais Blacknose** - £114 Coldhome  
**Jacob** - £112 Balgreen  
**Kerry** - £108 Nutholm  
**Herdwick** - £68 Uppertown

#### Rams

**Texel** - £245 Bayldon, £230 Butter Mill, £220 Bank House, £200 Hall, £200 Bayldon  
**Charollais** - £245 Balgreen  
**Beltex** - £240 & £230 Solway House  
**Suffolk** - £240 Ryan Hope, £232 Balgreen, £215 Whitton  
**Oxford** - £225 Beckfoot  
**Lleyn** - £218 Whitton  
**Cheviot** - £185 Whittin, £165 40 Dunrobin Glen, £160 Whitton, £150 Drumreach, £150 Isauld  
**Dutch Spot** - £150 Beckfoot  
**Easycare** - £142 Bridge End

#### Averages:

**Lambs**  
Light to 387.1p (369.48p)  
Standard to 387.2p (359.53p)  
Medium to 361.0p (340.62p)  
Heavy to 326.1p (300.77p)  
Over Weight 305.5p (294.67p)

#### Hoggs

Light to 316.0p (227.47p)  
Standard to 353.0p (289.14p)  
Medium to 351.0p (297.40p)  
Heavy to 369.0p (284.31p)

#### Ewes

Light to £188.00 (£110.70)  
Heavy to £365.00 (£163.86)  
Rams to £245.00 (£155.29)

# LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**  
**CREATION MILL** W/C 2nd June 2025  
Connect | Inspire | Create

| Day  | What  | Time       | Where                                   |
|------|---|------------|---|
| Tues | Canonbie In Stitches                                  | 2-4        | Canonbie Hall DG140UX                   |
|      | After School Club                                     | 4-5:30     | Xcel Youth Club                         |
| Wed  | Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches                       | 10-12      | Victoria Hall DG11 3AU                  |
| Fri  | Langholm weekly In Stitches                           | 1-3        | Social Club DG13 0DN                    |
|      | <b>FORGOTTEN FLEECE TALES EXHIBITION LAUNCH NIGHT</b> | <b>5-8</b> | <b>New Creation Mill Textile Centre</b> |
| Sat  | Forgotten Fleece Tales Exhibition                     | 10-3       | New Creation Mill Textile Centre        |
| Sun  | Forgotten Fleece Tales Exhibition                     | 10-1       | New Creation Mill Textile Centre        |

**HAPPY PRIDE MONTH**

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.

## The Eskdale Foundation Flat to Rent

A one-bedroom, ground floor flat will be soon become available in the Police House, Buccleuch Square, Langholm.

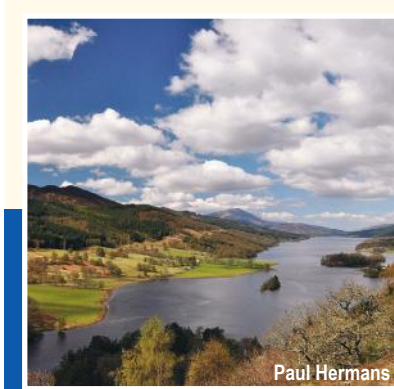
Interested parties should apply in writing to The Eskdale Foundation c/o Inglisdean, Langholm DG13 0JZ.

| WHAT'S ON IN MAY  |   |                                    |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Fri 30th          | Hard of Hearing Group 'Brew 'n' Blether'          | Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12pm |
| WHAT'S ON IN JUNE |   |                                    |
| Mon 2nd           | LEW Community Council Town Meeting                | The Buccleuch Centre 7pm           |
| Wed 4th           | Capability Scotland Self-Directed Support Service | Eskdalemuir Hub 11am - 2pm         |
| Fri 6th           | Man2Man: Prostate and Male Cancers                | Langholm Rugby Club 6.30pm         |
| Sat 7th           | Langholm Producers' Market                        | The Buccleuch Centre 9am - 1pm     |
|                   | Seriously Collins Phil Collins Tribute            | The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm        |
| Sat 14th          | Whisky Tasting for Father's Day                   | Gilnockie Tower                    |
| Sat 21st          | Westerkirk SWI Summer Trip to Durham              | Contact Diana Stewart 07884 352056 |
|                   | David Michaels International Entertainer          | Langholm Cricket Club from 2pm     |
| Sun 22nd          | LEEW Parish Churches Church Fête                  | Langholm Parish Church from 2pm    |

# The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2520 answers next week

- Where is the Queen's View?
- How many Scottish members sat in parliament after the Act of Union in 1707?
- In which century did Balmoral Castle come into the possession of the royal family?
- Which ruined Scottish castle is said to have inspired Bram Stoker?
- Where is the Scottish Lead Mining Museum?
- What was the profession of John Kibble, who erected the Kibble Palace in Glasgow?
- Near which town in Dumfries and Galloway is the Motte of Ur?
- Where is the Angus Folk Museum?
- Some people believe that Pontius Pilate was born in Scotland. Where is he said to have been born?
- Where are the Falls of Braan?
- In which city is the Rosemount Viaduct?
- What is the name of the steam railway that operates out of Aviemore?
- Why does the earth move in the village of Comrie?
- What is the Lanthorn of the North?
- Near which village on the north coast is Smoo Cave?
- Where is Flora MacDonald buried?
- Name the musician who was voted Scotswoman of the Decade in 1990.
- Which building in Haddington is known as 'the Lamp of the Lothians'?
- What was the name of the medieval murder-mystery film in which Sean Connery starred in 1986?
- What was the name of the world's first paddle steamer, built on the Clyde in 1812?



# Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

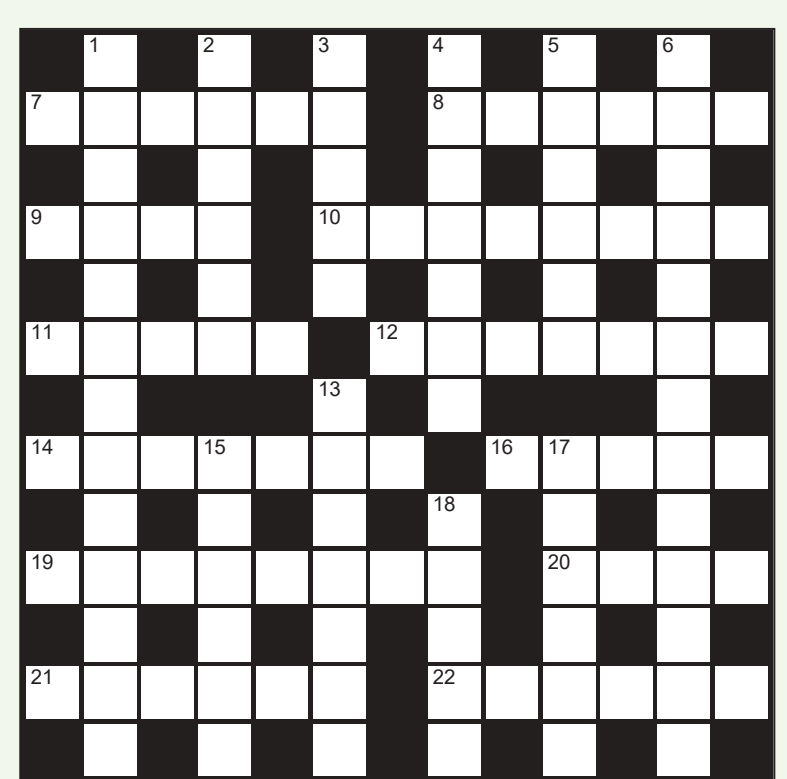
- ### Quiz 2519
- George Washington
  - South America
  - Captain James Cook
  - Johann Strauss
  - Eros
  - Boxing
  - Labradoodle
  - Phoenix
  - Lilliput
  - 18
  - Eagle
  - Simon & Garfunkel
  - The World's End
  - Zenith
  - Modest
  - Grand National
  - Dunlop
  - UNCLE
  - Quakers
  - Motorcycle Maintenance

- ### Crossword 2519
- Across:** 7 Liberate, 8 Trot, 9 Toughie, 10 Amid, 11 Stream, 12 Handel, 14 Privet, 16 Needn't, 18 Adds, 20 Cabaret, 21 Gnat, 22 Anorexic.
- Down:** 1 Dictator, 2 Reduce, 3 Mathematician, 4 Telephone book, 5 Attain, 6 Gobi, 13 Einstein, 15 Visits, 17 Eerier, 19 Dune.

# NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2520 answers next week

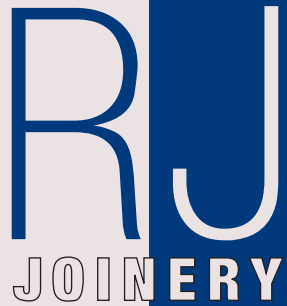
- Across**
- 2nd smallest continent (6)
  - Microphone inventor (6)
  - Probability (4)
  - Fragile (8)
  - Join (5)
  - Couple (7)
  - Long established (3-4)
  - Mature (5)
  - Yes (3,5)
  - Profane expression (4)
  - Reduce (6)
  - Vestige (6)
- Down**
- Painful abdominal complaint (8,5)
  - Maiden Castle county (6)
  - Is inclined (5)
  - Colours developing in Autumn (7)
  - Performing animal show (6)
  - Reflection (13)
  - Conceive (7)
  - Shove (6)
  - Gadget (6)
  - Hiding place (5)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

**(B7068 LOCKERBIE- LANGHOLM) (TEMPORARY  
TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) No. 2 ORDER 2025**

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close B7068 between Wauchope Schoolhouse and Wauchope Bridge, Langholm from 0930 to 1530 on 11/06/25. The closure is necessary to facilitate safe access to overhead BT network. Alternative route available via B7068, B722, B7076, B6357, A7, B7068 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.



## Well-deserved awards night

**Rugby**



Langholm RFC held their end of season players night and awards presentation on Friday evening. An excellent meal was enjoyed at the Douglas Hotel before going onto the Buck for the awards. Both these establishments have generously supported the club during the season just finished.

Coach Craig Hislop and captain Chris Tait spoke about the past season, how it had been a successful one, with the club very close to being second in the league, winning 9 out of 14 matches and how there had been some good performances

on the sevens circuit. They were both looking forward to another good season coming up.

There then followed the presentation of awards. Players player of the season went to Ben Jardine. Man of the match award, as voted by the visiting teams, was shared by Bailey Donaldson and Chris Tait.

Young player of the season was awarded to Kerr Gordon and player of the season went to Steve Nicol who had also played his 350th match for the club during the year.

A good night was enjoyed by all

## Two wins for New Town: Selkirk and Friendly League



**Bowling**

By Luke Tolson

Last Saturday Paul Warwick, Carolle Warwick and Luke Tolson won the open triples tournament held at Ettrick Forest bowling Club, Selkirk.

There was an entry of 20 and the trio won three and drew one game to proceed to the semi-final stage. They beat Eryl Roberts from the host club by 3 shots.

The final was close and the New Tooners managed to win by 1 shot against David Heard's triple!

This was the inaugural tournament from a past member - Tam McColm who sadly died last year. Caroline Young presented the trophy.

**Langholm Old v Langholm New  
Friendly League fixture 22.5.25**

A. Wilkinson, K. Nawrocki, C. Grant 12-8  
N. McLure, M. Brown, E. Beattie.

T. Henderson, K. Davidson, B. Jardine 7-18  
R. Park, L. Reid, S. Roebuck.

1-1 score - 2 points each for 1 win each game.

Total shots.  
Langholm Old - 19 | Langholm New - 26

## Old Town's Friendly League bowling

Langholm Old Town Bowling Club played their first friendly match against Brampton last Tuesday winning by 53 shots to 33.

• A. Wilkinson, M. Phillips,  
R. Phillips - 13

• R. Dunn, M. Devlin,  
S. Devlin - 13

• E. Aitken, T. Henderson,  
G. Cuthbertson - 16

• L. McLeod, T. Stothart,  
K. Irving - 11

The club also played its first game in the newly formed "Friendly League" against Langholm New Town on Thursday. It ended one game each with New Town winning the bonus point by 25 shots to 19.

The Friendly League comprises, Langholm Old, Langholm New, Canonbie, Eaglesfield, Greta and Eastriggs.



# Nine men beaten by only five wickets

## Cricket

By Graham Park

**Langholm made the journey to Lanercost on Saturday and despite only having nine men they put on a spirited display as they were only beaten by 5 wickets.**

On winning the toss the Langholm skipper John Bell elected to bat on the dry track. Openers Chris Stewart (flying in from his Greek Islands tour that morning to play) and Tony Steele added 15 before Stewart fell for 8 unluckily caught at fine leg off Crabtree. John Bell joined Steele, and he again looked in form cracking three fours, but alas fell with the score on 28 for 15 skying a ball of Brown. Nicky P joined Steele and these two steadily set about the Lanercost attack. They took the score past 50. When drinks came, they had taken the score to 85 for 2 off 20 overs.

Just after drinks however Nicky was clean bowled by Cottrill for 23, then soon after that Graham Park was out LBW without scoring. Steele supported by Euan Coates took the score past 100, with the score on 102 Coates fell for 6 bowled by Jones. Steele now supported by Danny Tait took the score to 116 but when he fell for 48 stumped of Jones that was about it for Langholm as no further runs were added and Langholm

were all out for 116.

Brown and Allen got Lanercost off to a decent start adding 21 before a dodgy single saw Brown run out his partner with Nicky P and Euan Coates combining for the run out. The next to go was Smith for 3, who somehow survived Graham Park's previous over only for him to lob a catch to Danny Tait in Park's next over leaving Lanercost 31 for 2. This brought D Ferguson to the crease, and he made 8 before he fell to his old foe Tony Steele for 8 caught behind by John Bell with the score on 50. Story now joined Brown, and this pair basically sealed the game for Lanercost taking the score to 95 before Story holed out off Chris Stewart with Park taking the catch. Deans fell to a Gormley catch off Coates to leave the score 102 for 5, however next over Brown sealed the game with 3 boundaries passing the Langholm total of 116. In the bowling for Langholm Stewart had 1 for 25, Steele 1 for 29, Park 1 for 31 and Coates 1 for 32.

As said previously a spirited display by 9 men from Langholm. Next week the 1sts have no game so hopefully when we recommence on the 7th of June against Lanercost, availability improves, and we can get the full complement out.

The 2nds kick off their season next Sunday though with a

# Great show from local kids in Relay Finals

## Everholm track sees Langholm and Canonbie excel

### School Sport

**Children from primary schools across Annandale and Eskdale gathered at the Everholm Running Track in Annan on Tuesday 20th May for the Annandale and Eskdale Primary Schools Sprint Relay Finals organised by Active Schools and Community Sport for Dumfries and Galloway Council.**

The event which is for pupils aged Primary 4 – 7 from small schools and Primary 5 – 7 from large schools had 51 teams taking part in the event which is part of the Annandale and Eskdale PEPAS calendar of school sport events that is sponsored by the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards.

A council spokesperson said "It's great to see such a large turnout from schools for this sporting event and the encouragement shown to the children. This is the first time on a running track for many and it again demonstrates opportunities for children to be active. He added "These events just don't run by themselves, and it takes help from many people. A special thank you must go to all volunteers, parents, teachers, and young sports leaders for their help with delivering this event".

WELCOME to LANGHOLM  
FUTURE CHAMPIONS  
AWARDS



Canonbie Primary A team took 2nd place in the Small Schools Sprint Relay



Langholm Primary A were 1st equal with Newington Primary A



Kirkpatrick Fleming Primary took first place in the Small Schools Sprint Relay



Langholm Primary A team won the Girls' Sprint Relay

# Fairly fine for the flapping!

## LHRA delighted to get an afternoon's racing despite the showers

### Horseracing

By Stevie Ellwood

**Flapping returned to Langholm on Sunday and despite the odd shower and tricky underfoot conditions. Langholm Horse Race Association (LHRA) had a successful day with some notable moments. The first race over a mile and a half saw four runners go to post after an eventful context. John and Brenda Brough's 'Lunacy' ran out a very decisive winner. 'Magic Norm' was the only other finisher in second place.**

The second race over six furlongs saw another four-runner contest and proved to be a red-letter day for young jockey Cody Foster as he steered 'Notable' home in front to give Chairman John and his wife Brenda a

quickfire double. Another star and 'Nobody's Lily' filled the minor placings.

The third race proved to be a far more competitive affair with six runners lining up over one mile one furlong. Turning for home it was anybody's race to win and at the post it was 'Nobody's Kimy' who prevailed by a couple of lengths from the Irish raider 'Cillian's Boy' and in a desperate lunge for the post the judges decided on a dead heat in third place for 'Old News' and 'Panic Attack'. The race may have ended very differently had 'Big Innes' not slipped and fell and ultimately was an unlucky loser.

The curtain on the day was brought down with six runners heading to post for the 7-furlong contest and it proved to be the most atmospheric race of the day as Adam Bell and his 'Under

the Radar' syndicate's horse 'Whole of the Moon' ran out a convincing winner and a first success for fledgling young jockey Connor Wood. There were some great scenes in the winner's enclosure ensued. 'Jim' and 'Hard to Get Him' filled second and third places respectively.

The recent extensive dry spell and the return of rainfall didn't auger well for LHRA, but once again they, and their helpers laid on a good day's sport. The Association itself are tremendously indebted to the general public for their attendance and more so, to the owners of the seventeen horses which graced the Castleholm with their presence on Sunday. Finally, a massive thank you to all the sponsors old and new for their much needed and continued support.

A hearty thank you to all concerned.



DECENT CROWD: Despite the threat of rain, Flapping enthusiasts still made their way to the Castleholm on Sunday



# Aoiffion is definitely Langholm's rising star

## Young athlete's stellar progress wins her an award

### Athletics

By Calum Graham

**At last week's Melrose Sevens Celebration of Women in Sport Awards, Aoiffion McVittie Brangan was presented with the Rising Star Award.**

The awards which were presented by well-known host and speaker, Bruce Aitchison are part of a packed Melrose Sevens weekend programme and shines a spotlight on the incredible achievements of female athletes in the Scottish Borders.

Aoiffion was one of 8 short-listed young people from a number of nominations aged under 18 years of age. And such was the high standard of nominees, this category alone received over 16,000 votes to determine the winner of this year's award.

In the running for the award were Ellie Moffat (Rugby), Lily Blacklock (Equestrian), Aoiffion McVittie Brangan (Athletics), Tess Renwick (Athletics),

Rachel Gibson (Football), Holly Allfrey (Trampoline), Freya Ainslie (Equestrian), Lili Mundell (Swimming) and Rosie Swailes (Boxing).

Aoiffion had a fantastic year in athletics in 2024 as an under 13 athlete and, she has won 3 championship medals this year competing in the under 15 age category including a gold medal as a 12-year-old at the Scottish Athletics National Indoor Relay Championships representing Edinburgh Athletics Club.

On Sunday, Aoiffion was selected to compete in the 100m, 200m, Long Jump and the 4x100m relay for Edinburgh Athletics Club in the second match of the Scottish National Youth Development League in Kilmarnock.

Aoiffion, who also won the DG Life Sports Person of the Year Award in November, is grateful for the support she receives from the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards and The Holywood Trust.



Aoiffion McVittie Brangan wins the Rising Star Award at Melrose Sevens Celebration of Women in Sport

# Gainford and Collins success

### Horseracing

By Gordon Brown

**Jordan Gainford and Cian Collins teamed up to land their first Kelso success with Impero in the £20,000 feature race.**

The top-weight, set off at 5/2, slammed front-running Simple Star by ten-lengths in the Celebrating Dick's 90th Handicap Hurdle.

"It's my first visit to the track and I'm very impressed - they've done a great job and the ground is good," Gainford said afterwards. "That was brilliant - it's nice to come over and when you have a winner it makes it all worthwhile.

"He's a classy horse and was giving away a lot of

weight there, he was good. Things didn't go right for him at Punchestown but he's a smart horse on his day."

Ewan Whillans enjoyed seeing Luminaries bouncing back to form under Sean Quinlan in the Border Growers & Distillers Handicap Hurdle.

"The ground was probably against him at Bangor and Sean gets a nice tune out of him," the Hawick trainer said. "He shouldn't go up too much for this so we will keep him on the go."

Quinlan had earlier sparked off a double by securing the opening J.A. Wilson Contractors Novices' Hurdle aboard hot-favourite Pergamon.

And three-time champion jockey Brian Hughes also rode a double on Spartan Warrior and Cushendall.



# Gardner's hat-trick helps LLFC 5-1 victory

### Football

By David Borthwick

**Today was the last home game of this season for the legion lads and whilst it wasn't going to impact their position in the league it was important for many other reasons.**

The boys have been used to playing in the sunshine in recent weeks but today was rather dreich on the 3g.

We kicked off a bit earlier than usual and there was an odd feeling about the game, with Legion having a good amount of possession and space and playing some nice football at times but we were unable to find a breakthrough. The visitors hit the bar twice and also the post. Scott Collins came close

with a right foot effort which hit the bar at the other end. But it was the visitors who broke the stalemate around 45 mins when a free kick was headed home by their striker. The half ended 0-1 to Highfields.

Determined not to lose at home the lads went out fired up, set on putting things right in the second half and it didn't take long to get level.

Young and veteran substitutes combined, James Borthwick worked his way past two Highfields defenders and found Chris Gardner who made no mistake firing the ball past the Highfields keeper. 1-1.

Next Craig Cuthbert's clever pass helped get Brian Mattison back to scoring ways when his calm finish over the Highfields goalie made it 2-1. Young goal-

keeper Danny Hotson made an excellent stop to deny Highfields an equaliser.

Big Chris hungry for more goals was found by Daniel Winter and after sending the Highfields defender to the floor Chris tucked the ball away making it 3-1 Langholm.

### Penalty

Then Alistair Little drove at the Highfields defence and was brought down in the box winning a penalty. Time for hattrick hero to step up and without hesitation Chris made it 4-1 with his first hattrick in many years showing there are still plenty goals left in those boots!

With 10 minutes left, Legion were well in control, and I was able to make an appearance.



**SAFE HANDS:** Young Danny Hotson's save denied Highfields an equaliser

Photo by Stan Wilson

Very much to my surprise I found myself in front of goal with just the keeper to beat when the ball broke off Chris Gardner, I fired the ball into the Highfields net making it 5-1 to Langholm.

Today was a good day for lots of reasons. Proud of all the boys. One more game to go

and we know what we have to do.

Thanks to Raymond Hume for officiating today and to the Douglas Hotel for their after match hospitality.

Next week we play in the playoff vs Stow at Duns, please come and support the lads if you can.

# E&L SPORT

