

# Langholm Community Burns Supper is a credit to the town's young people



# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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# Community concerned as kirk continues to crumble

## Campaigner has another attempt at challenging Council

Langholm's dedicated Erskine Church campaigner, Denise Irving, has raised urgent concerns about the safety of deteriorating timber cladding panels on the former Erskine Church building, after reporting the issue to Dumfries and Galloway Council last week.

She contacted the Council on Monday, 19 January, to report, once more, what she described as a "dangerous building," noting that several large wooden panels fixed to upper windows were rotting, loose, and overhanging the neighbouring yard at Townhead House. She said the issue had been especially worrying during a week of severe wind and rain and requested immediate assessment.

After receiving no update for several days, Denise followed up with Building Standards on 22 January, stating that the lack of communication had added to

her concerns. She later received confirmation from Building Standards Surveyor Charlie Jardine that a building inspector had visited the site and that a letter had been issued to the property's owner requesting that the panels be made safe.

However, Denise subsequently responded to the Council seeking clarification and expressing doubts about the adequacy of the actions taken. She questioned whether inspectors had entered her mother's yard—necessary, she argued, to assess the condition of the most precarious panel at the far rear corner. Her mother, who resides at Townhead House, did not recall anyone accessing the property.

Denise also noted what she described as the owner's "established track record" of failing to address the building's condition since purchasing it and asked why the Council believed that a written request alone would

prompt timely remedial action.

The most pressing concern, she said, was the safety of three young children who regularly stay at Townhead House and are expected to use the yard as a play area. Citing a previous incident where a panel detached and was blown across the yard, she warned that the risk was "not hypothetical" and that the current condition of the eight-foot panels posed "a genuine risk to life should one detach and strike someone."

Denise has asked the Council to take immediate, assertive action to ensure the panels are secured or removed before next weekend, saying that enforcement may be necessary given the owner's history.

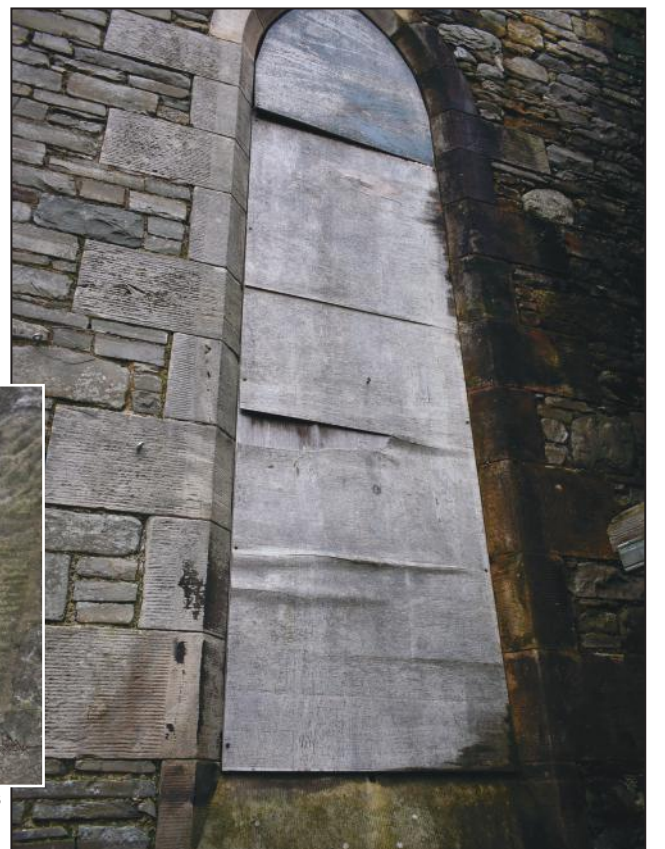
In his email, Jardine confirmed only that the inspector had visited and that a letter had been sent to the owner. He advised that any questions regarding prior issues or

ongoing works should be directed to the Planning and Development Team Leader.

As of the latest correspondence, Denise is seeking written confirmation from the Council on what further steps, if any, will be taken to eliminate the risk before children are present on the property.



Broken downpipes, sodden walls and unsafe cladding make a bad situation worse



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# Family Announcements

## Deaths

### BELL, Derek

Passed away peacefully at the Thomas Hope after a short illness aged 93.

Beloved husband of Elma, proud Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. A private cremation service is to take place

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

### CROSBIE, Margaret (Meg)

Peacefully after a short illness, at home in Eastriggs on Sunday 18th January Margaret (Meg) aged 83 years. Loving wife of the late Bing, dearly loved dad of Nigel, Brian and Gary, mother-in-law of Tracey, Craig and Susan. Also a much loved granny and great granny.

Funeral service to take place on Wednesday 4th February at 11.30am in Watchhill Chapel of Rest Annan thereafter to Canonbie Cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired to the family's chosen charity.

### EDGAR, Andrew

On 14th January 2026 suddenly but peacefully at home Andrew of Moffat, formerly of Langholm. A much loved husband to Angela, dad to Ross & Ruaridh, father in-law to Cat & Michael and adored granddad to Charlie & Finn.

Funeral service to be held on 5th February 2026 at Upper Annandale Parish Church, Moffat, at 11am. Followed by a committal service at Roucan Loch Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations can be made on the day or directly to Prostate Buddies D&G.

## Thanks for Sympathy

### Bryan Rae

*Precious memories of a sorely missed Husband, Dad, Father-in-law Papa, Brother and friend of many who passed away 1st February 2023.*

*You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.*

*Always in our hearts. Ellen and all his family and friends.*

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser is part-funded and supported by the following charitable trusts, organisations and individuals from the community of Langholm.



- The Ainslie Charitable Trust
- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
- Crossdykes Community Benefits Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland
- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust



Eskdale & Liddesdale  
Advertiser

## Church Notices

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE PARISH linked with CANONBIE United Parish Church

### Welcome to worship

Sunday  
1st February

Services led by  
Rev Morag Crossan

NEWCASTLETON  
9.30am

LANGHOLM  
11am

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Langholm service  
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Services led by  
worship teams

CANONBIE  
Messy Church  
11.00am

WESTERKIRK  
1:30pm

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

# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

## Elizabeth and Caroline Streets to become one-way with weight restrictions

Councillor Denis Male was becoming increasingly frustrated at the lack of communication from D&G Council regarding the weight restrictions being introduced on Elizabeth and Caroline Streets. So much so that he contacted Oliver Mundell MSP to see if he could help.

Mr Mundell managed to elicit the following response from the roads department.

"Please see below the response I have now received from the Council regarding the one-way orders for Elizabeth Street and Caroline Street.

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the proposed Weight Restriction and One Way Orders for Elizabeth Street and Caroline Street.

"Please accept my apologies for the delay in progressing both the advertisement and implementation of these Orders.

"We intend to issue the draft advert to our Adverts Group this week, with publication in the local newspapers scheduled for 29/30 January 2026. This will begin with the statutory four-



A meeting with roads engineers was originally held on Caroline Street on 27/02/24 to address the concerns about the safety of the structure of the street

week advertisement period, during which any objections to the proposals may be submitted.

If no objections are received, we will proceed with the construction drawings and the subsequent statutory six-week advertisement. This second advert relates specifically to objections on the grounds that the Council has not followed the required statutory process for implementing the Orders.

If objections are received during the initial four-week

period, we will work to resolve them. Should any remain unresolved, a report will be submitted to the Area Committee for further consideration.

Once again, I apologise for the delay in progressing these orders and the associated One Way and Weight Restriction works."

I trust you will be pleased that the timescale has now been confirmed and hopefully the works will follow shortly.

Oliver Mundell MSP

## ...humour in everything

Although we wholeheartedly acknowledge the seriousness of the situation with the "Langholm Eyesore", Erskine Church, we had to print a hilarious Facebook post by local wag and community champion, Big Deev McVittie. A little satirical humour never did any harm!

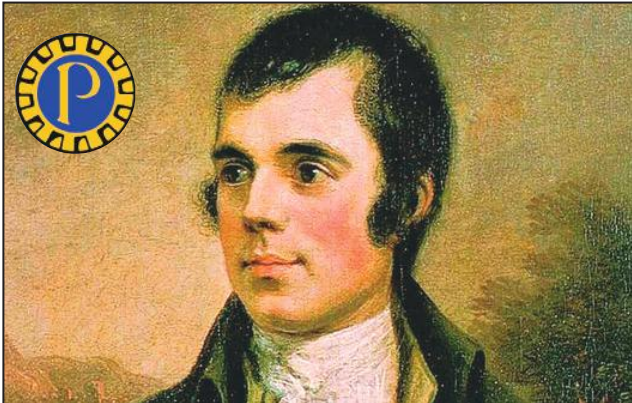
"Does anyone know if there are any 20th anniversary celebrations being organised for the Erskine Kirk Steeple scaffolding for next year? Feel we should mark such a

monumental occasion, perhaps a tea party with trips up an doon the thing? Maybe a kit to make a replica oot o matchsticks could be given to all the school bairns, printed T-shirts perhaps, commemorative mugs or plates. A day of celebration involving the three bands? Surely something of this magnitude is worthy of some kind of recognition?

Has anyone been in touch with Norris McWhirter? This must surely be a Guinness World Record.....



## Whistlestop tour of the life of Burns



On Wed 21st, at The Eskdale Hotel, Langholm Probus Club was treated to a whistle stop tour of the life of Burns given by the redoubtable Billy Young.

Billy's Immortal Memory demonstrated his great love of Burns and his deep knowledge of the Bard. He concentrated on the themes which influenced Burns' poems mainly nature and his love of the lassies. His relationships with women varied from the amorous to the platonic but they were all charmed by his silken tongue. There were many apt quotations to illustrate how Burns felt towards the fairer sex

He told how Burns' career

had begun with epitaphs for people he knew and gradually developed, via love poems, into the mature style of some of his later works such as A Man's a Man For A That and Scot's Wha Hae. Of course, Burns' death at the age of 37 came far too soon and Billy explained how he had a weakened heart from hard labour and that he had developed rheumatoid arthritis. But he wrote poems to the very last. 12000 people lined the streets of Dumfries at his funeral, and he has left an immeasurable legacy.

Billy's address was followed by the traditional lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties and a few drams.

## Concerning incident at Langholm Primary

Safeguarding procedures introduced immediately

The alarm was raised at Langholm Primary School at lunchtime on Tuesday 20th, when two unknown individuals, behaving in a manner that raised concern, were observed near the school entrance.

The following letter, from Headteacher Lauren McGill was sent out that day to parents and carers of all school pupils.

Dear Parents and Carers,

*I am writing to inform you of an incident that occurred outside the school gates at approximately 13:15 today.*

*Two members of the public were observed behaving in a manner that raised concern while in the vicinity of the primary school entrance. The individuals did not enter school grounds, and there was no interaction with pupils. As a precautionary measure, school staff acted promptly, ensuring nursery and primary pupils remained in the building, and secondary pupils were brought inside during the remainder of their lunch break. The matter has been reported to the appropriate authorities, who*



*are aware and investigating the situation.*

*We would like to reassure you that the safety and well-being of our pupils remains our highest priority, and our safeguarding procedures were followed at all times. Our pupils acted promptly and followed the instructions of all school staff.*

*We kindly ask parents and carers to remain vigilant when arriving at or leaving the school site and to report any concerns to a member of staff immediately. Please also remind children of the importance of staying within school grounds and informing an adult if they feel unsure or uncomfortable at any time.*

*Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for our school community.*

Ms McGill added the following comment:

"The matter is being investigated by Police Scotland. Our nursery and primary pupils were secure inside the school building and our secondary pupils responded quickly and maturely, following staff instructions and coming inside the school building promptly.

No further suspicious behaviour of any members of the public was reported to us after the incident however we will continue to liaise with Police Scotland in their investigation"

## Thomas Telford on Radio 4

All this week 08.30 and 16.30 with an omnibus on Sunday morning on Radio. 4 extra, there is programme on the life of Thomas Telford.

Monday, set the scene with early days at Westerkirk. Also mentioned are Telford's school friends, the Little brothers and the Jackson, Pultney, Malcolm and Johnstone families.

Well worth a listen for anyone interested in Langholm history.

Also, in further celebration of Thomas Telford, the BBC's Country File, hosted by John Craven, Charlotte Smith and Adam Henson takes a look at the Menai Suspension Bridge. from Thomas Telford's daring engineering that created his majestic bridge to the rare wildlife thriving in the fast-flowing currents beneath it.

Catch up with both on the BBC iPlayer.

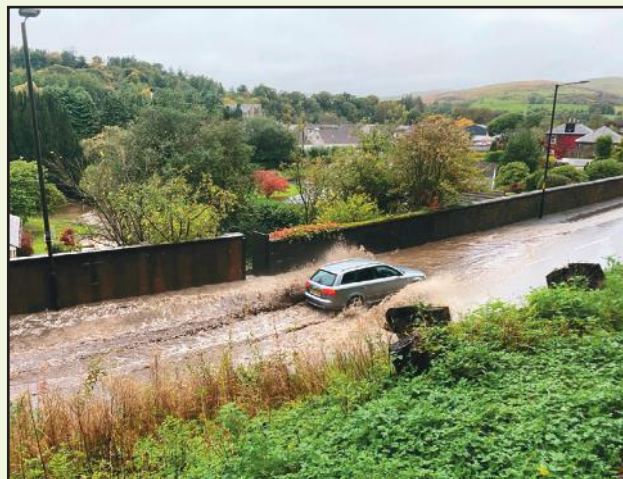
## Bridge results

1 Nancy McLure & Anne Ferguson  
2 Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop  
3 Bob Francombe & George Graham  
4 Jim Muir & John Packer  
5 Lorraine Morton & Aileen Graham  
6 Ann Smart & Barbara Addison.

## SEPA is asking us to share our flooding experiences

People across Scotland are being encouraged to share their experiences of local flooding to help shape how flood risk is managed in their communities, as work progresses on Scotland's next Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs). The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has launched a public consultation, beginning on Wednesday 21 January, to gather insight from areas identified as having the highest flood risk. Feedback will inform the FRMPs for 2028-2034, which will outline how Scotland can reduce the impacts of flooding and strengthen long term resilience.

Flooding already affects many communities, and climate change is increasing the likelihood of heavier rainfall and more frequent storms. SEPA's National Flood Risk Assessment (2025) indicates that around 400,000 homes, businesses and essential services—roughly one in eight across Scotland—are currently located in areas at medium risk



of flooding. This figure could rise to approximately 634,000 by 2100 as climate impacts intensify.

The consultation builds on work completed in 2024, when Potentially Vulnerable Areas were reviewed to identify where flood risk is greatest now and in the future. These areas help guide investment and ensure that efforts are focused where flooding is most widespread or complex,

and where strong partnership working is vital.

This stage of the consultation seeks local knowledge to ensure future plans reflect lived experience. Running until 22 April, it invites communities to share their main flooding concerns and highlight any projects or initiatives already helping to manage risk. The aim is to support the development of FRMPs that promote resilient, well

informed communities and recognise the shared responsibility of individuals, organisations, local authorities and national agencies in adapting to a changing climate.

Eleanor Cooper, SEPA's Head of Environment Forecasting and Warning, emphasised the importance of community involvement, noting that many areas are already feeling the effects of climate driven flood risk. She highlighted that listening to local experience is essential for improving understanding and shaping effective future planning.

This consultation is the first stage of a two part process. A second, more detailed consultation will begin in December 2026, presenting further information on flood risk, objectives and proposed actions developed with local authorities. Final Flood Risk Management Plans are expected to be published in December 2027.

More information and access to the consultation are available on SEPA's Citizen Space platform.

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# Come, live with us in D&G says Council

An ongoing outward flow of Dumfries and Galloway residents has prompted D&G Council to release a glossy video on YouTube.

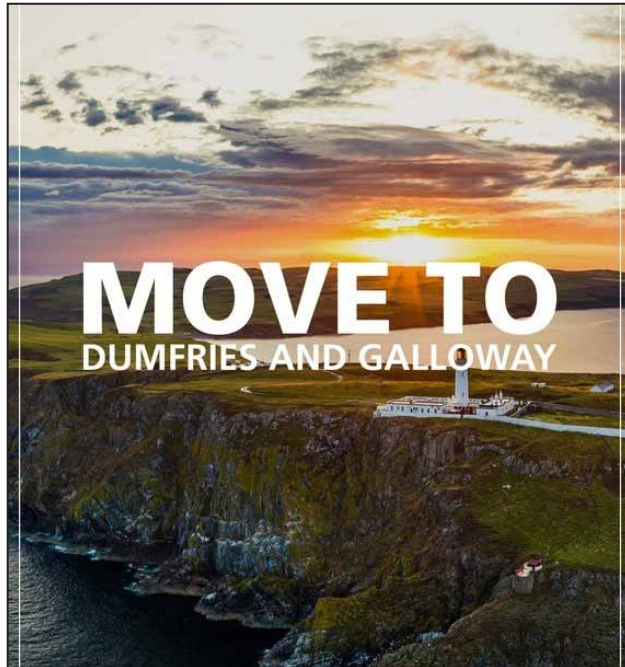
It underlines the excellence of the region's natural beauty and culture and a chance to enhance, with the help of Scottish government funding, a good work-life balance.

"This campaign highlights our Addressing Depopulation Fund and is part of our work to build strong communities," says the council.

The council has a particular focus on promoting an influx of businesses: for every £1 spent on inward investment initiatives it claims, in the last five years, to have reaped £5, totalling £250m of investment.

"Our support is tailored to every stage of incoming businesses' planning; services can include training, advice, specialist expertise, and grants and loans.

"We're encouraging more people to make their home here," it says. The region covers 6,300 acres, and currently has a population of 145,000; crime rate – at 541



crimes per 10,000 people – is below Scotland's average of 550.

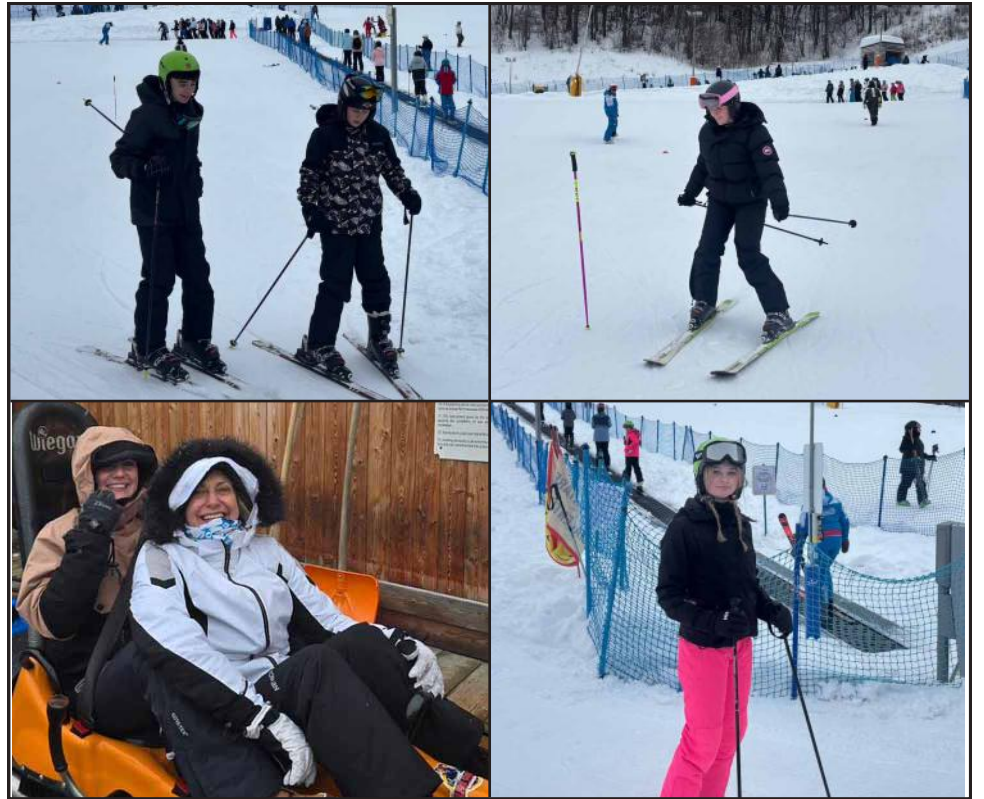
### Affordability

In addition the council is stressing the region's affordability compared to urban living in

cities elsewhere.

The council's press release mentions, however, that drivers can reach Manchester in less than two hours; well, to accomplish that you can expect to risk a driving ban.

# School Ski escape to the Italian peaks



Langholm Academy pupils are having a brilliant time skiing in Italy. Ski conditions are perfect and pupils (and staff) are working hard to develop their skills! Lots of laughs and fun being had by all!

Share the **Love**

#sharethelove  
#weloveourdrivers

## Borders Buses

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### Nominate a driver who cares

During the month of February, we'd like to shine a light on our fantastic team of drivers! The unsung heroes of the community who may brighten your day with a friendly smile.

We'd like to reward them with a special meal for two but we need your help!

Nominate your driver who cares by scanning the QR opposite or by visiting our Facebook page



SCAN ME



# Langholm cellist wins places at three top UK Conservatoires

## Hard work and talent propel young musician to national recognition

An 18-year-old cellist from Langholm has secured places at three of the UK's most prestigious music conservatoires following a highly competitive audition process.

Will Archibald, who currently studies at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, has been offered places at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music in London, as well as the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Will had also been due to audition for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow but was unable to attend after a landslide in Cumbria led to the cancellation of his train. Despite this disappointment, his multiple offers from other leading institutions underline the strength of his auditions and

musical ability.

Auditions for the UK's top conservatoires attract hundreds of exceptionally talented young musicians from across the UK and abroad, with only a limited number of places available. Receiving offers from three such institutions places Will among a select group of young performers recognised for their talent and potential.

Will, who plays the cello, has spent many years developing his musicianship and is known for his dedication and commitment to his studies. Two weeks ago he also took part in an exchange trip to Oslo, where he gained valuable international experience and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work and perform with fellow musicians.

He is currently making



**MAESTRO IN THE MAKING:** Years of dedication pay off as Langholm cellist, Will Archibald (front 2nd right), receives offers from three prestigious music schools

applications to conservatoires abroad but says he is delighted to have been successful with his UK auditions. Will is now considering his options as he prepares to take the next step

in his musical education later this year.

Local audiences will have the opportunity to hear Will perform closer to home when he appears in concert with pianist Yuki Negishi on

Sunday February 8 at 11.00am at the Kings Arms Hotel in Lockerbie. The concert forms part of the Absolute Classics Reimagined Festival, with tickets available online.

## Temporary speed limit notice

Dumfries and Galloway Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily impose a 30mph speed restriction on the B709 from Thomas Telford Road to south of Breconwrae, Langholm.

The restriction is necessary, in the interest of road safety, to reduce speed limit to 30mph to facilitate BT pole testing.

This will be in place from 0930 on 09/02/26 to 1530 on 09/02/26 and effective only when appropriate signs are displayed on site.

## B7068 road closure

Also, under the same act, the B7068 Langholm to Lockerbie road will be closed between The Becks and Wauchope Schoolhouse, Langholm from 0930 to 1530 on Thursday 05/02/26 to facilitate BT pole replacement.

Alternative routes via B709, B723, B7068 and vice versa. Emergency and pedestrian access will be available

# Eskdalemuir phone fears raised with Minister

CONTINUING concerns over phone connectivity in Eskdalemuir were raised in Parliament this week during a debate on emergencies in the UK's rural and coastal areas.

During the debate, local MP David Mundell highlighted the fears of residents that the rollout of digital-only systems - which will replace traditional analogue landlines - could cut off their communications during 999 emergencies.

"Eskdalemuir has very limited mobile phone reception," said Mr Mundell. "And it frequently suffers lengthy power outages; residents could be unable to call for help when traditional landlines are switched off."

"I pointed out to the Minister of State, who has responsibility for security, that I represent one of the largest rural constituencies in the United Kingdom - and Eskdalemuir is one of the most rural parts of that constituency."

"While small backup battery units have been offered, the reality is that these would be



**LONG GONE:** The old phonebox in Eskdalemuir. The Phone reception continues to beleague residents

of little practical use when we know from experience that power cuts could last for days.

"I asked the Minister and the Cabinet Office more generally to satisfy themselves that the arrangements in place for this switch-off will not have the consequences that many locally fear it could and also ensure communities such as Eskdalemuir are not cut off during extreme weather events."

"In his reply, the Minister

said his Department has been engaging closely with BT over concerns like this and that he would look carefully at the points I raised and come back to me on them.

"I hope that this can help get Eskdalemuir residents the action and reassurance they need - and that any changes to existing telephone systems won't leave them without means of 999 communication in the event of a power cut."

## Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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25 High Street,  
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## Perth Beef event

It may seem a long way off, but producers in Scotland's beef industry are excited already about the announcement that one of the most important events in their calendar is to be held in Perthshire next year.

The Scottish Beef Association (SBA), working in conjunction with the National Beef Association (NBA), has announced that the Scottish Beef Event 2027 will take place on Thursday 3rd June 2027 at Strathisla Farms, Islabank, Perthshire.

It will bring together producers, industry specialists and trade exhibitors for practical demonstrations, technical insight and discussion and thousands are expected to attend.

As well as the usual fare of Speakers, trade stands and workshops, visitors will also see a wide range of cattle enterprises in action, including commercial suckler cows, Simmental,

Charolais, Hereford and Beef Shorthorn genetics, alongside demonstrations of beef systems from birth to slaughter, youngstock management, and a state-of-the-art cattle handling system.

Host farmer Adrian Ivory, who won both Farmers Weekly Young Farmer of the Year and Overall Farmer of the Year in 2008, says he is pleased to be welcoming the industry to Islabank and hopes it will prove inspirational.

"My aim with any farm visit is that people go home with at least one idea they can take away and use, something that might improve their system or even just give them something new to try," he said.

The popular event had to be shelved during the Covid years but made a welcome return in 2023 when it was held on the Dalswinton Estate in the Nith Valley.

## Popular Tarff CEO wins Ed Rainy Brown award

Rod has been an exceptional leader in Scottish agriculture

Tarff Valley say they're over the moon that their outgoing CEO Rod Sanderson has been presented with the prestigious Ed Rainy Brown Memorial Award.

The award, named after a former NFU Scotland Chief Executive, recognises individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to co-operation and collaboration within farming.

It was presented to Rod by Ed's widow Katy Rainy Brown at the SAOS Conference Dinner held at Crieff Hydro.

Rod's farming roots lie deep in the Borders where he was brought up and he has a degree in Agricultural Economics.

He joined Tarff Valley in 2016 and the company say that under his leadership, business grew significantly. They describe him as a driving force, who showed both vision and commitment towards shaping it for the future.

The co-operative now has



L - R - John Davidson, NFUS CEO, Katy Rainy Brown, Rod Sanderson, Rory Christie, SAOS Chair and Tim Bailey

more than 1200 farmer members and a turnover of more than £100 million.

Head of SAOS co-operative development Robert Logan said it had been a pleasure to work with Rod over the years.

"Tarff is very much at the heart of the rural community in the southwest and Rod has

helped grow the business whilst maintaining its culture and purpose, for the co-op to support farmers drive productivity and efficiency," he said.

### Leader

NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon said Rod has been an exceptional leader in

Scottish agriculture.

"His vision, commitment, and integrity have strengthened Tarff Valley and made a lasting impact on the rural community," he said.

"This award is a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contribution to co-operation and the agricultural sector."

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## Moorland-grazed sheep produce better farts!

Sheep and other ruminant animals are often regarded as prime culprits in the production of so-called greenhouse gases.

Worldwide it's believed there are around 1.2 billion sheep, producing around seven million tonnes of methane into the atmosphere, which is approximately 6.4% of the total enteric methane from livestock.

Now a major study supported by the National Sheep Association (NSA) has found that sheep grazing on moorland emit lower levels of both methane and carbon dioxide than those grazing improved grassland lower down in the valley.

The findings come from Forage for CH4nge, a research project supported by the NSA, which saw farmers and scientists working together to better

understand how forage type, landscape and traditional sheep breeds influence the environmental footprint of upland sheep farming.

NSA worked alongside project partners including SRUC and the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), to ensure the study delivered practical, farmer-focused evidence relevant to the future of upland sheep systems.

The study also highlights that well-aerated moorland and upland grassland soils can act as methane sinks, providing ideal conditions for methanotrophic bacteria to break methane down in the soil.

NSA Policy Manager Micheal Priestley says sheep farmers have committed to reaching net zero by 2040, and reducing methane will be part of that



journey, alongside improvements in genetics, nutrition, flock health, efficiency and reduced reliance on fossil fuels. "Sheep farmers already play a vital role in managing our

uplands, supporting biodiversity and producing highly nutritious food, and this research helps demonstrate how those roles can go hand in hand," he said.

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# Community Burns Night a credit to Langholm's young folk

The Buccleuch Centre in Langholm was filled with warmth, laughter and the sound of celebration on Saturday 24th January as the Community Burns Night brought locals together for an evening to remember.

From start to finish, the running order flowed beautifully, thanks to the hard work and confidence of everyone involved. The night was opened with a warm welcome from Chairperson **Finn McVittie**, who set the tone for a friendly and inclusive evening. **John Innes** then delivered the Selkirk Grace with real feeling, reminding everyone why Burns Suppers are such a special tradition.

The haggis made its grand entrance to the stirring piping of **Glen Jamieson**, carried proudly by **Ross Hislop**, with **Ryan Wilson** following close behind bearing the all-important Irn Bru. The Address to the Haggis was confidently delivered by **Eilidh Jardine**, earning well-deserved applause before supper was served.



Impressive venue for Langholm's Community Burns Supper

After supper, **David McVittie** gave a thoughtful and engaging Immortal Memory which included some personal reflections on his ability to learn 'Ma'Hoggie' for the Burns recital competition at school, followed by another fantastic piping medley from **Glen Jamieson**, an excellent performance for a first solo piping outing. **Olivia Ross** delighted the audience with her song 'Touch the Sky', and the all-important Irn Bru. **Lelan Voght** gave a lively and entertaining Toast to 'The Langholm Moor' talking about the pros and cons of rewilding or being managed by those that

have known it for many years. The Sixth-Year pupils from Langholm Academy should be very proud of their efforts to produce this event this year, they made a fantastic job of it. The Buccleuch Centre is very proud to host such a successful Community Burns Night a real showcase for Young Talent and ability – a brilliant example of local people coming together to celebrate tradition, talent and togetherness.



Irn Bru Bearer - Ryan Wilson and Haggis Bearer Ross Hislop

Below: Canny spread complete with Irn Bru

Left: The very full running order for the evening



The evening was wrapped up with warm words in the Vote of Thanks from **Judith Johnson**, before everyone joined together for a rousing rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Funding for the event was generously provided by **The National Lottery Community Fund**, and their support made it possible for the whole community to enjoy such a memorable celebration.

**Running Order** COMMUNITY FUND

Welcome from the Chairperson - **Finn McVittie**

Selkirk Grace - **John Innes**  
Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
And sae the Lord be thankit.

Piping in the Haggis - **Glen Jamieson**  
Haggis Bearer - **Ross Hislop**  
Irn Bru Bearer - **Ryan Wilson**

Address to the Haggis - **Eilidh Jardine**  
Supper is served

Immortal Memory - **David McVittie**

Piping Medley - **Glen Jamieson**  
Song - **Olivia Ross**

A Toast - **Riley Brannan and Lelan Voght**

Toast to the Lassies - **Ruari Dalgliesh**

Recital - **Primary 6's**

Reply to the Toast to the Lassies - **Antonia Brockley**

Highland Dancing - **Hannah Jeffrey**

Vote of Thanks - **Judith Johnson**

Auld Lang Syne - **The Company**

# The life and dreams of a Borders antique dealer

## The Downton Abbey set has included some of Stuart Bruce-Gormley's pieces

Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations are now a distant memory and the life of an antique dealer in the Borders rolls merrily along. There is no resting on one's laurels and dealing in antiques and interiors, presents a wide and eclectic work schedule, that balances a number of uncertainties, with mild spontaneity. So, if you like a regular pay cheque and the certainty of working hours and paid holidays, then this lifestyle isn't for you.

However, if you find the idea of queuing at 2am to get in a trade fair, to start selling at 6am to a well-rehearsed crowd of interior designers, Joe public and my speciality, the Prop buyers for TV and Film production, then maybe it's not such an uncharted adventure as I previously made out.

Those of you who have been following me for some time, will already know that I prop hunt for TV and Film. Coming from a theatrical background, then this is probably no surprise and having regularly placed items onto period dramas including Downton Abbey, the industry is changing at some great pace.

New money, in the world of entertainment, such as Netflix and Amazon, has increased the number of shows

in production especially in London based studios and has brought huge sums of money to productions, some of which is spent at a frightening rate, when you see the swarms of youngsters, with their clipboards, tasked with the huge list of provisions by their studio production executives.

I have to be able to measure a said item, to know it will fit the scene layout and colour coordinate at the same time, whilst trying to keep a mental note of the items being chalked up in the BUY LIST.

In times gone by productions were steady and planned ahead for months, sometimes years. Now for example, take last week in London the buyers have been given a scene to dress with



Pictured are of some of the items sold at last week's fair to the set buyers.



The man himself, Stuart Bruce-Gormley in his Langholm shop



less than ten days' notice, yes ten days! You can imagine the panic and pressure the crew are under, but it seems everything needs to be done yesterday these days.

Mostly I get to know what production they are furnishing, although sometimes secrecy is the order of the day. All I can say is I never seen Angelina Jolie as Laura Croft back in the day, but Amazon seems determined to relaunch her again and with Phoebe Waller-Bridge as its creator and writer, I'm sure it will be a huge success.

I am therefore always looking for an opportunity to clear a barn, attic, redundant property or a property following a death in a family or maybe just someone needing to downsize. A trained eye can always find a gem amongst the clutter and detritus, which otherwise sadly might end in landfill or a garden fire.

So please bear us in mind. You never know, your unloved item may just take pride of place in the next big blockbuster!



By Gilly Fraser

# New Castleton headstone for Private A. M. Davidson

## Commonwealth Graves Commission replaces old memorial

A new headstone has been installed in Castleton Cemetery to mark the grave of a Newcastle soldier who died in World War One.

Private Andrew Murray Davidson served with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. The son of Isaac and Marion Davidson, he worked as a ploughman before enlisting. He died in 1919 at the age of 27.

The work was carried out by the Commonwealth Graves Commission which cares for war graves all over the world.

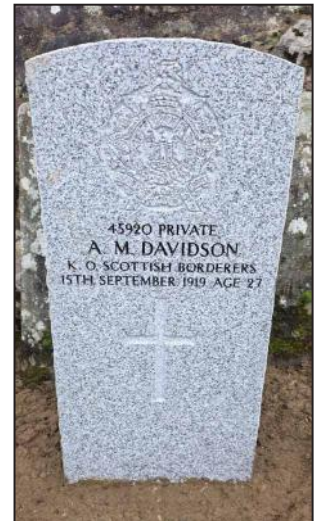
Iain Anderson, the Commission's Manager for Scotland, says the existing memorial was in a poor condition and could not be repaired.

"We therefore decided to install a standard CWGC headstone to mark Private Davidson's grave," he said. "The headstone was made by a contractor for CWGC and installed by our staff based in Scotland."

"We always work closely



The old marker for Private Davidson in Castleton Cemetery



The new CGC headstone

with Scottish Borders Council and always grateful for cooperation we receive from them which enables us to carry out such tasks. A further headstone was placed in Galashiels to mark a similar grave."

There are four Commonwealth War Graves in Castleton Cemetery – all of Kings Own Scottish Borderers soldiers. Private

Davidson was the only one who died in the first World War.

The other graves belong to James Knox who died in 1941 aged 21; James Stevenson Proudfoot who died in November 1940 aged 20 and Robert William Harkness who died in 1944 aged 26.

The Commission's roots stretch back to 1917 when, originally known as the Im-

perial War Graves Commission it was given a Royal Charter.

Since then, the group has built created 2,500 war cemeteries and plots, erected headstones over graves and where the remains are missing and inscribed names on permanent memorials.

It cares for war graves at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and ter-

ritories, commemorating almost 1.7 million individuals.

And the work still goes on. An appeal is currently underway to find next of kin for a number of soldiers, including William John Bell of the KOSB who died in 1918 and is buried in Hutton Parish Churchyard near Lockerbie so that his headstone can be repaired or replaced.

## New Copshaw Cops

Newcastle Primary School pupils proved just how multi-skilled they are when they turned themselves into Traffic Cops for the day.

Junior Road Safety Officers Zac and Leyla did an excellent job with the police speed gun, which really helped PC Nichol to monitor the speed of cars driving through the village.

The school say they're pleased to report that all cars kept within the 20mph speed limit. They hope to repeat the exercise soon.

PC Nichol also spent some time answering the pupils' questions and showing them his police car.



Zac and Leyla keeping a watchful eye out for speeders

## £450 raised for show



Being served in style at the Holm Show Coffee Morning

The Holm Show is traditionally an end of summer delight, held as it is on the last Saturday in August, but the hard-working committee go above and beyond to brighten up the dreich winter months for the village as well.

In November they staged a lively and much enjoyed ceilidh and show in the Village Hall starring local bands Western End and The Creaky Blinders which definitely helped to blow away some of the winter cobwebs.

And this weekend saw the annual Coffee Morning. Thanks to the modest entry fee, plus raffles, this year the takings amounted to £450, once again proving the incredible generosity to be found in this small village.

The next event to look forward to in the Holm Show calendar is the Quiz Night on Saturday February 28th. People can enter solo or in teams of up to four. A wide variety of questions is promised in a bid to suit every interest.



# THE SHOWTUNES MUST GO ON



Get ready for an incredible night of musical excellence with "The Showtunes Must Go On"! This exciting show brings the best of Broadway and the West End to life in your local theatre.

The Showtunes Must Go On is coming to The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm on Friday 6th February 2026 at 7:30pm.

Are you a fan of the West End and Broadway? Do you love nothing more than basking in the glory of a good old-fashioned showtune? The Showtunes Must Go On is the live concert experience for you!

Touring local theatres to bring showtunes to people all across the country, they promise an unforgettable show with an explosion of high-energy performances. From the haunting melodies of Phantom of the Opera to the empowering anthems of Wicked, you'll be singing along to every note. Relive the most iconic moments from some of the greatest musicals ever made, including **Chicago, Rent, Rocky Horror, Les Mis, Six, Moulin Rouge, and much much more.**



Get your tickets at  
[www.buccleuchcentre.com/whats-on](http://www.buccleuchcentre.com/whats-on)  
 or call 013873 81196

All your favourite, timeless classics will be delivered by our phenomenal, theatre-loving performers. Their outstanding showstoppers will leave you hanging on every word, just like the real theatre shows. We cannot wait to serve you up a little slice of Broadway this year!

But don't just take our word for it! Here is just one of the amazing audience comments we have received:  
 "Utterly brilliant! I expected it to be a class act, but I was totally blown away"



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# Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie from kirks to the Romans

Looking back...

The Canonbie parish, besides registering several deaths "upon the borders of 100 years of age", claims that a native of the name of Alexander Ewart, retained all his faculties up to the last, and was out walking shortly before his death at the age of 103 years and 8 months.

And lastly, from the parish of Half-Morton, which at that time was united with Langholm, comes the name of Peter Hutchinson, a tinker, who is said to have reached the age of 114.

Prior to the period of which we write, there were no regular registers extant, and while one must necessarily accept these extreme ages with reservation, still there appears to be convincing evidence of the longevity of many who spent their lives among the invigorating hills of Eskdale.

Some years ago, I photographed a quaint old headstone in Canonbie Kirkyard, which gives the age of the person buried there as 506! The date on the stone is 1712. One can imagine the casual rambler as he comes suddenly upon this churchyard curiosity standing aghast while he reads and better reads the extraordinary inscription before him, and pictures in his mind's eye a vision of the hoary old man whose dust mingles with the earth underfoot. "Eh?" exclaims he "506-year auld ye say? Na, na; no that ava!



Half Morton Established Church  
Photo courtesy of Langholm Archive

The stanecutter wha put the name on the heidstane maun hae meant 56. Ye ken, there wasna a Schule at every road en' in thae days." It is evident that the craftsman who engraved the inscription simply cut the numerals 50 for fifty and added 6 for fifty-six, making it appear of course, that the honest Scot who had departed this life in the year 1712 had reached the prodigious age of 506 years.

## In Roman Eskdale

A former minister of the wild and somewhat desolate parish of Eskdalemuir was a man of keen and penetrating observation, endowed with the rare faculty of transmitting to paper in a clear and

lucid form, the results of such observations, which have proved, not only of general interest, but also of historical and archaeological value to subsequent generations.

His name was William Brown. He was called to the parish in 1792 and continued as their minister for over 40 years, during which time the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him.

Probably his most notable contribution to local history and antiquity was his accidental discovery, in the summer of 1810, of the Roman camp at Raeburnfoot, about a mile above the church and situated on the tongue of land at the junction of the Rae Burn with the White Esk.

Judging by the minute and painstaking description of the camp, Dr Brown had evidently made a thorough survey of this important relic of Roman Eskdale. The camp remained as it was at the time of its discovery for about 20 years and was visited by many people.

## Venerable relic

Writing at a later date the parish minister laments that much damage had been done to the camp by "the proprietor having allowed it to be ploughed up in order to obtain a few crops previous to it being laid down in pasture. Had he planted it, it would have been equally produc-

tive, and the venerable relic of Roman residence kept sacred."

It was not until 1897 that the Raeburn camp, under the expert supervision of James Barbour of Dumfries, was carefully surveyed and excavated, producing conclusive proof of Roman occupation and substantiating much that Dr Brown had brought to light over 80 years previously.

The measurements given by Mr Barbour are as follows:

"Including ramparts and ditches, the length of the camp measures 605 feet at the East side and 625 feet at the West; the average is 615 feet. The width cannot be ascertained very closely, but approximately it would measure about 400 feet. The camp, including the fortifications, extends to over 5 1/2 acres and the interior area, including fort, contains rather less than four acres."

It may seem superfluous to state that this Esk valley, away back in the dim past was unwittingly making history which, in centuries to come, was destined to become the wonder of a seemingly more cultured generation. It is left to those skilled in the subtle art of solving the mysteries of these shapeless earth mounds and the ever-recurring moss-grown heaps of decayed masonry, to tell us the story of such relics of antiquity, silent evidence of the days when hordes of Romans roamed the countryside at will.

# C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

## Thursday, 22nd 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 9,665 sheep comprising of 5,623 hogs and 4,042 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

### PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 5,623 hogs sold to a very competitive ring of purchasers. All classes saw some resistance.

Heavy commercial hogs meeting a lot of resistance for the second week in succession being very difficult to place. Export weights and smalls proved in very good demand and way short of customer requirements once again. Good commercial export weights again seen regularly trading 345-360ppk with the best hogs 430ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £190 for Texels from Greenridge.

Beltex hogs topped at 417p per kilo from Pickworth, Dotland Park

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries.

Overall average 307ppk (SQQ 314.4ppk)

### Principal prices (Per head)

**Texel** - £190 Greenridge, £176, £174 Falla, £170 Shepherds Cottage, £169 South Bogbain, £165 Moss House & Ormsary, £164 Lingey Field, £163 High Parson Bridge  
**Beltex** - £178 Heathery Knowe, £174 Crawthart, £169 Hunley, £168 Newton of Inshewan & Crawthart, £162 Corstane, Cambeckhill, Hallburn Croft & Tercrosset Farm  
**Suffolk** - £161 The Craggs & High

Machriemore, £160 South Bogbain, £159 Cowburnrigg, £158 Third Farms & Greenridge, £155 Sheperds Cottage & Third Farms

**North Country Cheviot**- £160, £141

Whiteknowe, £131 Commonsides, £130

Achalone Croft, Fowrass & Commonsides

**Hampshire**-£159 South Bogbain

**Hill Cheviot** - £159, £146 South Bogbain, £143 Macharioch, £142 Station Yard, £141

Macharioch, £140 Station Yard, £138

Whitecroft Mains, £137 Oswie, £136, £135,

£134 Station Yard

**Border Leicester**- £152 Culquhasen, £150

Tinnis Farm

**Mule**- £150 Ormsary, £142 Fowrass, £141

Ormsary, Greenridge & Cowburnrigg,

£140.50 Thornton Tower & Old Police

House

**Charollais**- £150 Torgorm, £139 Moss

House & Fowrass Farm, £138.50 Whins,

£135 Outer Huntly

**Cheviot Mule**- £150, £141 Greenridge,

£140 Achalone Croft, £138.50 Mains of

Collin, £135 Prestrie Farm, £134 Mains of

Collin

**Dutch Spotted**- £150, £145 Tercrosset

Farm, £139 Hunley

**Blue Faced Leicester**- £142, £134 Silloans

**Blackface** - £139.50 Cowburnrigg, £139

Uigle & Silloans, £138 Corrow, £134.50

Thornton Tower, £134 New Peninver & Dal-

wyne, £133 Dirmanean, £132 Uigle, £130

Corrow

**Half-Bred**- £135 High Moat

**Herdwick**- £127 Orthwaite Hall

**Easy-care**- £123, £116 Edingarioch

**Kerry Hill**- £120 Thornship

**Swaledale**- £118.50 Woodhall, £118 West-

erhopeburn, £117 Orthwaite Hall

**Zwartbles**- £118 Falla

**Ryeland**- £111 Donerentin

### Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

**Beltex** - 417p Dotland Park, 411p Newton

of Inshewan, 395p Dotland Park, 384.1p,

382.9p Hunley, 382.5p Newton of Inshewan,

379p Dotland Park

**Suffolk** - 339p West Houses, 338p Bog

House, 337p Heathery Hall, 336.1p Heathery

Knowe, 333.3p Bog House, 333p

Conon Brae, 332p 91 Achvaich, 328p Town-

foot Farm, 326p Lords Lot, 325.6p Bog

House & Archerbeck

**Texel** - 355p Home Farm, 351.4p

Achalone, 350p Lords Lot, 349p High

Trewhitt, 347p Morwood, 346p Home Farm,

344.4p Torgorm & Townhead, 344.1p West-

erhopeburn

**Hill Cheviot** - 344.1p Woodhall, 340p

Whitecroft Mains, 335p Heathery Hall, 334p

Heathery Hall, 332.4p, 331p Whitecroft

Mains, 328.9p Culquhasen, 327p Cottage

Farm, 326p 1 Old Station Road & Oswie

**Charollais** - 342p Bog House, 326.1p Torgorm,

314.6p Knowe Farm, 302p Moss

House & Fowrass

**North Country Cheviot**- 333p Common-

side, 327p, 305p Thornship & Common-

side, 302.3p Achalone

**Mule** - 331.6p Heathery Knowe, 321p

Home Farm, 317p Culquhasen, 310.5p Kil-

legruer, 310.3p Culquhasen, 310p The

Craggs, 308.8p Tinnis Farm

**Cheviot Mule** - 327p, 322p Mains of Collin,

314.6p, 314.3p Marwhim, 313p Outer

Huntly, 302p Fowrass

**Blackface** - 326.3p, 326p, 325.6p

Dirmanean, 324p Uigle, 321.6p Heathery

Hall, 318p Maidencots, 317p Greenridge,

315p Heathery Hall, 314.6p Low Knockri-

och & Heathery Hall

**Dutch Spotted** - 325p Maidencots, 323.3p

Hunley

**Easy-care**- 322.2p Edingarioch, 318p Town-

head

**Herdwick**- 309.8p Orthwaite Hall

**Ryeland**- 308.3p Donerentin

**Swaledale**- 299p, 295p Westerhopeburn

Farm, 298p Silloans

**Blue Faced Leicester**- 298p Silloans

**Border Leicester**- 293.6p Culquhasen

**Half Bred**- 293.5p High Moat

### CAST EWES AND RAMS

A larger show of 4,042 cast ewes and rams

were forward. All classes met some resistance.

Plain ewes were out in force, somewhat diluting the trade being £10-£12 easier.

Stronger horned ewes sold with ease and short of requirements.

Heavy ewes had the edge off but still a

good trade non the less. Pure bred Texel and

Suffolk lean meated ewes were in big demand with numbers again short of requirements.

Cast ewe numbers will start to tighten from

now on in and will be sought after for the

coming weeks sales. Keep in touch with your

auctioneers who will give you further information

about when best to market your cast ewes.

Heavy ewes topped at £315 for Texel ewes

from Nether Side.

Light ewes topped at £143 for a Blackface

ewe from MW & CM Ridley, Shitlington Hall,

Wark with Cheviot ewes to £130 from Floors

Farming, Mainside, Hownam.

Rams upholding recent serious rates of return.

Topping the sale at £230 for Texels from

JR Kerr, Fountainhall, Stow.

### Heavy ewes

**Texel** £315 x 2 Nether Side, £270 Meikle

Fieldie, £265 Shepherds Cottage, £260

Nether Side & Gelston Castle, £250 High-

wood, Meikle Fieldie & Nether Side.

**Beltex** £230 Shepherds Cottage, £220,

£218 Lyonpark, £208 Corstane.

**Charollais** £222 Gelston Castle, £220 Ly-

onpark, £213 Beckfoot.

**Suffolk** £220 Nether Side, £214 Falla, £212

Beckfoot, £200 Gelston Castle.

**North Country Cheviot** £198 Whins.

**Bluefaced Leicester** £192 Tinnis, £188

Beckfoot.

**Cheviot Mule** £182 Fountainhall, £175

Auchlin, £170 Airdrie & Kimmeter Green

Cottage.

**Mule** £178 Marygate, £176 Unthank, £170

Shitlington Hall, £169 Cowburnrigg, £168

Lyonpark.

**Blue du Maine** £178 Hallhill.

**Border Leicester** £165 High Moat.

### Light ewes

**Blackface** £143 Shitlington Hall, £134

Peela Hill, £129 Cowburnrigg, £128

Shitlington Hall, £127 Meikle Fieldie.

**Hill Cheviot** £130 Mainside, £129 North-

way, £124 Mainside, £122 Skelfhill.

**Swaledale** £126 Linton Bank Head, £106

Broomhills, £98 Marsh House.

**Easy-care** £126 Edingarioch, £117 Linton

Bank Head.

**Shetland** £110 Brigview, £102 Hallhill.

**Badgerface** £110 Blackburn Mill.

**Herdwick** £92 Cowrigg.

### Rams

**Texel** £230 Fountainhall, £220 Falla, £215

Commonside, £210 Fountainhall.

**Charollais** £225 Beckfoot.

**Beltex** £220 Shepherds Cottage.

**Bluefaced Leicester** £210 Ormsary, £195

Lords Lot, £180 Leithenhall.

**Suffolk** £202 Beckfoot, £200 Lords Lot,

Braidley & Skelfhill, £198 The Lough, £192

Marygate.

**North Country Cheviot** £195 Swinside

Townfoot, £185 Braidley, £180 Beckfoot.

**Lleyn** £190 Stockdale.

**Blackface** £158, £145 Meikle Fieldie.

**Hill Cheviot** £150 Skelfhill & Hindhope.

### Averages:

**Hoggs**

Light to 337.5pp (291.2p)

Standard to 4417p (318.2p)

Medium to 384.1p (312.2p)

Heavy to 370.2p (297.1p)

### Ewes

Light to £143.00 (£85.39)

Heavy to £315.00 (£152.92)

Rams to £230.00 (£154.02)



# LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

**CREATION MILL** W/C 2nd Feb 2025

<b>Mon</b>	Quilters Group	10-11	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
	Sewing Machines for Beginners	2-3:30	
<b>Tues</b>	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	
<b>Wed</b>	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Fri</b>	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Sat</b>	Repeat prints	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

**Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3**

Booking required, please visit [CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS](http://CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS)

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## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

<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
	Sustainable Style Saturday Pre-loved event	The Buccleuch Centre 10am - 2pm
	Langholm Social Club Wear Blue Disco	Langholm Social Club 8pm - 12am
	Canonbie Flower Show Quiz Night	Canonbie Public Hall 7pm

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

<b>Sat 6th</b>	The Showtunes Must Go On	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
<b>Sun 15th</b>	Westerkirk SWI serving soup & home baking	Benty Hall 12pm - 4pm

# The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2604 answers next week

- 1 What in Wales is the Cader Idris?
- 2 What was Sherlock Holmes' London address?
- 3 What are sometimes referred to as the "Backbone of England"?
- 4 In place names with the suffix "kirk" et Selkirk, to what does "kirk" usually refer?
- 5 Which market town is the so-called "Cradle of English Christianity"?
- 6 Which town is known as Britain's yachting capital?
- 7 Which Scottish city is sometimes called the "Athens of the North"?
- 8 Which North Yorkshire town has a Royal Pump Room and Royal Baths?
- 9 Which racecourse is famous for its annual "Glorious" meeting?
- 10 The city of Gloucester is lined by canal to which docks in the Bristol Channel?
- 11 In which Kent resort did Charles Dickens have a cliff-top home?
- 12 In which river valley is Tintern Abbey?
- 13 Which popular walker's route runs between Winchester and Canterbury?
- 14 Which racecourse is located just north of Esher in Surrey?
- 15 Who recounted a circuit of Britain in "The Kingdom by the Sea"?
- 16 In which English county is the Tendring Peninsula?
- 17 Which hotel in London's Park Lane is Britain's largest in terms of area?
- 18 What is officially Britain's oldest road?
- 19 Watchet is which county's only port of any consequence?
- 20 Which royal palace was originally known as Nottingham House?



# Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

## Quiz 2603

- 1 London's Royal Albert Hall
- 2 Diamonds (jewellery)
- 3 Wembley Stadium
- 4 London School of Economics
- 5 Rockall
- 6 Lancashire
- 7 Edinburgh
- 8 Lichfield
- 9 March 1st
- 10 Beaulieu in Hampshire
- 11 Henley-on-Thames
- 12 Tea
- 13 St Paul's Cathedral
- 14 Puffin
- 15 Chester
- 16 Oil terminal
- 17 Unicorn
- 18 The Solent
- 19 The 1666 Great Fire of London
- 20 York

## Crossword 2603

**Across:** 7 Beaches, 8 There, 9 Odium, 10 Cobwebs, 11 Monkhood, 13 Bees, 15 Time, 16 Unbutton, 19 Colonel, 20 Rifle, 22 Loser, 23 Species.

**Down:** 1 Mali, 2 Thimphu, 3 Psychoanalyse, 4 Stubs, 5 Tenement, 6 Senses, 7 Bloom, 12 Nameless, 14 Guarded, 15 Tackle, 17 Needs, 18 Inert, 21 Fail.

# NEVER A CROSSWORD!

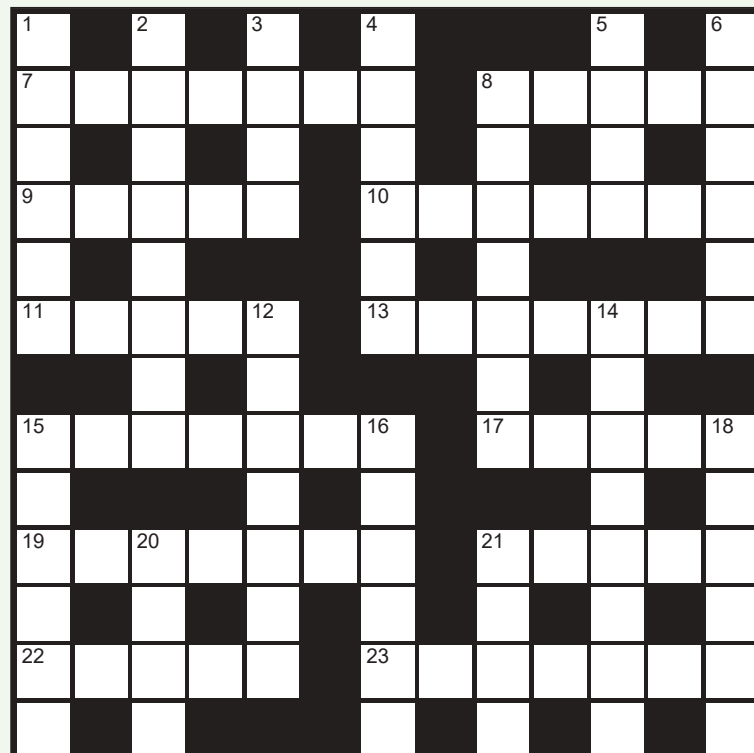
No. 2604 answers next week

### Across

- 7 Disorder (7)
- 8 Small assemblage (5)
- 9 Domesticates (5)
- 10 See verbose characters out of position (7)
- 11 Country bumpkin (5)
- 13 Environmental study (7)
- 15 Series of early space probes (7)
- 17 Doze (5)
- 19 Somerset castle (7)
- 21 Not listed above (5)
- 22 Relating to the third power (5)
- 23 Dancer's garment (7)

### Down

- 1 Hearty and lusty (6)
- 2 Knockout punch (8)
- 3 Frozen treats (4)
- 4 Past (6)
- 5 Entrance (4)
- 6 Fast (6)
- 8 Not solid or liquid (7)
- 12 Kind of fringe (7)
- 14 Get too vehement (8)
- 15 Do mice upset GP? (6)
- 16 Seldom (6)
- 18 Procession (6)
- 20 Pen points (4)
- 21 Cantab's rival (4)



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**(B709 LANGHOLM - ETRICK) (TEMPORARY 30 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2026.**  
 The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to implement a temporary 30mph speed restriction on the B709 from Thomas Telford Road to south of Breconwrae, Langholm from 0930 on 09/02/26 to 1530 on 09/02/26. The restriction is necessary, in the interest of road safety, to reduce speed limit to 30mph, to facilitate BT pole testing.

**(B7068 LOCKERBIE - LANGHOLM) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2026**  
 The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close B7068 between Wauchope School House and The Becks, Langholm from 0930 to 1530 on 05/02/2026. The closure is necessary to facilitate pole replacement works. Alternative route available via B709, B723, B7068 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.



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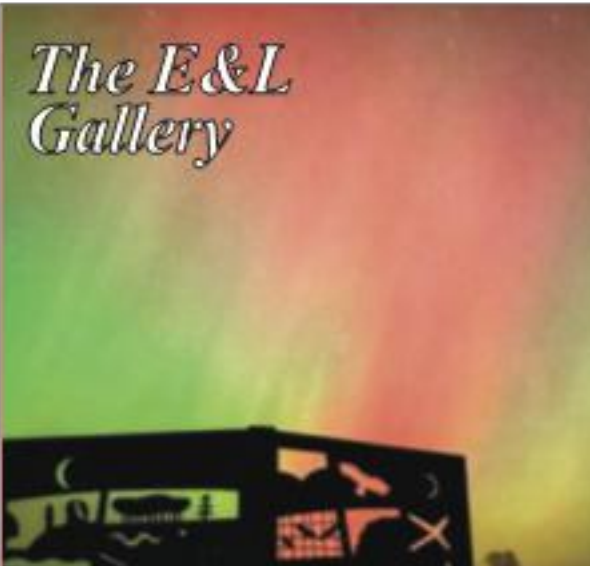
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Photo by Stan Wilson

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# 28 entries for Social Club rinks

## Carpet Bowling



Langholm open rinks tournament was played on Sunday with an entry of 28. Thanks to over 110 bowlers for coming and supporting our competition.

Winners for second consecutive year were:

Ryan Simpson  
Jock Bell  
Donald Clark  
Alan Wilson

pictured above with social club chairman Neil Campbell who presented the prizes.

Runners-up

Derek Murray  
Dominic Murray  
Brian Murray  
Les Adamson.

Beaten semi-finalists

Al Sloan  
Sparky  
James Quigley  
Olly Vamdale  
and  
Alasdair Cavers  
Mark Goodfellow  
Thomas Hope  
Jay Gordon.

Thanks to the social club for sponsoring the tournament. Also to everyone who made the day another success!



# Cross-border Sparket Show proves a horsey hit

## Equestrian

By Gilly Fraser

Sparket Equestrian Shows are always a popular draw for local riders. Held in Cumbria, they draw in riders from both sides of the border, with many competitors happy to travel quite a distance to get to the shows, knowing they are always well organised and with a high quality of judging.

The first Sparket Show of 2026 had a wide variety of both InHand and Ridden classes and proved to be rich pickings for quite a few riders and handlers from south-west Scotland.

It proved to be particularly special for Anne Holliday from Brydekirk who took two Reserve Championships in the space of an hour with her coloured pony Shelby Ruby. Anne, who is still recovering from spinal surgery, has only had Ruby for four months and this was their first show together. She says her pony surpassed all expectations.

“Ruby is the first horse I’ve ever owned. She is eight years old and 13.2 hh. We’ve not really done too much, some flat work and hacking, so going to the show was really about building up our trust and relationship as that’s my aim for her, to excel in the

show ring.

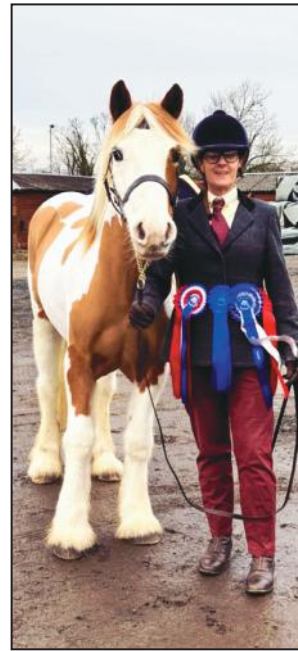
“So, she surpassed our expectations, coming away with all those results. She really is a special cob who just tries her best and wants to please you.”

Regular Sparket competitor Lesley Marshall won the Coloured Championship with her Traditional Cob Spirit of the Storm.

Evie Richardson from Eaglesfield won the Mountain and Moorland Lead Rein class with her Shetland Hurworth Honey and then went on to take the section Reserve.



Evie Richardson with Hurworth Honey, Photo by Simon Beedie Photography



Anne Halliday with Shelby Ruby



Lesley Marshall and Spirit of the Storm, Photo by Simon Beedie Photography

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

**HAPPY 60TH!**  
**GEORGE**  
with love from  
**A, J, K & P**

**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  
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!

## Writers Wanted!

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

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

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# Sports News

Thursday January 29, 2026

NEXT SCHEDULED FIXTURES

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

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## Outstanding performance from Langholm's Aoiffion

### Athletics

By Calum Graham

13-year-old Langholm athlete, Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan, a member of Edinburgh Athletic Club, delivered an outstanding performance at the Scottish Athletics U18 National Indoor Championships held at Glasgow's Emirates Arena.

Despite being one of the youngest competitors in a field largely made up of athletes three to four years her senior, including entrants from Ireland and England, she rose to the challenge with remarkable composure and speed. The event was originally intended as a valuable training opportunity ahead of a week of ski slope conditioning in Italy, but it quickly became a showcase of her growing talent.

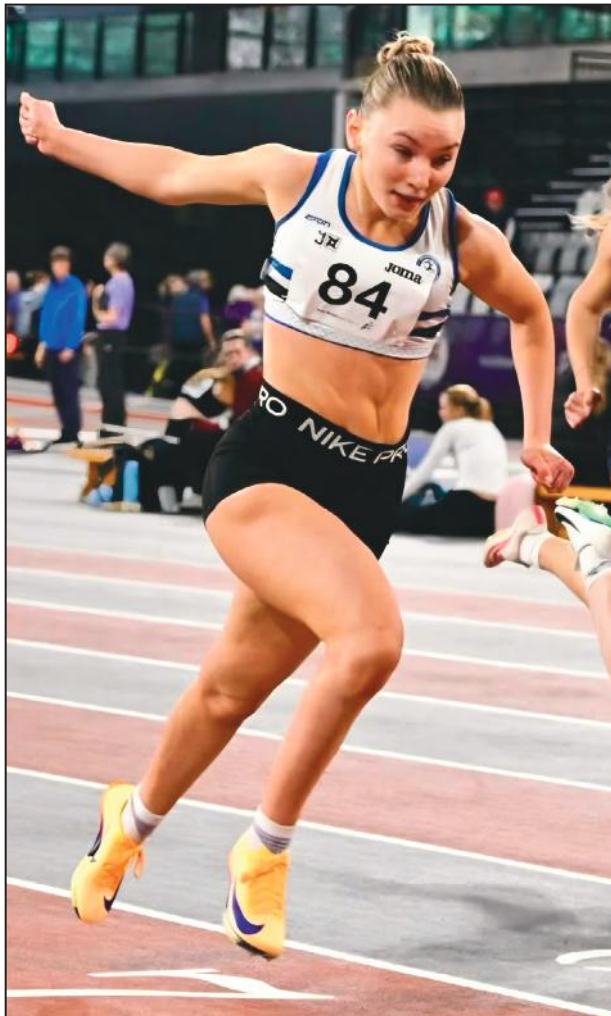
Aoiffion reached the final of the U18 60m sprint, finishing 7th overall and 6th in Scotland. The race was exceptionally tight, with just three hundredths of a second separating 5th, 6th and 7th place—each athlete recording the same official time. She also progressed to the semi finals of the 200m,

running the second fastest 200m of her career and securing 7th place in the Scottish rankings for the event.

A major milestone came when she broke the eight second barrier in the 60m for the first time, clocking 7.91 seconds—her ninth personal best of the indoor season since November. This achievement places her at No.1 in Scotland for the U15 60m and No.1 for the 200m, with strong rankings across the UK.

Her rapid progress reflects her dedication to training and comes ahead of a demanding schedule that includes the Scottish Schools Championship, Scottish Athletics Relay Championships, Scottish U16 Championships, Scottish Indoor Athletics League, the SprintFastest Invitational, and development sessions with the Scottish Athletics/Scottish Schools Sprint Development Squad.

Support from the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards and The Holywood Trust continues to play an important role in her development as one of Scotland's most promising young sprinters.



SET FOR STARDOM: Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan

## First friendly of LGFC season

### Girls Football



On Saturday, Langholm Girls Football Club U12s hosted Heston Rovers Football Club Girls for their first friendly of the season.

For many of the Langholm girls, this was their first experience of 9v9 football, and the game started with some nerves. However, the girls soon rallied and showed lots of hard work and determination, and the spectators were able to enjoy some great football from both teams.

Langholm goals scored by: Emily R, Bonnie R, Anna C, and Sadie

Many thanks to Heston Rovers for the game. LGFC wishes them the very best for the season ahead and look forward to meeting them again this year.

WELCOME to LANGHOLM  
FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS

## Big loss to Haddington

### Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Rugby returned to Milntown after nearly a two-month break when Langholm hosted second in the table Haddington RFC in what was always going to be a tough match. The home side were carrying some injuries and had to field a much-changed team from the one won easily at the last home match back in November. Haddington were on a bit of a roll having scored over 120 points in their last two matches. So, it was not going to be an easy match for the Milntown men,

Played in dry conditions with a bit of a breeze, the match kicked off with the home side trying to take an early initiative. However, with only four minutes on the clock the visitors scored first their converted try. Langholm were already finding it difficult to defend against the strong running of the visitors and it wasn't long before they were over for another converted try after just 9 minutes. The visitors what now experiencing a lot of possession and with Langholm on the back foot they scored 3 more converted tries to make the half time score 0-35.

With a bit of a mountain to climb in the second half Langholm, to their credit, were

now defending better however they were struggling to put together any real attacking moves against the visitor's line. They held Haddington for almost 20 minutes before another converted try took the score to 0-42. With the match into the final quarter, Haddington scored a further 2 tries (neither converted) to make the final score Langholm RFC 0, Haddington RFC 52. A bad day at the office for Langholm and it's a long time since they failed to put any score on the board, however they were up against an impressive Haddington side, strong in both attack and defence.

A big positive for Langholm however was the debuts of 2



Erick Rall and Robbie Smith following their debut at Milntown on Saturday

young players Erick Rall and Robbie Smith both of whom got stuck in and the club looks forward to seeing them both playing for many years to come.

Langholm remain in fourth place in East League 1 on 31

points, 2 points behind 3rd place Murrayfield Wanderers with a game in hand. They play Langholm at Milntown at the end of February. This Saturday Langholm are on the road again to play Dalkeith RFC.

**E&L**  
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