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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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MURTHOLM NO MORE!

Widespread disappointment as Loreburn Housing reneges on its promises for Langholm housing

Langholm's aspirations for a transformative housing development at Murtholm have taken a significant hit following Loreburn Housing Association's decision to withdraw from the project. The move, part of Loreburn's strategic shift toward smaller, community-led initiatives, has sparked disappointment and concern across the town.

Loreburn's Chief Executive Kirsteen McGinn acknowledged the impact of the decision, stating, "We remain committed to Langholm and the wider region. While we won't lead this particular project, we're eager to support local ambitions through partnerships and advice." The association emphasized its alignment with Dumfries and Galloway Council's housing strategy and its focus on financial resilience and sustainable housing.

However, the announcement has stirred strong reactions from local leaders and residents, many of whom feel the town has been let down.

■ Councillor Denis Male expressed frustration, saying, "The situation with Loreburn, unfortunately, had been expected for some time. It is just another blow to the redevelopment of our community." He highlighted the urgent housing needs of elderly, disabled, and young residents, and called on businesses to consider Langholm for future housing projects.

■ Ronnie Tait of the Eskdale Foundation offered a pragmatic

view: "Whilst this is disappointing news, I personally believe a private developer is the best way forward to building much-needed housing."

■ Others voiced deeper emotional responses. Kate Turk, former manager of Langholm's day centre, said she was "disgusted," recalling years of consultations and even a sod-cutting ceremony at Murtholm. "We were all really impressed about what was to happen there and were planning our retirement," she said.

■ Local businessman David Latimer echoed the need for diverse housing options, noting, "People are moving away as they can't get suitable housing here."

■ Resident Mags Wilson lamented Langholm's continued neglect: "We're in the sticks and people forget we exist. It's disappointing for the older generation."

■ Charlie Graham urged broader outreach: "We should look at all possibilities. Cast the net wider."

■ Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council, led by Chairman Stuart Clement, issued a strong statement criticizing Loreburn's lack of engagement. "Loreburn's decision to step back, without engaging with the community or its representatives, undermines trust and raises serious questions about the organisation's commitment to collaborative, community-led development."

"While acknowledging Loreburn's strategic realignment, the Community Council remains unconvinced that smaller-scale projects will meet



PROPHETIC?: The sign for the development lay abandoned for many months, a sign of things to come.

Langholm's pressing housing needs. "We call on Loreburn and other stakeholders to clarify what alternative plans, if any, are being considered for our town," Clement added.

The announcement by Loreburn,

although expected, is very disappointing for Langholm. Many people put a great deal of time into this project and many had high hopes for it and what it was going to offer the town. With no care home here, extra care housing was

thought to be the next best thing and now that it is not going to be built it means that there is no suitable housing for some of our community members.

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- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
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Church Notices

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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
 Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser
 All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

EDITORIAL: Murtholm

The decision of Loreburn to stop pursuing the housing development that was proposed at the Murtholm invites a few questions such as how much money has been spent on taking that project to the point at which it ceased? Who actually owns the land where the houses were meant to be built? What do we do now? We'll endeavour to try and find answers to some of those questions in coming weeks.

The E&L asked Wheatley Homes in March if they had any plans to build homes here and they told us that they have no plans to build housing in Eskdale, Eskdalemuir, Canonbie, Westerkirk or Langholm. In Langholm sheltered housing is currently provided at Greenbank by Trust Housing Association while two local organisations – the Eskdale Foundation and the Langholm Initiative



BRIDGE TO NOWHERE: Loreburn's proposed bridge across the Esk to the new development

have properties which they rent at affordable prices. The Langholm Alliance is trying to take over the Langholm old primary school building to create housing there, but at the moment the property still belongs to Dumfries and Galloway Council.

All Scottish local authorities are required to determine priorities for housing and

grants are allocated to Councils and registered social landlords for new social housing projects. Apart from Wheatley and Loreburn the other RSL in the region is Homes4D&G. Unless there are private developers coming in, it doesn't look as if we are going to have substantial numbers of new properties built here.

The latest Muckle setback

< From Page 1

David Stevenson of The Stevenson Trust commented: "Sadly, this is not a surprise but that doesn't make it any easier to accept. Langholm simply isn't on the radar when it comes to community issues like housing, business or community services"

Chair of The Langholm Initiative, Mairi Telford Jammeh said: "The announcement by Loreburn, although expected, is very disappointing for Langholm. Many people put a great deal of time into this project and many had high hopes for it and what it was going to offer the town. With no care home here, extra care housing was thought to be the next best thing and now that it is not going to be built it means that there is no suitable housing for some of our community members."

Langholm Day Centre manager Sandra Graham said: "With the news of Loreburn Housing withdrawing from Langholm the general feeling is extreme disappointment. Langholm is desperately in need of single level houses.

There are now older people leaving the town because of the lack of availability of accessible one-story houses.

Its just disheartening and devastating for the town."

Chair of Langholm Alliance, Mary Hudson commented: "Loreburn Housing Association's official announcement of their withdrawal from the Murtholm project only confirms what has been known for sometime. It is a body blow to Langholm where there is desperate need for the accommodation Loreburn was supposed to provide and we have been

badly let down again.

"I can only hope that this announcement encourages Dumfries and Galloway Council to expedite the Community Asset Transfer procedures regarding Langholm Old School so that the Langholm Alliance can take forward our plans for the provision of affordable housing for the Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk community on the site."

South of Scotland Enterprise, which is the economic development agency for our area, sent a comment "We know based on previous announcements that Loreburn Housing Association were reviewing their future building plans and this announcement reflects that review and the Association's decisions about its future priorities and impact. Through the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership, we are

committed to working with partners including registered social landlords to tackle the urgent need for more homes and more choice of homes in the region. The REP's Housing Action Plan, launched last year, aims to help attract more people to work and live here, allowing young people to stay, growing the local construction sector and looking at how we can build houses quicker and more sustainably."

As Langholm grapples with this setback, the community remains united in its call for transparency, meaningful engagement, and urgent action to address its housing crisis. The hope now lies in attracting private developers and ensuring that future decisions truly reflect the needs and voices of Langholm's residents.

Bus Network review



Council officers are recommending to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee next Tuesday the scope of a piece of work to consider options for the development of the bus network in Dumfries and Galloway. The officers propose that a transport specialist is sought to take forward and lead the work as to how the future bus network can best be developed and propose a model for its delivery.

There will be two streams of work – one to create a vision based on evidence to create a bus network which addresses public concern and which meets community needs. The second

workstream will set out the operational and financial framework for the proposed network focusing on the option of the Council creating a publicly owned, arms' length bus operation. The 2019 Transport (Scotland) Act gave local authorities the ability to run their own bus services in the public interest.

The consultant appointed to do the work will report to both the Committee and to the SWestrans board on a regular basis to keep them apprised of progress. The cost of the work will be up to £250,000 and will involve engaging with key groups and communities and with other stakeholders.

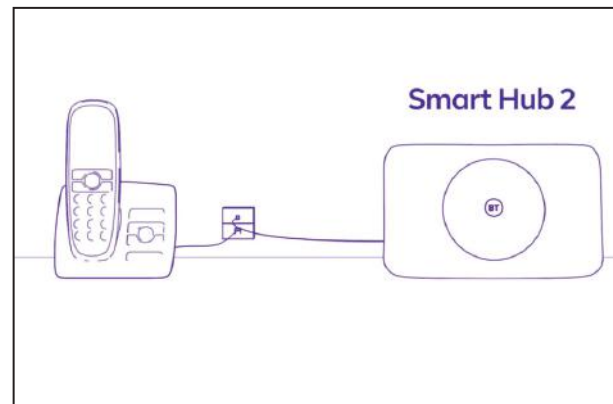
BT responds to the E&L story on telephone changes

Rural communities communications concerns

Following up on last week's story about the switch to digital phones in Eskdalemuir and the concerns of local people we put the problem to BT who said:

"Digital Voice is part of an industry-wide shift from analogue to digital landlines, we recognise the growing dependency on good connectivity across the UK and we're committed to building and delivering the best modern networks for our customers. Where communities have concerns about the upgrade of technology locally, we're working hard to address them with free battery back-up units, enabling calls in the event of a power outage; a hybrid phone with a battery back-up of eight hours, enabling calls over the mobile network; and engineers to give in-home support for telecare users.

"The old analogue equipment is increasingly prone to faults, and last year, there was a 45% rise in the number of PSTN incidents reported to Ofcom. BT has been raising awareness of the switchover on a regional basis, supported by local events, advertising campaigns and working with local charity partners, key industry groups and



This is a still from BT's video on the installation of Digital Voice

stakeholders. If there's a power cut, customers are advised to use a mobile phone if they're able to do so. If mobile is not an option, battery back-up units are available for purchase. For customers who have disclosed any additional needs, we will provide a free battery back-up unit or hybrid phone, on request.

"BT now offers a more advanced battery back-up unit which enables digital calls to be made in the event of a prolonged power outage. We estimate that less than 1% of our landline customer's premises have insufficient mobile signal to make an emergency call. This

number will drop as we continue to invest in expanding and strengthening mobile coverage in rural communities. Emergency calls can be made on any mobile phone network. If a customer lives in an area where their network doesn't have reception but another does, they will get emergency calls only."

If you have any particular concerns about this issue, or any related stories, please send them in the E&L on newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Public toilet review

A report going to the Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 4th November sets out the scope and timeline of a review of public toilets in Dumfries and Galloway. They were last reviewed six years ago although that review was never completed due to the Covid pandemic.

The report also highlights that a Changing Places toilet is to be developed in Langholm attached to the existing toilet facility at the Kilngreen – this is in conjunction with the Eskdale Foundation. The review of public toilets will include public consultation and will cover usage, conditions, alternative options, communication and signage and financial considerations. The final report has to be completed in a year's time.

Road drains cleared

Following the recent floods on the A7 and Hallpath, Dumfries and Galloway Council have been to clear out all the road drains on Hillside Crescent with a view to alleviating part of the problem. The storm drains are still to be attended to.

Celebration night at Hub

Eskdalemuir old school and community hub is having a night of celebration on Saturday 1st November at 7pm as part of a community ownership festival supported by Community Land Scotland.

The Hub is asking readers if they have any memorabilia to do with the old school or the build of the Hub. This could be school photos or school books and staff at the Hub are asking for them to be brought in before the event so that staff can make up a display.

The evening will have food, music, and a quiz including a local history section. Everyone is welcome to go along to the evening.



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Canonbie man sentenced

A Canonbie man, Andrew Jackson aged 55 was sentenced at the High Court in Glasgow last week to 16 years in prison for sexual abuse offences that occurred from 2002 to 2019.

The abuse was of five victims, two of whom were minors at the time of the crimes. Jackson was arrested by Police in July 2022. Detective Inspector Graeme Robertson from the Public Protection Unit at Dumfries said "It doesn't matter how long ago a crime was committed, we will use every available resource to ensure that those responsible are arrested and charged. Jackson is now behind bars, no longer able to inflict harm on anyone else. We know it is incredibly difficult for victims to come forward and relieve the abuse they have suffered and I want to thank them for speaking with us. I hope this outcome helps them in some way as they continue to move forward with their lives."

MSP charged with sexual offences

Member of Scottish Parliament Colin Smyth appeared in court last week charged with voyeurism and possession of indecent photographs of children. The South Scotland MSP had previously been arrested on Tuesday August 5, prompting his suspension from Scottish Labour.

Last week he appeared in private at Dumfries Sheriff Court where he faced two charges. The first is a charge under a section of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act dealing with voyeurism, which refers to recording someone "doing a private act". The second is a charge under part of the Civic Government Scotland Act 1982, which refers to possessing indecent images of children. No plea was entered, and the case was committed for further examination, with the 52 year old being granted bail.

Smyth was elected as an MSP in 2016 and returned to Holyrood at the 2021 election. A Crown Office spokesman said in relation to the court



Colin Smyth

appearance: "These matters are active under the Contempt of Court Act 1981. The provisions of this Act protect the integrity of proceedings, preserve access to justice for victims and secure the rights of people accused of crime.

Anyone publishing items about active cases is advised to exercise caution as material must not be commentary or analysis of evidence, witnesses or accused."

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Bloch Wind Farm £27m community benefit package

RES, a British company has joined forces with local Community Councils to form the Bloch Development Group, which will make strategic decisions on how to utilise the community benefit funding from the proposed Bloch Wind Farm, if it is consented and becomes operational. The main remit of the group will be to ensure the community benefit package supports projects and initiatives aligned with the communities' priorities, as well as monitoring its progress once it is up and running.

The proposed 18-turbine Bloch Wind Farm is located on land adjacent to the existing Solway-bank Wind Farm, near Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway.

"Our Bloch Wind Farm proposal, if consented, will deliver a community benefit package worth £27 million over its operational lifetime. Here at RES, we work directly with the community to understand how our renewable energy projects could support the local area and help to secure long-term economic, social and environmental benefits. It is important to us that decisions are community-led so we're delighted to have formed the Bloch Development Group." said Jim Cameron, Senior Development Project Manager at RES.



The founding members of the Bloch Development Group include representatives of Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council and Canonbie and District Community Council as well as representatives of Middlebie and Waterbeck, Kirkpatrick Fleming and District and Kirtle and Eaglesfield Community Councils.

Stephen Muir, Chair of the Bloch Development Group said "We've formed the Bloch Development Group to ensure the community benefit from Bloch Wind Farm, if it is consented, is enjoyed by all of our communities. If you've got any suggestions for projects or initiatives you would like to see delivered in your local area, from the benefit package, I encourage you to reach out to your Community Council representative who sits on the Bloch Development Group."

World Stroke Day highlights research

New research shows almost two thirds of Scots don't know stroke is a leading cause of complex disability. The nation is woefully unaware of stroke, and the lifelong impact it can have on Scotland's stroke survivors, according to new data released for World Stroke Day which is on 29 October. Stroke is Scotland's third biggest killer and the leading cause of complex adult disability. New survey results found that people are worryingly uninformed about stroke and the risk it poses to health and long-term quality of life.

The UK survey of 2,000 members of the public and 1,000 stroke survivors found 63% of Scots didn't know that stroke is the UK's leading cause of complex adult disability, when in reality almost two thirds (60%) of stroke survivors are left disabled. The survey also found that only 24% of Scottish respondents thought stroke survivors need long-term rehabilitation and recovery support with 26% thinking it took a year or less to recover. Far too many Scots don't know stroke can



have long-term effects, which need long-term, and potentially lifelong, support to recover.

In Scotland, the Stroke Association is calling for three things it believes are essential to ensuring stroke survivors get appropriate rehabilitation support for as long as they need it, and today's findings have injected renewed urgency. John Watson, Associate Director for the Stroke Association in Scotland, said that they want every stroke patient to leave hospital with a personalised rehabilitation plan and contact details for stroke

services for ongoing support, then, after six months, to have a thorough review of their progress.

According to the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme 2025 annual report only four of Scotland's health boards - Dumfries & Galloway, Forth Valley, Lanarkshire and Shetland - have had 'Rehabilitation Assessment' - including devising a personalised rehabilitation plan - fully embedded in stroke care and being consistently delivered, with the other 10 rated "amber" for the past two years.

John's inspirational Tourette's journey

FILM REVIEW

The film 'I Swear', which tells the powerful story of John Davidson MBE, a man living with Tourette's Syndrome in Galashiels was on at Loreburn Cinema, Annan last week.

John's journey has inspired many people, and his experiences have previously been shared in several television documentaries. The first of these, 'John's Not Mad', was shown in 1989 and brought national attention to his story. The film opens with a memorable scene when John, portrayed by Robert Aramayo, is preparing to receive his MBE from Queen Elizabeth II. As the moment approaches, his nerves take over and he involuntarily blurts out the first of many expletives we hear throughout the film. It's a powerful reminder of the reality for people living with the poorly understood Tourette's Syndrome. Every now and again we jump with another swear word!

The story, after the royal run-



in, flashes back to when John was a young boy, played superbly by Scott Ellis Watson. He is happy and popular but involuntary tics start to creep into his voice and mannerisms. Adults and authority figures are immediately dismissive, from John's parents to his belt-happy headteachers. It is only several years later when he meets Dottie (Maxine Peake), the mother of a friend and a mental-health nurse, and caretaker Tommy (Peter Mullan), that life becomes bearable. Director Kirk Jones used 30 actors with Tourette's

among his 90-strong cast. The film does justice to John's life and to those who helped him on his journey as well as to those people living with Tourette's. It's funny, tender, and moving and the three of us who went to see it together found it inspirational. John inspired people through teaching and workshops to help others gain an insight and understanding of the condition. The acting was superb including throughout and the film is definitely well worth a watch.

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Chloe and Scott tie the knot



Langholm couple Chloe Johnstone and Scott Collins were married in Langholm Parish Church on Saturday 13th September.

The bride was attended by Maid of Honour Ellie Hotson and Bridesmaids Jessica Calvert, Nicole Cuthbert, Aimee Collins and Flower Girl Isla Collins.

The Groom's Best Man was Gary Collins and Ushers were Derek Johnson, Daniel Johnstone, Ryan Johnstone and Jayden Collins.

Photo by Naomi House Photography

Lamont slams pylon plans

MP's debate in Westminster

Borders MP John Lamont has slammed plans for mega-pylons, as he held a debate in Parliament on the impact of electricity infrastructure in rural communities. During the debate, he reiterated his opposition to the project because it would damage local communities and the countryside.

The MP has been fighting the plans since they were announced, alongside a deluge of applications for solar farms, wind farms, and battery energy storage units.

Last weekend, the MP joined local residents on Lauder Common to see the area threatened by development for a new electricity substation, covering an area around the size of 40 football pitches. He said that the Borders is being inundated with plans for new energy infrastructure which is deeply unpopular with local people as it will cause damage to people's quality of life, scar the countryside and destroy our environment and natural habitats. John urged the Minister to come to the Scottish Borders to meet local residents.



Witchcraft at the Hub

Judith Hewitt, Dumfries and Galloway Council Museum Curator will be giving a talk about the history of witchcraft in the region at Eskdalemuir Hub. The talk will take place on 21st November at 7pm and has been organised by the Eskdale History Society. Judith was previously a manager at the Devil's Porridge museum and studied history at Nottingham University and then did a master's degree in local and regional history.

The Dumfries and Galloway region stood as a centre for witchcraft trials and persecutions during the 16th and 17th centuries. The study of witchcraft in Southwest Scotland generally looks at Dumfries and Galloway, Wigtown, Ayrshire and Kirkcudbright which at times, all worked in conjunction to bring about persecution for confirmed witches.

In fact, it is estimated that the Southwest of Scotland saw 158 combined cases of witchcraft. The accusations in this area of Scotland were predominantly concerned with troubles with agriculture, family and neighbours. They included offences like using magic to kill cattle, crop damages, bewitching livestock, and cursing resulting in death. Witchcraft accusations were used as a way to control women in a community and lore tapped into local anxieties.

Politicians try to silence new energy objectors

Scottish Conservative and Unionist MSP Craig Hoy has attacked 'arrogant' politicians at Westminster and Holyrood for trying to silence communities over new energy projects.

Mr Hoy's comments come after Labour, the SNP and Reform's representatives at Holyrood voted to strip local residents of their power to object to new wind farms, solar farms, battery storage units and mega-pylons blighting the landscape.

The South of Scotland representative said that this demonstrated how out of touch SNP First Minister John Swinney, Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar and Nigel Farage's man at Holyrood are, adding they have displayed utter contempt towards Scotland's rural communities, whose voices must be heard and respected.

Mr Hoy also said that this shocking decision, which only the Scottish Conservatives opposed, could lead to the permanent scarring of our countryside. He added that they will continue to stand up for the



Conservative MSP Craig Hoy is worried that 'arrogant' members of Parliament are putting up barriers to opposition

people of South Scotland and demand that local residents have the final say when it comes to any new major developments.

Craig Hoy MSP said: "Communities across Scotland are being shamefully silenced by arrogant politicians at Westminster and Holyrood. Local

people are understandably alarmed at the prospect of mega pylons and vast battery storage sites scarring the countryside – yet Labour, the SNP and Reform have shamefully voted to strip them of their power to object to these proposals."



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Craig Hoy MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for South Scotland region



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Farming on the Border

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Farm Twin

A new project which it's believed could transform dairy farming has been unveiled by SRUC's Research Centre.

Farm-Twin is the world's first open-source platform of its kind and has been funded by the Digital Dairy Chain.

The scheme creates a virtual representation of the entire farm system and animals using real-time data from sensors, telemetry and other digital tools.

It can integrate multiple streams of data from different vendors and visualise data through intuitive dashboards as well as supporting predictive analytics, allowing health issues to be detected early.

If an animal is flagged as potentially unwell, the system can trigger a shedding gate to isolate the cow, while notifying the farmer.

SRUC Data Scientist Dr Mazdak Salavati, says the real power of farm data lies in combining different sources to uncover insights that a single system alone can't.

"Farm-twin addresses this challenge head-on by aggregating data from a wide range of technologies into a single, unified platform," he said.

"Pulling data in near real-time from various sources including animal health records, milk production, feed intake, and environmental conditions."

Farm-twin is completely open-source and developers and researchers are encouraged to build adapters for new technologies and customise the platform to meet their needs.

SRUC Principal and Chief Executive Professor Wayne Powell says it's a vital new tool for the dairy industry.

"This open-source platform will support entrepreneurship, drive new market opportunities, and equip the workforce with vital digital skills all while accelerating our journey toward a more productive, resilient, and sustainable future."

Awards night for the farming community

Tarff Valley take the prize for Animal Health Provider

The successes of farmers and others in the local agricultural industry have been recognized in awards ceremonies on both sides of the border.

The Scottish Agricultural Awards, now in its third year, saw the Animal Health Provider of the Year Award presented to the Castle Douglas based agricultural merchants Tarff Valley.

The company say they were thrilled to be chosen as winners.

"This incredible achievement is a true reflection of the hard work and dedication of our Registered Animal Health Advisers, whose commitment has made this success possible," a spokesman said.

The Sustainable Farm of the Year was presented to Upper Locharwoods Farm in Dumfries.

The farm's John Jamieson said he was overwhelmed and privileged.

"Sustainability has been part of our farm for all of our farming life - it is all about harmony



Tarff Valley team celebrating their win

between nature and farming, and works for us," he said.

"We have been organic for 26 years, which has been challenging at times but very rewarding."

Meanwhile in the British Farming Awards, Graeme Parker of Wigtownshire - far better known as the Hoof GP - won the Content Creator of the Year Award.

Graeme has an astonishing 8.1 million followers and uses his massive online presence to pass on his extensive knowledge of hoof care, herd health and livestock welfare to audiences worldwide.

The Diversification of the Year Award for small to medium businesses went to the Cum-

brian-based Eden Yard, which three years ago became the county's first producer of cold-pressed extra virgin rapeseed oil.

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Turnip growers seek to revive the lowly neep

It used to be the most sought-after vegetable at this time of year - not so much for its eating qualities as its ability to be transformed into a spooky lantern.

Sadly, the humble neep lost its Halloween crown when it was usurped by the pumpkin, which was bigger, bolder and much easier to carve.

Now however growers think it's time to revive the fortunes of the turnip - with a bold new national campaign called "Neeps Rising: Scotland's rooted revolution."

The six-month initiative aims to reintroduce the turnip, swede, or 'neep', to a new generation of Scots while celebrating its place in the nation's food heritage.

The campaign's being spearheaded by East of Scotland Growers and ESG Drysdale, whose brand and marketing manager Nat Cowx says the plan is to show people how much can be done



with a neep.

"Our goal is to reframe swede as a fresh, modern ingredient, moving it beyond its traditional seasonal role and showing consumers just how versatile, nutritious and affordable it can be year-round," he said.

ESG Drysdale Commercial Director John Inglis has also been singing the vegetable's praises.

"It's fantastic value for money, keeps well, and is delicious all year round in the UK - whether roasted as a side, made into air fryer wedges, or even shredded into coleslaw."

One strand of the campaign will see schools in the Borders given the opportunity to go on farm and factory tours and the chance to try a hands-on experience of vegetable production.

Blood Bikes tell their tale to Canonbie Probus

Vital life-saving service was formed from a chance conversation

Last Wednesday Canonbie Probus Club enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Dave Hook, founder and chairman of Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes. It was a return visit for Dave who first visited the Club in April 2017. Having retired from the Police Force in 2011 he began working on establishing a Blood Bikes group after a chance conversation his wife had had with a man trying to establish a group in Cumbria. Eventually the Cumbria and South-west Scotland Blood Bikes was formed and began work.

The aim was to provide a free service for the NHS transferring blood samples, medical notes, equipment, and any related items to save the NHS using taxis which had to be paid for. The service grew steadily but then the Scottish Government decided that cross-border organisations should be split and so in June 2015 the D&G Blood Bikes went live. At that time the cost of a taxi for transporting samples

from Stranraer to Dumfries was £75, though if they needed to be taken up to Glasgow for more detailed examination the charge rose to £150. In the first month 14 runs were completed but as time progressed it grew to 4 or 5 runs a day going up to Glasgow with an approximate annual cost implication of about £144,000 to the NHS.

Following a meeting with the managers of all the medical and hospital centres involved a daily 9am run to Glasgow was initiated and in the 10 years the service has been provided only 4 days have been missed Up to 300 samples, from GP surgeries, medical centres and hospitals, can be carried daily. Other more urgent deliveries are dealt with separately.

130 volunteers

When the organisation started it was serviced by just 9 volunteers with no vehicles provided. Now there are 130 volunteers, 15 bikes and 9 cars which are spread out over the county. At

any one time there are three volunteers on duty, one duty controller and two riders, and backup is also available. The life saving organisation provides its service to the NHS entirely free of charge through the efforts of the 130 volunteers.

After the excellent talk and some discussions a vote of thanks was given by George Turner and President John Mitchell presented Dave with a donation from the Club.



Members of Canonbie Probus Club were delighted to have a return visit from Cumbria and Southwest Scotland Blood Bikes founder Dave Hook

MP slams mega pylons

Borders MP John Lamont has slammed plans for mega-pylons, as he held a debate in Parliament on the impact of electricity infrastructure in rural communities. During the debate, he reiterated his opposition to the project because it would damage local communities and the countryside. The MP has been fighting the plans since they were announced, alongside a deluge of applications for solar farms, wind farms, and battery energy storage units.

Last weekend, the MP joined local residents on Lauder Common to see the area threatened by development for a new electricity substation, covering an area around the size of 40 football pitches. He said that the Borders is being inundated with plans for new energy infrastructure which is deeply unpopular with local people as it will cause damage to people's quality of life, scar the countryside and destroy our environment and natural habitats. John urged the Minister to come to the Scottish Borders to meet local residents.

Bridge results

1, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 2, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor, 3, Tom Stothart & Janet Ivison, 4, Lorraine Morton & Aileen Graham, 5, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 6 - Ann Smart & Barbara Addison and John Packer & Anne Ferguson.

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

Scan the QR code or visit getyournec.scot to apply

Early birds catch the Halloween worm!



The Langholm Social Club Children's Halloween Party took place on 25th October at the club, and it was a 'frightfully' fun afternoon for all! A total of 45 children, along with their parents and grandparents, gathered for a party filled with ghoulish games, creepy costumes, and plenty of sweet treats.

The club was transformed into a haunted haven, with cobwebs, pumpkins, and flickering lanterns setting the eerie scene. One of the most popular games involved each child plunging their hand into hidden bowls to guess the contents—was it a wriggling mass of worms or just cold spaghetti, slime or jelly? The squeals and giggles echoed through the room as brave little hands explored the mysterious textures.

The children's tombola and

the ever popular "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar" were a monstrous success, drawing crowds of eager participants. The excitement was palpable as children tried their luck, hoping to win spooky prizes and sugary delights.

Traditionally, we invite the Comet to judge the fancy dress competition, but this year he was on rugby duties with LRFC. Stepping in with flair was Semi-Jubilee Comet Steven Hotson, who had the unenviable task of choosing winners from a sea of spectacular costumes. From mini witches and vampires to pint-sized pumpkins and skeletons, every child looked fantastic! Steven had a truly difficult job, but he rose to the occasion with charm and enthusiasm.

The photo of the wee lassie at the tombola is Harper Park. The photo of the three



wee lassies guessing the number of sweets in the jar features Alice Douglas, Lucy Barker, and Connie Gardner. It was a party to

remember—full of laughter, spooky surprises, and community spirit. Until next year, stay spooky! Thanks to everyone involved.



Judging the costumes was Langholm's Semi-Jubilee Comet, Stevie Hotson. Getting everyone to look at the camera at once proved impossible!



GUIISERS: Ada Byers (left) and Idris Brogden



MAGIC MASKS: Suzie of Creation Mill helped some youngsters at Eskdalemuir holiday club create some spooky cauldrons and day of the dead masks.



GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT: A lovely Langholm Halloween doorstep



Another masterpiece by Jean and John Hogg



Even the Pet Shop joins in the fun

War Memorial enhanced by gift



Langholm Social Club recently took delivery of a standing soldier Memorial Figure. It was donated to us by Ewart's of Gretna who made the figure. We are extremely grateful to them for this kind contribution to enhance the memorial garden at our War memorial in the Buccleuch Park. The picture shows Dave Patterson and Rachel Graham who are two of the group of volunteers who maintain the garden, also pictured is Jonathan Graham who works at Ewart's and was involved in arranging the donation.

Social Club raising funds for roof repairs



Langholm Social Club is raising funds to repair part of the roof of their building. They're looking for community support as they offer space for lots of other community organisations to fundraise and hold events. Some of the groups that use it include the carpet bowling club, the fiddle and accordion club, the town band, the pipe band and the Castle Craigs club. Fiona Patterson has started a gofundme page to 'raise the roof'. At the time of going to press £100 had been raised out of a target of £3000. If you'd like to donate, go to <https://gofundme.com/f/5nweey-raise-the-roof>

By Gilly Fraser

Concerns over Borders' energy infrastructure

MP joins other worried residents at Threepwood Moss

Borders MP John Lamont has told the Commons his constituency is being inundated with plans for new energy infrastructure, windfarms, solar farms, battery energy storage units and mega pylons.

His comments came in a committee debate he had secured after he took part in a site visit to the proposed Gala North substation at Threepwood Moss.

"I joined other concerned local residents on Lauder Common, a beautiful part of the Borders in unspoiled landscape," he said. "Scottish Power Energy Networks plans to destroy it with a new electricity substation linking giant mega-pylons.

"We all understand the need for a modern, efficient electricity network but there must be a balance."

The visit had been organised by Action Against Pylons: Scottish Borders Alliance (AAP:SBA), a coalition of community groups and councils, and brought



Threepwood Common: The group making the site visit

together local residents and Community Council representatives.

AAP:SBA wants a moratorium on renewable energy developments, greater transparency, and a national planning inquiry to address the cumulative impact on communities and landscapes.

The group is fighting plans

for a 98km energy super-highway of giant pylons running from Lauder to Newcastleton, but the organisers stressed that this was not a protest meeting but simply an opportunity for people to see for themselves what Scottish Power has in mind for this area.

From the Southern Upland

Way, the group looked over the award-winning Special Conservation Area of Threepwood Moss. If SPEN plans go ahead, it could become home to an electricity substation, and battery energy storage system with a solar farm nearby. It's understood the total substation site would cover around 24 hectares,

equating to 40 football pitches.

Newcastleton CC Secretary Fiona Nugent was there to represent Copshaw and the surrounding area. She said the visit was interesting but depressing.

"We had a look at the beautiful view from the common, took a drive via the Longpark windfarm and then on to Threepwood to look at where the substation would go, alongside the solar panels and BESS. It was all quite depressing really.

"Threepwood Moss looks to be a spectacular place, and it would be an absolute shame to see it desecrated by all this industrialisation."



John Lamont MP

From horses to houses...

...That might seem like a bit of a quantum leap, but not for Newcastleton's Lyn Hartley. Lyn is a well-known and very successful competitor in the equestrian world – over the past few years she has won countless rosettes and trophies in different disciplines.

Horses still play a big part in Lyn's life, and she has qualified for the BS Championships to be held later this year. However, she is also now doing a degree in Software Development at Edinburgh University and wanted to put that to good use.

Enter the houses. But not just any houses – along with the support of her Mum Kate, Lyn is developing an online business selling top-class dolls' houses. Kate says it



Lyn back in the saddle

was an easy choice to make for both of them.

"We wanted a business we could do together but run remotely as Lyn is up in Edinburgh. As a kid I loved dolls' houses and so did she, and there was a little bit of nostalgia involved for me as well, remembering the days

when she was a child and I was buying her toys."

Lyn looks after all the Marketing side of the business and with her computer skills has been preparing brochures as well as doing the website design and layout.

The two have also taken stalls at several markets in-

cluding Dalkeith and have plans for many more.

"We're looking to do Penrith Christmas Market and the Dickensian Festival in Ulverston, and we're also hoping to be part of the official launch of the new Carlisle Market."

Searching for the very best dolls' houses and toys has been a major commitment as Kate says she and Lyn wanted only the best.

Eco-friendly

"The products we feature are all sustainable, very eco-friendly and come from top-notch suppliers like Tenderleaf, Orange Tree and Le Toy Van. In fact one of them supplies Harrods and Selfridges so I'm really delighted they agreed to supply us as well."

Three different ranges of furniture are also available



A very des-res for some lucky doll

and since no dolls' house could be complete without a mouse or two, there are even craft-kits available to make just the right size mice.

Kate says the business is in its very early days but already she and Lyn are looking ahead.

"In the future we also hope to branch out into dolls' houses for adults and we have already found some lovely products. The detail in the furniture is just amazing. I can honestly say they are family heirlooms – they will last for generations."

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

CREATION MILL WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 3rd Nov 2025

Day	What	Time	Where
Mon	Quilters group	10-12	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Thurs	Print your own Presents	6-8	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Scrappy Christmas banner	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

SCRAP STORE OPEN

Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3

Booking required, please visit CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

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£15 inc VAT

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£20 inc VAT

Contact: alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Thu 30th	Eskdale Gardening Club Trip to Barton Grange Christmas Garden	Coach departs Canonbie Hall 9.30am 07799 600042
	Canonbie Community Enterprise Halloween Party	Cross Keys Hotel 5.30pm Tickets from Post Office by 29th
	Calum MacPhail Live in Concert	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Fri 31st	Hard of Hearing Group Brew and a Bletcher	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12noon
	Langholm Old Bowling Club Presentation Night	Club Rooms 7pm
31st & 1st	Billy Young's Ghostly Walks	Meet at Wattie's Arch at 6.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Sat 1st	Langholm Producers Market	The Buccleuch Centre
	Benty Bonfire Night	Benty Hall from 5.30pm - Fireworks 6.30pm
Sun 2nd	Langholm's BIG Bang Parade Bonfire Fireworks Food	Parade Leaves Town Hall at 6pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2540 answers next week

- Where is Dyce Airport?
- Where is McCulloch's Tree and what is it?
- Who sang 'I Love a Lassie'?
- In which part of Scotland did the Levellers Revolt of 1724 take place?
- Where is Dunderave Castle?
- What treasures were found on Traprain Law in East Lothian?
- Where would you go to visit Lady Stair's House?
- Name the Scottish industrialist who worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in the 1860s.
- Which team did Sir Alex Ferguson manage before he moved to Aberdeen?
- What is the name of the hospital for disabled ex-servicemen in Renfrewshire?
- Which tragedy in 19th century Scotland was caused by phytophthora infestans?
- Which fishing port in the north-east is known as 'The Broch'?
- Where was explorer John Rae born?
- Who/what was Peaty Sandy?
- Who first hit the British Top 10 with Shout?
- Who created Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?
- In which village was Thomas Carlyle born?
- What is Neptune's Staircase and where is it?
- Where was Flora Macdonald imprisoned after her arrest?
- Name the Scots actor who bared his all in the film The Full Monty.



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2539

- It was beneath the sand and was uncovered after a particularly bad storm blew the sand away.
- The 1960s
- James II
- A four-pronged spear for catching salmon
- A breed of sheep
- Douglas Haston
- William Younger and William McEwan
- Mining
- It was the locomotive salvaged and put back into service after the Tay Bridge disaster
- As a composer
- Thomas Telford
- The vacuum flask
- Sir Alexander Fleming
- Alastair Maclean
- The Cairngorms
- 1966
- Ardeer
- Hugh MacDiarmid
- Sir Alexander Fleming
- Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora Macdonald

Crossword 2539

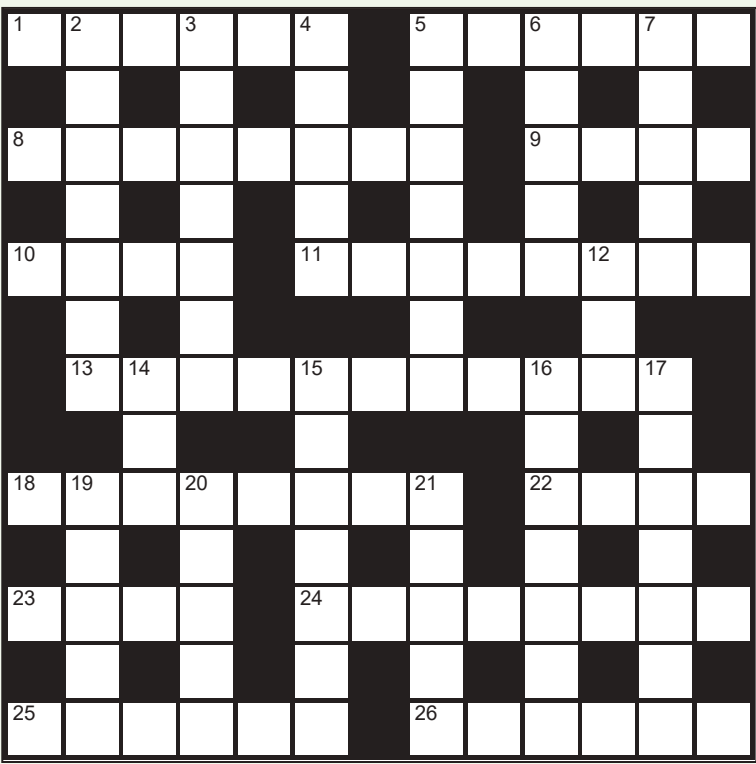
Across: 1 Toll, 4 Steepest, 8 Handmade, 9 Tars, 10 Arid, 11 Pyjamas, 13 Able, 15 Inn, 16 When, 17 Attempt, 19 User, 2 C Eng, 23 Incident, 24 Unbeaten, 25 Yule.

Down: 2 Omaha, 3 Luddite, 4 Soar, 5 Everyone, 6 Pitta, 7 Surface, 12 Misprint, 14 Between, 16 Washday, 18 Eagle, 20 Renal, 21 Scan.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2540 answers next week

- Across**
- Head armour (6)
 - Missing (6)
 - Retaliation (8)
 - Exclamations of surprise (4)
 - Island in central Hawaii (4)
 - Immense (8)
 - Stylist (11)
 - Plan of attack (8)
 - Bedouin (4)
 - Angry (4)
 - Cosy (8)
 - Artificial limb (3,3)
 - Mistakes (6)
- Down**
- Nonsense (7)
 - Cocktail (7)
 - Flavour (5)
 - Exhausted (3,4)
 - Body of honeybees (5)
 - First prime minister of India (5)
 - Metal-bearing mineral (3)
 - European mountain (3)
 - Pencil sketch (7)
 - Prison (7)
 - Installation for nuclear fission (7)
 - Stage (5)
 - Saudi Arabian currency (5)
 - Kent coastal town (5)



Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie Wauchope Castle and its mysteries

Looking back...

The passing of the Turnpike Road Act of 1750 making the establishment of turnpike roads compulsory, achieved one of the most beneficial measures of the century.

By it, farmers and proprietors were assessed in equal proportion for the maintenance of public roads. This utilitarian measure, offering far-reaching prospects, of the New Town, a new turnpike road to Annan by way was readily taken advantage of, and new and better-planned roads soon made their appearance throughout the country.

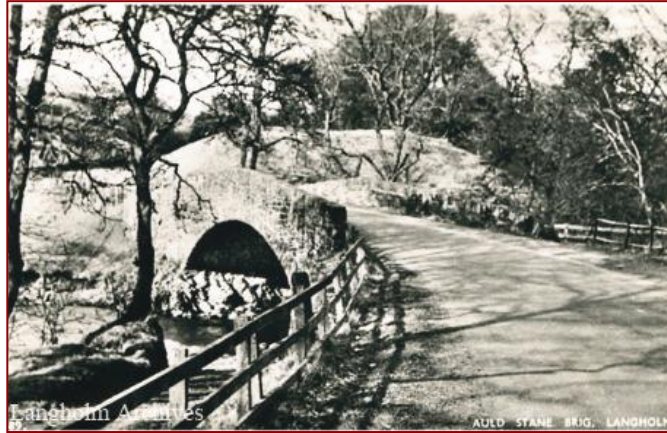
Hence, following the development of Wauchope (which would be of greater benefit to the growing industry of the town than the old coach road which went by way of Old Irvine), was begun about the year 1794. The construction of the Auld Stane Brig, near the site of Wauchope Castle, was, of course, part of the scheme. It was not until 1815 that the bridge over the Becks Burn, at Wauchope Kirkyard, was built, where previously the traffic crossed by ford.

When Meikleholm Farm occupied the fertile holm on

which the New Town was built, the road out of Langholm at this point appears to have turned off at what we now know as the Meikleholm, going by way of the head of Jamie's Brae and Scott's Knowe (which takes its name from John Scott, the Duke's piper, who lived in the house on the knowe-top), then along the loaning towards the Becks Burn, which it crossed at the Ha' Crofts. From there it continued along the edge of the Becks Moss, crossed the Roman Road below the Calfield, and came out on the present Wauchope Road near the Schoolhouse.

Calister Ha'

The late John Hyslop, who furnishes this piece of valuable information in "Langholm As It Was", tells us that he could remember an inn standing on the roadside midway between Ha' Crofts and the Curling Pond. The next place of refreshment on the Annan Road, he points out, was at Calister Ha', an inn of bygone celebrity and now a modest dwelling house at the summit of a long and weary climb up



Auld Stane Brig, over the River Wauchope, built in 1815; Wauchope Castle stood on the eminence in background. Castle built c1525

Calister Brae.

The proof of the whereabouts of certain old roads, after the passing of centuries, has ever presented a problem not always easy of solution. We are therefore immeasurably indebted to Mr Hyslop for setting down on paper in his lifetime, first-hand local information, which otherwise would have been irretrievably lost.

The Wauchope Road, by way of Meikleholm Pool and the Manse Brae, to which reference has already been made, might well have been constructed centuries before, for purposes other than a highway

to the town of Annan and the villages en route. For does it not pass the historic site of the 16th century castle ruins on the other side of the Becks Burn?

There was, of course, no town of Langholm when the warlike Lindsays held sway in their stronghold on the rocky eminence which rises steeply from the romantic Wauchope Water.

Natural defence

The grassy plateau on which the castle stood is some 30 feet high, with a natural defence of the rock-bound channel of the river on the north-west, and the

Becks Burn on the north side. This particular neighbourhood was a favourite haunt of our boyhood days, and I can still recall the existence of portions of the ruinous wall - referred to in historical papers and "The Auld Wa's" - overlooking the Wauchope Water, where was also the supposed entrance to a cave, (just large enough to enable us to crawl into the dark recess), said to have led to a subterranean passage.

More mature years incline one to the belief that many of those so-called secret passages existed only in the fertile imagination rather than in actual historical fact.

The ravages of time and frost slowly undermined the decaying structure, which eventually collapsed into the river between 50 and 60 years ago.

Excavations carried out on the castle site at the beginning of the present century revealed a fortress of considerable strength, with traces of a moat or fosse extending from Wauchope Water near to where the Auld Stane Brig now is, to a point where it joined the Becks Burn, running almost parallel to the present turnpike road.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 23rd September 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 8,743 sheep comprising of 5,080 lambs and 3,702 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 23rd October 2025.

PRIME LAMBS

A larger show of 5,080 lambs forward to the same ring of competitive purchasers ensuring all classes sold to recent high rates of return. Albeit the average is up, the lambs 45kg + are the same trade just a better show of fed lambs which were in demand.

Handy weight lambs 33-43kg were in hot demand being £8-10 up on the week, as long as they're well fed. Many more required to meet demand.

Top Price per Head and per Kilo went to 4 Texel lambs from J. Elliot, Roxburgh Mains reaching £210 and 428.6p/kg

Overall Average 303.92ppk (SQQ 308.42ppk)

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel - 428.6p Roxburgh Mains, 350p Low Eals, 350p Corneyside
Beltex - 414.6p Kilnford Croft, 376.2p Hunley, 370p East House
Suffolk - 344.7p Byreburnside, 339.5p Donerentin, 323.7p Shalmstry, 322p Shewglie, 322p Shandford

Hill Cheviot - 339.5p Etterickshaws, 328.2p Sundhope, 322.2p Shewglie, 321p Cossarshill

Dutch Spotted - 339p, 332.7p Hunley

Dutch Texel - 338.5p Rowanburnfoot

Blue Texel - 330.6p Carse

Mule - 324p Ulzieside, 316.2p Arnicle, 315p Eweslees

Blackface - 314p Auchenbrack, 303p Kimmeter Green

Charollais - 310p Kimmeter Green, 302p Shandford, 300p Hightown

Cheviot Mule - 310p Bankhead, 306p & 305p Upper Chatto

Romney - 310p Mansfield Cottage

Easycare - 307p Eland Hall

North Country Cheviot - 304.7p Bankhead

Lleyn - 304.5p South Bowerhouses

Kerry Hill - 303p Bankhead

Ryeland - 303p Donerentin

Herdwick - 301.2p Farlam Hill

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel - £210 Roxburgh Mains, £176 Hightown, £174 Smerral, £174 3 Westerhouses Cottages, £174 Milton of Gollanfield

Suffolk - £192, £191 Coiliamy, £172 Steel Hall, £171 Achalone, £168 Shandford

Lleyn - £185 Townfoot
Beltex - £176 Glencairn, £171, £170 Kilnford Croft, £170 Bombie, £170 3

Westerhouses Cottage, £170 Bombie
Charollais - £176, £164 Rigghead, £164 31 Larel

North Country Cheviot - £176, £168 Humbleheugh

Zwartbles - £166 Townfoot

Blue Texel - £162 Carse Farm

Mule - £157, £142.50 Pitland Hills, £141 Moss House, £141 Ryehills

Dutch Spot - £152 Silverhill, £150 Phoenix

Romney - £152 Silverhill, £150 Phoenix

Dutch Texel - £144 Rowanburnfoot

Hill Cheviot - £143 Kilnford Croft, £135 Carruthers, £131 Clerk Hill

Hampshire - £142 Steel Hall

Blue Leicester - £141 Southdean, £141 Shittington

Border Leicester - £140 Westerhopeburn, £137 Gartvaigh

Cheviot Mule - £140 Mainhill, £135 Sundhope, £134.50, £134 Upper Chatto, £134 Corriehills and Beechwood

Blackface - £138 Shittington, £124 Mains

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A lighter show of 3,702 ewes sold to the same buoyant trade seen in recent weeks showing no signs of a reduction. A rise is imminent, please don't hesitate to contact your auctioneers for all en-

quiries.

May more ewes can be handled at Longtown on a weekly basis as purchasers are keen for supplies.

Heavy ewes topped at £330 for a pair of Texel from J. Halliday & Son, Linnhead

Light ewes topped at £140 for a pen of 12 Lleyn from S. & R. Irving, The Height

Rams topped at £440 for a single Texel from A. & H.C. Smith, Crumhaughhill

Heavy ewes

Texel - £330 Linnhead, £300 Townfoot, £280, £270 Bascodyke, £270 Crumhaughhill

Beltex - £225 Hobbiesburn, £220 Ballinloan

Suffolk - £215 Colmslie Hill, £195 Beck foot and Colmslie Hill, £190 South Field and Hallees, £185 Colmslie Hill

Blue Texel - £208 Beckfoot, £175 Colmslie Hill

Charollais - £192 Beckfoot

Cheviot Mule - £188 Roughet Hill, £175 Southend, £170 Milton of Gollanfield

Mule - £182 Hassendeanburn, £170 Southend and Grindon Hill, £168 Shittington Hall, £162 Gibbs Hill

North Country Cheviot - £180

Ballinloan, £156 Bankhead, £154

Gibbs Hill, £152 Achalone

Blue Leicester - £170 Colmslie Hill

Zwartbles - £168 Southend

Valais Blacknose - £155 Southend

Romney - £138, £132, £130 South Field

Hampshire - £135 Barnhill Mews

Light ewes

Lleyn - £140 The Height

Hill Cheviot - £138 Ballinloan, £130 Sunhope, £128 Priestthaugh, £126 Glendinning, £126 West Deloraine

Blackface - £134 Gibbs Hill, £128 Roughet Hill, £122 Hunthill Estate

Easycare - £122 Greenside, £120 East Whygate, £118 Dolphinston

Swaledale - £100 Spital Shields, £95 Southend

Herdwick - £70 Muirhead, £65 Kilnknowe

Rams

Texel - £440, £340 Crumhaughhill, £280, £265 Skirza Croft

Suffolk - £300 Hassendeanburn, £245 Beckfoot, £230 Hassendeanburn

Hill Cheviot - £225 Clerk Hill, £190 Skirza Croft

Beltex - £212 Flyhead, £210 Hallburn Croft

Berrichon - £197 Shawfield, £195

Carse

Dutch Spotted - £172 Hallhead, £170 Beckfoot

Charollais - £152 Dyke side, £150 Beckfoot

Hampshire - £152 Littledale, £150 Barnhill Mews

Blackface - £145 Arnicle

Blue Leicester - £142 Beckfoot

Herdwick - £108 Muirhead

Oxford - £108 Barnhill Mews

Swaledale - £105 Westhotbank

Averages:

Lambs

Light to 314.3p (278.45p)

Standard to 361.0p (315.77p)

Medium to 414.6p (308.33p)

Heavy to 428.6p (301.5p)

Overweight 322.0p (288.32p)

Ewes

Light to £140 (£81.82)

Heavy to £330 (£136.84)

Rams to £440 (£160.07)





The E&L Gallery

COLOURFUL CANONBIE: A beautiful Autumn photo of the "Deid Neuk" by Mairi Telford Jammeh

Camera: Samsung Galaxy phone

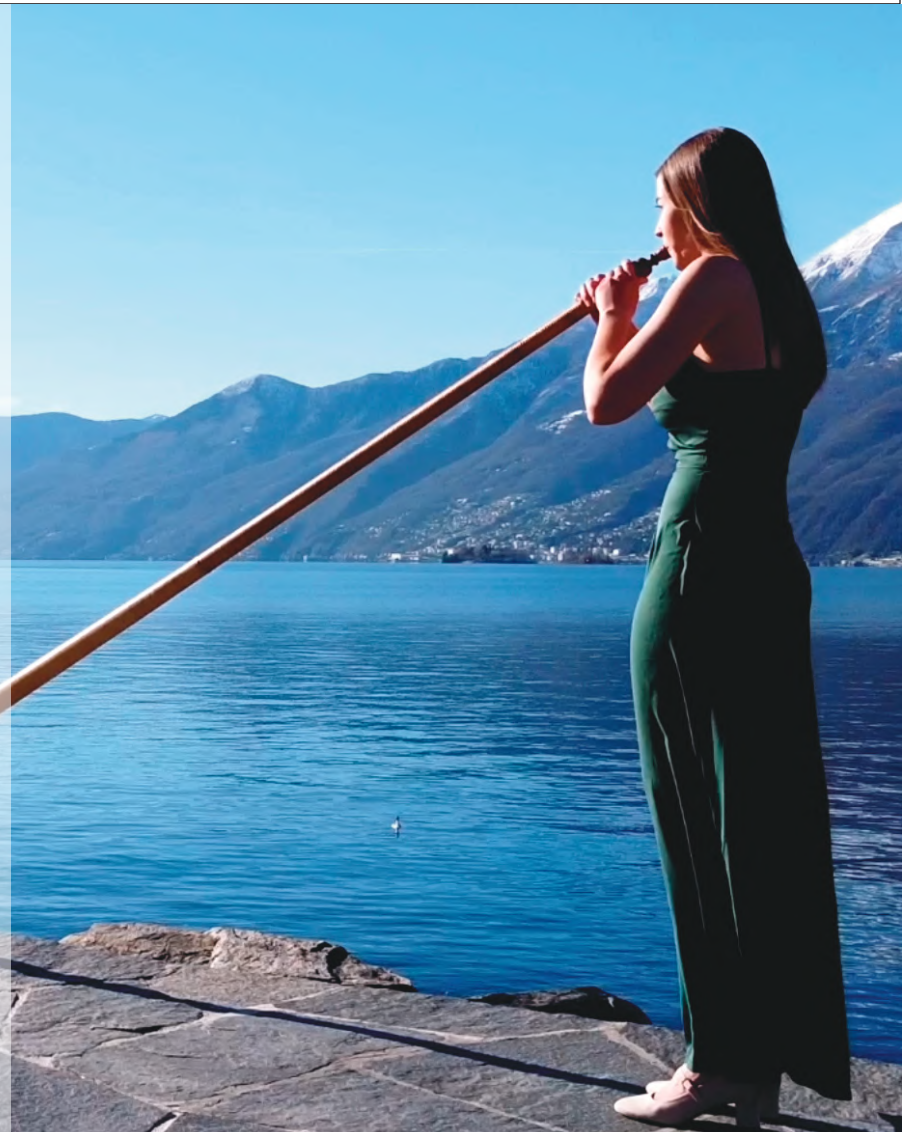
Mark Hallam presents Mountain Adventures 2: The music

As described in last week's E&L, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th November Langholm Rotarian and adventurer Mark Hallam will be presenting alpine journeys on foot, crampons, paraglider, via ferrata, skis, and music at The Buccleuch Centre. Cost is £10 on door or via buccleuchcentre.com with all proceeds going to the centre, which provides such a wonderful and important attribute to the community.

The show will start and finish to sweet resonances of the Swiss Alphorn, that distinctive combination of woodwind and brass type sound so symbolic of Switzerland and further distinguished by being long straight natural horn around 11ft long and made entirely of pine-wood. It is played like a brass instrument, vibrating pursed lips into a conical mouth-piece, to produce a characteristic natural harmonic series of notes covering nearly three octaves, which resound from the other end of the horn.

Former trumpet player Mark has loved the sound of the Alphorn since first hearing as a child, on a Swiss family holiday, in 1970. This led on to an opportunity to actually play one in an audience Alphorn blowing competition, at a Swiss traditional music event in Interlaken, in 1984. With brass instrument playing experience it proved relatively easy as well as a joy to produce passable sound on an Alphorn. Mark won the competition and was seriously tempted to try to purchase one, deterred only by the practical difficulties of transporting an 11ft long wooden tube 900 miles back home, by car.

Mark discovered Lisa Stoll, now one of Switzerland's top Alphornists, when she produced her first album *Alphorn Leibe* (Alphorn Love) at the tender age of 14. Since then she has produced a further seven albums, including her latest, *Spirit of Love* in 2022, aged 26, all in addition to giving dozens of concerts per year, across Europe as well as in her native country. Without any expectations and following the idea that if you don't ask you don't get, Mark sent Lisa a message in German (using Google Translate) via her website, asking for permission to feature some of her music, in his show at the Buccleuch Centre. She promptly replied in English: she didn't just give permission, she has actually donated a bit of audio-visual heaven, which will be shown at the end of the show.



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Leah wins Top Groom

Horseracing



Leah Barnfather from Langholm who works for racehorse trainer Daragh Bourke at Waterbeck was the winning groom at Kelso on Saturday on the Edinburgh Gin Chase Day.

Wholly Boley was said to have looked amazing and was the best turned out horse in the second race. The race sponsor was the Firth family and Urgewain Motors.

Convincing win for Langholm Girls FC

Football

By Calum Graham

On Sunday, our Under 14s made the journey to Kilmarnock to play Crosshouse Girls in our last Southwest Scotland league fixture.

The game was played on an exceptionally good grass pitch however, a bitterly cold wind with driving rain made conditions for a good game of football less than conducive.

With the girls still getting used to the bounce and run of the ball on a grass pitch, they found themselves an early goal down when the Crosshouse striker found herself free in the box.

However, their lead didn't last long, with Lauren D scoring an excellent goal with a finish into the top corner of the net following a strong run down the right-hand side of the pitch. Holly I then added a second with a simple tap in after the Crosshouse keeper parried a shot from Tia H onto the post.

The second half was only seconds old when Langholm in-

MATCH RESULT

Sunday 26th October 25

Crosshouse FC 2
Langholm Girls 4

Lauren D

Holly I

Layna P

Bella P

SWFL Regional
14s 9v9 League

creased their lead with a fine passing move down the right-hand side which allowed Aylee C to play the ball across the edge of the box for Layna P to finish low into the bottom corner. Langholm put the game out of

reach with a fourth goal, this time from U12 player Bella P. Her pace and energy were causing the Crosshouse defence problems, and once more, she broke free down the left from her defender and finished well with her left

foot from a narrow angle. Crosshouse pulled a goal back to round off the day's scoring and many thanks to them once more for hosting the game on one of the best grass pitches we have played on.

Special Occasion?.....tell the world!

HAPPY 60TH!

GEORGE

with love from
A, J, K & P

It's a BOY!

JENKINS

Kaye and Stephen are proud to announce the arrival of their first child

OWEN JAMES

Born on 1st March 2025
first grandchild for Jean & Steve and Carol and Tony. Special thanks to all concerned.

L

Congratulations **ANDREW BROWN** on passing your driving test at last!!
love from Mum & Dad

Happy Ruby Anniversary

love

Congratulations to **JEAN & JOE JAMIESON** married in Eskdalemuir Church 14th April 1985
love from all the family

Let us know if you have something to celebrate.....

- Births
- Birthdays
- Engagements
- Graduations
- Anniversaries
- Passing your Driving Test
-anything really!

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of

CARLA JONES & JOHN DEANS

on 1st March 2025
here's wishing you both all the love and luck in the world!

Send details to:
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drop in to the office
or call us on 013873 80012



Rollercoaster rugby as Wanderers take the win

Eskdalemuir Forestry sponsor new LRFC kit

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm RFC headed off to Edinburgh on Saturday to take on Murrayfield Wanderers. Sitting just below Langholm in East League 1, and with the visitors fielding a much-changed side it was set to be a tough match.

The Wanderers were first on the scoreboard with a try after 5 minutes. Langholm took the ball into the home side half and Steve Nicol was there to go over for a good try which Bailey Donaldson converted. Langholm were now building up a head of steam and forcing Murray field to defend hard. Good forward possession saw hooked Callum Bell go over for a well worked try. Donaldson secured the conversion. With the score now 5-14 it was the home sides turn to put on the pressure, and they scored 2 tries, one converted, to retake the lead 17-14. Tommy Hope crashed over for a fine try and with Donaldson adding the conversion Langholm were back in the lead. Donaldson added a penalty and the score at half time was 17- 24 to Langholm.



Langholm RFC are delighted to announce the continuing generous support of Eskdalemuir Forestry Ltd who will once again sponsor the players' kit. Photo shows President Davy Patterson along with Jay Gordon and Callum Henderson sporting the new players tops and warm up shirts.

Murrayfield Wands were now playing with the wind and both sides tried hard to get the upper hand in the second period. A converted try for Wanderers made the score 24-24 and Langholm were now having to defend very hard as the home side piled on the pressure. With 10 minutes of the match left, Murray field broke through and scored another converted try. Langholm tried everything to get a fourth try but it was

not to be and the match ended with the home side victors by 31-24. The visitors secured a valuable losing bonus point.

Langholm remain in third place in East League 1 on 26 points behind Dunbar and Haddington both on 32 points.

There is a now short break due to the Autumn Internationals. Next match is at home against Broughton RFC on 15th November (KO 2pm)



Duke of Deception takes big prize at Kelso

Horseracing



By Gordon Brown

Duke Of Deception, jointly trained by Oliver Greenall and Josh Guerriero, made most of the running to land the £50,000 feature race under Craig Nichol.

The Cheshire raider pipped Olivers Travels by half a length in the Edinburgh Gin Chase (A Limited Handicap) over 3m 2f.

"I got him into a nice rhythm and it seemed to get a few of the others off it a bit," Nichol reported. "I've ridden him before but not for while and my thoughts are with his regular jockey Henry Brooke, who is a big mate of mine, but currently out injured with a broken leg."

Nick Alexander-trained Ballyfort, sent off at 11/4, landed a dramatic race for the Get A Free Trial Of Racing TV Handicap Chase, which saw runners come down at the second last.

"My horse was very nimble and did well to side-step things two out," reported winning jockey Bruce Lynn. "He got into a better rhythm today and certainly got a bit of ability."

Despite drifting out to 9/1, Smoke Trail saw off stable companion Eagles Reprieve to supply Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore with a one-two in the Stay For The After Party "National Hunt" Maiden Hurdle.

"That was great as we lost our other horse Corrigeen Rock recently," said Debs Thomson, who is chair of winning owners The Caledonian Racing Society. "It's a very emotional occasion as 'Rocky' was such a popular and successful performer."

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

Tom and Kate Hall memorial trophy

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

Canonbie rinks was played on Saturday with a great turnout of bowlers yet again.

Thanks to all the sponsors and to those who helped with the bar and kitchen and running the tournament.

The champions of the Tom and Kate Hall memorial trophy were -
Matt Hall
Ian Hall
Ally Hall
Shelagh Hogg

Well done guys

Runners-up.
Wullie Mair
Jim Little
Jamie Johnstone
Ali Park.

Beaten semi-finalists were -
Al Sloan
Neil Shearer
Brian Murray
Geordie Cloy
&
Derek Murray
Steven Gall
Oli Vandale
Rae Graham

Great night and an excellent tournament!



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