

**Hiking in the Hebrides with Gavin Graham**

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



**Langholm Girls trio sign for Queen of the South**

SEE PAGE 16



# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8570

Established May 1848

Thursday January 22, 2026

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

## Copshaw and Canonbie on 2027 Tour de France route...

...but hey-ho, Langholm to miss out as the world's biggest bike race speeds past!

The Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway will host the majority of Stage 1 of the 2027 Tour de France, which will start in Edinburgh and finish in Carlisle on Friday 2 July 2027.

After departing Edinburgh, Stage 1 will head south to Innerleithen, then onto Galashiels and Melrose.

The route will then take riders to the edge of Selkirk and on to Hawick and Newcastleton before travelling through Canonbie in Dumfries & Galloway towards the stage finish in Carlisle.

The Tour de France will bring hugely significant opportunities for the South, with the event broadcast to over 190 countries with an estimated global TV audience of 3.5 billion to 4 billion people across the three-week race. At least 12 million people watch the Tour de France each year at the roadside.

The E&L's Newcastleton correspondent, Gilly Fraser writes:

The first weekend of July (and indeed Melissa for those in the know) is always a bumper time in Copshaw, holding not only the famed Common Riding but also the Traditional Music Festival, reputed to be the oldest event of its kind in Scotland.

But the same weekend in 2027 is shaping up to be particularly spectacular, with even more pedal power than the CCR can shake a flag at.

That's because it's been announced that the world-famous Tour de France cycle race is set to run most of Stage 1 through the Borders and Copshaw's on its route map.

The world's biggest cycle race featuring international top-level cyclists will set off from Edinburgh on Friday July 2nd, head south to Innerleithen, then

on to Galashiels and Melrose before skirting Selkirk and passing through Hawick. But the highlight of that first leg will of course be coming through Newcastleton, before heading on to Canonbie. The stage finishes in Carlisle.

The Scottish Government has invested more than £9 million to bring the event to Scotland for the first time and it's anticipated that the whole region will reap significant financial benefits.

Scottish Borders council leader Euan Jardine says it's a fantastic honour for the region and a great opportunity to witness one of the world's biggest annual sporting events right on our doorstep.

"The 2027 Tour de France in the Scottish Borders will be an opportunity to inspire people of all ages to get on a bike for pleasure, commuting or competition, and our investments over recent



DINNA BLINK: As the Tour De France peloton pelts its path through Copshaw and Canonbie in 2027

years in active travel and multi-use paths makes that much easier than before," he said.

The Tour de France is broadcast in over 190 countries, with an

estimated global television audience of 3.5-4 billion people across the three-week race. At least 12 million people watch the race annually at the roadside.

News of the event coming to Copshaw has been warmly welcomed by the village, with quite a few expressing a hope that it will lead to potholes being fixed.

Est. 1882



www.latimersoflangholm.co.uk

Latimers of Langholm

# FURNITURE SALE

## ~NOW ON~NOW ON...NOW ON

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8am - 5pm | Saturday 8am - 4pm

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

# Family Announcements

## Deaths

### ROBINSON, Catherine (Cathie)

Peacefully at Notwen House Kirkpatrick Fleming on Wednesday 14th January 2026 Catherine (Cathie) Robinson aged 90 years. Beloved wife of the late John Robinson. Will be greatly missed by all family and friends. A service will be held at Roucan Loch Crematorium Dumfries on Wednesday 4th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

## Thanks for Sympathy

### DINWOODIE, James Andrew (Jim)

Elizabeth and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy for the lovely cards, flowers, messages received following their recent bereavement.

Thank you to the district nurses, Cass and Crossroads for their loving dedicated care at home, The assessment Unit, Ward B2 at Dumfries Infirmary and The Thomas Hope for all their care.

A special thank you to Rev. Morag Crossan for her comforting service, piper Iain Bell, Donald Scott organist and Alice Maxwell, Cochranes Nursery for the beautiful flowers, Tracy Graham and staff for the wonderful tea, all who attended the service and gave so generously to The Great North Air Ambulance and Blood Bikes Scotland and to Nicola and Stefan from Nicholson's Funeral Directors for their compassion, guidance and professional support.

## Funeral Services

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

28 LANGHOLM STREET  
NEWCASTLETON  
TDO 0DX

Chapels of Rest in  
Langholm & Newcastleton

PHONE: 07896 557 941  
EMAIL: shaurnturnbullfuneraldirectors@outlook.com





**Nicholson's**  
Funeral Directors  
(Independent Family Run)

**Bank House, Longtown &  
33 High St, Annan**

For a professional, compassionate  
and caring service

24 hours a day Telephone  
01228 791098 or 01461 759214

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




## Church Notices

**ESKDALE &  
LIDDESDALE  
PARISH**  
linked with  
**CANONBIE  
United Parish  
Church**

Welcome to worship  
Sunday 25th January

**JOINT SERVICE**  
at  
**NEWCASTLETON**  
10am

No services at Langholm  
and Canonbie

Rev Morag Crossan  
Tel: 07861 736071

or email  
mcrossan@  
churchofscotland.org.uk

share the news  
of any...

- engagements
- marriages
- births
- christenings
- birthdays
- anniversaries
- congratulations

# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

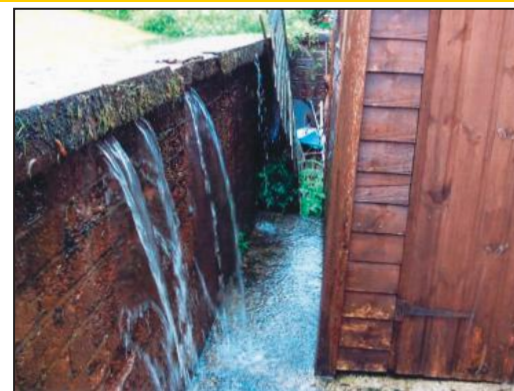
Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012  
Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser  
All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

## Flooding - and how you can help Langholm Resilience Group

As we know from recent flooding and debris flows in Langholm, when drains and gullies are blocked, the consequences can be much worse than wet feet!

Most drains and gullies are now clear, but please can you help by reporting any blockages or other issues to the Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Resilience Team.

Contact via email at :  
langholmresilience@gmail.com  
Steve Scofield (Coordinator) on 07521 737676  
Catrina Donnelly (Deputy Coordinator) on 07531 275444.



### Other ways to help Langholm's Resilience

#### Join our Facebook Group:

Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Emergency Community Resilience Group where you will receive any urgent flood or weather warnings etc.

#### Volunteer

We are also trying to create a list of people who would be willing to volunteer to help during an emergency.

Whether you could escort people on foot to one of our area hubs, deliver prescriptions to vulnerable residents or simply sit with residents and provide tea and coffee in one of the hubs.

#### Share skills and resources

If you are certified to use a chainsaw or other machinery and can provide a copy of any certifications, you might also be able to assist.

In short, anyone can volunteer.

Please contact us via one of the methods above, giving us your name and contact details and how you would like to help.



**Steve: 07521 737676**

**Catrina: 07531 275444**

## Sustainable Saturday

Sustainable Style  
Saturday  
Saturday 31st January  
10am - 2pm

The Buccleuch Centre is hosting a one-off pre-loved clothing pop-up market - bringing local second-hand fashion to the heart of the community - think local Vinted day meets community thrift shop!

Clear out and declutter your wardrobe, and shop second-hand fashion with no hassle or postage - no waiting, no parcels, no hassle with postage!

Want to book a table?

£10 per table (or bring your own rail instead!) - We have 20 tables available

Plus, the Coffee shop will be open for hot filled rolls, cakes, traybakes, and drinks.

To book your table, contact The Buccleuch Centre directly: 013873 81196

Please call to reserve your spot - spaces will be confirmed on a first-come basis

This will be a great day, help us create a sustainable community event by giving fashion a second chance in Langholm.

## Online subscriptions to the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

are now available at  
www.eladvertiser.co.uk

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

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

## Langholm Rotarians celebrate the Bard



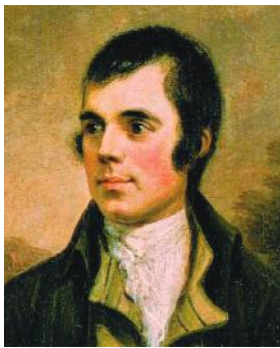
TOP TABLERS: Michael Aitken, Bernie Armstrong, Peter Forsyth, Aileen Cavers and Chris Tait

The annual Rotary Burns Supper was held in the Eskdale Hotel on Thursday evening. President Peter Forsyth welcomed not only members and guests from the Langholm club but also visitors from the Hawick, Annan, Brampton and Longtown clubs.

Kenneth Pool addressed the haggis which was piped in by Ricky Henderson and borne by Robbie Trussler. The Immortal Memory was delivered in great style by Bernie Armstrong.

An excellent Toast to the Lassies was made by Chris Tait and very ably replied to by Aileen Cavers. Michael Aitken provided the entertainment with 2 fine songs and a marvellous rendition of Tam O' Shanter.

A grand evening was had by all.



## MPs back Longtown/ Eastriggs defence bid

### Appeal highlights strong munitions heritage

Two Borderlands MPs are jointly promoting the “strong case” for Eastriggs and Longtown to be chosen as locations for new high priority defence factories. The proposed Ministry of Defence (MoD) facilities, part of a UK Government plan to expand munitions and energetics production, could create hundreds of skilled jobs locally if either site is selected.

David Mundell, Conservative MP for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, and Julie Minns, Labour MP for Carlisle and North Cumbria, have written a joint letter to Luke Pollard, Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry. They emphasise the suitability of the two sites, which lie just seven miles apart on either side of the Scotland-England border. Their intervention follows the MoD’s announcement last year that both Dumfriesshire and Cumbria were among 13 shortlisted areas identified as potential hosts for the new facilities.

In their letter, the MPs highlight the significant existing defence presence at Defence Munitions Longtown. The 1,300 acre depot plays a critical role in the UK’s military storage



CAMPAIGNING . . . neighbouring MPs David Mundell and Julie Minns — believe there is a strong case to bring more defence factory jobs to MOD

and logistics chain, particularly for munitions. Its capacity was expanded last year with the opening of a £98 million, 818,000 square foot storage building and accompanying offices.

Both Longtown and Eastriggs, the MPs argue, benefit from strong transport links, including major roads, mainline rail connections and proximity to Carlisle Lake District Airport, which has potential for future freight operations. A small section of the largely mothballed Eastriggs site is already used by Rail Sidings Ltd. for railway storage and maintenance, offering further development

potential.

The MPs also point to the region’s long history of supporting UK and Allied forces; both sites were once part of the vast First World War HM Factory, one of the largest of its kind at the time.

They conclude that Eastriggs and Longtown could together form a major hub for ammunition manufacturing, storage and logistics, supporting the Government’s goal of boosting the UK’s war fighting readiness while bringing highly skilled, well paid jobs to the area. Both MPs hope to meet the Minister soon to discuss the proposal further.

## HMRC app is the way ahead

With the 31 January Self Assessment deadline now less than two weeks away, HMRC has released new figures showing a significant shift in how taxpayers are settling their bills.

Almost 340,000 people have paid their Self Assessment tax via the HMRC app this year - a 65% increase on the same period last year - showing more filers are turning to their smartphones to get their tax sorted.

Self Assessment customers are sometimes targeted by criminals and should never share their HMRC login details with anyone, including a tax agent, if they have one. HMRC scams advice is available on GOV.UK.



## Bridge Results

- 1, Brenda & George Bullamore,
- 2, Bob Francombe & George Graham,
- 3, Sandra Ritchie & Tom Stothart,
- 4, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford,
- 5, Lorraine Morton & Aileen Graham,
- 6, Nancy McLure & John Packer.

## New messy play group for babies and young ones

Magical Messy Moments is a new messy play group in Langholm, created to bring joyful, creative and meaningful play experiences to local families.

Messy play is more than fun — it’s early learning in disguise. Through sensory exploration, creativity and hands-on activities, children build confidence, develop key skills, and explore at their own pace.

As a local mum, Emma-Louise Crosfield knows how important it is to have activities that are affordable, enriching and stress-free. Magical Messy Moments offers relaxed sessions where little ones can squish, splash, pour, paint, explore and create — and parents can enjoy the moment too. The best part — we handle the mess so you don’t have to!

The opening session is on Saturday 24th January, celebrating Scotland and Burns Night, with themed messy play trays.

Sessions are suitable for 6-month-olds to 6-year-olds, running 10:30–11:30am at



The Studio, with bookings via <https://bookwhen.com/magicalmessymoments>. Sessions continue every Saturday at the same time.



Emma-Louise Crosfield of Magical Messy Moments



## ESKDALE CURLING CLUB

Try something new, an Olympic sport at Lockerbie Ice Rink.

All ages and abilities  
All you need is enthusiasm, warm clothes and clean shoes  
We are offering free ice, free coaching and, to finish the session, free coffee

Why not bring a party or a group of friends?

If interested contact either Liz Ewart 07706 505 848 or Christine Ross 07483 103 628.



## Ewe Hill funding reminder

A gentle reminder that the next deadline for applications to Ewe Hill 16 Community Benefit Fund (funded by Scottish Power Renewables) is 31st January 2026.

The next deadline will be 31st July 2026.

Solwaybank Community Benefit Fund is currently closed to new applications.

If you have any queries or would like support with your project, please contact decbgscio@gmail.com or Jamie Dent, Community Officer, at jamie@sup.org.uk .

## Langholm Fly-fishing Club

The club aimed at getting young and old alike into the sport of fly fishing from the age of 8 - 88 has re-commenced after the Christmas break.

Come along and learn how to tie your own flies in the winter months and then see how successful they are when you learn to use them in the summer months.

The club is held in Xcel Club's premises at 41A Henry Street, Langholm on Thursdays from 6.30 - 8.30pm.

Everyone welcome.

# Benty and Burns make for a brilliant evening

Speeches, songs and surprise recitations add to the atmosphere



Top Table: Morag Bonser, John Innes, Jamie Fletcher, Niall Cubbon and Paul Mitchell  
A packed Benty Hall and Singers Vi and Charlie Graham



**A**nother brilliant Burns Supper was held on Saturday 17th January in the Benty Hall. Chairman for the evening was Jamie Fletcher who kept proceedings running smoothly.

Jamie welcomed everyone, said the Selkirk Grace, then Paul Mitchell piped in the haggis carried aloft by Hamish Waugh. Jamie addressed the haggis, then the hall committee served a delicious supper of haggis,

neeps and tatties followed by trifle and finished with tea/coffee and shortbread.

### Many laughs

John Innes gave us a humorous Immortal Memory. Toast to the lassies was given by Niall Cubbon and the reply given by Morag Bonser. Both causing many laughs to ripple around the hall.

The speeches were interspersed with songs from Charlie

and Vi Graham and Eric Laidlaw. Wonderful as always.

The surprise turn of the evening was the recitation of Tam O Shanter by Billy Johnstone (he kept that talent very quiet)! Later he appeared as Holy Wullie complete with nightshirt and cap to recite Holy Willie's prayer.

After the drawing of the raffle the evening was brought to a close by everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.



# Creation Mill Exhibition: Wool, Woven and Wild



Langholm is set to welcome a brand-new festival, Wool, Woven and Wild, celebrating the region's rich wool heritage, vibrant textile creativity and remarkable natural landscape. Taking place at the end of February, the festival will bring together makers, farmers, artists, and the local community for a weekend of learning, sharing and celebration.

The festival programme will feature a curated selection of stalls focusing on local wool, textiles and nature-inspired goods, alongside talks exploring all things sheep - from farming traditions to contemporary practices. Visitors can also look forward to community workshops led by inspiring textile practitioners, as well as guided tours of local farms and businesses, offering a

behind-the-scenes look at the people and processes shaping the area.

Wool, Woven and Wild aims to spotlight Langholm and the surrounding region as a place where craft, agriculture and landscape are deeply connected, fostering conversations around sustainability, heritage and creative practice.

Tickets can be booked now at [creationmill.org/](http://creationmill.org/)

[www.festival](http://www.festival)

Wool, Woven and Wild is proudly funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Regional Cultural Fund, supporting cultural activity that strengthens communities and celebrates local identity.

For updates and expressions of interest, please contact the festival organisers directly. More information is coming soon.



President Nicola Donald welcomed everyone to Canonbie SWI first meeting of 2026 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Helen Hudson gave a fascinating talk about farming pre 1940. She told us what crops were grown, how nothing was wasted when rearing animals, candle making and what the best breed of cattle for both dairy and those that were good on the land.

Whitehaven harbour was the third busiest port in England.

She told members about the imports of rum and sugar and how rum butter was so important.

Fun was had guessing the Cumbrian words for various things.

Thank to Christine was given by Diane Hope.

Competition results:

Jar of chutney:

1st Dorothy Watson. 2nd: Sue Attwood

Old utensils:

1st. Catherine Lithgow. 2nd Diane Hope

# Muckle fun on the Bridges Run

## Get active at Playcare's fundraiser

Langholm Playcare can finally announce the new date for their Muckle Bridges Challenge! March 8th, 2026

After last year's unexpected cancellation we are finally bringing back this challenge and it's going to be a fun, motivating run!

From little legs to big miles, everyone can take part. two miles for children and a 10 mile challenge for seasoned runners, this is an event the whole community can get behind.

The run will take in all the local bridges, Potholm, Duchess, Jubilee, Langholm, Suspension, Kirk, Park and Suspension all being part of a planned route

C'mon, who's in/ It'll be great fun!

Langholm Playcare is a local charity which provides full day care for children aged 0-16 and relies heavily on support from various funders and the local population to continue with the invaluable service it provides to local parents and children.

Watch local press and socials for more information nearer the time.

# Glenfirra to close after 27 years trading

Langholm firm Glenfirra of Langholm closed for business at the end of December.

The business was started at the end of 1999 to perfectly restore Border Fine Arts figurines and became the official world-wide restorers.

Starting life in the former Balfour's store on the High Street, where the front premises became a cafe run by the former charitable organisation Network West, the company moved to Well Close in 2017.

After the closure of Border Fine Arts in 2016 the company remained popular with figurine collectors from all over the UK and even had customers in USA, Canada and Europe.

Glenfirra also restored many other types of ceramics.

However, following the closure of most producers of resin and ceramic goods in UK and the Covid outbreak business was slowing.

Over the last couple of years, whilst there was still a steady flow of work, it was becoming more and more difficult to sustain the business.

Other parts of the business also did not pick up after Covid,

so the decision was made in late 2025 to close the business.

Glenfirra has been blessed by highly qualified former BFA staff producing perfect restoration to all the figurines that have been entrusted to their care.

Whilst Glenfirra has closed, it is not the end of BFA restoration services, and they will still be available in Langholm for collectors from all over the country.

Two former staff members, Anne Edgar and Sandra Maxwell have decided to start a new business called Border Arts Repairs and carry on giving the restoration service to all who want it.

They will be working from an office in Ashley Bank House and can be contacted on 07743 509227.



# Third Sector Action Group new members

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway is seeking new members for the Local Action Group that supports delivery of the Community Led Local Development Fund.

If you have an interest in community led local development and want to help shape how the fund is delivered in the future, you may wish to apply.

Applications are welcome from people with skills or experience in the following areas:

- Fund management.
- Rural development.
- Locality or place-based knowledge.
- Community wealth building.
- Thematic knowledge in areas, such as:
  - o Community health and wellbeing.
  - o Poverty and inequalities.
  - o Youth engagement.

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway is the Accountable Body for fund delivery and is committed to building an independent and representative Local Action Group. Applications are encouraged from young people aged 16 to 24. Deadline for applications is Monday 2 February.

# The Laverock Rhymers 'Hangover'

The Christmas frenzy has abated  
All our whims and wants are sated  
Retail therapy is overrated  
The bills arrive

It's January the twenty-first  
Opening the post, we fear the worst  
An overdraft!! The dam has burst  
Oh woe betide

Every day we get a letter  
Promising to make things better  
So we don't become a debtor  
With sky high APR

Not to worry all will be fine  
Well cut down on the beer and wine  
Perhaps we'll do some overtime  
For a month or two

After the make-do and mending  
Maybe we can resume our spending  
Although demands are never ending  
But we're in the black

For a short time we are secure  
And no longer feeling poor  
But come the autumn comes the lure  
Of Christmas once again



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Craig Hoy MSP**

**Member of the Scottish  
Parliament for South  
Scotland region**



**Contact Craig: Serving Dumfriesshire**



The Scottish Parliament, EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP



Craig.Hoy.MSP@parliament.scot



www.craighoy.co.uk



0131 348 6976

The cost of this publication has been met from Scottish Parliamentary resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

# Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Farming with Gilly Fraser

## Scotch Beef is going Scandi

Quality Meat Scotland is launching a Scotch Beef Club in Sweden in the group's first entry into the Scandinavian market.

The launch is to be held at EARTH, one of Stockholm's most popular restaurants and famed for its meat dishes. More than 100 foodservice professionals and industry leaders from across Sweden are expected to attend.

The evening will have a distinctly Scottish feel to it, with guests being piped into the venue before being welcomed with a specially crafted whisky cocktail, courtesy of Ian Macleod Distillers.

The evening will then showcase Scotch Beef with a four-course menu featuring five different cuts, allowing attendees to experience the premium quality guaranteed by the Scotch Beef UK PGI mark.

The Scotch Beef Club has been designed to drive growth of Scotch Beef within the food service sector, providing chefs and restaurant owners with a platform to celebrate and



promote the meat's assured quality, provenance and full traceability.

The initiative also aims to support restaurants that are proud to feature Scotch Beef on their menus, helping them communicate its premium credentials to customers.

Director of Business Development Tom Gibson says QMS is delighted to be launching the Scotch Beef Club in Sweden in partnership with Globe Foods.

"Scotch Beef is recognised around the world as a signifier of premium meat, and this launch gives us a powerful opportunity to strengthen relationships and increase trade with the Swedish food service industry, by putting Scotch Beef front and centre for all attendees," he said.

## Relief as UK Government perform another U-turn

### Leaders meet to discuss changed Inheritance Tax Relief

The UK Government's decision to raise the threshold for Agricultural and Business Property Relief (APR/BPR) under Inheritance Tax from £1 million to £2.5 million per individual, allowing a potential £5 million exemption for couples has been welcomed by farmers' leaders in Scotland.

This comes after NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon and the Union's policy team met with DEFRA Minister Angela Eagle MP and Scottish MPs, to stress the urgent need for long-term stability and food security for Scottish farmers and crofters.

NFU Scotland has led extensive lobbying across Scotland and Westminster, including direct engagement with MPs and Ministers, formal submissions to Treasury consultations and coordinated grassroots action by members.



NFU Scotland Director of Policy Jonnie Hall, DEFRA Minister Angela Eagle MP and NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon

However, the union says further change is still needed because the revised cap still pe-

nalises family farms with more complex ownership structures as well as larger farming

businesses that are asset-rich but cash-poor.

NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon says the decision to raise the relief threshold is a positive and important development, but not a complete solution.

"We are committed to working constructively with all political parties to ensure inheritance tax policy supports the long-term viability of Scottish agriculture and allows family farms to pass on their legacy to the next generation, he said.

The union has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that taxation policy does not act as a barrier to succession, business continuity or investment and says it will continue to engage with UK farming unions, legal and tax experts and parliamentarians to advocate for a fairer, more sustainable future for rural Scotland.

## Conflicting views on new Scottish Budget

The Scottish Government's new budget has sparked conflicting views among the country's sheep farmers.

The National Sheep Association says it accepts that the Budget maintains core support and adds capital funding through the Agricultural Modernisation Fund but that it falls short on multi-year certainty and strategic investment.

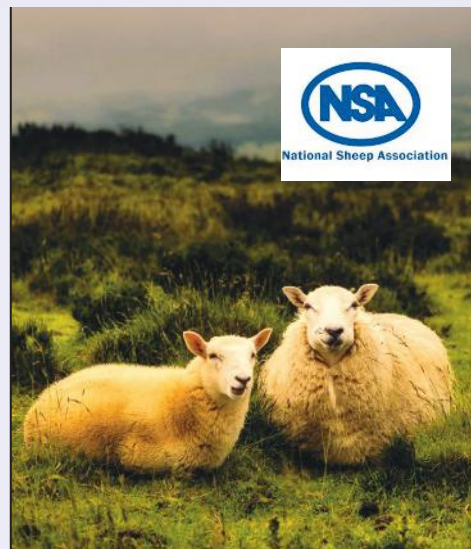
The group also say no clear commitment has been made on predator management or transparency around previous infrastructure schemes. And payments do not rise in real terms to match inflation.

NSA Scottish Policy Officer, Faye Bryce says this has been highlighted in a letter to the Government.

"In our open letter to Scottish Government, NSA called for multi-year, ring-fenced farm support, protection for LFASS and SUSSS payments, transparency on infrastructure schemes, and investment to reverse the decline in the national flock. We also highlighted wider pressures such as predation, inheritance tax changes and abattoir viability."

NSA Scotland has reviewed the figures and concluded that after a peak in 2025, support has fallen back to roughly 24-25 levels in real terms.

Faye Bryce adds: "Cash figures look steady, but inflation means next year's support is similar to that of two years ago. NSA will keep pressing for clear, practical schemes so payments deliver real benefits, such as better flock health, grazing man-



agement and low-carbon improvements. Stability and confidence are vital if we are to keep sheep on Scotland's hills and uplands."

NSA say they will continue to engage with the government on behalf of members to ensure future budgets deliver for sheep farmers and rural communities.

## Rural College in DC

Livestock experts from Scotland's rural college are to join scientists from seven other UK institutions in an academic collaboration between the UK and the USA.

It comes after SRUC was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Prize for Education for the third time.

The USA Exchange will take place in Washington DC in October, hosted by American University, Howard University, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).

During the Exchange, SRUC will focus on strengthening transatlantic collaboration in livestock genetics, data integration and artificial intelligence, building on its internationally recognised work in sustainable and climate-smart food systems.

SRUC Principal and Chief Executive Professor Wayne Powell, says being selected to take part in Education USA Exchange



recognises the quality, relevance and impact of SRUC's work.

"Being awarded the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Education for a third time was a huge achievement and reflects the commitment of our staff and partners to delivering research and education that benefits Scotland and the wider world," he said.

Sir Damon Buffini, Chair of the Royal Anniversary Trust says the Exchange is a landmark initiative, launched in a year of

historical significance on both sides of the Atlantic.

"Honouring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's enduring legacy in education and diplomacy, the programme brings together the very best of UK academic excellence with leading minds in the United States. By convening Prize-winning alumni institutions in Washington DC, the Exchange creates an unparalleled platform for forging ambitious transatlantic partnerships with a lasting global impact," he said.

# Latimers of Langholm

*Proudly serving since 1882*

51 High Street | LANGHOLM | DG13 0JH

t. 013873 80265

e. [info@latimersoflangholm.co.uk](mailto:info@latimersoflangholm.co.uk)

w. [www.latimersoflangholm.co.uk](http://www.latimersoflangholm.co.uk)

## SUPERB SHOWROOM SALE OFFERS



The Gaia Italian Leather Suite - three / two / one - **WAS £3900, NOW ONLY £3425**

HealthBeds 4'6 Neptune Divan set (grey one) - **WAS £1125, NOW ONLY £990**

Lancaster Two-Seater sofa - **WAS £1275, NOW ONLY £1125**

Harrison Spinks Ex-Display 5ft Divan Set - **WAS £5728, NOW ONLY £2850**

**and so much more in store and at our warehouse**

# Walking the inhabited islands of Scotland

## We welcome back walking columnist Gavin Graham with some holiday ideas for 2026

As it's a new year and people will soon be looking for holiday ideas for 2026, I thought I would write about my quest to walk on every inhabited Scottish island—and in particular, a memorable weeklong trip to North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, during which we visited Skye, North Uist, Benbecula, Flodaigh, Baleshare, South Uist, Eriskay, Barra, Vatersay and Berneray. We travelled in May, which has always proved to be the best time to visit

the Outer Hebrides: it's too early for midgies, there is plenty of daylight, and it's bird nesting season, offering wonderful opportunities to see rare species—especially Corncrakes. The Corncrake is more often heard than seen, but on this trip I not only heard one, I managed to see and photograph it.

### Isle of Skye

To reach our ferry we first drove to Uig in the north of Skye, at least a six hour journey from Langholm. On both the outward and return jour-

neys we stopped overnight at Fort William. Our B&B was conveniently located next to Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal, giving me a chance for peaceful evening and morning walks along the canal and the bonus of seeing the Jacobite steam train pass by. The ferry from Uig to Lochmaddy on North Uist takes around 1 hour 40 minutes and runs daily. Our holiday cottage was a short 30 minute drive from Lochmaddy and sat close to the Atlantic shore on the island's west side.



Vatersay Beach - among the finest beaches in the Outer Hebrides

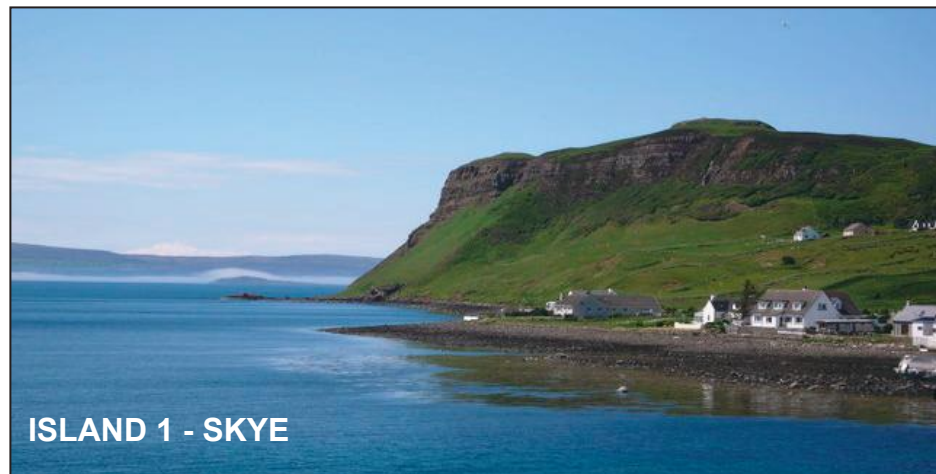


The causeway from North Uist to Berneray

**ISLAND NO. 8 — BARRA**  
Barra is well known for its beach airport—the only place in the world where scheduled flights land on sand. I was lucky enough to fly into Barra in 2001 and would love to experience it again. Castlebay is the main village, overlooked by Heaval and home to the striking Kisimul Castle sitting on a small islet. A causeway now links Barra to Vatersay, the southernmost inhabited island in the Outer Hebrides and one of my personal favourites.

**ISLAND NO. 9 — VATERSAY**  
Vatersay offers some of the finest beaches in the Outer Hebrides. A natural tombolo connects its two main sections, with sweeping sandy beaches on either side. In spring the area is carpeted with wildflowers, especially primroses.

**ISLAND NO. 10 — BERNERAY**  
Visited separately from the southern islands, Berneray is reached by causeway from North Uist. Its population is around 142, and it is known for hosting the then Prince Charles (now King Charles III) in 1987 when he stayed with a local crofter. The island has many beautiful beaches, and West Beach was voted one of Europe's top twenty beaches in 2021.



ISLAND 1 - SKYE

Skye is easy to reach these days via the bridge, though this has unfortunately brought an influx of visitors during peak season and created traffic problems on the single-track roads. In May, however, this is not too troublesome.

Skye is a beautiful island. On a previous trip we crossed from Skye to Raasay on a 20 minute ferry. Raasay now boasts a spectacular distillery that also serves as a B&B and is becoming increasingly popular.

It is home to the famous Calum's Road—a two mile stretch built single handedly by Calum MacLeod over a decade in the 1960s. I have walked this road before, but we did not have time to visit Raasay on this occasion.



Peat cutting in North Uist



Plane on the runway at Barra airport



ISLAND 2/3 - NORTH UIST/BALESHARE

North Uist, the 10th largest Scottish island, has a population of about 1,200. Its west coast beaches are spectacular, especially in spring when they are alive with nesting seabirds. Our cottage was less than a

mile from the sea, making evening walks irresistible—always accompanied by the distinctive call of Corncrakes. It was on our second day that I managed to photograph this elusive bird.

**ISLAND 3 — BALESHARE**  
Baleshare is a flat tidal island to the southwest of North Uist, with a highest elevation of only 39 ft and a population of around 50.

**ISLAND NO. 4 — FLODAIGH**  
Flodaigh is another tidal island, lying north of Benbecula and connected by causeway. Only about seven people live there.

**ISLAND NO. 5 — BENBECULA**  
Benbecula is predominantly Catholic and has historical links to Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was forced to land here after a storm. The Outer Hebrides shift in religious tradition from Protestant in the north to Catholic in the south, and Benbecula reflects this pattern. With a population just over 1,200, it even has an airport with scheduled flights from Glasgow.

**ISLAND NO. 6 — SOUTH UIST**  
Reached by causeway from Benbecula, South Uist is the second largest island in the Outer Hebrides. It is a stronghold of the Gaelic language and home to around 1,650 people. It is also much hillier than many neighbouring islands, with Beinn Mhor rising to 2,030 ft.

**Island No. 7 — ERISKAY**  
Connected to South Uist by causeway, Eriskay has a population of around 160. It is famous as the setting for Whisky Galore!—based on the SS Politician, which ran aground in 1941 with a cargo of whisky bound for America. Islanders enjoyed its spoils for many years. From Eriskay you can take the 40 minute CalMac ferry to Barra, running up to five times a day and twice on Sundays.



Right: John Irving and Gavin Graham



The Eriskay ferry sets off

# Popular riding centre is to hang up its stirrups

Lads Lodge owner has sadly had to give in to financial pressures

The New Year got off to a deeply disappointing start for many riders in Newcastleton and surrounding area, with the announcement that the popular Lads Lodge Centre will definitely close later this year.

The Centre, near Penton, has been owned and run since 2019 by German-born Sabine Bliss and has become much-loved by riders of all ages and their families.

Sadly Sabine's partner Derek died unexpectedly in 2022, and because he left no Will, that meant huge financial issues as well as emotional heartbreak.

Local people rallied to the cause with fundraising efforts, but Sabine says she has accepted that closure is now the only option.

When the centre first opened it had just four horses and ponies. That has increased over the years to around fourteen and Sabine says she deliberately kept the operation quite small so that she could build a community and really get to know everyone.

As a result, it attracts riders of all ages from very young children to pensioners – and also provides a safe and supportive haven for riders who might not be able to cope with bigger, busier venues.

"We have become a haven for people who would struggle anywhere else. One lady who rides here is terminally ill, another older lady who has M.S. and children who have autism come here and they really do well here because it's quiet, and they can cope well with that," Sabine says.

"I even have a couple of kids who are registered blind. They have tried riding with RDA groups but found that didn't suit them, but they're fine here."

Sabine has also been highly proactive in looking for ways to make the centre an important part of the local community, even to people who might not normally consider trying horse-riding or indeed going anywhere



Lads Lodge Centre will close its door in June this year after seven years

near a horse.

This has led to the establishment of a number of projects, including sessions for children who are on free school meals, and others for pensioners over the age of 65.

Lads Lodge is also renowned for its prowess in the equestrian sport of Vaulting and has amassed many prizes and titles, both at regional and national level. The current British Novice Individual Championship was won by Newcastleton teenager Jessica Telford in October last year.

Sabine says Lads Lodge will stay open till June at least, but in the meantime she is searching for new premises to rent.



## Goats in Parliament

**Campaigners who have been lobbying the Scottish Government to award protected status to the wild goats on Langholm and Newcastleton moor for the past year may get their answer next month.**

A petition raised by the campaign has raised nearly 22,000 signatures, making it the largest petition on a wildlife conservation issue ever to have received its first hearing in Holyrood.

The fight to save the goats began when landowners Oxygen Conservation announced a major cull of the animals. Local people were further angered that the cull began in the middle of wild goat kidding season.

As a result, the Wild Goat Conservation Trust was formed to fight for the goats' future survival and the campaign has been supported by local MPs and MSPs.

Trust Chairman David Braithwaite, says he is extremely disappointed that the Scottish Government has so far remained wedded to the mantra that wild goats are non-native and cannot therefore be protected.

"We fully appreciate that finding the way to make this work is not easy, but politicians are put into power to make difficult things that are so clearly in the public interest happen," he said. "They must find a way, otherwise the whole public petitions exercise



is hollow and meaningless."

Vice-Chair Gail Brown says she accepts the goats have always been subject to control, but that things have changed significantly now. "Not only has the land ownership changed but the land management is undergoing a complete rethink," she says. "Trees and wind turbines are replacing Curlews, Peewits and grouse. We want to call time on the rewilding, Net Zero mania and have an honest discussion about what we are losing."

"We are not asking for the herd not to be managed, that would be madness, but through protected status the future management of these goats will be regulated under the scrutiny of an appropriate body."



"THEY CALL THEM THE HEAVENLY DANCERS": Alan Miller's fab photo of the aurora borealis taken from Whitaside in Langholm this week

Camera: Apple iPhone

## Tarras Valley team and the Big Burns Lanterns

The Tarras Valley Team and volunteers took part in the Big Burns Supper Carnival Parade in Dumfries over the weekend which attracted thousands on to the streets to watch the spectacle. The Tarras Valley were invited to be part of the community lantern parade alongside five other community groups from across Dumfries and Galloway.

All the community groups worked with artist Jonathan Ben-Shaul to create individual lanterns which were part of Saturday's parade. The theme was Space, so the Tarras theme was Planet Earth with a big barn owl, moon, stars and people wearing animal costumes. Other groups had made spaceships, aliens, floating cities, fish, stars and planets which made a fantastic spectacle as the darkness fell and the lanterns lit up the streets.

The Carnival is held every year to celebrate Burns Night and has a big community focus with schools and community groups making up a large part of the parade which was full of colour, music and light with pipers, choirs, samba bands and drummers. There was also a Northern Lights trail where public buildings across the town had light and sound installations that people could go and visit.

Jenny Barlow, Reserve Manager for Tarras Valley said "A huge thanks to everyone who came along to make the lanterns and got stuck in helping bring the ideas to life over the last few months. It was an incredible event to be part of".





# Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie with mair kirk stoories

Looking back...

contd...

And it was unusual to see many vacant seats in the kirk, particularly at the Sunday evening service; for the Rev James Buchanan was a minister greatly beloved and revered for his high Christian principles and kindly disposition, not only by members of his own denomination but by all with whom he came into contact, during his long and memorable ministry in Langholm.

How observant we young folks must have been, and how many seemingly trifling incidents and things in general, appear to have registered a note in memory's recording room.

For instance, when I see a small hard-backed Testament (now rarely used), I am instinctively reminded of the dignified pose of a notable member of the kirk who, when prayer was about to be made, sat upright, holding the little Testament between the forefinger and thumb of the right hand in front of his nose, just covering that very useful appendage, while supporting the elbow with his left hand. In this rigid and austere attitude, he would remain motionless until the "Amen". The pose never varied and it was possibly this circumstance that fixed so trifling a thing in one's mind.

The memory retains many other pictures portrayed during the all too swift years of boyhood, connected with the Auld Kirk, but the pen is a



Rev James Buchanan with the Elders of Langholm Old Parish Church

fickle thing, and once set going who can say how far it may wander in the paths one still holds sacred?

An interesting link with the first parish kirk and the present one is the ringing of the bell, the order of which has continued the same since those far-off days down to the present time.

## "Warning"

On Sunday mornings the First kirk bell is still rung at 9 o'clock; the Second or "warning" bell at 10.30; the Third bell at 11.30, followed by the service at 11.45. An

entry in the Kirk Session Records of November 2nd, 1722, where the ringing of the bell marked the duration of the punishment of a late comer to morning service, reveals the responsibility assumed by the austere Kirk Session of early days, happily unknown by present holders of that important office.

The extract referred to, which reads as follows, is a typical example of the times: "The officer reports S..... S..... came after divine service was begun and that hindered him to sit on the stool

(of repentance); in which he was approved, and appointed to intimate to S..... S..... that each day he appears in the sackcloth, he is to stand at the church door from the Second bell until worship is begun."

What the feelings of the unfortunate delinquent would be, as he stood shivering at the kirk door on the hillside on a bitter November morning, are more easily imagined than described.

## Longevity in Eskdale

In those bygone days of primi-

tive living, when the hours of labour were long and irksome, and marked by the absence of hygiene as we understand it today, the inhabitants both in the town and landward part of the parish, appear in general to have enjoyed good health, and many of them lived to a great age.

The Parish Minister who furnishes this information in his Statistical Account of Langholm, written in 1793, gives some remarkable instances of longevity. James Mouat, a surgeon, who lived in the top house of what was until recent years known as the Gas Entry, died in 1776, at the patriarchal age of 120. In the year 1781, George Swan, a cooper by trade, was 105 when he died, and did not take to his bed until a few days previous to his death.

A dyer of the name of John Brown, passed away in the same year as Dr Mouat at the age of 101 leaving his business to be carried on by his two sons, who, though 82 and 76 respectively, were still actively engaged in the dyeing trade. In the parish of Westerkirk the age of one of the inhabitants, whose name is not stated, is given as 106. "This man, according to his own account" says the writer "is 106, but his name is not on the Session record; the probability, however, is, all circumstances considered, that he is above 100.

# C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

## Thursday, 15th January 2026

### CONTACT NUMBERS:

John Walton	07880 527 066
Daniel Lynn	07584 200 489
Nick Woodmass	07442 246 063
Sam Hogg	07584 207323
Norman Douglas	07786 366 833
Helen Rickard	07741 313 029



**C&D Auction Marts had forward a huge entry of 7,396 sheep comprising of 4,359 hogs and 3,037 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

### PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 4,359 hogs sold to a very competitive ring of purchasers ensuring, 33-45kg Hogs sold to huge rates of return being the dearest trade of the season.

Heavy commercial hogs met a lot of resistance being very difficult to place. Export weights and smalls proved in serious demand and way short of customer requirements once again. Horned lambs proved in great demand, with plenty of runs averaging north of 325ppk. Good commercial export weights regularly trading 345-360ppk with the best hogs 430ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £206 for Texels from J Elliot, Roxburgh Mains.

Beltex hogs topped at 436.8p per kilo from Gelston Castle.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries.

Overall average 320ppk (SQQ 332.5ppk)

### Principal prices (Per head)

**Texel** - £206 Roxburgh Mains, £200, £171 Knock, £170 Roxburgh Mains, £168 West Montgarswood, £165 Kirkwood & Cambridgehill, £163 Cumcrook, £162 Tecket, £161 Low Stoke.

**Beltex** - £192, £182 Gelston Castle, £170 Newton Cottage & Mid Derry, £168 Scobshaugh, £166, £164 Gelston Castle, £161

Scobshaugh.

**Suffolk** - £170 Shandford & Skelfhill, £160 Netherfofts & North House, £154 Knock, Guards Mill & Roxburgh Mains, £150 Shandford, Tone Hall & High Cattadale.

**Charollais** - £168 Crosslee, £158 Guards Mill, £152 Outer Huntly, £150 Tinnishall & Guards Mill, £146 Tinnishall, £141 Heugh Farm.

**Cheviot Mule** - £164 Upper Chatto, £161 Tushielaw, £158 Solwaybank, £150 Becks Farm, £147 Tister, £142 Becks Farm, Tister & Upper Chatto.

**Mule** - £160 Cowburnrigg, £159 Beechgrove, £151 Greenridge, £145 High Cattadale & Gleneherve, £144 Cowburnrigg, South Dean, Shitlington Hall & Campmill, £141.50 Southdean.

**Hill Cheviot** - £152 Glendearg, £150 Main-side, £145 Glendearg, £142 Newton Cottages, £141, £140 Roxburgh Mains, £139.5 Townhead Cottage, £139 Skelfhill, £137 Glendearg, £136 Craighens.

**Blue Faced Leicester** - £151 Shitlington Hall, £150 Southdean, £143 Solwaybank.

**North Country Cheviot** - £150 Knock & Carruthers Farm, £143 Mid Calder & Southfield, £140 Southfield, £139 Heugh Farm, £135 Skelfhill, £134 Tushielaw, £133 Upper Chatto.

**Blackface** - £147 Maulscastle, £145 Pole Farm, £143 Arncliffe, £142 Pole Farm, £140 Shitlington Hall & Peela Hill, £139 Craigdarroch, £137 Grindon Hill, £135 Clonrae, Grindon Hill, Clonrae & Cowburnrigg.

**Lleyn** - £147 North House, £142 High Trehitt, £141 Bonnyrigg.

**Dutch Spotted** - £143 Cadgillhead, £142 North House.

**Hampshire** - £143 Beechgrove.

**Easycare** - £142 High Trehitt, £127 West Drummoddie.

**Romney** - £139, £135 Rammerscales, £132 Tushielaw.

**Herdwick** - £136, £128 Orthwaite Hall.

**Oxford** - £132, £128 Guards Farm.

**Bleu du Maine** - £130 Lurgan Farm.

**Swaledale** - £126 Low Stoke, £120 Orthwaite Hall & Westerhopeburn.

**Shetland** - £90, £82 Upper Rigg.

**Principal Prices (Per Kilo)**

**Beltex** - 436.8p, 425p, 423p Gelston Castle, 420p Scobshaugh, 409p Lurgan, 400p Solwaybank, 392p, 390.5p Gelston Castle, 389p Howard House, 385p Braehead, 382.9p Gelston Castle.

**Texel** - 410p West Montgarswood, 388.1p, 382.9p Cumcrook, 377.1p Tecket, 373p East Mey, 372p Tecket, 369.8p High Stenries, 369p, 368p Cumcrook.

**Suffolk** - 358p Swanson, 356p, 351p Shandford, 350p Devonport, 341p Netherfofts, 340p Langholm Farm, Red Gap, 339.5p Gelston Castle, 338p Knock.

**Bleu Du Maine** - 371p Lurgan Farm.

**Charollais** - 353p Heugh Farm, 330.4p, 327p Outer Huntly, 324p Tinnishall, 322.4p Guardsmill.

**Cheviot Mule** - 351.1p Solwaybank, 338p East Rackwood, 333p Outer Huntly, 323.3p Moorhills, 321.6p Greenridge, 320.5p Tushielaw.

**Lleyn** - 346p Bonnyrigg, 334p North House, 332.4p Red Gap, 323p Wattanon Croft & Bonnyrigg.

**Hill Cheviot** - 345p, 343.6p Nether Abington, 342.5p Glendearg, 341.2p Craighens, 329.3p Crosslee, 327.5p Solwaybank, 326p

Glendearg, 323.8p Craighens, 323p Lurgan Farm.

**North Country Cheviot** - 344p East Rackwood, 342.1p Carruthers Farm, 339.5p Tushielaw, 337p Swanson, 333p Brae Edge, 331p Mid Calder, 330p Outer Huntly, 329.3p Skelfhill, 324p Upper Chatto, 323.3p Heugh Farm.

**Blackface** - 342p, 340p, 338.2p Craigdarroch, 335p Clonrae, 334.2p, 331p Craigdarroch, 329.4p, 329p Clonrae, 327.3p Shitlington Hall, 325p Craigdarroch.

**Mule** - 338p Grindon Hill, 336.8p Arncliffe, 332p, 331.4p Devonport Farms, 327p Cowburnrigg, 320.6p Devonport Farms, 320.5p Braehead, Fordlands.

**Dutch Spotted** - 333p Cadgillhead, 315.6p North House.

**Blue Faced Leicester** - 300p Shitlington Hall, 267.9p South Dean.

**Romney** - 324p Seaview, 317.6p Rammerscales.

**Herdwick** - 328.2p Orthwaite Hall.

**Swaledale** - 311p, 307.7p, 305.6p Westerhopeburn.

**Easycare** - 310p 2 Market Place, 302p West Drummoddie.

**Oxford** - 308.4p, 300p Guards Farm.

**Shetland** - 300p Upper Rigg.

**Hampshire** - 286p Beechgrove.

**CAST EWES AND RAMS**

A similar show of 3,037 cast ewes and rams were forward to an increased ring of purchasers ensuring all classes were once again in demand and short of purchaser demands. Lightweight ewes again the trade of the day and proving very good to sell being £3-£4 up on the week. Heavy ewes main-

tained last weeks high rates of return.

Please contact our auctioneers for advice on when best to market your stock.

Heavy ewes topped at £282 for Texel ewes from Beckfoot.

Light ewes topped at £178 for Cheviots shown by Bridgewater & Wood, Potholm, Langholm with Blackface ewes topping at £156 from DA & MA Teasdale, Grindon Hill, Haydon Bridge.

Ram trade is at its peak; customers are urged to forward rams while the going is good.

Rams topping at £260 for Suffolks from Beckfoot.

**Heavy ewes**

**Texel** £282 Beckfoot, £270 Machrihanish, £265 Thackwood, £250 Hassendeanburn, £245 Wyseby Hill Cottage, £240, £235 Moorfoot Cottage, £235 Clackmae.

**Suffolk** £250 Gartvaigh, £222 Greenknowe, £220 Inamay, £218, £215 Beckfoot, £210 Greenknowe & Hassendeanburn.

**Charollais** £250 Thackwood, £215 Maryholm & Beckfoot, £212 Thackwood.

**Beltex** £245 Maryholm, £220 Netherwood.

**Bluefaced Leicester** £220 Machrihanish, £215 Beckfoot, £195 Clackmae.

**Cheviot Mule** £194 Clackmae, £194, £190 Newtonhill, £188 Galleyweay, £184 Fala Hill.

**Mule** £190 High Cattadale, £186 Beckfoot, £186, £184 Fala Hill.

**North Country Cheviot** £189 Gospel Hall, £186 Drumreach, £185 Dormansteads, £182 The Mark.

**Zwartbles** £185 Stapleton Grange.

**Light ewes**

**Hill Cheviot** £178 Potholm, £175 Roxburgh Estate, £170 Tordale, £168 Buchtrig, £166 Potholm.

**Easycare** £160 West Drummoddie.

**Blackface** £156 Grindon Hill, £150 South Bogbain, £148, £138 Brennanlea, £138, £134 Grindon Hill, £132, £130 Kilchiaran.

**Lleyn** £136 Bonnyrigg.

**Lonk** £128 Harbarrow.

**Herdwick** £126 Mossbank House.

**Swaledale** £118, £115 Grindon Hill, £108 Devonport Farms.

**Goat** £142 Maidencots.

**Rams**

**Suffolk** £260 Beckfoot, £220 Hassendeanburn.

**Bluefaced Leicester** £252 Tone Hall, £230 Arncliffe, £200 Gartvaigh.

**Texel** £250, £240 Skelfhill, £230 Beckfoot, £220 Sharpplaw & Trailrow, £210 Clackmae.

**Charollais** £225 Marygate.

**Hill Cheviot** £205, £200 Roxburgh Estate, £185 Skelfhill.

**North Country Cheviot** £200 Newton Cottage.

**Beltex** £192, £170 Newton Cottage.

**Blackface** £175 Pole, £172 Tone Hall, £168 Brennanlea & Skelfhill.

**Valais Blacknose** £162 Whitehall.

**Averages:**

**Hoggs**

Light to 339p (291.5p)

Standard to 436.8p (336.8p)

Medium to 423p (329.9p)

Heavy to 337p (303.6p)

**Ewes**

Light to £178.00 (£115.15)

Heavy to £282.00 (£155.13)

Rams to £260.00 (£165.70)

# LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

**CREATION MILL** W/C 26th Jan 2025

<b>Mon</b>	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Xcel youth club - Scarf Competition Sessions	6-8:15	Xcel Project, DG13 0AR
<b>Tues</b>	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
	Sewing Machines for Beginners	2-3:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Wed</b>	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Fri</b>	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Sat</b>	Intro to Fairisle Knitting	10-2	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

**Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3**  
 Booking required, please visit [CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS](http://CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS)



**LANGHOLM YOUNG RIDERS ENROLMENT**  
 Wednesday  
 28th January, 2026  
 in Crown Hotel  
 7:00pm

**Langholm Old Town Bowling Club**  
**AGM**  
 Friday 30th January  
 7pm  
 Clubrooms  
 All welcome

### WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

<b>Sat 24th</b>	Creation Mill Weekend Creation Club	Creation Mill 10am - 1pm creationmill.org/events to book
	Muckle Toon Community Burns Supper	The Buccleuch Centre 7pm - Entry Free
	Celebrate Rabbie Burns	Eskdalemuir Hub 7pm
<b>Sun 25th</b>	Open Mic Session	Eskdalemuir Hub 2pm - 5pm
<b>Fri 30th</b>	Gilnockie 100th Anniversary Burns Supper	Gilnockie Hall 7 for 7.30pm
<b>Sat 31st</b>	Canonbie United Parish Church Soup Kitchen and Table Top Sale	Canonbie Public Hall 11am - 1.30pm
	Sustainability Saturday Pre-loved event	The Buccleuch Centre 10am - 2pm
	Canonbie Flower Show Quiz Night	Canonbie Public Hall 7pm

# The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2603 answers next week

- Where is the Last Night of the Proms held?
- For what is London's Hatton Garden most noted?
- Which world-famous building was originally constructed for the 1925 British Empire Exhibition?
- What is the LSE?
- Which British island, about 80 feet across, is in the Atlantic some 230 miles west of the Hebrides?
- In which county is the Forest of Bowland?
- The A1 or Great North Road links London and which other city?
- Which British cathedral, located in the Midlands, has three spires?
- What is the date of St David's Day?
- Where is the National Motor Museum located?
- Which Oxfordshire town is famed for its regatta?
- With which particular commodity is London's Mincing Lane associated?
- Where in London would you find the Whispering Gallery?
- In the context of Lundy Island, what does Lundy mean originally?
- Which English city did the Romans call Deva?
- What is Sullem Voe?
- On the Royal Arms of Great Britain, which creature represents Scotland?
- What separates the Isle of Wight from the English mainland?
- What is commemorated by The Monument in London?
- Which city was known as Eboracum by the Romans?



# Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

## Quiz 2602

- The Duke of Cumberland
- Henry VIII
- Dumbarton
- Partick Thistle
- Dirleton
- Heart of Midlothian
- Thread
- Flodden
- A reaping machine
- Malcolm III
- Chemist
- The Scottish National Party
- Graeme Souness
- July
- Wet Wet Wet
- Sanquar
- Annie Laurie
- Kidnapped
- Jackie Stewart
- Braemar

## Crossword 2602

**Across:** 6 Impressionist, 8 Peerage, 9 Rabbi, 10 Thin, 11 Concrete, 15 Aberdeen, 16 Stud, 19 Value, 21 Chapati, 22 Lackadaisical.

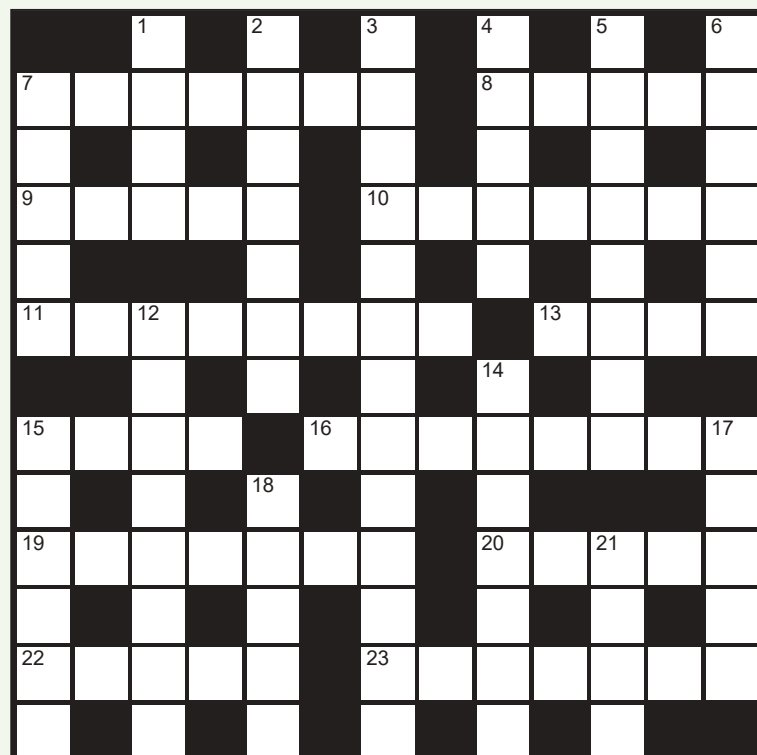
**Down:** 1 Appetite, 2 Repay, 3 Isle, 4 Correct, 5 Limb, 6 Input, 7 Trice, 12 One, 13 Entrance, 14 Adrenal, 15 Anvil, 17 Drill, 18 Gassy, 20 Luck, 21 Coat.

# NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2603 answers next week

- Across**
- Sandy shores (7)
  - Done at last! (5)
  - State of disgrace (5)
  - Musty rubbish (7)
  - Monastic life (8)
  - Social work gatherings (4)
  - Duration (4)
  - Relax (8)
  - Officer plays on cello (7)
  - Ransack (5)
  - Deadbeat (5)
  - Distinct sort or kind (7)

- Down**
- Where to find Timbuktu (4)
  - Capital of Bhutan (7)
  - Survey the top storey? (13)
  - Dog ends (5)
  - Run down apartment (8)
  - Faculties (6)
  - Plant flower (5)
  - Unidentified salesmen go berserk (8)
  - Protected (7)
  - Fishing gear (6)
  - Essentials (5)
  - Chemically unreactive (5)
  - Lay an egg (4)



# E&L CLASSIFIEDS

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

TREE & FORESTRY SERVICES

**A.S.H.** 

**FORESTRY & TREE SERVICES**  
 HEDGE & TREE PLANTING  
 TREE FELLING - PRUNING - REMOVAL  
 All Forestry Work Undertaken  
 CONTACT: 07495 992215 | ahoggforestry@aol.com

PROPERTY TO LET

**OFFICES-STUDIOS-WORKSHOPS-STORAGE TO LET - LANGHOLM**

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

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

BLINDS

**DATS BLINDS**

3 Blinds for £160  
 (70x50)

Your local manufacturer of top quality blinds  
**FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE**

Special Offers on Conservatory Blinds | Perfect fit blinds ideal for tilt & turn windows

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

For a free, no obligation survey and to view our extensive range, call  
**01461 20 48 42** or **01461 20 61 48**  
 or text your name and contact number to **077 382 192 88**  
 www.datsblinds.co.uk

OPTICIANS

**Book your eyetest today**  
 Personal care and attention from your first appointment with us.  
 Spectacles and Contact Lenses to suit all budgets

  
**ERIC HAGAN**  
 OPTICIANS  
 www.erichaganopticians.co.uk

Longtown  
 Tel: 01228 791664  
 Brampton  
 Tel: 016977 42703

SCRAP METAL

**CUMBRIA METALS FARM SCRAP URGENTLY WANTED**

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

To advertise in the **E&L Advertiser** please call **013873 80012**

**Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser**

**Advertise with the E&L**  
 it's cheaper than you think!  
 Call 013873 80012 for details

To advertise in the **E & L Advertiser** please call **013873 80012**

ADVERTISING

**Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser**




Advertise in the E & L Advertiser you'll be surprised how little it costs!

An advert this size, 10cm x 2 columns, will only cost **£30 + VAT** each for 12 inserts. This can include your logo or other graphic and can be designed in-house.

**Contact 013873 80012 for details.**

**Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser**

*The E&L Gallery*



Send us your photographs..... we'd be happy to publish them

Email them to [alan@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:alan@eladvertiser.co.uk) or drop a printed copy into our office at 47A High Street, Langholm.

Photo by: Stan Wilson

# Wamphray and Gretna bowling

## Carpet Bowling



On Friday night the Winner of Wamphray Singles tournament was Ryan Wood. Runner up was Al Sloan. Semi-finalists were Sparky and Stuart Howden. Quarter finalists were - Luke Tolson, Ryan Simpson, Matt Hall, David Broatch.

Thanks to 40 people who came and played and to the club members who ran the Bar and Raffle and to our sponsor Scott Hamilton. Much appreciated.



On Sunday Gretna bowling club held an open singles tournament. The final prize money was shared between Matt Hall and Aaron Wood (pictured).

The beaten Semi-finalists were Alfie Calvert and Jamie Johnstone.

There was an entry of 30. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the competition.

# Youth Rugby Carpet Bowling Tournament

## Carpet Bowling

By Tracey Goodfellow

Langholm Youth Rugby held their annual carpet bowling tournament recently at Milntown, the home of Langholm RFC, with a strong turnout of 24 triples.

The tournament brought together a wide mix of players, including experienced bowlers, first-timers and members of the local rugby community. It was particularly encouraging to see several youth rugby coaches and players, along with members of the Langholm 1st XV, taking part. A number of teams also travelled to Langholm to compete, reflecting the event's growing popularity.

### Good-natured

The day was marked by good-natured competition, strong sportsmanship and plenty of entertaining play, with the event running smoothly thanks to the efforts of the hard-working volunteers.

Organisers thanked Langholm RFC for the use of their facilities and extended their appreciation to everyone who played, helped on the day, donated raffle prizes or came along to support the tournament. Special thanks were given to Paul Warwick and Luke Tolson for overseeing the smooth running of the competition.



### Results

Winners were Matt Hall, Anne Hall and Ellis Hodgins, with Aaron Wood, Olly V and Janie Hotson finishing as runners-up.

The semi-finalists were Ryan Wood, Jay Gordon and Louise Keeney, and Danny Hotson, Jayk Foster and Tom Stothart.

Thanks were also extended to Langholm Social Club Carpet Bowling for lending their boards, and to Ryan Wood and helpers for transporting the equipment to and from Milntown.

The event was praised as another successful fundraiser for the youth section with organisers already looking ahead to next year's tournament.

Jill Barker from Langholm Youth Rugby Trust presented the trophy and prize money.



## 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

**After School Football**  
**S1-S6**  
Monday's (3.30pm-4.30pm)  
**3G Pitch**  
Starts Monday 26th January

Happy Ruby Anniversary  
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!

**SUPER4s 2026**  
Tue 3rd Feb (Lockerbie)  
Mon 23rd Feb (Annan)  
Tue 3rd Mar (Moffat)  
Mon 9th Mar (Langholm)  
Click on the link in the text above for further information 🙌  
sponsored by  
welcome to  
**Langholm.....**  
Future Champions Awards

Send details to:  
alan@ladvertiser.co.uk

**Eskdale & Liddesdale**  
Advertiser

drop in to the office  
or call us on 013873 80012

# Sports News

Thursday January 22, 2026

NEXT SCHEDULED FIXTURES

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

Sponsored by **KELSO RACES**

01573 221221 | info@kelso-races.co.uk



**KELSO RACES**  
A WARM BORDERS WELCOME

## Langholm football trio signs for Queen of the South

### Girls Football

Three of Langholm's star players from the Girls Football Club have taken the next step in their football career by signing for the Dumfries team, Queen of the South.

Members of the Langholm club since its inception, the girls are now too old to play as the club does not have an U16 team.

Queen of the South said: "Our U16 coaches have been busy in the transfer market again !

"Over the years there have been the Kmita, Da Silva and De Boer twins, but now we have the Davidson twins.

"We are delighted to announce the signing of Lauren and Isla from our friends at Langholm Girls Football Club for season 2026/27.

"Like their teammate Layna Pearson, who has also been signed for the QoS side, they have both been training with our club for a few weeks and after tough negotiations put pen to paper on a double deal during the week.

"We are confident Lauren, Isla and Layna will be fantastic additions to our U16 squad. Our coaches look forward to supporting their continued development."

Former LGFC coach said: "I am delighted for all three girls who have shown a fantastic attitude and commitment to developing their



Langholm footballers Isla and Lauren Davidson and Layna Pearson have signed for Queen of the South Ladies and Girls FC

game with Langholm Girls Football Club during the last four years. Speaking to the coaches at Queen of the South, they have all settled in very well, made many new friends and I am in no doubt that they will all do very well at their new club."

Everyone at the E&L sends congratulations to the three talented girls and readers can rest assured that we'll be following their progress.



## Happy New Netball Year!

### Netball



Langholm Academy Junior Netball Team got off to a great start in 2026 with an excellent performance, last week, against Stranraer Academy.

Stranraer made the long journey to Langholm with two netball teams which meant the Langholm girls would play two games in the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Schools Netball League.

Langholm won the first game with an excellent 21-3 victory followed by a 22-5 victory in their second game.

## Good start, bad finish at Porto!

### Rugby

By Jason Ratcliffe

Following the previous week's postponement Langholm travelled north to Portobello for their first game of 2026, and only third fixture since the end of October.

Langholm started well with an early penalty from Bailey Donaldson to take a 3-0 lead before Portobello hit back with a converted try, 7-3.

Portobello extended their lead with a penalty before Langholm were

forced to shuffle their back line as Bailey Donaldson was replaced after suffering an injury.

Langholm managed to bring the scores level with a well worked try from Josh Duffy, converted by Ben Jardine, but Portobello regained the lead on half time with a penalty.

HT Portobello 13, Langholm 10

Portobello were quick out of the blocks in the second half as they hit Langholm with two quick tries both converted to take a 27-10 lead.

This knocked the stuff-

ing out of Langholm who struggled to get control of the ball as Portobello ran in two more converted tries as the game approached the hour mark the hosts taking a 41-10 lead.

Langholm continued to battle and with ten minutes remaining Steven Nicol crossed for what was a consolation try.

Final score P41, L15

A tough game on the road and big week to regroup before hosting second placed Haddington at Milntown on Saturday.



Congratulations go to LRFC's scrum half Rhuaridh Forbes, playing his 50th game for the Crimson at Portobello

# E&L SPORT

