



Steamin' start to Common Riding with high temperatures for the Benty

Horses and riders well catered-for on one of the hottest rideouts to date

SEE CENTRE PAGES



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8605

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Scottish Woodlands hear Warblaw concerns

Organisations and residents voice issues at recent Environmental Impact Meeting held in Langholm

Last Thursday Scottish Woodlands who are designing a new wood for Warblaw on behalf of James Jones the landowner, held a scoping meeting for an environmental impact assessment (EIA). Attendance at the meeting in the Buccleuch Centre was by invitation only and included representatives of the Save Warblaw Action Group (SWAG), the Stevenson Trust, the Langholm Initiative and Nature Scot along with a number of residents. A Buccleuch staff member was there but the views expressed were his own.

Neil Murray of Scottish Forestry, the Scottish government body for forestry, chaired the meeting and also in attendance was an ecologist engaged by Scottish Woodlands to support the process. Submissions for the EIA from other bodies such as SEPA and the RSPB had been received in advance of the meeting.

Those attending were invited in turn to voice the issues of concern with regard to the proposals, and all views were noted on the environmental and social impact of the plans. These will



Photo by
Glen Laidlaw

be fed into the process to assess whether or not Scottish Woodlands need to further revise the design of their woodland scheme and/or if the proposals can go ahead.

After the meeting David Stevenson representing the Stevenson Trust said

Cumulative impact

"The good news is that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out on James Jones' Warblaw proposals and even better that it will be the cumulative impact of forestry planting over the years which

will be assessed, not just Warblaw in isolation. Neil Murray, of Scottish Forestry and chair of the meeting specifically confirmed that the EIA would assess the cumulative impact of forestry on our community, our environment as well as on our local economy, already decimated by the closure of our mills over 50+ years.

That's the good news, the problem lies in how the process is being carried out. Scottish Woodlands which is partly owned by James Jones is carrying out the EIA; they are selecting the

consultants who will carry out the work, they will determine the scope of the EIA and they will submit the final version of the EIA to Scottish Forestry.

Langholm's influence and input will be limited so this is by no means a level playing field. The ongoing destruction of farms and the irresponsible mass planting of trees on the edge of town will not make Langholm a better place to live. It feels like the accused is selecting the jury, the battle is just beginning!"

> Turn to Page 2

INSIDE



Great turnout of young enthusiasts

Castle Craigs Club and Langholm Young Riders held their annual rideout on Sunday for local youngsters to take-part in the pre-Common Riding celebrations.

More words and lots of photos inside!

Family Announcements

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

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Church Notices

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Welcome to worship
Sunday 20th July

Rev Morag Crossan
led services
NEWCASTLETON
9.30am

LANGHOLM
11am
'Kirk'ing the Cornet'

Contact us for
transport to/from
Langholm service
Tel. 07989168299

Worship Group
led services
CANONBIE 11.00am
Messy Church

Rev Morag Crossan
Tel: 07861 736071
or email
mcrossan@
churchofscotland.org.uk

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Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
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All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Canonbie Show preview

As mentioned last week in the paper Canonbie's Annual Flower Show, vintage rally, craft fayre and family activities will be held on Saturday 16th August 2025 and preparations are well underway. The schedules and raffle tickets are out in various locations including Canonbie Post Office, Rowanburn Post office, Cochranes nurseries, Langholm Paper Shop and available from any committee member.

The Flower Show is not "just a show for flowers", there are over 200 classes to choose from. All categories have been sponsored by local businesses and details are in the schedule. There will be a huge range of local craft stalls in the large craft tent and the annual scarecrow competition will run from Saturday 9th August. There's to be a childrens "design your own tshirt" competition on Thursday 14th August and youngsters are

invited to fetch their decorated tshirt along to the hall and every competitor will receive a prize.

Zoobidoo

This year's field activities will start at 10.30 am and there's to be a Magic show by B J Entertainment. There's also a dog show and demo (register on the day) with Paws and Minds. Zoobidoo (mobile zoo with a whole range of animals from reptiles to mammals and birds to insects) will be there and there's to be a fly fishing demonstration and a slow bike competition (a mixture of slowness and balance, last over the line wins). Teviotdale Steel Bonnets will also be paying a visit.

Canonbie Primary School school pupils were asked to design a logo that captured the true essence of the show. The winning logo will feature on all publications in the future and merchandise will be

available to purchase with proceeds going towards future shows. The winner will be announced before the end of term with merchandise available on the day. And to conclude the day there will be an after party in the marquee on the field. The Committee is looking forward to welcoming everyone on the day and hope that the weather is kind to everyone.

Any enquiries to:
Gillian Lamont on 01228 791900
Janice Sheppard 07825 615824
Clark Dawson 07504 696231 (Vintage)
Liz Smith 07889 757697 (Craft Stalls)
Via our facebook page (Canonbieflowershow) or email us at
Canonbieflowershow@outlook.com
For vintage enquiries only - canonbieshow@gmail.com - all emails will be acknowledged.



SWAG commends appraisal on impacts

< From Page 1

The Save Warblaw Action Group (SWAG) said

"We commend both Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Forestry for committing to a comprehensive and transparent regulatory appraisal on likely significant environmental impacts of the Warblaw forestry proposal. This demonstrates their recognition of 'the complexity of the site and level of issues raised'.

It is unprecedented; for all the 900 forestation projects in Scotland since 2019, a total of only 4 EIAs have so far been commissioned. "At the scoping meeting, SWAG plus other 'stakeholders' comprising local organisations plus Warblaw residents and farmers, ex-

pressed grave concerns over potential risks to the environment and to Langholm. Scottish Forestry were asked to consider the cumulative effect of industrial-scale conifer planting already surrounding Langholm, and the pre-existence of the large Cockplay plantation on the west of Warblaw, with the resulting damage to community, farming, biodiversity, landscape and economy.

"Warblaw has been classified as 'sensitive' because of its substantial peat deposits. SWAG requested more accurate peat surveys, and comprehensive modelling of carbon sequestration and hydrology. Serious fears were also expressed regarding destruction of habitat,



the use of herbicides & pesticides, the spread of Sitka seedlings and the risk of forest fires. The consensus was that because of the sensitivity of the site, the proximity of Warblaw to the town and to TVNR, and the overwhelming number of coniferous plantations presently besieging Langholm, Scottish Forestry should not grant permission for this proposal." <https://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations/warblaw-new-woodland-creation/>

Scheduled A7 resurfacing

13-night road closures announced

The A7 is set to benefit from an improved road surface, with 13 nights of resurfacing works planned between 29 July and 14 August near Linhope, approximately 12 miles south of Hawick. The project will see Transport Scotland's operating company BEAR Scotland renew approximately 1.9km of carriageway.

For the safety of road users and the workforce, a section of the A7 north of Linhope will be closed between 19:30 and 06:00 on weekday nights from Tuesday 29 July to Thursday 14 August. No works will take place on Saturday or Sunday nights. During these closures, a signed diversion route will be in place between Hawick and Canonbie, via the A698, A6088, B6357 and B7201. This diversion will add approximately 7.7 miles and 20 minutes to affected journeys.

Emergency services will be given access through the works at all times and local access for residents within the closure points will be maintained when it is safe to pass through the work area. Relevant stakeholders have been consulted in advance to make them aware of the plans.



Tommy Deans, BEAR Scotland's South East Network Manager, said:

"These surfacing improvements will result in smoother and safer journeys for people using the A7 south of Hawick. It's essential for safety that we close the road during the works; however we'll do this overnight to minimise the disruption caused. If you need to travel on this route at night between 29 July and 14 August, our advice is to plan ahead and allow extra time for the diversion."

Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland at www.traffic.gov.scot, or on X at @trafficscotland.

Irvine House update: Rumours quashed



Following rumours about the proposed Irvine House holiday development the Editor asked Buccleuch for an update. The response was as follows:

"Buccleuch are continuing to progress with the plans for holiday accommodation at Irvine House, and although there has been a slight delay

in our timings, we are aiming to submit the planning application in August. I will be in touch with you nearer the time on this, as it would be great if you were happy for us to have a wee article in the paper, in addition to the standard notification, to give the community more of a feel for the plans and

timescales.

"With regard to the talk on government funding; I wish to reassure you and the community that the project is not reliant on any funding from the Scottish Government. All the works to date have been funded by Buccleuch. I will keep in touch as we progress."

Exiles and visitors reminder

It has been a tradition for many years to include a list of the names of exiles who are returning for the big day in the paper of Common Riding week.

If you know someone who is coming or who has already arrived in Langholm or who will be here on the day please let us know by sending information to

newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk or by popping into the office on Monday.

Graduates reminder

Calling all graduates. Have you recently qualified from College or University?

We would love to hear about it and include your photo in an edition of the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser. Please get in touch with your name, the title qualification you have been awarded and the name of the college or university where you studied. And please send a photo to

newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Happenings at the Hub

Printmaker Tim Wood is exhibiting at Eskdalemuir Hub in July. His handprinted work is mostly in black and white but there are some colour prints too. His prints are often of rural buildings and trees in the landscape, and all are made from observational drawings. This is a really lovely exhibition and well worth the drive there to view it.

Tim says

"I keep lots of sketch books. Some prints are burnished by hand (many of the lino cuts) and some, requiring more pressure and different techniques are printed by hand operated press. Giclee prints are scanned from an original piece and then printed by computer. 'Original' prints are just that. Prints are made as editions – repeated copies of some or many are signed and numbered by the artist. No further prints are taken after the edition is completed."



Tim Wood's exhibition is at the the Eskdalemuir Hub until the end of July



Caple Rig Wind Farm Public Exhibition

CWP Energy would like to **welcome the community** to attend a Public Exhibition to view the **revised** Caple Rig Wind Farm proposal. This is an opportunity to meet the Project Team, ask questions, and **provide your feedback** on the revised proposal.

Wednesday 30th July

Langholm Pop-Up Shop
74 High Street, Langholm, DG13 0JH
11am until 6.30pm

www.caplerigwindfarm.co.uk

Muckle Bridges challenge

Langholm Playcare are organising what they are calling the Muckle Bridges Challenge which will be held in October. This will be a 10 mile mixed terrain run for people 16 years and over but also offers a wee bridges challenge of 5k and a sponsored toddle trot. The start point will be at Langholm Rugby Club on Sunday 26th October. For further information on these challenges get in touch with Playcare on langholm-playcare@btconnect.com

Kenny is raising funds

Former rugby player, former Provost of Hawick and ex Acting Father amongst other things Kenny McCartney is raising money for Alzheimers Scotland throughout the summer culminating in a Scots Nite concert in Hawick Town Hall on 22nd November with acts from around the Borders. He has set a justgiving page under Kenny for Alzheimers Scotland.

Bridge results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, George & Brenda Bullamore, 3, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford.
E/W - 1, Sandra Ritchie & Tom Stothart, 2, Nancy McLure & Anne Ferguson, 3, Louise Grierson & Christine Burton.

Petition shows level of concern over bus times

Service is crucial to town



A petition about the Langholm town bus service seems to be gathering momentum and signatures even though a new timetable has yet to be published or publicised. We will provide accurate information about the timetables as soon as we get it.

Many folk value the local bus service and in particular the Holmwood residents who would be very disadvantaged were the service to be reduced.

This is the only update that we've been supplied so far by SWestrans "Please note that the current bus contracts run until

6th August, with the new contracts starting on 7th August. Please refer to our previous releases below. In the meantime, we are planning a further release next week with details of operators and routes, along with updated timetables."

<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/news/2025/home-school-bus-transport-services-confirmed-new-academic-year>

or <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/news/2025/45-new-bus-contracts-awarded-safeguard-services-across-dumfries-galloway>

Rural Leadership Programme to drive community growth

Businesses in the South of Scotland are being invited to apply to the 2025/26 Scottish Rural Leadership Programme. The initiative is designed to empower rural business owners and senior leaders across Scotland with the skills, confidence and strategic insight needed to drive innovation and growth in their communities.

Run by Elevator UK, in partnership with South of Scotland Enterprise Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the programme provides an immersive experience that challenges participants to think differently, embrace change and lead with purpose. The programme equips leaders to ignite their businesses and contribute meaningfully to Scotland's rural economy.

Participants will benefit from ten days attending workshops and learning journeys, three hours of coaching and ongoing peer-to-peer support. It is open to all businesses in all sectors who are based in rural location or work with rural businesses.

The programme features industry-leading facilitators including James Withers, Alison



Alison Milne MBE and James Withers

Milne, Shona Mitchell, and Andrew Cameron, and offers opportunities for networking, mentoring, and collaborative problem-solving.

These facilitators bring a wealth of experience and insight, helping participants challenge their thinking, build strategic capabilities, and lead transformational change in their businesses and communities.

For more information and to register your interest and begin your leadership journey, visit the Elevator UK website.

People seeking more details can also sign up to one of the SRLP online information sessions via the same website, available on: Wednesday 16 July, Thursday 31 July, Monday 18 August. Applications close on 29 August 2025.

Letters to the Editor

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

Last week's article concerning the antiques trade triggered memories of my Grannie, Lizzie Graham travelling to Carlisle twice each week just after the 2nd World War to two auctioneers in Carlisle, one being Vaseys and the other I can't remember.

She travelled by bus and the main purpose was to buy second hand furniture for young couples about to be married, as new furniture was out of reach financially for most. I accompanied her on a few occasions and there was always a seat set aside for "Mrs Graham from Langholm".

She bought other items also and I can remember particu-



larly a large wooden double decker bus, big enough to sit on, art nouveau figurines and many other interesting things.

Her purchases were sent to Langholm by van, some of

the old-style wardrobes etc being massive.

Mention of the contents of the museum being transferred was also of interest, as my Father, Robert Graham, operated the newsagents located in the library buildings, and back rooms contained many of the items relating to the museum, including the drum described in the article. Other contents included a stuffed crocodile and various spears etc, very exciting for my brother Alex and me.

I hope these reminiscences are of interest.

Yours
Jim Graham
Clydebank

Super September lineup at The Buccleuch Centre

Looking ahead, the Buccleuch Centre's September programme offers a huge variety of music, murder mystery and talks. It kicks off with the Keep it Country show from Ireland in September quickly followed by Kerry Ellis – Queen of the West End.

From My Fair Lady to We Will Rock You, from Les Misérables to Wicked, in both the West End and on Broadway, she has starred in musical theatre's biggest roles, making shows her own and earning her numerous awards. Her list of credits is remarkable and also include Oliver!, Cats, Miss Saigon, Chess, The War Of The Worlds, and Anything Goes, among many others. She has recorded 4 studio albums and toured the world both as a solo artist and with her good friend Sir Brian May.

Also in September is Abbasolute Murder a murder mystery brought to us by Highly Suspect from Cumbria. This should be great fun and a



'Abbasolute Murder' at The Buccleuch on 19th September

challenge for teams to find out 'who dunnit'. Then it's Across the Universe 66 – 70 presenting the Beatles studio years with a live band and orchestra. After that it's back to Irish country. September ends with an evening with Paul Merson, the football star who discusses his illustrious career with Arsenal, Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Portsmouth and England. He'll talk about games, dressing room/training ground stories, managers, fall outs and everything you wanted to know about playing for a

successful football club.

Talksport and ex Arsenal teammate Perry Groves will host an evening and a Q&A with a chance to pose your questions to Paul. A limited number of VIP tickets are available, affording the opportunity for a meet and greet with the legendary players and a photograph opportunity before the show. Tickets are available from the Buccleuch Centre box office on 013873 81196 or online at www.buccleuchcentre.com

SOSE welcomes submission of Center Parc plans

Development would bring in the region of 1,200 jobs

South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) has welcomed the submission of Center Parcs' planning application to Scottish Borders Council for their proposed new holiday village just north of Hawick. The submission marks a milestone for the project, which is set to be one of the most transformative investments ever in the South of Scotland. The benefits to the area are estimated as follows: £350-400million development; potential to deliver up to 1,200 permanent jobs; attract over 350,000 visitors annually; injects an estimated £8.8million into the local economy each year.

SOSE has been working closely with the Center Parcs' team throughout the early stages of this project, supporting their engagement with local communities and businesses. The proposed site for the development is to the south east of Ashkirk, between Hawick and Selkirk.

The summary of the planning application says that there will



The company would expect the development to attract 350k visitors per year

Photo: Center Parcs Scotland

be "The development and use of land as a holiday village including lodges, apartment building, central buildings incorporating swimming pool, indoor leisure facilities, spa facility, retail shops, bars, coffee shops and restaurant facilities, outdoor leisure facilities, staff welfare facilities, ancillary buildings, car park, main access from and onto the A7, engineering operations, creation of lochs, energy centre, hard and soft landscaping, woodland planting and forest management works, demolition of Huntlaw Farm buildings along

with all other associated infrastructure works and activities." Chair, Russel Griggs OBE, said:

"We are proud to have played a role in helping shape a proposal that aligns with our vision for a thriving, sustainable South of Scotland. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Center Parcs as the project progresses, ensuring that the region is well-positioned to maximise the economic, environmental and social opportunities this development presents."

Apply for Inspire Graduate programme

Dumfries and Galloway council's **INSPIRE Graduate Programme** is now open for applications, offering graduates the chance to kick-start their careers while making a difference in local communities.

The INSPIRE Graduate Programme provides paid placements with opportunities for graduates to work on real projects while developing their skills and experience for the future.

If you're a recent graduate with big ideas, a passion for community, and the drive to grow the Council wants you.

Their INSPIRE Graduate Programme is a chance to kick-start your career with purpose, working on a meaningful project that shapes the future of Dumfries & Galloway.

They're not just offering a graduate placement they say that they are also providing a platform for people to grow,

contribute and shape their future career.

What graduates will get:

- A paid 12-month placement on the Scottish Local Government Living Wage

- An exciting, real-world project that contributes to our Council Plan and matches your skills

- 1-to-1 mentorship and structured development

- The chance to innovate with technology, think on your feet, and lead

- Experience that boosts your employability and sets your career in motion

If you know someone who may be interested, please share this opportunity with them.

<https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/dumfries-and-galloway-council/jobs/inspire-graduate-432038>



Business Gateway grants

Business Gateway is a free service that provides one-to-one business support, training, and advice to entrepreneurs and small businesses in Dumfries and Galloway. It now has three grants available to support local business.

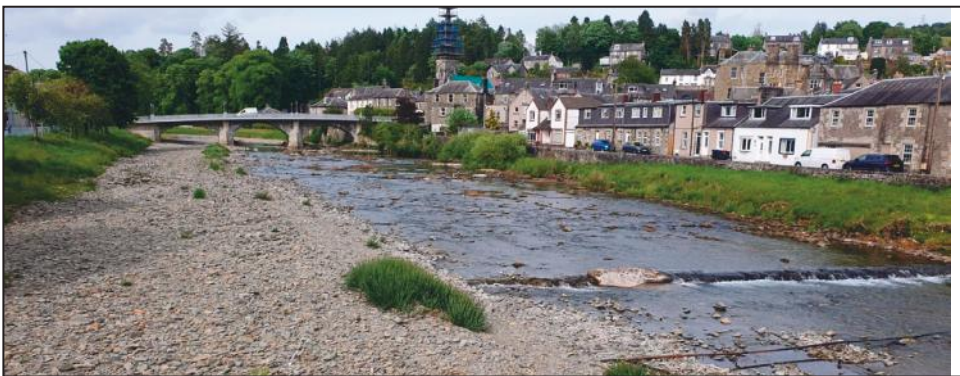
Enterprise Seed Fund 2025 – Start Up Grant: this grant is for businesses that have just started or are about to start. Grants cover 50% of start-up costs up to a maximum £3000;

Climate Resilience – Net Zero: This is grant funding to mitigate the effect of climate change on Dumfries and Galloway businesses/organisations and to support them to transition towards a net zero future. The grant covers the first £3000 of eligible capital expenditure costs;

Business Growth Grant 2025: Are you a micro business or SME in Dumfries and Galloway looking to expand, innovate, and thrive? This discretionary grant fund is designed to support the growth of existing businesses within the first 3 years of trading. Whether you're aiming to create new jobs, reduce energy usage, or move towards net zero carbon emissions, this grant can provide the financial boost you need.

All grants are now open for applications. Further details and case studies are available on the Business Gateway Dumfries website. <https://www.bgateway-dumgal.com>

SEPA seeking help to monitor water level



The River Esk in Langholm was at its lowest for many years earlier in 2025

With the dry weather returning SEPA is asking people to help them to assess the impacts on our environment. SEPA is asking folk to report dry private water supplies, rivers and burns in our area. This will help them have the best possible understanding of the impacts of the dry weather. They are asking also for people to tell them about rivers with isolated pools separated by stretches that are dry or have only a trickle of water, dis-

tressed or dead fish or invertebrates, large numbers of dead plants on parts of the river bed that are rarely exposed or, a lot of exposed algae over hundreds of metres, combined with very low flows.

To report any of these things they ask that people send them the name of the river or burn, the location – a grid reference if possible, a description of the signs of water scarcity and a photography if possible. Please note that by submitting pho-

tographs to SEPA you accept these can be used for marketing and communications purposes. You retain copyright of the original photograph. If you would like to be credited in the use of photographs, please state the credit information in your submission or alternatively let us know if you do not want the photograph used for any other purpose than to assess water scarcity.

Send your information to lowflowimpacts@sepa.org.uk

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk



✉ john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk

☎ 01450 375948

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

📘 JohnLamontBorders

✂ @John2win

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

🌐 [johnlamont.org](https://www.johnlamont.org)

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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

Region's food and drink excellence recognised

Two Dumfriesshire businesses have made it to the finals of this year's Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

Mossiel Farm – once home to Scotland's Bard Robert Burns and now the base of an award-winning organic operation, is in the running for the Organic Business of the Year Award.

The dairy won the Scottish Retail Food & Drink Awards Dairy category for their milk in both 2021 and 2022. They were also finalists in the Scottish Rural Awards 2020 and have received a Great Taste Award.

Meanwhile it's turning out to be a great year for Rowan Glen, which faced closure a few years ago until saved by a management buyout backed by SOSE.

Two of the yoghurts made by the Palnure-based dairy operation have made it to the finals of the Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards. SF&D Chief

Executive Iain Baxter, says the awards always attract an incredibly diverse range of impressive quality entries.

"Sampling the incredible range of entries might sound like a dream job but narrowing it down to the very best has been no easy task for our expert panel."

Rowan Glen also scooped awards at the Royal Highland Show. Their Greek-style Vanilla yoghurt was named Champion Best Cultured Dairy Product and took the overall Reserve. Other flavours claimed gold, silver and bronze awards.

Managing Director Alan Baxter said it was a proud moment.

"We're thrilled to see our products recognised at such a well-respected event. Every award is a credit to our hard-working team. Rowan Glen has always been about quality, taste and sourcing locally."

£90k raised in memory of Borders farmer

Family and friends walked the Kintyre Way for Neil

Friends and family of a Borders farmer who took his own life last year have raised nearly £90,000 in his memory.

Neil Stewart was aged 60 when he died. His wife Caroline, three children Victoria, Emily and Charlie plus a group of close relatives, walked the length of the Kintyre Way.

The walk, named '100 for One', honoured Neil's memory while shining a light on mental health challenges in agriculture, raising a truly phenomenal sum for RSABI, the charity supporting people in Scottish farming.

The group say the 100-mile journey, while emotional, was an opportunity to reflect and share fond memories of Neil. It was made even more special by a flood of heartfelt messages and generous donations from the agricultural community and



Caroline Stewart and RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren

far beyond.

Caroline Stewart said the support kept them going throughout the marathon walk.

"The kindness, encouragement and solidarity shown, along with the amazing donations raised for RSABI, are

what kept us going. Being surrounded by friends and family every step of the way meant the world to us.

"The walk was an opportunity to honour Neil, who we miss every day, while raising awareness of mental health within the farming community. If our message has managed to reach just one person and encouraged them to reach out for help, then it has been more than worth it."

RSABI Chief Executive, Carol McLaren said the family's strength, courage and determination had been inspirational.

"By bravely sharing Neil's story, they have made a profound difference to the farming community, delivering an incredibly important message that no one in Scottish agriculture should feel alone and that help is available."

Scottish young farmers represented in Europe

NFU Scotland has joined the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) as its newest observer following a successful vote at the representative body for young farmers in Europe's General Assembly in Brussels.

The CEJA advocates for the interests of young farmers across the continent. NFU Scotland will be represented by a group of young farmers and crofters known as the Next Generation Committee. They help shape the Union's work and engage directly with policymakers on critical issues.

Committee Chair Ben McClymont says this new European link will open doors to new ideas and cross-border collaboration.

"Young farmers and crofters are the future of our industry and we must give them a seat at the decision table," he said. "Through this new membership and our Next Generation Committee, the Union is investing in a forward-looking sector that's equipped, empowered and prepared for years to come."

The move is particularly timely given Scotland's ongoing ambition to remain closely aligned with the European Union on key policy areas. It also follows the recent UK-EU reset, which will pave the way for dynamic alignment with EU standards on areas including food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, and plant protection products as part of a wider Sanitary and Phytosanitary



CEJA welcomed Ben McClymont to the Brussels event

(SPS) agreement.

Vice Chair Michael Munro, says it's fantastic to join such a dynamic and forward-thinking organisation.

"In conversations with young farmers across Europe, it's clear that we face many of the same challenges: accessing land and finance, ensuring sustainable budgets and making our voices heard in policy-making."

Catching and handling study

A new study led by Scotland's rural college SRUC is aiming to improve the welfare of farmed birds throughout the UK.

The £500,00 commercial poultry catching and handling study will be carried out in partnership with the University of Bristol.

The comprehensive collaboration between academic research teams, industry, Humane Slaughter Association and a poultry veterinary consultant will be carried out over three years, collecting data from over 100 commercial poultry flocks, leading to best practise for poultry wellbeing.

The project will assess the catching and handling of commercial poultry when they are being moved between housing systems, or before going to slaughter.

By comparing the two main methods of catching and handling (either by two legs or catching upright) the research



will discover how each approach impacts on the overall process duration and bird welfare.

Methods

The project will begin by looking at broilers, layers, and pullets and will include training crew members across all farms taking part in the research in both catching/handling methods.

SRUC Lead Researcher Dr Vicky Sandilands says high animal welfare standards are a key

component of agricultural best practice.

"Our Monogastric Innovation Centre and Animal Behaviour and Welfare teams at SRUC look forward to a close collaboration with colleagues at the University of Bristol and Humane Slaughter Association to provide evidence on best catching and handling practices, to safeguard the welfare of commercial poultry."

And so, it all begins once again

The Benty Rideout ushers in another Langholm Common Riding fortnight

Langholm's most precious possession, the Common Riding, commenced, once more, on Saturday with the annual Castle Craigs Club's Benty Rideout.

In his first official duty at his own Common Riding, Langholm Cornet Ewan Patterson led 70 riders from the Kilngreen to the Benty on what must have been one of the hottest rideouts ever.

The Castle Craigs club pulled out all the stops to make sure the horses and riders were safe in the soaring temperatures, with extra water stops and restricted gallops during the day.

As is the tradition, the ladies of Westerkirk SWI catered for the riders in their usual splendid fashion and after a couple of hours of eating, singing and speechifying, the riders re-mounted their rested steeds and headed back to Langholm, via the customary stop at Westehall for a further refresh-



ment, by kind invitation of Mrs Mary Buckley.

The normal route back to the Muckle Toon would usually take all the riders over the Potholm and Castle Hills, and some still took this option but due to the temperature, some decided to take the horses home by the easier road

home via the Langfauld to the Kilngreen.

All in all, it was a terrific start to the Common Riding and Cornet Ewan Patterson did an exemplary job in leading the cavalcade to Langholm's near neighbours and home again without any serious 'cowps'.



Photo by
Kirsty Graham

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING 2025

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING



MEMORIAL SERVICE



in the Buccleuch Park
on Sunday 20th July at 10.50am
followed by Church Service in
Langholm Parish Church
Members to meet at 10.45am

Registered SCIO No. SC044989

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING

SIMMER FAIR NIGHT DANCE



in the Buccleuch Centre
Thursday 24th July from 10.30pm to 1am
Bon Accords' Band

Entry – age 16 and upwards,
age verification required
Strictly no alcohol allowed for under 18s
Admission £7 per person - Bar

Registered SCIO No. SC044989

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING

The CONCERT and INVESTITURE



will be held in the Buccleuch Centre
on Wednesday 23rd July at 7.45pm

Local artistes will take part

The Town and Pipe Bands will attend

Investiture of Cornet
and
Presentation to Semi-Jubilee Cornet
by Miss Michaela L. Maxwell

Admission – Free
Tickets available to collect from
Cullen Kilshaw, 38 High Street
from Friday 18th July

Registered SCIO No. SC044989

LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING Friday 25th July

HOUD TRAIL

(Sponsored by the Family of the late J. Murray Collins
and the family of the late Scott Morrison)

Hounds meet at Collins Turn

at 6.25am

Slipped at 6.30am

Admission Free



HORSE RACING

including Eskdale Plate for £3500
(sponsored by Wasdell Ltd.)

ATHLETICS GAMES

including Ashleybank Investments 1000 guineas
90 metre sprint handicap

CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND WRESTLING

HIGHLAND DANCING (Open and Local Events)

For full programme – see Poster
All day admission to field - £10
(includes Games/Horse Racing Programme)
65 and over & Children aged 13-17 - £5
Adults Pre-Purchase Tickets - £8
Concessions Pre-Purchase - £4
Refreshments on the field
Dancing on the Castleholm at 7.15pm

K. M. Hill
Secretary

38 High Street
Langholm

Registered SCIO No. SC044989



A bright and beautiful Benty Day



The lassies set-off on the Benty Rideout 2025



Cornet Ewan Patterson cannily leads the cavalcade into the field at the Benty...ower hot for galloping



Ex-Cornet Dale Irving arrives looking fresh!



Helen and John Wylie of Langholm enjoying the afternoon at the Benty...under the shade!



Sadie Cropper and Ex-Cornet Ruairi Hotson heading for the hills



Friends and their bairns keep cool in the warm sunshine. Babies Edith and Benji loving every moment



Great photo by Stan Wilson



A Benty farewell. 'There's a wee toon...'



Alan Beattie with Ex-Cornets Kevan Hotson and Robert Rae on Henry Street



Tom Henderson feeling the heat on his arrival at the half-way point

Another sunny day with smiles all round for the pony rideout

The Castle Craigs club pony rideout on Sunday saw the Cornet, Ewan Patterson along with his right and left hand men lead around sixty young riders and ponies around Langholm to great smiles from onlookers.

The pipe band met the horses by the Buccleuch Centre and played the cavalcade around the streets with parents, family members and supporters cheering them on. Some of them had

previously taken part in the pony club games at the Castleholm which is where the parade commenced. Sunday was slightly cooler than Saturday which helped the young riders keep going around the town. What a fantastic turnout it was and the support for this event suggests that the Common Riding is in good hands for many years to come. This has been a great addition to the rideout programme.



Looks of concentration on the adults as they accompany the riders



Janie Hotson and little pal Millie are all smiles on Maxwell Road



Lucy and her Mum, Jill, crossing the Langholm Bridge at the start of the rideout



The parade goes back over the Langholm brig in a long procession



Kathryn Gardner leads her daughter Connie in the rideout



All smiles for Ella Basnett as she heads down the high street on Sunday



The front three all smiles as they lead the pony ride from the Castleholm



The young ones were very smart in ties and rosettes for the rideout



Connie Laidlaw and Chuck Muir enjoying the rideout

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 21st July 2025

Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Scrap Store	10-3	Creation Mill Textile Centre, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
	Summer Club - Eskdalemuir 3-7 years	10-11.30	Eskdalemuir Hub, DG13 0QJ
	Summer Club - Eskdalemuir 8-16 years	12-3	
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	Creation Mill Textile Centre, DG13 0ES
Tues	Scrap Store	10-3	Creation Mill Textile Centre, DG13 0ES
	Summer Club - Langholm	10-2	
Wed	Scrap Store & Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Tots Textiles	10-12	
	Summer Club - Canonbie	10-2	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
Thurs	CLOSED FOR COMMON RIDING		
Fri			

LANGHOLM FLUTE BAND

AGM & SOCIAL EVENING



Thursday
17th July
Buck Hotel 8pm
ALL WELCOME
£5 a head including snacks
A good attendance of flutes is requested



Langholm Town Band

Sale of Work

Saturday 19th July
Buccleuch Centre at 1.45 pm

Entry: adults £2.50 children 50p
(incl cream tea and drink)

-WHAT'S ON IN JULY-		
Wed 23rd	Langholm Common Riding Concert & Investiture	The Buccleuch Centre from 7.45pm
Wed 23rd	Pipe band disco	Langholm Social Club
Wed 23rd	Langholm Playcare Common Riding	Old tennis courts from 10am
Fri 25th	Langholm Common Riding	Langholm from 5am
Sat 26th	Horse racing LHRA	Castleholm: first race 2pm
Sat 26th	Teviotdale Steel Bonnets	Gilnockie Tower 10.30am - 3.30pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2526 answers next week

- 1

Name the village that is home to Skibo Castle, made famous by Madonna and Guy Ritchie's wedding there in 2000.
- 2

What was the name of the Kirkcudbright fishing boat that sank off the Isle of Man in January 2000?
- 3

What is the name of the man who composed the fanfare for the opening of the Scottish Parliament?
- 4

What large chunk of Scottish property was bought by tycoon Mukhtar Sandhu in 2000?
- 5

From whom did Edinburgh Council buy Calton Hill in 1725?
- 6

What was the approximate final cost of the Scottish Parliament Building?
- 7

What was moved from Calton Hill to Blackford Hill in Edinburgh in 1896?
- 8

How old was James IV when he took part in the Battle of Sauchieburn?
- 9

When was the last woman executed for witchcraft in Scotland? bur
- 10

In which century did the crime of witchcraft first appear in the statute book in Scotland?
- 11

What is sung as Scotland's national anthem before rugby internationals?
- 12

Name the Scottish singer who rose to fame after taking part in The Big Time in 1980.
- 13

Which Scottish writer was inspired to write his best-loved book by childhood visits to Moat Brae House in Dumfries?
- 14

Which TV personality published Scotland: Story of a Nation?
- 15

In which year was Jack McConnell born?
- 16

What is the name of the island that was used for BBC TVs Castaway?
- 17

It was decided in 2000 to build a new gallery to house the Queen's Royal Collection. In which building?
- 18

What was the last lighthouse in Scotland to be automated?
- 19

With which health scare was John Barr's shop in Wishaw associated?
- 20

Which MSP and stalwart of the Scottish National Party died, aged 60, in March 2006?





Saturday 12th July

THE BENTY RIDEOUT
1:15pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilgreen
1:30pm - Depart Kilgreen
4:00pm - Arrive @ The Benty
6:00pm - Depart The Benty
8:00pm - Arrive @ The Kilgreen

Sunday 13th July

PONY RIDEOUT & FAMILY FUN DAY
11am - Pony Club Games on The Castleholm
1pm - Rideout leaves The Castleholm
2:15pm - Arrives @ The Castleholm
2:30pm - Family Fun Day

Tuesday 15th July

EWES VALLEY RIDEOUT
6:15pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilgreen
6:30pm - Depart Kilgreen
7:30pm - Arrive @ Hoghill
8:00pm - Depart Hoghill
9:00pm - Arrive @ The Kilgreen

Thursday 17th July

PEDEN'S VIEW RIDEOUT
6:30pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilgreen
6:45pm - Depart Kilgreen
7:15pm - Arrive @ Peden's View
7:45pm - Depart Peden's View
8:45pm - Arrive @ The Kilgreen

Saturday 19th July

CASTLE CRAIGS RIDEOUT
12:30pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilgreen
12:55pm - Depart Kilgreen
1:00pm - The Kirkwynd
1:30pm - Arrive @ Castle Craigs
2:30pm - Arrive @ Cronksbank
3:30pm - Depart Cronksbank
4:30pm - Arrive @ Townfoot Toll Bar

PLEASE NOTE

the Castle Craigs Club Committee reserve the right to refuse any person from participating in these events.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL THOSE TAKING PART IN CASTLE CRAIGS CLUB RIDEOUTS

Whilst every care has been taken by the Committee and relevant landowners in facilitating these events, the Committee and the landowners will not be responsible for any injury to any person taking part, in any way whatsoever, in the event nor will they be liable for any damage resulting from any acts or omissions of any participants or spectators.

Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

- Quiz 2525
- 1

Oban
- 2

Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Shiel
- 3

Keathbank Mill, near Blairgowrie
- 4

1783
- 5

Galloway
- 6

Buccleuch Street, Glasgow
- 7

Wanlockhead
- 8

Edinburgh
- 9

The 1690s
- 10

David Livingstone
- 11

Cumbernauld
- 12

The opening of the new Scottish Parliament
- 13

Billy Bremner
- 14

Ceres
- 15

James Bruce
- 16

Alexander Naysmith
- 17

Deep Sea World, North Queensferry
- 18

Duns
- 19

Shipowner
- 20

Sighting of the Loch Ness Monster





Looking back...

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie's Common Riding Memories

To the Langholmite the ancient custom of riding the common is still the outstanding landmark of the year, nor does the passing of generations in any way lessen its hold upon the affections of the worthy inhabitants of the Muckle Toon. Indeed, the venerable institution with its many hallowed memories, is numbered with the things of the past which, to the native, still remain evergreen.

There is the exile, whose lot is cast among the busy pursuits of man, far removed from his native dale, but who yearly returns to enjoy the genial company of old friends and to roam at leisure amid the scenes of his youth.

It is then that friendships are renewed and many are the homely cracks about the days when they were boys together; tales are retold of the amazing feats they used to accomplish when carefree and light-hearted they "ran about the braes". These "days o' auld lang syne" were indeed days that ever seemed longer than now - when the birds sang more sweetly and the verdant dale was bathed in perpetual sunshine. In whatever part of the world the sons of Langholm have found a home, whether it be far beyond the sea or just across the Border, they are sure to look back with a longing heart to the town that nestles so peacefully among the hills of



Langholm Auld Kirk off Alma Place wherein lies the remains of Bauldy Beattie

Eskdale.

And often in flights of imagination the weel-kent haunts of the Dean Banks, the Meikleholm Hill, the Galaside, and Warbla Bogs are again revisited. Whenever the native might be he is sure to look upon "the 15th day o' July auld style" as the Red-Letter Day of the whole year.

The Langholmite who, in one of America's great cities, suddenly remembered that it was "the day" mounted an apple barrel at the door of a shop, and in stentorian voice proclaimed to an astonished crowd that there was "a muckle fair to be hadden in the Muckle Toon o' the Langholm" was indeed typical of all those sons in

whose breast glows the patriotic love of "The Langholm".

A good story is told about the Common Riding and the gallant Admiral in front of whose statue in the Market Place the Fair used to be cried in the old days. When Sir Pulteney was cruising in the Baltic, a member of his crew - a Langholm lad - had stored by his ration of rum for over a week in order to celebrate "the 15th day o' July auld style". When the eventful day arrived, he duly honoured it, and under the influence of the potent liquor he had imbibed, Jock mounted the poop deck and proclaimed the Langholm Fair to his bewildered messmates. The officer on duty, not being able to

understand either the proclamation or the enthusiasm of the hilarious sailor, ordered him to be put under arrest.

As the delinquent was being conveyed below, the Admiral, coming on deck, enquired as to the cause of the disturbance. The prisoner, on hearing his honoured commander's voice lustily sang out "Hoys yes, that's a time! Hoys yes, that's two times! Hoys yes, that's the third and the last time!" There was a broad smile on the Admiral's face, and he was heard to say, "I see, it is the Common-Riding in Eskdale to be sure; let it be so here". And the jubilant son of the Muckle Toon was at once released.

There is still something of the old-time atmosphere in the Common-Riding the very marshalling of the horsemen reminding us of the days when our doughty forebears were ever ready to go forth to do battle in defence of their rights and liberties. These rights and liberties were publicly made known by the proclamation of the Langholm Fair, which, as everyone knows, was an annual observance of the first importance, even as it is to this day for it sets forth in no uncertain language the legal rights and privileges of the inhabitants of Langholm.

Bauldy Beattie

In his day - fully a century and a half ago - there was no more popular personage in the Muckle Toon than "Bauldy" Beattie, the Town Drummer and Fair Crier.

On these festive occasions while performing his duty, "Bauldy" wore a very fancy suit of clothes. His head was adorned with a three-cornered hat, while he was dressed in a drab coat with red plush knee breeches, a vest of the same colour, white stockings and broad-nebbed shoes. He lived in a thatched house at the foot of the Kirk Wynd and here he died in 1825 at the ripe age of 90 years. Bauldy Beattie is buried in the auld Kirkyard, and his tombstone may be seen nearby the south end of the kirk ruin.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 10th July 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 4691 sheep comprising of 2062 lambs, 2517 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 10th July 2025.

PRIME LAMBS

An increased entry of 2,062 prime lambs were presented for sale to a very strong ring of 14 purchasers ensuring all classes were again competitively bid for and sold to vendor advantage. A slight increase on last weeks high rates of returns ensured all vendors left Longtown absolutely delighted with their days trading. An unrivalled, sustainable and consistent trade proving that C&D Marts put farmers first and have done for generations.

Again more can be sold and are actively sought after on a weekly basis to satisfy demand.

Top price per head at £212 for a Suffolk lamb from Whitton, Corner Cottage.

Top price per kilo went to a pen of 5 Beltex lambs reaching 425.5p/kg from Beckfoot

Overall average of 367.41p/kg (SQQ 368.07p/kg)

PLEASE NOTE –

Our auctioneers and fields personal are here to assist in anyway they can regarding blue tongue restrictions and any queries. Please do not hesitate to get in

touch to clear up any uncertainties.

Principal prices (Per kilo)

Suffolk - £212 Corner Cottage, £208 The Land, £205 Guardsmill, £200 West Houses, £200 Broomhills, £200 Corner Cottage, £199 West Oathlaw
Texel - £208 Woodside of Chapelton, £199 & £196 Kirkton, £189 Guardsmill, £1888 The Land, £187 Netherhill, £185 Nilston Rigg
Beltex - £200 Beckfoot, £189 Dykehead, £187 (x3) Edendales, £184 Dykehead
Zwartble - £194 Holmlea
Dutch Texel - £180 & £158 Broomhills
Charollais - £179 Tinnishall
Southdown - £165 & £145 Steel Hall
Badgerface - £164 & £154 5 Easy Ingliston
Cheviot - £151 Dormansteads
Hampshire - £151 Steel Hall
Easycare - £150 & £136 High Trehwitt
Cheviot Mule - £148 Dormansteads
Romney - £146 New Hummerbecks
Dorset - £144 Heathery Knowe
Cross - £143 & £135 Whiteside
Berrichon - £131 Carse Farm
Blackface - £105 Prospect House

Principal prices (Per head)

Beltex – 425.5p & 409.3p Beckfoot, 407.7p East House, 404.7p Kirkton, 392.4p East House, 31.5p Dykehead, 390.2p Heathery Knowe, 390p Comeyside

Texel – 390.5p Sandbed, 388.4p High Stenries, 387.3p Nilston Rigg, 387.2p Dashwell Green, 386.4p Kirkton
Suffok – 384.1p Chesterhall Parks, 382.2p Whins, 381.6p Carnochan, 380p Rigfoot, 380p Whins
Easycare – 378p & 352.9p High Trehwitt
Dutch Texel – 371.8p & 346.2p Broomhills
Badgerface – 366.7p & 352.2p 5 East Inglison
Charollais – 365.3p Tinnishall, 361p Hallburn
Hampshire – 363.9p Steel Hall
Cheviot - £351.2p Dormansteads
Dorset – 351p Heathery Knowe
Cheviot Mule – 348.2p Dormansteads
Southdown – 347.4p & 345.2p Steel Hall
Cross – 346.2p & 340p Whiteside
Berrichon – 335.9p Carse Farm
Romney – 331.8p New Hummerbecks
Blackface – 300p Prospect House
Zwartble – 258.7p Holmlea

CAST EWES AND RAMS

Another strong show of 2,517 cast ewes and rams were sold to a very fast trade. Topping the ewes was the heaviest pure bred texel ewe to have ever graced the premises topping at a near centre record of £490 from Beckfoot.call classes of ewes both heavy and light will be re-

quired as Trade for next week again looks solid and numbers wanted to meet a very competitive ring of 15 active purchasers ringside at Longtown. Heavy ewes topped at £490 for a Texel ewe from Beckfoot
Lightweight ewes topped for a pair of Goats at £175 from Morison Farms, South Bogbain
Rams to £245 for a Charollais from Myles, Dalbog

Heavy ewes

Texel - £490 Beckfoot, £350 & £330 Shethin, £305 x 19 Beckfoot, £300 Skelfhill, £290 Kirkton, £290 Edendales
Blue Texel - £270 Shethin, £220 Woodside of Chapelton, £182 Beckfoot, £180 Shethin
Charollais - £238 & £220 Beckfoot, £220 Stewartfield, £212 Falla, £200 Shethin, £198 Stewartfield, £198 Hummerbecks, £195 Pennygowan, £190 Beckfoot
Suffolk - £228 Shethin, £222 Beckfoot, £220 The Land, £218 Little Swinburne, £218 & £215 Shethin, £215 The Land, £215 Heathery Knowe
Cheviot Mule - £215 Shethin, £212 West Farm, £200 Springhill, £192 Dashwell Green, £192 Jethart
North Country Cheviots - £208 (x2), £188 & £180 Shethin, £180 Dor-

mansteads

Blue Leicester - £198 West Farm, £190 Spoutbank, £188 Shethin
Cross - £195 Broomhills, £185 Lenaig, £182 Drumcairn, £180 Beckfoot
Border Leicester - £188 Beckfoot, £156 Dashwell Green
Beltex - £182 Corstane, £175 Shethin
Dorset - £178 & £160 Beckfoot
Zwartble - £172 Beckfoot, £168 Shethin
Lleyn - £170 Shethin, £158 Glenacardoch, £156 Cambeckhill, £155 New Hummerbecks
Romney - £150 Auchafour, £150 Ponteland, £146 Auchafour, £144 Rowanburn-foot

Lightweight ewes

Goats - £175 & £160 South Bogbain
Cheviot - £165 Shethin, £158 Springhill, £156 Kirkton
Kerry Hill - £150 Pendicle, £110 Springhill
Blackface - £148 Grindon Hill, £144 Keil, £141 Beckfoot, £138 Tinnis
Herdwick - £144 & £126 Pendicle, £114 Pole, £104 West Farm
Swaledale - £135 Meinan, £116 Pennygowan, £112 Heathery Knowe, £112 Meinan
Jacob - £120 Parks, £120 Springhill
Easycare - £116 West Farm
Shetland - £54 & £50 Pasture House

Rams

Charollais - £245 Dalbog
Texel - £240 East Greenridge, £238 Moorhills, £220 Dalbog, £195 Robmar, £190 East Greenridge
Cheviot - £200 Dalbog, £175 Est Greenridge, £168 & £165 Drumcairn
Suffolk - £195 Grindon Hill, £190 East Greenridge, £170 Corner Cottage
Lleyn - £175 Robmar
Beltex - £170 High Stenries
Blackface - £150 Penchrise, £142 Milnmark, £128 Arnicle

Averages:

Lambs

Light to	375p (375p)
Standard to	407.7p (364.68p)
Medium to	409.3p (369.1p)
Heavy to	425.5p (366.92p)
Over Weight	371p (349.67p)
Ewes	
Light to	£175 (£113.31)
Heavy to	£490 (£182.21)
Rams to	£245 (£122.64)



...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Brighter outlook for Music Festival after successful AGM

56 year old event gets brand-new committee and fresh enthusiasm

The future's looking much brighter for Newcastleton's much-loved Traditional Music Festival following a well-attended AGM.

The 56-year-old event, believed to be the oldest of its kind in Scotland, had been under threat after organisers said they could no longer continue.

For some years, the committee running the festival had lacked any local involvement, with many of the members living far from Copshaw.

Now though, the village has stepped up to do its bit to ensure the event continues and a brand-new committee has been elected to take it forward to its next chapter.

The new organisers have released a statement extending their heartfelt thanks to the outgoing members for their dedication, passion and countless hours of hard work over the years.

"The festival wouldn't be what it is today without you. A huge thank you as well to everyone who came out to support us at this year's fes-

tival – performers, volunteers, visitors and locals alike. Your energy and love for the music made the event one to remember.

"As we look ahead there may be some small changes, but we promise to honour the traditions and roots that made Newcastleton so special. We're already looking forward to welcoming you all back in 2026."

Former committee member Susie Kelly was swift to wish her successors all the best.

"It has been an absolute honour to have been involved in the running of this amazing festival for so many years," she said. "Change was necessary - the festival needed fresh input and support from the village and after the AGM, I was heartened (and relieved) that so many of the new committee and villagers were enthusiastic about keeping it going and keeping the traditional element of it alive."

"I wish you all the best and look forward to many more years of the oldest, best and most unique small festival in Scotland. GIT INtae the music, GIT OOT and play!"

Regular festival goers also warmly welcomed the news that their favourite event is to continue, including Dave McFadzean who has been coming to the festival almost every year since it began.

"Gled tae hear that the festival will continue," he wrote on social media. "Nithin stiys the same I suppose, but I'm heartened tae hear youse will be keeping the traditional elements o' the festival."

"I hae been gaun for ower 50 years and it is ayeways a highlight o' oor musical year. Mony thanks tae the ootgaun committee and hertfelt best wishes tae the new committee and for future."



Pureous Bunkumus back in safe hands

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PLANNING

(LANGHOLM COMMON RIDING) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2025

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close various roads in Langholm as detailed below. The closures are necessary to facilitate activities associated with Langholm Common Riding. Alt route 25/7/25 - via A7 at Hawick, A698, A6088 via Bonchester Bridge, B6357 to A7 at Canonbie and vice versa. Emergency vehicle access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Summer Fair Night, Thursday 24th July 2025

20:30 to 21:45 Parade route – from Town Hall via High St, Townfoot and back via High St, Thomas Telford Rd, Henry St, Walter St, Eskdail St, Caroline St, Elizabeth St, Thomas Telford Rd, High St to Town Hall.

21:00 to 21:30 Parade route – Townfoot, High St, Thomas Telford Rd, Henry St, Caroline St, Elizabeth St, Thomas Telford Rd, High St.

Common Riding Day, Friday 25th July 2025

08:15 to 22:00 High St/Market Pl. – various events / ceremonies involving periods of road closure.

08:30 to 09:00 Parade route – from Town Hall via High St, Thomas Telford Rd to the Buccleuch Centre round the Pump back via Thomas Telford Rd, High St to Ashley Bank, back via High St to Town Hall.

09:45 to 10:00 Parade route – from Town Hall via High St, Kirk Wynd and back via Kirk Wynd, High St, Thomas Telford Bridge and back via High St, Townfoot and back via Townfoot, High St, Kirk Wynd, Drove Rd, Barbrae, A7(T), U225a to Castleholm

10:15 to 12:00 Parade route – Kirk Wynd, High St to Greenbank and back via High St to Ashley Bank and back via High St, Kirk Wynd, Drove Rd, Barbrae to the Kilgreen.

20:30 to 21:00 Parade route – from Castleholm via U225a, A7(T), Townhead, High St to Town Hall

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and Galloway

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Gordon Johnstone Memorial Cup



Ryan Johnstone, Gordon's grandson presented the trophy to the Hawick Captain Evan Alexander.

Cricket

The annual Gordon Johnstone Memorial Game was held between Langholm 1st XI and Hawick 1st XI on Friday Night; this was the sixth encounter since the conception in 2019 with Hawick holding a 4-1 advantage.

Hawick batted first and found themselves in trouble at 4 for 2 after Corey Park's first over. The next wicket to fall was Brogan who holed out to Danny Tait off Jay Gordon's bowling with the score on 25. When Evan Alexander fell to Chris Stewart Langholm were now in the box seat with the visitors 29 for 4. Hawick responded with Murray and Thomson adding 32 before Thomson fell to Jake Park. Murray fell LBW to Bailey Donaldson with the score now 89 for 6 in the 17th over. Molloy unleashed a flurry of boundaries with 29 coming off the last three overs with Hawick finishing on 122 for 6.

A solid start by Bell and Stewart saw Langholm reach 22 before Stewart fell for 9. Bell followed soon after for 13 with the score on 33. Gregor Park joined Nicky P and they took the score to 53 before Park fell for 5. After 10 overs Langholm were still in the hunt at 56 for 3 especially with Piszczkiewicz at the crease. Alas he fell with the score on 62, followed soon after by Jake Park and Corey Park to leave Langholm 64 for 6. Some good batting by Hughie Donaldson and Jay Gordon saw Langholm reach 80 before Gordon fell, and then Hughie was run out off the last ball with Langholm on 92, 30 runs short.

A disappointing result for Langholm, but the Hawick side is a young talented side who fielded, bowled and batted well. Skipper for the day Ryan Johnstone, Gordon's grandson presented the trophy to the Hawick Captain Evan Alexander.

Benty's Beth excels in Pony Club events



Beth Porter in action on Red Mystique

Equestrian

17 year old Beth Porter who lives at the Benty, recently participated in pony club events at Oatridge and at Morris Equestrian in Kilmarnock.

Beth is a member of the Dumfriesshire branch of the Pony Club and she has qualified to be part of a team to take part in showjumping, eventing and dressage competitions at the JCB pony club national championships in Warwickshire in August.

She will compete as part of a team for showjumping and dressage and individually for the eventing. Last year Beth received funding from the Funders Forum, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Holywood Trust for which she was very grateful.

She rides a horse called Red Mystique which is based at Waterbeck.

Her ambition is to qualify for the Scone International horse trials next year.

Endurance cyclists to visit Holm and Eskdalemuir

Endurance cyclists tackling the 950-mile round trip between London and Edinburgh will be passing through Eskdale and Liddesdale in August. 2,500 amateur cyclists from 57 countries, supported by around a thousand volunteers will be on the road of this not-for-profit event. It takes place every four years. Staggered start times and the different paces of the riders will mean that they often ride alone or in twos and threes. It is not a race but a test of physical and mental stamina; just completing is the main goal for most riders.

There is a 128-hour time limit set to complete the ride. There are a number of local community venues popping up along

the route where volunteers will give the riders a taste of local hospitality. In Scotland, on their way north riders will visit Newcastle where there will be a rest stop in the village hall before heading to Hawick and Moffat and then to Edinburgh. On the return leg, the mandatory route takes in Innerleithen and Eskdalemuir which is one of the 14 refreshment stops. These community-run venues offer riders a place to refuel.

Volunteers are required for the Eskdalemuir stop so please con-

tact hub@eskdalemuir.com if you can offer a few hours over a 24-hour period from 4th August 9am till 6th at approximately 5pm. This will be followed by a meal for the volunteers as a thank you. Alternatively, if you could help set up on Sunday 3rd and/or tidy up on the 7th that would be helpful.

Details of the route can be seen at <https://londonedinburghlondon.com>



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Cornet visits Langholm Old

Zander's memorial and social night

Bowling

Langholm Old bowling played Langholm New last Tuesday night. It resulted in a home win by 78 shots to 40.

Scores: E Aitken, K Irving, W Irving 15; R Park, J Kingstrey, L Tolson 11; L Keeney, S Devlin, S Barker 14; A Nish, E Beattie, I Earsman 10; T Henderson, D Ritchie, A Aitken 15; R Davidson, R Innes, M Grieve 10; K Nawrocki, G Cuthbertson, R Johnstone 15; Eilean Beattie, Booba, M Chambers 4; M Rose, B Jardine, D Irving 19; L Reid, M Brown, P Warwick 5.

Langholm Old Town Bowling Club held the Zander Turnbull memorial open singles match on Sunday. 60 bowlers participated with Stevie Barker, of Langholm old beating Colin Spalding from Hawick in the final. The beaten



semi-finalists were Luke Tolson, of Langholm new and Niall Cubbon of Langholm old. The cornet presented the prizes.

A good night was held afterwards when the Club hosted Cornet Ewan Patterson along with his right-

and left-hand men, the semi-jubilee Cornet Stevie Hotson and his wife Janie as well as Fiona and Davie Patterson parents of the Cornet.

The company was entertained by Billy Young, Charlie and Vi Graham, Bob and Eric Laidlaw.

And from Caldbeck to Copshaw for Langholm New



Bowling

On Sunday 6th July, Roy, Duncan and Luke from Langholm New Town club won the Caldbeck American Triples at Newcastle. There was an entry of 24 and the lads won all their 4 group games, accumulating 29 points which meant they were the highest scorers of the day. Caldbeck is a really happy hunting ground for them, well done.

Newcastle open pairs tournament on Saturday 12th had 28 entries. Thanks go to Robert Robson for the sponsorship. Runner's Up - Jim Renwick and Davie Oliver from Ancrum. Congratulations to Winners Luke Tolson and Mark Chambers of Langholm New. Thank you for everyone for coming.

TOP: Duncan Ritchie, Luke Tolson and Roy Park at Caldbeck

BOTTOM: Mark Chambers, Robert Robson and Luke Tolson



Highs, lows and batting woes

Cricket

A poor batting display looked to have consigned Langholm 1st XI to a heavy defeat at home to table toppers Stainton as the visitors put on 49 for the first wicket after Langholm's batting woes continued by posting a lowly 100. But a tremendous effort in the heat bowling and fielding almost brought victory for Langholm as they reduced Stainton to 90 for 7, but the experienced Martin Ruddock saw Stainton home.

Langholm skipper John Bell had no hesitation in batting in the Mediterranean like conditions hoping to make Stainton wilt in the sun. Langholm made a solid

start with Duncan Elliott and Chris Stewart adding 33 for the 1st wicket, before Elliott fell for 13 caught off Haughan. Bell joined Stewart and they added 10 before Stewart fell in the 20's again caught behind off Greenwood. The Langholm innings quickly disintegrated, losing 4 wickets for 12 runs. First Nicky P holed out on the boundary with Stainton claiming the catch, Dave Steele fell for 1 caught off J Hodson followed by the skipper Bell for 9 bowled by Haughan. When Tony Steele was caught off a full toss Langholm were in deep trouble at 64 for 6. The Park twins Corey and his Dad eked the score up to 73 before Corey gave a catch back to the bowler



Ruddick. Vice-Captain Andrew Paisley making his season debut (he's had a busy summer) was next in. He and Park added 17 before Park was bowled for 6. A couple more last blows from Paisley and Aidan Wilson saw the score reach 100 before Paisley making 18 valuable runs. Stainton seemed to be cruising

to victory as they reached 49 without loss in the 16th over, but a three-wicket burst by Tony Steele rocked them back as he removed Wilson for 34, Greenwood for 11 and Hodgson for 7 leaving Stainton 67 for 3. Ryan Johnstone was the next to strike with Tallis spooning a catch to Aidan Wilson, then having Jackson caught by keeper Bell with Stainton wobbling now on 76 for 5. The score had reached 82 when Haughan creamed a back-shot smash off Stewart to the short cover where Aidan Wilson took an absolute wordly of a catch to leave the visitors 6 down. Andrew Paisley made it seven down when he had Fawcett caught behind to leave Stainton 90 for 7. Langholm

threw everything at them with several close calls with all bowlers bowling out of their skin but alas Ruddick and Hodgson survived and saw them home in the 36 over. A tremendous bowling display by Langholm especially Tony Steele and Andrew Paisley, with Paisley bowling his full 10 overs in the heat. Tony took 3 for 4 off 8 overs, Johnstone 2 for 12, Stewart 1 for 17 and Paisley 1 for 19.

It goes without saying that 20 or 30 more runs by Langholm and this result would be different, a large proportion of the batsmen got themselves out. Next week we are home to Edenhall, hoping for a win so we can finish for the mid-season break off the bottom.

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