



Fair fa':The Bard is well and truly celebrated in Eskdale

SEE PAGES 7, 8 & 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Owners made aware of dangerous state of Kirk

Loose scaffolding beam over A7 sparks urgent safety concerns

Fearless Erskine Church campaigner, Denise Irving, has again voiced serious concerns about the worsening condition of the derelict property on Langholm High Street, warning that the site now poses a significant risk to public safety.

During a visit at the weekend, Denise and her family observed that no work had been carried out to secure the building, despite long standing issues and repeated reports to authorities. While at the property, she and her brother spoke with a man who identified himself as a friend of the owner and who said he was inspecting the site. After being invited into the yard to view the structure, he appeared visibly shocked by its condition and acknowledged the severity of the problems.

Particular concern has been raised about the rear wall bordering the garden of Denise's mother. The wall is described as

crumbling, with trees growing through the stonework, and is believed to be at risk of collapse.

Overhanging

Even more worrying is the state of the scaffolding surrounding the spire of the church. A beam at the top appears loose and is reportedly overhanging the A7 — a major route through the town used by both vehicles and pedestrians. The resident says the beam looks detached or inadequately secured, creating what she describes as an "immediate and serious public safety risk."

The owner's friend also stated that he had opened the front door of the property but did not feel safe entering due to concerns about the floors and overall structural integrity.

Other issues highlighted include failed stone pointing, water overflowing into neighbouring yards, blocked gutters with vegetation growing from

them, loose window panels, and deteriorating scaffold components.

Denise says she will be contacting the council's Control Centre again to formally report the building as dangerous, noting that the deterioration since her last visit was "genuinely shocking."

She is now seeking clarification from the local authority on three key points:

- What enforcement actions are currently being taken against the owners?
- What further steps are planned to address the immediate safety hazards?
- How can the owners' contact details be obtained?

For decades, this building has remained in poor condition with no meaningful investment to reduce the risks it poses. As the structure continues to decline, the potential danger to the public grows.

The E&L will continue to keep tabs on the situation with the "Langholm Eyesore" and to support Denise in her campaign to have the situation addressed as the building continues to deteriorate. The Council must step in before it is too late, before something tragic happens.



Denise Irving has relentlessly campaigned for the serious Erskine Church problems to be addressed



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Services led by **Rev Morag Crossan**

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Rev Morag Crossan
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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
 Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser
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Day at the racecourse for Langholm pupils

A very cold, yet enjoyable day at Carlisle Racecourse!

The kids worked together to convert imperial and metric units, explored the kit used by jockeys, became health and safety officers by calculating how many horses are allowed in the parade ring at any one time and looked at how the jockeys are weighed and measured.

The children were also asked to judge and award the "best turned out" horse for the first race!

Many thanks must go to John from the Jock and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust, without his continued generosity, this trip would not have gone ahead.



Plans are afoot to celebrate Ewes Hall's Centenary

Last Monday was the Centenary of the opening of Ewes Hall. The committee are planning a celebration in the Summer to mark the event.

On the actual date it was business as usual in the Hall for the weekly carpet bowlers and members of the committee went along to share some cake and fizz to mark the date.

Pictured are Hall Chairman Susie Grant, the oldest and youngest bowlers on the night, John Armstrong and Mark Goodfellow, and Hall Secretary, Aileen Cavers.



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



A cool £1.175m for Murtholm housing land



Land that was originally destined for a 130-unit housing development in Langholm has been put up for sale by the owners, Loreburn Housing Association.

Agents, CD Rural of Longtown, describe the sale as:

"Located at the southern entrance to Langholm, just before the bridge, this land presents a rare opportunity for those looking to invest in prime development land. The development is perfectly positioned to take advantage of the surrounding landscape and the

thriving community of Langholm.

"Loreburn Housing Association (LHA) currently own the land and secured full planning consent from Dumfries & Galloway Council to erect 130 residential housing units. The planning reference is 21/1215/FUL and full details can be found on the D&G Council website. LHA are prepared to support a new developer secure a consent for an open market housing scheme on the site. The land is currently sown to grass and is stock fenced."

Wee, sleekit, cowrin, 'Tarras' beastie

The hunt is on for one of Britain's smallest creatures



A search for one of Britain's tiniest and most elusive creatures is set to get under way on the vast Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.

The harvest mouse — a wee scrap of a thing, no heavier than a 20p piece — is classed as critically endangered in Scotland. Yet signs have emerged that the species may be quietly making a home in the 10,500 acres of community-owned land above Langholm.

Volunteers recently uncovered a handful of small, intricately woven grass nests tucked into tussocky ground — the sort of handiwork harvest mice are

known for. The discovery has prompted a series of surveys aimed at confirming whether the miniature mammals are indeed living in the valley.

Nature restoration

The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, one of the largest community-led projects of its kind in the UK, has grown rapidly since locals banded together in 2021 to buy the first tranche of land from Buccleuch Estates. A further agreement the following year doubled the reserve's size, strengthening the community's long-term vision for nature restoration.

Reserve manager Jenny Barlow said the find had taken the team by surprise.

"We certainly weren't expecting to come across any sign of harvest mice on the TVNR," she said. "During a volunteer session we stumbled on these tiny woven nests in the long grass. They're usually a tell-tale sign — harvest mice use the tall stems to weave themselves little sleeping and breeding chambers."

If confirmed, the presence of the species would mark another encouraging step in the reserve's ongoing efforts to restore wildlife across the former moorland.

More trees needed for net-zero goal

A new study from The James Hutton Institute has shown that planting several hundred thousand hectares of new woodland and agroforestry would be necessary to help Scotland achieve net-zero carbon emissions in the livestock sector by 2050.

The study, which was recently published in the journal *Science of The Total Environment*, investigated how multi-functional afforestation (planting trees to achieve a number of goals) and livestock reduction could contribute to helping Scotland achieve net-zero emissions in the livestock sector by 2050 — a goal which aligns with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Researchers simulated a scenario in which approximately 30,000 ha per year of new woodland and agroforestry were planted in Scotland between 2020 and 2050, selecting locations where trees would improve biodiversity and aid the wider ecosystem, and accounting for the carbon released from soils while planting trees.

It is often assumed such planting can only occur at the expense of grazing area, so they coupled this planting effort with a linear decrease in livestock numbers, with an estimated total reduction of approximately 50% of the present numbers.

Scottish politics lessened by the death of Lord Jim Wallace

The death of Jim Wallace - the Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness KC, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2021-2022 - was announced last week.

The life peer from Orkney was only the second Elder in modern times to take up the role, which saw him chair the General Assembly and speak out on important issues.

Rt Reverend Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "I was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Lord Wallace.

"Kind, accommodating, informative, entertaining, it was both a joy and a privilege to spend time with him and his wife Rosie.

Lord Wallace's late father John was an elder at Annan's Old Parish Church for 64 years.

In his youth, Jim was a member of the town's Boys Brigade, involved with Scripture Union and was confirmed in the Christian faith whilst a law stu-



Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness KC

Photo by Roger Harris

dent at Cambridge University in 1973.

Ordained as an Elder in what was St Bernard's Church in Edinburgh's Stockbridge in 1981 he became a member - in 1990 - of Orkney's Session of

St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall.

In his retiring speech to the General Assembly in May 2022 after stepping down as Moderator he highlighted the work of CrossReach, which

runs cradle-to-the grave social care support services across Scotland and described its work as a "response to human need through loving Christian service."

Ukraine

A few weeks before he stood down as Moderator, Lord Wallace visited Ukraine and Hungary to find out how more than £360,000 of cash donations from Kirk members were being used to support people affected by Russia's invasion.

Lord Wallace was the leader of the Scotland's Liberal Democrat party from 1992-2005 and served as Deputy First Minister in the Scottish Executive from 1999-2005; he was acting First Minister following the death of Donald Dewar in 2000 and the resignation of Henry McLeish in 2001.

Lord Wallace took up his seat in the House of Lords in 2007 and served as the Advocate General for Scotland in the coalition UK Government 2010-15.

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SOSE survey highlights business resilience in South of Scotland

The latest South of Scotland Business Survey has highlighted the resilience of the region's business community.

Taking place in late-2025, the survey of 600 businesses across the South revealed that over 70% reported either good or steady performance in the last six months, despite the challenging economic conditions.

Almost half of all companies (46%) said they were striving for growth, an increase on the previous survey which took place last summer.

Over the past six months, 71% of businesses stated that their sales or turnover had either increased (35%) or remained the same (36%).

In addition, 61% of businesses reported that profit margins had either increased or remained the same, while just over a third (35%) said their profit margins had decreased.

In terms of workforce, there are positive signs businesses were providing opportunities to graduates and apprentices to begin their careers. Among businesses that had sought to recruit, more than half (57%) had recruited graduates, while 19%

had recruited apprentices.

With a number of external and national challenges over the last year, the survey also highlighted issues related to confidence and recruiting staff.

The South of Scotland Business Panel survey sees Ipsos – on behalf of South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) - interview companies and social enterprises from across the region each year.

It provides a temperature check of business confidence and helps identify challenges and opportunities.

The full survey is available to view at southofscotlandenterprise.com/business-surveys.

Some stats

- Three quarters (74%) of employers had enough staff to fill all the roles they needed while 24% did not. Similarly, 85% of employers had the right levels of skills in the business while 15% did not.

- Of the two thirds (66%) of businesses that said workforce was a significant challenge, (25%) cited recruiting staff as a top concern. Other concerns included cost of labour (49%)

and the ability to pay competitive wages (31%).

- 36% of business had sought to recruit in the past year, while 62% had not. Among businesses that had sought to recruit more than half (57%) were graduates, while 19% had recruited apprentices.

- Among businesses who have sought to recruit, skilled trades and craftspeople (31%) and general labourers (28%) were cited as the most difficult roles to fill.

- Among businesses who reported not having the right skills in the business (25%), the most common impact was an increased workload for existing staff (81%).

Do you have anything to say on this subject?

Did you take part in the survey?

Express your opinion by contacting the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser by email on newsdesk@eladvertiser.com or by writing to us at The E&L Advertiser, 47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH and we will be happy to publish your opinions.

3,500 tests on festive drink/drug drivers

48 in Dumfries and Galloway, 56 in Scot. Borders

More than 3,500 drink and drug driving tests were carried out by Police Scotland officers during the festive enforcement campaign.

Road policing and local policing carried out checks in towns and cities across Scotland to deter and detect drivers who had taken alcohol or drugs.

The enforcement campaign took place from 1 December 2025 until 4 January 2026.

There were 3,021 breath tests (319 offences detected) and 626 roadside drug tests (398 offences detected) conducted by officers.

Road safety partnerships worked together including supporting a Scottish Government behaviour change campaign which focused on highlighting the risks of drink and drug driving to young drivers, aiming to influence their behaviour.

Chief Superintendent Scott McCarren, head of Road Policing, said: "Police Scotland will continue to target drink and drug drivers.

"Alcohol and drugs make a collision more likely and the



impact destroys lives.

"These results bring a focus to work we do all year round. You could still be over the limit the morning after drinking or taking drugs.

"If caught, you could face a 12-month driving ban, up to

£5,000 fine and up to six months in prison.

"Our enforcement role will continue alongside the multi-agency approach and partnership work to encourage crucial behaviour change amongst drivers."

Future peatland restoration on Tarras Valley

It's nearly been a year since phase 1 of the Tarras Valley peatland restoration programme completed on Middlemoss Head which blocked up 54km of artificial moorland drains and profiled exposed peat to help prevent further erosion. The area has been holding lots of extra water during both the summer and winter months!

Development work has now started with Dumfries-based Crichton Carbon Centre as part of the national Peatland Action programme on phases 2 and 3 of future restoration works which it is hoped will be a multi-year programme. The development work will involve extensive survey and assessment on site to inform a restoration design plan for the areas. The aim of it all is to help to restore natural hydrology, returning the dried-out peatland to its natural bog-like state and creating a mosaic of habitats that will allow a range of species to thrive including birds, insects and rare plants. With increasing extremes in our climate being experienced from

extreme heat to flood, it is hoped that doing this important work to restore natural hydrology will build the natural resilience of the land to help with adaptation to our changing climate.

A summary of what's within the two phases is as follows. These figures may increase or decrease slightly once the surveys are underway and the design is finalised and the team have had more time on the ground doing survey.

- Phase 2 will cover approximately 217 hectares with roughly 56km of drainage works.

- Phase 3 will cover approximately 255 hectares and roughly 79km of drainage works.

Once things are a little bit further on with the development work, a community drop in event will be organised just so anyone interested or who has any questions can come along and find out more.

Everyone is really looking forward to working with our partners at Crichton Carbon Centre on what are two more ambitious phases of our peatland restoration on Tarras Valley!



Hoy backs 'Save the Nation's Pubs'

SOUTH of Scotland MSP Craig Hoy is backing his party's campaign to save the nation's pubs and wider hospitality sector.

His call comes after leader Russell Findlay MSP officially launched the initiative with a visit to a hospitality business on Monday.

Mr Hoy, the Scottish Conservatives' Dumfriesshire candidate, says that pubs and hospitality businesses across the constituency are being 'hammered' by both the SNP and Labour governments' high taxes and failure to pass on full rates relief in recent years.

He warned it will be 'last orders' for many pubs unless urgent support is provided – and called on the SNP to drop their 'catastrophic' rates revaluation which will lead to bills increasing by 300 per cent for some businesses.

Mr Hoy added that pubs and hospitality businesses are the lifeblood of many Dumfriesshire communities and says that vital jobs will be lost because of the SNP and Labour 'pushing them to the brink of collapse.'

The Moffat-based politician and former businessman said: "Pubs and the wider hospitality sector are really struggling right now due to constant tax rises from both the SNP and Labour governments, as well as the nationalists' failure to pass on the rates relief available in the rest of the UK.

"If the SNP and Labour do not act now then it will be last orders for many pubs and businesses here in Dumfriesshire.

"The SNP's business rates revaluation will be catastrophic for many in Dumfriesshire. Ministers must pause the scheme immediately because the eye-watering increases in bills could sound the death knell for local businesses.

"Pubs and hospitality businesses are the lifeblood of communities here, particularly in the many rural areas in Dumfriesshire, and it would be devastating for local jobs and the wider economy if they were forced to shut their doors.

"I will continue to stand up for pubs to ensure that they not only survive but thrive."

Bruce, Bletchley Park and the local volunteers

More than a decade's research into the area's WW2 radio heroes

The identities of men and women who lived and worked in towns such as Langholm, Selkirk and Hawick before and after WW2 – and who became key unpaid civilian assistants to top-secret spy station Bletchley Park – were revealed last month by Bruce McCartney at a talk given by him at Westerkirk library.

He and his co-author John Struthers have updated their fascinating book called The unrecorded story of Border radio pioneers and WW2.

Accompanied by more than one dozen revelatory slides Bruce's talk – attended by a full house in the library's panelled reading room – explained how "radio hams" worked relentlessly for Britain's war effort by listening to a mass of Nazi traffic in order to supplement Bletchley Park's own store of behind-the-scenes knowledge.

Their enthusiasm for at-home radio communications was stimulated by advances made by the pre-war radio industry; by the time war broke out in 1939 the

"hams" had already garnered many personal acquaintances throughout Europe – and beyond. The bedrock for their success was very thorough technical expertise and an ability to, very patiently, scan the airwaves for vital information.

Struthers and McCartney's research into one such sleuth, David Welsh, showed how other amateurs were drawn into wartime's Radio Security Service.

"Without accurate radio interception, the codebreakers and intelligence officers of Bletchley Park would have had nothing to do," write Struthers and McCartney.

Accurate radio traffic penetration was led by Britain's Y Service; it created 300 intercept stations, altogether using the skills of 17,000 people worldwide.

Sheets of culled messages were sent by amateurs to PO Box Barnet, then forwarded to Bletchley Park, Bedford.

"All the work was covered by the Official Secrets Act,"

explained Bruce McCartney, "and many Y operators went to their graves without ever revealing what they had done during WW2."

McCartney's talk focused on amateurs in south Scotland who earned their livings by, amongst other trades, shopkeeping, baking and driving cars. Slides of photos pictured individuals such as Gibson Steven, Syd Young, Tom Purves, Francis Fasson, Alex Handyside, John Blair, Ann Thomson (nee McDonald) and David Welsh

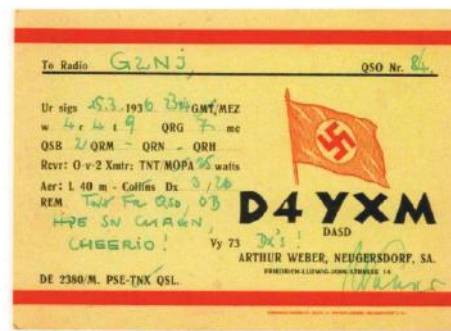
"Remarkably, even family members in the Borders – and elsewhere – often had no knowledge whatsoever of their involvement in this crucial wartime work.

"Despite the passage of time not all the details of their efforts have been de-classified, leaving parts of their extraordinary stories untold."

Struthers and McCartney's book – which acknowledges contributions by, among others, Langholm's Joyce Barker, Jack Rae and Sandra Ritchie – is pub-



Walter Vinicombe helped Hawick enthusiasts become amateurs.



lished by www.DoxDirect.com

A video about the post-war installation of the National Radio Society into Bletchley Park's public museum can be found on YouTube:

Top: Walter Vinicombe helped Hawick enthusiasts to become volunteers

Bottom: A 1936 QSL card from a German amateur. There were no restrictions on UK amateurs contacting other amateur radio operators worldwide

Bringing empty homes back into use

Dumfries and Galloway Council has outlined an ambitious programme to tackle long term empty homes through its new Empty Homes Plan 2026–2031. Building on the Local Housing Strategy and the Housing Emergency Action Plan, the plan emphasises the role empty properties can play in meeting housing need, supporting communities and encouraging population growth.

With 8% of regional dwellings classed as ineffective and almost 4% long term empty – above the national average – the plan sets out a framework to bring unused properties back into use and contribute to wider regeneration.

A dedicated Empty Homes Officer has recently been appointed with Scottish Government match funding. This role increases the council's capacity to support owners, guide renovation and retrofit work and deliver targeted interventions. The plan targets returning 30 empty homes to use each year, contributing to the wider goal of delivering 460 new or re-purposed homes annually.

Bridge results

1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Jim Muir & Anne Ferguson, 3, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 4, Derek Scott & Janet Ivison, 5, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor, 6, Ann Smart & Barbara Addison.

Probus hears about RDA Carriage Driving group

One of its own members was the speaker at the meeting of Canonbie Probus Club last Wednesday. David Ivison spoke to the Club about the Annandale and Eskdale Riding for the Disabled Association group of which he is the secretary and which provides carriage driving for the disabled.

David explained that the enrichment of lives through the unique bond between people and horses, hippotherapy, has been known since the times of the Greeks and Romans, and many separate groups providing such a service were established in Great Britain and Europe after the Second World War. The individual groups then came together in 1969 to form the Riding for the Disabled Association, RDA, which set standards for those involved. Princess Anne, initially Patron, became President in 1985. The RDA currently provides for about 40,000 participants supported by 14,000 volunteers and 1,700 qualified coaches, and some 3000 horses in 450 riding centres.

The Annandale and Eskdale group is based at Flowdens Farm near Annan where Barbara and Bob Patterson make everyone very welcome. The group meets on Thursday afternoons from May to September and, weather permitting, accommodates nine disabled drivers each afternoon. The group owns three ponies and is supported by volunteers. Three are needed every time a carriage goes out; a carriage driving coach who also controls the second, safety, set of reins; a backstepper who watches for traffic



Langholm's Zoe Irving is a previous winner at the RDA Championships at Hopetoun House

approaching the carriage from behind; and a cyclist who leads the way and calms any oncoming traffic. In addition to annual fun days and other social activities the group competes in the annual RDA Carriage Driving championship which is held at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh where in 2025 it provided the winning team.

After the excellent presentation President John Mitchell gave the vote of thanks and a donation was given to this very worthwhile charity.

David Mundell MP

Member of Parliament for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale

Local advice surgeries

For details of David's next local surgeries, please visit his website or telephone his office on the number below.

www.davidmundell.com

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Farming on the Border



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Farming with Gilly Fraser

Action plan for organic industry

A new action plan to help Scotland's organic industry grow has been unveiled by Scotland Food & Drink along with the Scottish Government, SAOS and Soil Association Scotland.

The organic sector is now worth £3.7 billion to the UK market, and in Scotland, the value has grown by 20.6% in five years.

Between 2021 and 2024, Scottish agricultural land committed to organic production (either fully organic or in conversion) grew by 26.6%, from 103,900 hectares to 131,500 hectares.

The Scottish Organic Action Plan sets out a roadmap for boosting growth still further – while also contributing to net zero, biodiversity, and the country's global food reputation.

Holyrood is supporting the initial delivery this year with investment of £200,000.

Amanda Brown, Programme Director at Scotland Food &

Drink, says Scotland is leading the way on organic production within the UK but there is a huge opportunity to grow further.

"The plan sets out clear priorities to scale up production, meet demand, and support the long-term development of organic food and farming in Scotland, and we're excited to be part of the delivery team ensuring the industry makes strong progress," she said.

Gougeon

Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, says this marks an important step in growing Scotland's organic market.

"It's important that we support our organic producers to help them access new markets and connect more closely with local supply chains and this plan will help more Scottish food and drink businesses thrive, all while bringing the benefits of organic food to more people across the

Farming charity RSABI appoints new Trustees

A Dumfriesshire farmer's daughter has been named as one of four new appointments to the RSABI board of trustees.

Joanne Hiddleston works as a project coordinator for the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) and has a degree in Mental Health Nursing, specialising in child and adolescent care. She hasn't left her farming background behind however, having been an active member of the local young farmers club for over 12 years.

Joanne joins as a trainee trustee along with Chartered Surveyor Aileen McIntosh who also comes from a farming background.

The two other positions have been taken by Andrew Sinclair who farms in Perthshire and is Chair of the local NFUS branch, and fully qualified GP Dr Carolann Barrie who also somehow finds time to help run the family farm in South Lanarkshire, where she man-



The new Trustees and trainee trustees with RSABI Chair Jane Mitchell

ages a flock of 700 sheep.

RSABI Chair Jane Mitchell says the agricultural charity is delighted to extend a very warm welcome to the new trustees and trainee trustees.

"The calibre of applications was very strong, and we greatly appreciate the efforts of

everyone who submitted an application," she said.

"We are very fortunate to benefit from a high calibre of trustees who offer their time and expertise freely and our new recruits bring a great balance of skills and experience which will bring great value to our board."

Jane also extended the charity's sincere thanks to former trustees Christine Bowie and Jimmy McLean (who also served as Chair) who recently stepped down from their roles, having each completed nine years in post.

ScotGrass 2026 moves to Lochmaben farm

This year's ScotGrass event is moving home – but not very far.

Traditionally the country's largest dedicated forage and agricultural machinery event has been staged on land at the Crichton Royal Farm, but this year has upped sticks and is moving to Slacks Farm in Lochmaben.

ScotGrass can be guaranteed to attract thousands of farmers, contractors and industry professionals from across the UK and Ireland and this year is launching a new slurry demonstration zone.

The zone will offer live demonstrations giving visitors the chance to see the latest solutions in action under genuine working conditions, which it's hoped will lead to better understanding of performance, precision and nutrient stewardship on a working dairy farm.

Organiser Kayleigh Holden says the demonstration fields will show visitors separation, pumping and application technologies, in real-time on farm conditions.

"With sustainability and nutrient management at the heart of modern farming, this new feature at ScotGrass will not only complement the rest of the show but it will also give manufacturers a platform to bring their innovations out of static displays and into the field, allowing demonstrators and attendees to directly compare technologies, learn from experts and discuss real-world



applications."

The Slurry Demonstration Zone reinforces ScotGrass' commitment to advancing practical knowledge and sector innovation. Designed to support sustainable and efficient farming, it promises to become one of the event's must-visit areas in 2026.

ScotGrass was set up by the Agricultural Engineers Association to support and celebrate excellence in forage production, grassland management and agricultural technology.

Natural Environment Bill

The Scottish Parliament has passed the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill which introduces statutory targets for nature recovery and gives ministers new powers over biodiversity, deer management and land use.

The legislation, which was approved by 90 votes to 26 at Stage 3, commits Scotland to becoming 'nature positive' by 2030 and to actively restoring nature by 2045.

Gillian Martin, Cabinet secretary for climate action and energy says this marks a turning point.

"This Bill creates the strongest statutory framework Scotland has ever had for nature recovery and is the result of constructive work across the Parliament – sending a clear message that the Scottish Parliament stands firm in our commitment to protect and restore our precious natural environment," she said.

"Biodiversity is in crisis, both globally and at home, but Parliament's vote to pass the Bill



Gillian Martin, Cabinet secretary for climate action and energy

shows we are determined to chart a different course. Protecting it is not optional – it is essential."

Gougeon

Among the measures are new biodiversity targets, powers to legislate on wildfire and forestry management, updates to National Parks legislation, and a requirement for swift nest boxes to be installed in all new buildings.

The Bill also strengthens deer management provisions.

Agriculture minister Jim Fairlie says the legislation aims to balance environmental recovery with rural livelihoods.

"This Bill provides better tools to manage our deer populations in a way that benefits both the environment and rural communities and creates business opportunities," he said.

"If we want healthy communities, sustainable food production and vibrant rural industries in the future, we need thriving ecosystems today."

All ages toast The Bard

Langholm Ladies Burns Club 2026

President Nancy McLure welcomed members and guests to the Langholm Ladies Burns Club Annual Burns dinner in The Buccleuch Centre.

Nancy mentioned that when the club was set up in October 1947, Burns clubs were for men only, so ours being an all-women's group was indeed innovative at the time.

Ian Bell piped in the haggis with his usual grand aplomb and the haggis was borne aloft by Sheila Little. After the Selkirk Grace, all enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Tracey and her team.

Eric Laidlaw sang for the first time at the Ladies Burns club and everyone greatly enjoyed the songs - Afton Water and Mary Morrison.

David Thomson from Dumfries gave an excellent and thought-provoking Immortal Memory.

Young Lewis Jackson delighted with this violin playing of Scottish, Shetland and Burns melodies. Lewis was best overall player at the Regional Burns Competition and best in his category in the Nationals.

Grace Brown beautifully recited "Tae a Moose" after which President Nancy invited her to become a life member of the club, highlighting her many years of service and as a past president.

Billy Young gave a marvelous rendition of "Tam o' Shanter".

Aileen Armstrong gave the vote of thanks, warmly thanking Nancy for chairing the dinner and taking care of the arrangements so marvelously all year.

The evening ended with singing Auld Lang Syne.



Pres. Nancy McLure, Janice Yarrow, Grace Brown, Aileen Armstrong, Jill Davidson and Anne Hislop of the Committee



Fiddler Lewis Jackson



Ubiquitous Reciter Grace Brown



Haggis Bearer Sheila Little and Piper Iain Bell



l to r: Billy Young, Iain Bell, Lewis Jackson, Grace Brown, Eric Laidlaw, David Thomson and Pres. Nancy McLure

Langholm Playcare

Langholm Nursery joined Langholm Playcare ELCC last week to celebrate Robert Burns and all things Scottish.

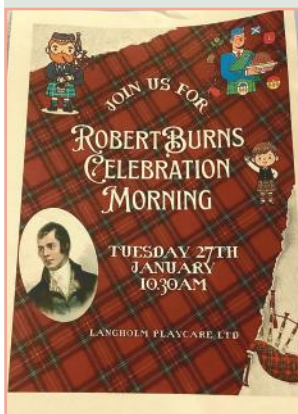
The children sang traditional songs, including 'Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus', 'Katie Bairdie', and 'Ally Bally'. Guests Aileen Cavers and Iain Bell added to the occasion, with Aileen reading the Scots story What the Clockleddy Heard and addressing the haggis in.



Two Playcare children proudly carried the haggis, and some of the group enjoyed tasting it.

The morning ended with lively dancing to 'Strip the Willow' and a Scottish reel.

Langholm Playcare ELCC expressed their thanks to Aileen, Iain, and Langholm Nursery for helping make the celebration special and for keeping Scottish traditions alive.



100 years of Burns celebrations in the Tin Tabernacle

Gilnockie Burns Supper celebrates its centenary in style with Grandfather and Grandson involved a century apart

By Sarah Mansbridge

A fantastic night was had by all at the 100th Anniversary Burns Supper at Gilnockie Hall on Friday 30th January. The Tin Tabernacle was filled by an audience of over 100 to celebrate the occasion and enjoy the famous event.

The evening began with the haggis being piped in by Iain Bell and held aloft by John Murray. After the address by the inimitable Billy Young a delicious meal of soup, followed by haggis, neeps and tatties was provided, prepared by the committee ladies and served by the gentlemen.

Once the plates had been cleared Billy welcomed all to the occasion and his exceptional chairmanship set the stage for the delights to come. The audience were treated to a recital of Willie Wastle by former chair Grace Brown, followed by Michael Aitken's stirring performance of Star o' Rabbie Burns, joined by all in the hall. Lorraine Luescher then gave the Toast to Agriculture, telling a tale of traditional farming practices and her passion for the land.

Leona Mason sang throughout the evening, her voice as wonderful as ever and always a pleasure to hear at Gilnockie. Michael Aitken returned to the spotlight with a thrilling recitation of Tam O'Shanter – roaming throughout the room and truly bringing the



1926: Wullie Young, Billy's Grandfather took part in the first Gilnockie Burns Supper



2026: Billy Young addresses the 100th Gilnockie Haggis with "ready slight"



HAWICK'S SINGER OF SONGS: Michael Aitken entertains the company

tale to life.

After the interval Ron Matthews, president of the Burns Howff Club Dumfries, delivered an excellent Immortal Memory. His take on the various sides of Rabbie was both very entertaining and informative, as to be expected from such a figure. This was followed by Ian Landles' Toast to the Lassies, which brought great laughter and applause with its wit and wisdom. Joyce Tinlin replied on behalf of the Lassies and her speech, complemented by her delightful singing, proved a great hit.

Music was provided by Michael, Leona and the Bon Accords, Robin and Deryn Waitt, and the audience joined in enthusiastically. Billy then performed Holy Willie's Prayer, a true Gilnockie staple, in his unique style. Thanks were given all around, and the evening ended with a ceillidh, music provided once again by Robin and Deryn Waitt.

A successful night, proving once again that Gilnockie's popularity persists in the area.



INDOMITABLE: Grace Brown recites "Wullie Wastle"



TOPPER TOP TABLE: l to r: Joyce Tinlin, Michael Aitken, Ian Landles, Ron Matthews, Chairman Billy Young, Lorraine Luescher and Leona Mason



ONE OF A KIND: Billy Young recites "Holy Willie's Prayer" as only he can!



By Gilly Fraser

Holm pre-school care gets another set of top marks

Care Inspectorate full of praise for Childminder, Katrina Skelton

It won't surprise anyone in Newcastleton to hear that Katrina Skelton is a fantastic Childminder – but now it's been made official.

A report by the Care Inspectorate which scrutinises quality of care in Scotland, has given Katrina top marks across the board in all its categories.

Katrina has been looking after pre-school children in the village for the past 25 years, not only caring for their welfare and wellbeing but also giving them the best possible experience, by taking them on walks, teaching them about nature, letting them enjoy themselves at the playpark and at the swimming pool. She also plays a vital role in helping them to prepare for the transition to the village Early Learning Centre and Primary School.

At the end of last year, an Inspector from the Care Inspectorate paid an unannounced visit to Katrina's home to observe and assess every aspect of her dealings with the children.

They also spoke to parents, and one told them, "Katrina is approachable, professional and actively seeks to foster and build good relationships with me as a parent but also with our extended family (grandpar-



Katrina with one of her young charges

ents). She creates a community feeling that hugely benefits not just the (children) but us as a whole family"

In their report, the Care Inspectorate say, "The childminder has a very good understanding of child development and has

used their childcare qualification to provide a range of high-quality play and learning opportunities".

The Inspector noted that the children were relaxed, happy and engaged in their play and enjoyed going out on trips and



Never too young to learn the skills of gardening

outings. They showed photographs of the garden they had made and were excited to be going to a community Christmas celebration.

Thirty years ago, Katrina and husband Chris who have three children of their own, offered

a week-long holiday placement to a little boy called Brian who was being looked after by the Aberlour Trust. Recently Brian brought his own son to the village to reunite with the Skelton family and say thank you for all they had done for him.

North Star Ultra marathon to use Holm Bunk House

Newcastleton Bunkhouse is to play an important role in a new ultra-running event. It has been chosen to host the turnaround point for one leg of the North Star Ultra.

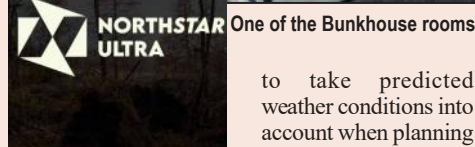
The race is the brainchild of Cold Brew Events, which specialises in high endurance races over challenging rural routes.

The inaugural event on June 13th is to be centred at Kielder Castle. From there competitors are sent out to five points that form the shape of a star, but all must first complete the northern leg to Carter Bar.

Organisers say the event isn't so much a race as a tactical challenge. It can be done solo or in teams of two or four with runners covering up to two hundred miles within a strict 36-hour time limit. Solo runners are not expected to complete all of the legs, but when the clock stops, the runner with the highest mileage wins.

"Each leg represents a different undertaking in terms of effort, distance, terrain, speed, ascent, and type. Plan out whether you want to tackle the furthest one at the beginning or end of your race – or do you prefer to tick off a shorter and quicker route but face the longer stuff later? Success depends as much on your strategy as your stamina."

The Newcastleton leg of the North Star Ultra is the second longest of the race run mostly on forest tracks. It does have stretches of footpaths and exposed areas up high where the weather might have an impact. Organisers say runners will be expected



One of the Bunkhouse rooms

to take predicted weather conditions into account when planning their strategy.

The Bunkhouse will be dedicated to the race for the full 36 hours, giving runners the opportunity to rest and recover before setting off on the next leg. Food and drinks are also being laid on.

Entries are now being taken for the event and full details can be found on the North Star Ultra website.

Call for moratorium on new onshore renewables

Newcastleton and District Community Council is asking villagers for their support in calling for a national moratorium on new onshore renewable projects in the south of Scotland until a comprehensive strategy is in place.

It comes after members of NDCC joined more than thirty other Community Councils at a special convention held in Jedburgh last month.

Following the meeting, delegates called on the Scottish Government to oppose what they described as the unchecked expansion of energy infrastructure.

The Convention also drew up a Unified Statement recognising the impact of climate change but opposing what it called an unjust and un-necessary industrialisation of the Highlands.

The statement also includes calls for MPs and MSPs to urgently support and protect communities because local democracy is being over-ridden.



As well as calling for a pause on all major planning applications for energy schemes, it asks the Scottish Government to undertake a planning inquiry commission to look in depth at the effect major energy developments are having on the country.

NDCC say they wish to sign

the Unified Statement along with colleagues in the Highland Region and the North-East but need thoughts and feedback from the local community in order to do so.

The matter will be discussed at the next NDCC meeting on Tuesday February 10th.

Walking in Westerkirk

A local walk, this time, from columnist **GAVIN GRAHAM**



Distance: 4.8km/3 miles
Start/Finish: Westerkirk Parish Library in the village of Bentpath on B709 from Langholm to Bentpath. The reason for starting at Westerkirk Parish Library is that it would be a good idea to plan your walk to coincide with the time the Library is open to the public.

The library is a hidden gem and one of the oldest lending libraries in Scotland. Please contact the library if you plan to visit before or after your walk. Tel – 013873 70221. westerkirkparishlibrary.org or on Facebook. E Mail westerkirkparishlibrary@gmail.com

It is open on the first Monday of every month between 7pm and 8pm and is open on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30-6.30pm until end of March and then 12.30-6.30pm
Terrain: Main road heading north for a short distance and then a forestry track for the rest of the walk. It's not signposted but is very easy to follow and the views over the Esk valley are spectacular.

Toilets: At Westerkirk Parish Library when open.

Total Elevation: 668ft

Time Allowed: 2 Hours

Map: OS323 Eskdale & Castle O'er Forest

Further Information: Next to Boonies Cottage is a site on the Prehistoric Trail that is worth a visit. Information by looking on Langholm Walks website langholmwalks.co.uk and clicking on Eskdale Prehistoric Trail where you will find Boonies- A Romano British Farmstead

At Boonies cottage you turn off the main road and head left up the forestry road. The first section of this road is quite steep so take your time and take a few rests. I can assure you that in a few minutes the steepest part of the walk will be over and soon it will be a much more gradual climb as the forestry road contours round the hill.

As this is a continuous climb for the first half of the forestry road just take your time and enjoy the views. About three quarters of a mile from the start of your walk at the library the forestry road does an almost 180 degrees turn, and you find yourself walking along the road in a different direction.

By now it's a gentle incline with plenty to see. In the distance on your right, you see an avenue of deciduous trees with a stone sheep stell just behind them. I am not sure what kind of trees they are as I walked the route on 31st December when there were no leaves on them. As the road climbs you go through a narrow section of the road with conifer trees on both sides of the forestry road. The road is a dead end, and you are heading for the radio mast in the distance.

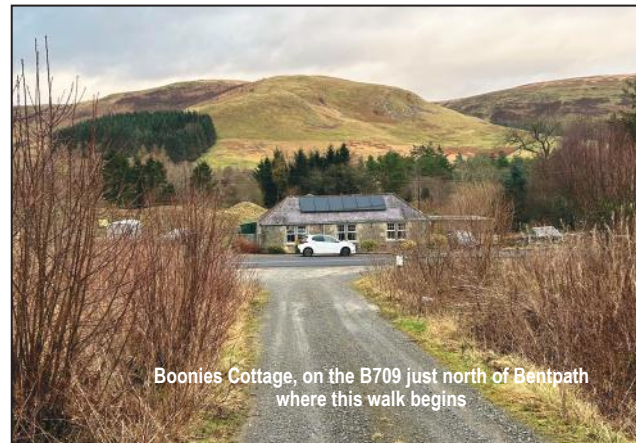
That is where my walk ended, and I turned back to make a most enjoyable downhill walk back to Boonies cottage. You can add a few hundred yards to your walk by continuing a bit further to the end of the forestry track before turning back to return the way you have come. The journey down the hill is very satisfying after you have completed the tough part of the walk, and you certainly feel good about your walk up the hill. As you come down the hill the views of the village of Bentpath in the distance is spectacular. You

should complete the downward journey much quicker than the journey up the hill.

Head back along the main road to the library and if its open then take a look in. They do prefer people to contact them if they are planning a visit so it may be best to get in touch with the library to tell them you will be looking in.

NOTE: Since Gavin completed this walk, the forestry companies have started to extract timber.

Please use common sense and conform to the safety signs in place.

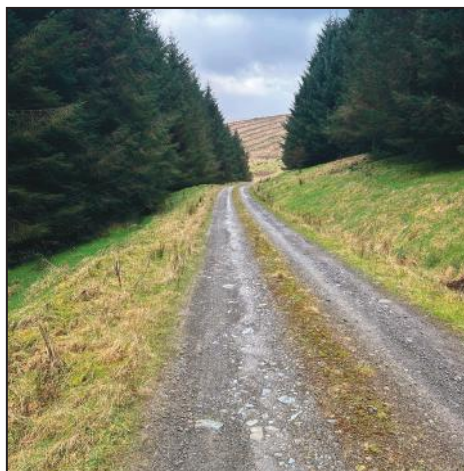


Boonies Cottage, on the B709 just north of Bentpath where this walk begins



The photos show various aspects of the walk on Mid Knock Hill

all photos by Gavin Graham



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE SCOTLAND

Langholm101
 Newcastleton 101

COUNCILS

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

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

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 Canonbie ...013873 71348
 Rowanburn 013873 71542

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01387 246246
 Cumberland Infirmary
01228 523444
 Borders General Hospital
 01896 826000
 Thomas Hope Hospital
013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm ..013873 83100
 Newcastleton 013873 75100
 Canonbie ..013873 71313
 NHS24111

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

SCHOOLS

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

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

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie with mair kirk stoories

Looking back...

It was the reading of a rather fascinating book (which I see was published in 1927) that set me making copious notes on this alluring subject because of its local colouring. The title of the little volume is "In Roman Scotland".

It is interesting to remember that the Lowlands of Scotland formed part of the fringe of the one-time great Roman Empire. The activities of this Latin race are abundantly evident from the many impressive traces they have left.

On reaching Eskdale in quest of data for her book, the wanderings of Jessie Mothersole, the authoress, are highly entertaining, and brimful of homely incident. It was a wet day when she arrived at Langholm and the morning was spent trying to find out more about Roman sites.

"Enquiring at a bookseller's" says the writer "I was told that the Rev George Orr was the best local authority, so to him I made my way." The authoress's visit to the North Manse was amply rewarded for Mr Orr was able to give much useful information, pointing out among other places, the whereabouts of a Roman road which can still be traced near the farms of Calfield and Becks, a short distance west of Langholm, leaving the Wauchope Road by way of the Ha' Crofts Brae.

Miss Mothersole evidently did

not pursue the course towards the hill fort at Calfield. The Roman Road passes through this fort which occupies a commanding position on the hillside. In appearance and construction, it is altogether different from the forts in the district excepting, perhaps, the fort at Castle O'er.

There has been a building rather than an earthwork and the masonry, both on the outer and inner walls can still be traced. At Calfield a portion of the Roman road, running from Langholm, is quite solid and distinctly visible. In the Ordnance map the road is shown keeping to rather high ground above Wauchope Water and making towards the important Birrens fort.

Information had been gleaned about some Roman masonry built into the north abutment of the bridge which crossed the Wauchope at the Auld Caul but, regrets the writer, "I did not get to see this". As already stated elsewhere in this volume at the time of the lady historian's visit (a little over 20 years ago) there would be very little of the remains to be seen, for it was not until about five years later that a fallen tree exposed the hidden masonry.

A visit to the Roman camp at Gilnockie was next planned and the journey was made by bus. An enquiry as to the best place to leave the bus for the site drew from the conductor the laconic



Gilnockie Bridge, where Miss Mothersole alighted the bus in search of the Roman camp.

reply that he had never so much as heard of the camp; but a farmer in the bus who overheard the conversation, pointed out a rough road through a wood which, he said, led to the place.

Gilnockie

Losing her way, the lady retraced her steps to Gilnockie Bridge where a kindly native put her on the right road which came out near Gilnockie school. And then - "I called there for further instructions and the schoolmaster's son, a boy of eleven or

twelve, who came to the door, offered to take me right there. He told me his name was Hunnam which sounded delightfully Roman, but I found out that it spelt Hounam, like the place of that name."

It is in the form of a parallelogram, with rounded angles, occupying about 25 acres, and is surrounded by an earthen rampart about 20 to 30 feet broad at the base. Outside the rampart is a ditch. To the untrained eye it is difficult to follow the plan of the fort, the greater part of which is covered by a plantation.

The railway line to Langholm cuts off most of the south-west side, while on the north-west a roadway bounded by a hedge appears to occupy the position of the rampart. Our historical chronicler has a charming way of suddenly breaking off from her story of antiquity and here is given a delightful delineation of the view from the camp - "right away to the hills of Galloway and Cumberland beyond the Solway Firth and northwards to the rolling uplands through which the Esk and Ewes Water and the Liddel Water cut their way."

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 29th 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 8,577 sheep comprising of 5,492 hogs and 3,085 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on **Thursday 29th January 2026**.

PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 5,492 hogs sold to a very competitive ring of purchasers ensuring all classes saw a substantial increase in trade. Included in the prices below and the market averages are no fewer than 2,247 Swaledale, Blackface and Cheviot Hoggs (over 40% of the sale). Numbers handled with ease and are actively sought after on a weekly basis.

Heavy hoggs seeing an improvement in demand being far easier to place. Export weights and smalls proved in serious demand being up a gear again and in serious demand and way short of customer requirements once again. Good commercial export weights again seen regularly trading 345-360ppk with the best exports 400ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £206 for Texels from Hillside.

Top per kilo of 430p for Beltex hoggs from Bankfoot.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries and entries.

Overall average 330.7ppk (SQQ 338.2ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel - £206 Hillside, £205 Langdyke Cottage, £200 Galleywreay, £195 Kirkhouse, £182 Brackley, £180 Stonehouse
Beltex - £192 Bankfoot, £173 Nookclose, £170 Barn Croft, £168 Finness, £168, £166 Station Yard, £166 Bankfoot, Isauld, Gillahill, South Bogbain and North Corriellaw.

Suffolk - £190 Kirkhouse, £184 Powheads, £183 Glendearg, £182 Galleywreay, £177 Gillahill

North Country Cheviot - £176 Galleywreay, £144.50, £142.50 Laundry Cottage, £139.50 East Rackwood Hill, £133 East Greenridge.

Zwartbles - £174 Galleywreay.

Dutch Spotted - £168 Station Yard, £157 Galleywreay, £150 Little Mark.

Mule - £166 Finness, £164 Brackley, £158 Wydon Eals, £153 Brackley, £152 Farding James and South Bogbain.

Rouge - £165 New House
Charollais - £164 Tinnishall, £155 Station Yard, £149 Tinnishall

Blue Texel - £162 Stonehouse, £149 Station Yard.
Hill Cheviot - £161 Glenjaan and Glendinning, £147 Drumreach, £146 Langdyke Cottage, £143 High Green Hill, £141 Isauld and Buchtrig

Dorset - £159 Justenlees.

Cheviot Mule - £159 Isauld, £154 Gillahill, £149 Uras, £141 Baurch, £140 East Rackwoodhill.

Blackface - £152 Mouldyhill, £150, £148 Brackley, £148 Mouldyhill, £147 Barnakill,

£144 Killapol and Mouldyhill.

Herdwick - £144 Moss House, £114 Moss Edge.

Hampshire - £138 South Bogbain.

Swaledale - £140, £135 Round Meadows, £135 Burn House, £135, £128 Round Meadows, £125 Devonport, £120 Burn House.

Romney - £139 Gilnockie Tower Cottage.

Blue Faced Leicester - £130 Nunsleugh.

Oxford - £130 Guards.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex - 430p Bankfoot, 418.2p Mid Derry, 406p The Flat, 404.9p Bankfoot, 403p Mid Derry, 400p Thornthwaite Close and Solwaybank.

Texel - 385p Hill Head, 380.6p Teviotdale, 379.5p Outertown, 377p Kilwhipnash, 373.3p Strawfrank.

Blackface - 397p Corrylorn, 347p Killipol, 343p, 341p Brackley, 341p Catslackburn, 340p Sorbie and Arnicle.

Suffolk - 373p Laih Crewburn, 363p, 358p Outertown, 355.8p Dashiwell Green, 354.5p Langholm Farm.

Hill Cheviot - 361.5p, 360.5p, 358p Buchtrig, 358p Rose Cottage, 356p Isauld.

Charollais - 360.5p Station Yard, 347p, 321.6p Tinnishall.

Blue Texel - 360.5p Station Yard.

Mule - 349p Nookclose, 344p Guardsmill, 341p Mains of Collin, 339p Gartvaigh and High Cattadale, 338p Shankston.

North Country Cheviot - 347.4p Westernhopeburn, 339p, 324.4p East Rackwood

Hill, 324.4p East Greenridge, 321p Laundry Cottage, 318.2p East Rackwood Hill.

Dutch Spotted - 346p Cadgillhead, 341.3p Galleywreay.

Cheviot Mule - 339p Heugh Farm, 329p Oswie, 324p Catslackburn, 320.9p Oswie, 320.5p Baurch.

Romney - 323p Gilnockie Tower Cottage.

Herdwick - 316.7p Moss Edge, 306.4p Moss House.

Swaledale - 316.2p Devonport, 314p Round Meadows, 312.5p Devonport, 312p Round Meadows, 309p High Creoch.

Oxford - 302p Guards.

Rouge - 294.6p New House.

Dorset - 294p Justenlees.

Zwartbles - 280.6p Galleywreay.

Hampshire - 276p South Bogbain.

Blue Faced Leicester - 268.3p Newtonhill, 265.3p Nunsleugh

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A smaller show of 3,085 cast ewes and rams were forward seeing a rise of £10-£12 across the board. As numbers tighten trade is on the move, ewes wanted and in high demand for the foreseeable sales at Longtown. Please do not hesitate to contact our auctioneers for an up to date market report and trade talk.

Heavy ewes topped at £300 for Texel ewes from C Jackson, Langdyke Cottage, Ecclefechan.

Light ewes topped at £152 for Blackface ewes from BD & MS Hope, Mouldyhill, Canonbie with Cheviot ewes to £140 from M Stewart, Tushielaw, Ettrick and AR Bell &

Son, Kirkton, Hawick.

Rams upholding recent serious rates of return again. Topping the sale at £245 from G & CE Edminson, Middle Farm, Carlisle.

Heavy ewes
Texel £300, £285 Langdyke Cottage, £295 Greensyke, £290 Kirkton, £260 Heathery Knowe

Beltex £275 Beckfoot, £220 Heathery Knowe.

Cheviot Mule £228 North Corriellaw, £184 Primside, £182 Carsegowan.

Suffolk £222 Beckfoot, £210 Kirkton, £208 Beckfoot, £204 Heathery Knowe, £200 Whins.

Bluefaced Leicester £210 Mouldyhill, £200 Carnochan, £198 Mains of Collin, £195 Terrona.

North Country Cheviot £195 Aimster, £190 Glenjaan, £186 Beckfoot & Earlside, £180 Hownam Grange.

Mule £188 Carnochan, £178 Belzies, £173 Beckfoot, £172 High Croft House, £170 Hoscoate & Rigg House.

Light ewes
Blackface £152 Mouldyhill, £140 North Corriellaw, £139 Drumreach, £138 Tinnis, £137 Mouldyhill & Mains of Collin.

Hill Cheviot £140 Tushielaw & Kirkton, £136 Thornship, £130 Glendinning & Terrona, £128 Castle Hill, £126 Glenamachrie.

Swaledale £130, £124, £117 Whitton, £114 Todsyehead, £112 Heathery Knowe.

Herdwick £130 Moss House, £110 Torbh-

laren & Powheads, £106 Todsyehead.

Goat £130 Barsalloch, £125 South Bogbain.

Easycare £119, £115 The Wreay, £114 Netherside.

Shetland £102 Newtonhill, £100 Uras.

Rams
Texel £245 Middle, £240 Beckfoot, £220 Windyhill, £215 Balmydown.

Suffolk £225 Beckfoot & Whitton, £205 Milsington, £200 Lustruther.

Bluefaced Leicester £215 Mouldyhill, £195 Glenjaan & Whitton.

Dorset £215 Guards.

North Country Cheviot £205 Barsalloch, £200 Aimster, £180 Hownam Grange.

Beltex £200 Greengatehouse & Wydon Eals.

Charollais £180 Whitton.

Hill Cheviot £175 Barsalloch, £165 Milsington, £152 Unthank, £150 Barsalloch.

Merino £175 Beckfoot.

Blue Texel £172 Dalmore.

Blackface £150 Glenshanna, £148 Black Craig, £140 Corrylorn.

Averages:
Hoggs
Light to 405.0p (318.2p)

Standard to 430.0p (339.1p)

Medium to 404.9p (335.5p)

Heavy to 370.2p (314.3p)

Ewes
Light to £152.00 (£102.71)

Heavy to £300.00 (£148.98)

Rams to £245.00 (£153.81) to £1,937



The E&L Gallery

Sunny but chilly down in the Muckle. Another cracking photo by Stan Wilson


Camera: Sony RX10

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!



Send details to: alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PLANNING

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 19/02/2026 (Type A).
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)
 Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
 26/0011/S42 (A) Land Immediately North Of Existing Ewe Hill Substation, Near Langholm - Formation of extension to existing platform including a 132kv bay, erection of 3 metre high boundary fence and associated works (at Variance with terms of Condition 1 of Application reference 22/0056/FUL to allow the development to begin no later than 9 February 2026)



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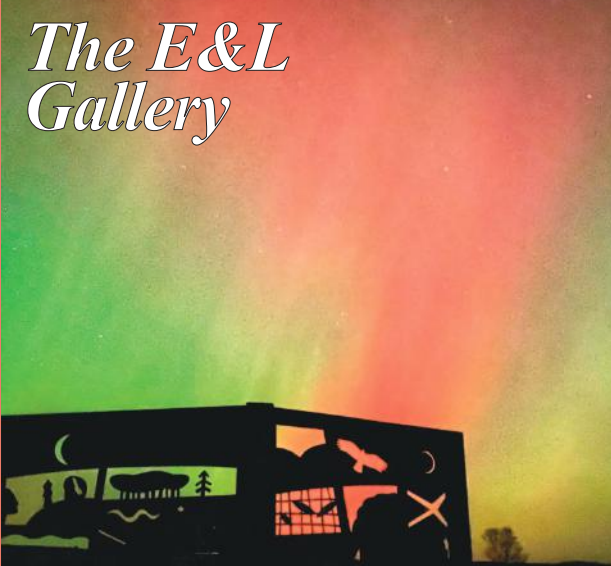


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Photo by: Stan Wilson

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 or by phoning the office on 013873 80012

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LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

CREATION MILL **WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**
W/C 9th Feb 2026

Mon	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Creation Club - Bracelet Making Age 6+	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	North West Winter Wool Festival	9-4	Norbreck Castle Hotel Blackpool, FY2 9AA
Sun	North West Winter Wool Festival	9-4	Norbreck Castle Hotel Blackpool, FY2 9AA

Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3
Booking required, please visit CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

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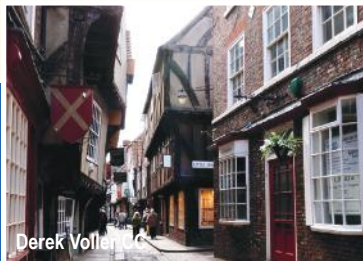
WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Fri 6th	The Showtunes Must Go On	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 7th	Magical Messy Moments Julia Donaldson Session	The Studio, Maxwell Place 10.30 - 11.30am
Sun 15th	Snowdrop Garden Open for Charity	Craig, Langholm DG13 0NZ 12pm - 4pm
	Westerkirk SWI serving soup & home baking	Benty Hall 12pm - 4pm
Mon 16th	Dementia Catch-Up Group	Langholm Day Centre 1.30 - 3.30pm
Wed 18th	Hard of Hearing Group Hearing Aid Maintenance	Langholm Day Centre 1 - 3pm
Fri 27th	Hard of Hearing Group Brew & a Bletcher	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12 noon

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2605 answers next week

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Which River does Scotland's Erskine Bridge span? | 11 What is the name of the international rugby venue in Edinburgh? |
| 2 In which English city is the famous narrow thoroughfare of The Shambles? | 12 Which entire Sussex seaside town was put up for sale in 1939 by the Duke of Norfolk? |
| 3 In which county is the Hickstead Showjumping Arena? | 13 Which British prison erupted into violent riots in April 1990? |
| 4 Which major Cornish resorth is most famous for its surfing? | 14 According to legend, who was the treacherous knight of the Round Table? |
| 5 What is officially known as the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster? | 15 To which London hospital did James Barrie bequeath the copyright to his book "Peter Pan"? |
| 6 In which city would you find Holyrood House? | 16 To within one year either way, in what year were Premium Bonds first sold in Britain? |
| 7 If you were travelling by train from London to Brighton from which terminus would you normally depart? | 17 What was the first burger chain to open in Britain? |
| 8 What is ABTA | 18 If you were in the village of Drumnadrochit, what would you perhaps be seeking to find? |
| 9 From what is the Welsh speciality of laver bread made? | 19 On which island is Ramsay the second largest town? |
| 10 In which National Park would you find the River Barle and Hartland Point? | 20 What completes the following: Ailsa |



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2604

- 1 A mountain
- 2 221B Baker Street
- 3 Pennines
- 4 Church
- 5 Glastonbury
- 6 Cowes
- 7 Edinburgh
- 8 Harrogate
- 9 Goodwood
- 10 Sharpness
- 11 Broadstairs
- 12 Wye Valley
- 13 Pilgrim's Way
- 14 Sandown Park
- 15 Paul Teroux
- 16 Essex
- 17 Grosvenor House Hotel
- 18 The Ridgeway
- 19 Somerset
- 20 Kensington Palace

Crossword 2604

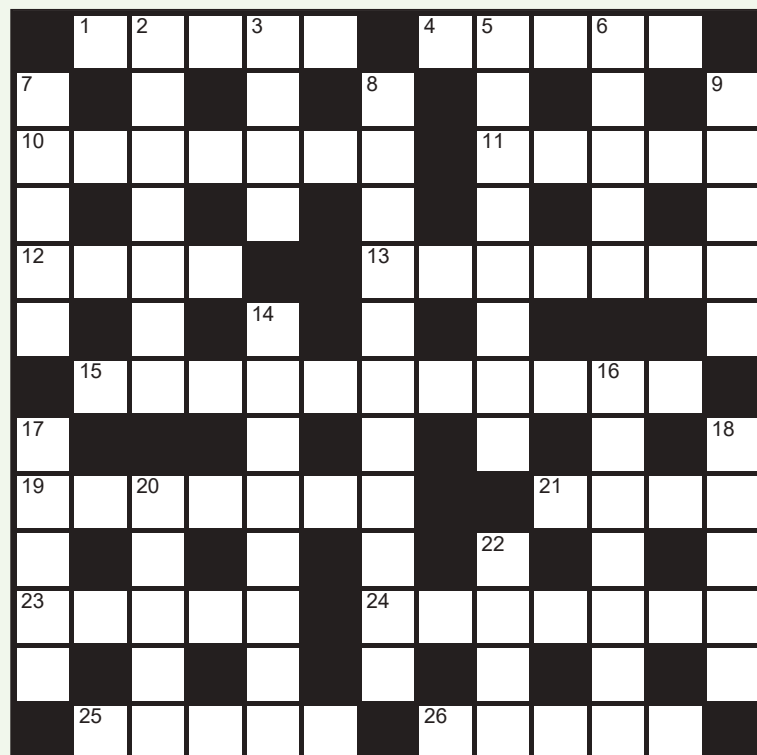
Across: 7 Anarchy, 8 Group, 9 Tames, 10 Observe, 11 Yokel, 13 Ecology, 15 Mariner, 17 Sleep, 19 Dunster, 21 Other, 22 Cubic, 23 Leotard.

Down: 1 Earthy, 2 Haymaker, 3 Ices, 4 Bygone, 5 Door, 6 Speedy, 8 Gaseous, 12 Lunatic, 14 Overheat, 15 Medico, 16 Rarely, 18 Parade, 20 Nibs, 21 Oxon.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2605 answers next week

- Across**
- 1 Frown (5)
 - 4 Grey (5)
 - 11 "Raising ---" (1987 Nicolas Cage film) (7)
 - 12 Hibernian (5)
 - 12 Outer covering (4)
 - 13 Final course sounds dry (7)
 - 15 Stalwart in the lead, or out of sorts (11)
 - 19 Implore urgently (7)
 - 21 Emperor of Rome, 54-68 AD (4)
 - 23 Throw out (5)
 - 24 Angers (7)
 - 25 Inheritors (5)
 - 26 Rounds up (5)
- Down**
- 2 Dry red Italian table wine (7)
 - 3 Horse-stopping command (4)
 - 5 Gymnastic pommel horse exercise (8)
 - 6 Banish (5)
 - 7 Bears out cavalryman's sidearm (5)
 - 8 Obsolete form of marine propulsion (6,5)
 - 9 Snap (5)
 - 14 Forebear (8)
 - 16 Appeared (7)
 - 17 Grew less (5)
 - 18 Pinch in the fundament (5)
 - 20 Filch (5)
 - 22 It's made of wood in the woods (4)



Sports News

Thursday February 5, 2026

NEXT SCHEDULED FIXTURES

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

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Another blow, away, for LRFC but bonus point won

Athletics

With five players already out due to injury, Langholm RFC faced a further blow last week when captain Chris Tait was also ruled out of Saturday's away match at Dalkeith.

A much-changed side took to the field at Kings Park against a Dalkeith side desperate for a home win.

The home side took the lead with a converted try after 19 minutes. Langholm struck back with a Jardine penalty to make the score 7-3. Following a Dalkeith yellow card the visitors scored a good try through Lewis Miller with Jardine kicking the conversion. Half time score 7-10.

The second half did not start well for Langholm with Dalkeith scoring two quick tries after 44 and 49 minutes to make the score 17-10. Langholm's Callum Bell received a yellow card after 49 minutes followed by a yellow for Brady Wilson 7 minutes later. With Bell just back in the field, the ref dished out another yellow card to Tom Hope following a try and conversion to Dalkeith.

With the score 24-10 and less than 5 minutes of the



Aidan Wilson and Lewis Miller on the attack against Dalkeith RFC

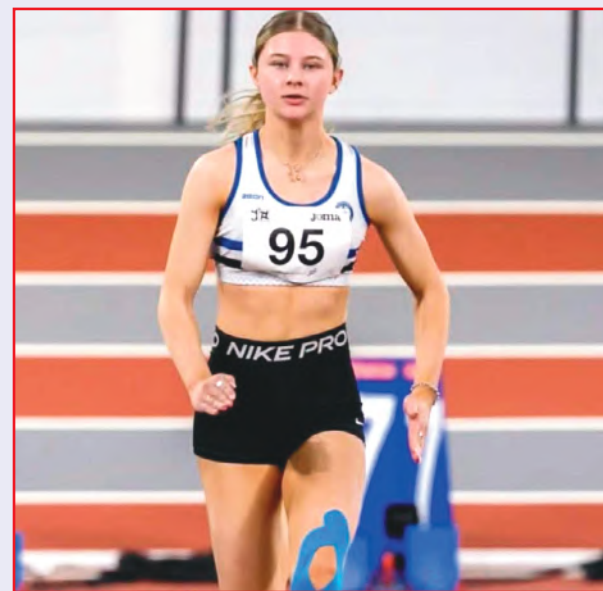
match left, Langholm were determined not to give up, and Ben Jardine scored a good try to make it 24-15. Dalkeith slotted a penalty and with 80 minutes played Aidan Wilson ran in for Langholm's 3rd try which Jardine converted. Final Score Dalkeith

27 Langholm 22. Not the result Langholm were looking for but after having been 14 points behind with less than 5 minutes of normal time left, all credit to them for earning a losing bonus point which may be very valuable at the end of the season.

On Saturday, plans are in place to play the postponed match against North Berwick at Milntown with an early 12 noon kick off. After the match, the Italy v Scotland game will be shown in the club rooms on the 65" TV and also in the bar, all very welcome.

Busy season ahead for Ava

Athletics



Langholm athlete Ava Bell was competing at the Scottish National u18 Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena on Saturday 24/01/26.

Changes to National age groups has moved her up into 2nd year u18 level and she performed well in her new age bracket to make the semi-finals of the 60m in her best time for two seasons.

It's a busy season ahead as normal with National Schools Indoors and Scottish Athletics Indoor League approaching; then looking to the outdoor season with District Championships, Sprintfest Invitational, Age Grade National Championships and National Schools Championships.

Ava is supported with her athletics by the 'Welcome to Langholm' Future Champions funding and The Hollywood Trust for which she is extremely grateful.

Huge win kicks off '26

Football

By David Borthwick

After a six week break, the Legion lads were back in action last weekend in a league match away against Langlee. The team travelled to Gala with just 12 players and a manager; fully aware they were up against one of the top sides in the league.

There was a sense during the warm up that the players were ready for the challenge, and that familiar fight, desire, and

togetherness showed qualities that often shine when the odds are against them.

It wasn't the start they wanted, and within the first 10 minutes they found themselves 1-0 down, despite a fairly even opening to the game. They created several chances before Greig Cartner won the ball in midfield, powered past the Langlee defence, and levelled the score with a well taken goal from the young player.

The score remained 1-1 at halftime, and although there were tired legs among them, there

was still plenty of determination and belief that they could get a result.

They came out for the second half with purpose, and it wasn't long before that determination paid off. Greig was fouled in the box, earning a penalty, which Daniel Winter dispatched low and hard into the bottom corner to put Legion 2-1 ahead.

Langlee pushed hard to get back into the match, and after a break down the right, their striker was pulled back. Robert Maclean was sent off, leaving Legion with 10 men but very likely preventing a goal.

As the game went on, Langlee continued to press, hitting the bar and missing from close range on several occasions. Legion held on, with every player putting their body on the line and fighting for one another to secure a much needed three points.

It was an incredible team performance, and the club was proud of every single one of the lads. The hope now is to build on this result and make 2026 another memorable year for Langholm Legion Football Club.

Thank you to all who came to support the team.

Carpet Bowling in Canonbie and Easton

Carpet Bowling

By Luke Tolson

Canonbie pairs was held on Sunday with an entry of 32. Thanks to all the entries and everyone who helped out! Winners were - Aaron Wood and Gary McColm.

Runners/up were - Matt and Ian Hall. (pictured above) Semi finalists were - Dominic & Eleanor Murray, Butcher and Davie McMath.

Easton single hand tournament was played on Friday night with an entry of 28. The final was split between Corey Park and Jim Little. Beaten semi-finalists - Matt Hall and George Robinson. Well done all!



E&L SPORT

