

**Wool, Woven  
and Wild Festival**  
Preview of Creation  
Mill's latest event

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**Bumper week for  
Social Club  
carpet bowlers**

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# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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## Councillor Male contacts D&G chief regarding funding anomalies

Answers sought for long-standing, unanswered questions

Councillor Denis Male has contacted the CEO of Dumfries and Galloway Council seeking answers to a question he says he has raised repeatedly since the last council election.

He wants to know what data, gathered in the early 2020s, led to the reversal of a long standing commitment by both the Council and the Scottish Government to fully support the Langholm Community Plan. That commitment was made at meetings attended by MSPs, councillors, officials and local business owners.

The first of those meetings took place in 2016, chaired by John Swinney MSP, in response to the severe economic impact on the lower Esk communities following the closure of the textile mills. Mr Swinney set out a route to recovery, centred on the creation of a community led plan and an umbrella organisation—promising support if these steps were taken.

A follow up meeting in 2018, chaired by Paul Wheelhouse MSP, reviewed progress and reaffirmed the original commitment. The Council then directed the SURF organisation to assist Langholm, and with support from the Scottish Community Development Centre, a 10 year plan for 2020–2030 was produced and agreed by the Council, SOSE and local residents. A community umbrella organisation was also formed.



Langholm Councillor, Denis Male is asking questions of Dumfries & Galloway CEO

SOSE identified Langholm as one of six communities in urgent need of support and launched a pilot project, followed in 2021 by a further three year programme. Langholm was the only one of the six communities to begin implementing its plan.

### ‘Desk-top exercise’

However, Councillor Male says a later survey dropped Langholm from a top three priority to 13th in the region. When he first queried this, he was told it was a “desk top exercise” carried out by Borderlands and that Dumfries and Galloway would make its own decision. He believes this erroneous

data led to the disappearance of the 10 year plan, the loss of SOSE funding and the failure of expected Borderlands support—halting projects that were ready to begin.

Since 2016, the area has lost a further 300 jobs with the closure of Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Border Fine Arts and a local builder. More than 1,500 jobs have gone since 1975. Transport and housing pressures continue to mount, with no direct access to Dumfries and Galloway, high travel costs for health appointments, limited education access for young people, and the scrapping of the Murtholm housing scheme leaving a shortage of suitable homes for both older residents and young families.

INSIDE

**Ain't no mountain  
high enough!**



Langholm man, Roger Maxwell has spent the last 21 years climbing Scotland's Munros and has finally bagged all 282 of them!

Full story on page 8

# Family Announcements

## Deaths

### DICKSON Margaret

Suddenly but peacefully on the 6th February at the Alexandra Unit DGRI, Margaret aged 87 years.  
A devoted wife of the late Frank, loving mum, mother-in-law, adored granny and great-granny also a special friend to many.  
Funeral service to be held at Westerkirk Church on Tuesday 3rd March at 11:00 am followed by interment at Langholm Cemetery. Friends are respectfully invited to attend.  
Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be for Langholm Day Centre.

All enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

### BELL, Derek

Elma Bell, and family, would like to thank all of their kind friends who sent messages of sympathy on the loss of her dear husband, Derek. It was very much appreciated,

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- 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



## Church Notices

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February

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# Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

## The 2026 Hawick Reivers' Festival

It's just over a month until the Hawick Reivers Festival and the programme has recently been announced. Set mainly in the town of Hawick in the heart of the historic Middle March the weekend kicks off on the evening Friday 28th March with a concert.

For hundreds of years the Borderland between Scotland and England was the home of families with well-known names such as Armstrong, Scott, Turnbull, Murray and Elliot to name but a few. Families with intense loyalties to their land and kin and the need to defend that land from marauders. This bred a fiercely independent group of people whose descendants have spread around the world taking their skills and strengths with them. Hawick Reivers Festival aims to immerse visitors in this history and allows them to experience what life was like for these hardy ancestors. Through dramas, talks, lectures, re-enactments and music the weekend truly offers something for the whole family.

The festival Saturday which is the 29th March is a very full



**HAWICK REIVERS FESTIVAL**



day with a parade, street market, reivers encampment, historic lectures and rounds off with a torchlight procession and fireworks display to reenact the "Hot Trod" when reivers rode on horseback by night in pursuit of stolen cattle and their enemies. Sunday 30th March features a walk round the historic aspects of the town, and there is a special event this year at Hermitage Castle run by Historic Scotland. Visitors can

then round off their weekend by enjoying a traditional Scottish High Tea and a fascinating lecture on the history of the wars between Scotland and England – a fitting end to a busy programme.

Most events are free of charge and open to all (with the exception of the Concert and High Tea which can be booked via [tickettailor.com/events/hawickreiversfestival](http://tickettailor.com/events/hawickreiversfestival)

## Active Travel hub now in doubt

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Councillor Male argues these issues were not reflected in the data used, nor was the guarantee made by ministers and council officials. He also expressed concern that the anticipated Active Community Programme transport link to Gretna or Annan may no longer be delivered.

He has now contacted the leaders of the main political parties, urging them to address these issues in this year's budget. In his letter to the CEO, he wrote: "I hope

you will help to right the wrong that was done by the data survey, when a promise agreed by Council officials and Scottish Government was broken."

He added that despite the setbacks, he hopes that it is possible to right the wrong that was done by the data survey when a promise agreed by council officials and Scottish Government was broken.

There is a fantastic opportunity with the coming Center Parcs and other tourist developments to regenerate the Esk valley.



## Embrace the year of the Fire Horse



**T**his week sees the Chinese lunar new year being celebrated across the world. Celebrations of Chinese New Year can be traced to the Shang Dynasty which was between 1600 and 1046 AD. The event was when people held ceremonies to honour gods and their ancestors to mark the beginning or end of the year and seek blessings for a bountiful harvest and protection from misfortune.

Each year is associated with one of 12 animals and these animals, and their traits, are said to govern each year. 2026 is the year of the fire horse which is believed to be a time of bold action, impulsiveness and breakthroughs. It is characterized by themes of independence, creativity, energy and stubbornness. It is also meant to bring vitality and a year to be mindful of impulsiveness and impatience. So, here's hoping we're all full of life in the year ahead and that it's a great year for all the horse enthusiasts!

## Rural depopulation is a Council concern

### Three separate research studies completed

Dumfries and Galloway Council has just published three research reports on rural depopulation, now available on the council's website. The studies were funded by the Scottish Government through its Addressing Depopulation Action Plan and Fund.

The research was carried out by the council in partnership with the University of the West of Scotland and an organisation called community enterprise CoDEL. The reports describe the impacts of population change and provide insights into how the region's population has fallen from around 148,000 to 145,000 in recent years.

Like many rural areas, the region's population is not only shrinking but also ageing. The proportion of over-55s in Dumfries and Galloway is rising, while the number of children and young adults is falling. The research highlights six interdependent factors that influence whether people stay in or leave a community: access to housing, employment, education, transport, health and social connections. Communities that have good access to these are more likely to retain and attract residents, whereas



Dumfries and Galloway Council Leader Stephen Thompson

gaps in these key factors can contribute to people moving away. One clear existing strength for Dumfries and Galloway is its strong community spirit, which helps many residents feel a sense of belonging and attachment to the area, according to the research. The region also offers a high quality of life and a clean, safe environment.

### Top priority

Councillor Stephen Thompson, Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, said:

"Tackling rural depopulation is a top priority for us. These

studies were commissioned to get a clearer picture of the challenges and opportunities in our communities and to recognise the strengths across our region. The research findings will support our work with local communities and local and national partners to map out next steps."

The council will now work with national, regional and local partners to review the research findings and identify next steps. A report on the findings and recommendations will be discussed by elected members at Full Council on 26 March 2026.

## Accordion & Fiddle Club

The Langholm Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting this month will be held on Sunday 22nd of February and will feature the Langholm All Star band. The session starts at 2pm and goes on until 5pm at Langholm social club. All are welcome to attend.

## Kids cookery at the Hub

Eskdalemuir old school and community hub is going to be holding a kids cookery club starting on Wednesday 4th March. Young folk will be able to learn simple, child-friendly recipes, learn to measure, mix, bake and decorate as well as try out new foods and flavours. The club is for children from 8 – 15 years old and no experience is needed just lots of enthusiasm. The club will take place at 4.30pm and aprons will be provided. For more details and to book places contact the Hub on 013873 73760.

## Bridge results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 2, Alison Mullock & Anne Ferguson, 3, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford.

E/W - 1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor, 3, Janet Ivison & Pat Watson.

## New proposals for onshore renewable energy developments

Communities across Scotland could see more money invested in their area as a result of onshore renewable energy developments – under new proposals published last week.

The proposed updates to existing community benefit guidance for onshore energy developments would recommend that local groups should receive yearly payments of £6,000 per Megawatt (MW) of onshore wind capacity – up from £5,000 per MW – for the lifetime of a project. 'Community benefits' are voluntary contributions provided by energy developers to local communities. Around £30 million in benefits was provided to groups across Scotland last year, supporting projects that matter most to local communities.

The proposals also include: a new specific recommended



More community money from renewables proposed

range of £700-£1000 per MW per year for solar projects; a new recommended level of at least £150 per MW per year for battery energy storage projects; the pilot of a Community Benefit Peer Forum, run by Local Energy Scotland, so communities can work together, share learning and build expertise; and improved guidance to support communities

to maximise the long-term value of community benefit funds.

### Scotland leads

According to the Scottish Government's Energy Secretary Gillian Martin Scotland has led the way in establishing the provision of community benefits as a common and expected practice across our renewables

sector for more than 10 years. She said that Scottish Government will continue to engage with communities and the energy sector to help refine these proposals ahead of developing final updated Good Practice Principles later this year.

The Good Practice Principles are national guidance that sets clear expectations for developers and communities on how community benefits should be designed and delivered. This follows a public consultation held in 2025, which gathered views from communities, developers and wider stakeholders.

Around £30 million was awarded in community benefits in Scotland in 2025, up from £25 million in 2023. This figure is expected to further increase over the next decade as Scotland's renewables transition progresses.

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Send yours to: E&L Advertiser,  
47A High St, Langholm DG13 0JH  
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### Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the goats

I hope Nature(!) Scot does not get the same condemnation as the tycoon and Manchester United owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe got from the prime minister and chancellor for his comments a week ago about immigrants "colonising" Britain now that the environmental body has dismissed the 22,000-signature petition to protect the Langholm Moor wild goats because the animals are ineligible as a "non-native" species.

As unofficial, feral goats they are thought to have roamed the moor for centuries, looking after themselves and costing the Government not a penny - which is more than can be said for all Langholm's two-legged critters - or for the goats' persecutors Oxygen Conservation(!), who immigrated three years ago.

Incidentally, how, precisely, do the latter make their money - something to do with "carbon credits", I believe.

Richard Lennox,  
Langholm

# D&G to get £5.17m in Local Gov Finance

The Scottish Government announced the Local Government Finance Settlement on 13 January 2026. It includes additional core revenue funding of £253.5 million nationally, with Dumfries and Galloway Council's share estimated at £5.17 million.

This represents a 1.6 per cent cash increase, which equates to a real-terms reduction of around 0.6 per cent, once inflation is taken into account. The report highlights that the settlement covers one year only, with no confirmed funding levels beyond 2026/27, which continues to present challenges for longer-term financial planning. Members were also advised that the council faces a projected funding gap of £34.8 million over the three financial years from 2026/27 to 2028/29, forming the basis for political group budget proposals.

As part of the same update, members also



The £5.17m settlement represents a 1.6 per cent cash increase, which equates to a real-terms

reduction of around 0.6 per cent, considered how the Local Government Finance Settlement affects the council's longer-term Capital Investment Strategy, to ensure existing commitments remain affordable and deliverable as part of the wider budget-setting pro-

cess. The update provides clarity for councillors as they consider the difficult choices required to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget, ahead of budget-setting meeting of Full Council later this month. The committee also

agreed that Council Leader, Councillor Stephen Thompson, would write to the Scottish Government seeking fairer and more transparent funding that reflects the council's role in delivering vital services to residents across the region.

## Xcel action update

Langholm Youth Club starts up on Monday 19th January at the Xcel youth centre on Henry Street. It's open for people who are in classes from Primary 4 to Primary 7. Registration can be done on the Xcel website.

The breakfast club continues to run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8am to 8.50am at the youth centre.

The Boardroom, a gaming club, starts on 20th January and allows young people to come together to explore exciting worlds through board games, card games and strategy games.

## Bridge results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 2, Alison Mullock & Anne Ferguson, 3, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford.

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**SWI**  
Scottish Women's Institutes

# CANONBIE EWES and WESTERKIRK February 2026



**E**wes SWI President, Tessa Lumley, welcomed a good turnout of members to Creation Mill. Business matters were dealt with first and then Tessa showed members round the building with its very modern facilities.

Members were impressed by the washing, carding and felting machines in the wool room which was followed by the design room complete with looms and of course the scrap store and Rose's Wardrobe. Tessa and others visit schools for crafting sessions and also run after school clubs and provide creative workshops for all. Joan organised

an alphabetical game and we discovered there aren't many textiles beginning with X!

Tessa judged the competitions as follows - 2 Homemade Biscuits - 1, Marjorie Pringle, 2, Anne Wood, 3, Cathy Jamieson. Number of Words from Creation Mill - 1, Joan Cubbon (297), 2, Lorraine Morton (275), 3, Susan Shepherd (231). Marjorie thanked Tessa for all her hard work before publicising the Wool, Woven and Wild Festival by Creation Mill being held at the end of February. The evening ended with refreshments and the drawing of the raffle.

**T**he Ruralympics was held at Locharbriggs Hall on Saturday 14th February and was won by members of Canonbie SWI.

Members received a gold medal and a cup. The team members were Canonbie SWI President, Nicola Donald, Pam Bell, Maureen Dinwoodie and Elizabeth Kinstrey.

The next meeting of Canonbie SWI is tonight the February 19th. Please see Canonbie SWI Facebook page for details.



**W**esterkirk SWI held a community lunch on Sunday 15th February. Soup, bread, scones, cakes and traybakes were served between 12 noon and 4pm. The hot soup was very much appreciated by all who ventured out on what was a horrible day weather-wise. SWI members wish to thank everyone who came to support them which makes the hard work worthwhile.

# Call for limited licence for young drivers

## Restrictions would save lives

**A bereaved Scottish father, Alan Knox who is a paramedic, is calling for the introduction of restricted driving licences in Scotland. Alan lost his son Lewis who died along with two other young men on a road in the north of Scotland in a tragic road accident.**

Restricted driving licences allow new drivers to gradually gain full driving privileges over a period of time. The approach has been used in other countries where it has resulted in significant reductions in the number of young drivers being involved in fatal accidents. Northern Ireland will become the first part of the United Kingdom to bring in graduated licences later this year. In New Zealand where this graduated license process exists, people with a restricted licence can

drive on their own between 5am and 10pm but between 10pm and 5am they can only drive with a supervisor in the front seat. There are also restrictions for such licence holders to carrying passengers. The E&L would be interested to hear what readers think of this as a proposal for the introduction of this in Scotland.

Email us at [newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk)



# D & G fiddlers under scrutiny

## Ethnomusicologist speaks to history group

**A meeting of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (D&G Heritage) was held recently in Dumfries. The speakers were Dr Jo Miller, Ethnomusicologist and Dr Stuart Eydmann of the University of Edinburgh) whose talk was entitled 'The Hidden History of Fiddling in Dumfries and Galloway, c1800-1920'.**

The historical instrumental music of south-west Scotland is largely unexamined possibly because of the dominance of musical culture in other areas. The talk introduced current research on the lively local culture of fiddle music and dance in Dumfries and Galloway – its performers, composers, teachers and collectors.

One example of a musical family extending over 150 years was the Crozier family who originated in Kirkcowan. John Crozier played in the Kirkcowan orchestra around 1900 and had his own dance band; his brother Tom moved to Dalry where he conducted the local choral society; his son David played the trumpet in a dance band, and his son, John, now leads fiddlers in the Strathspey and Reel



Joseph Allison, Langholm fiddler

Society in Stirling which held its most recent concert last month in Stirling.

Four manuscripts of fiddle tunes were referred to: the Hanning manuscript written between 1790 and 1820 in Gatehouse of Fleet which contains over 90 tunes. Secondly the manuscript of John Galbraith from Dalmellington in Ayrshire around 1836, which also included part of Carsphairn. The third manuscript was that of William Dickson, based in Amisfield, made between the 1870s and up to the early decades of the 20th century which contained around 300 tunes. The last collection was that of Frank Gilruth made between 1882 and 1915 in the Dumfries area. Gilruth's tunes were written on the back of picture postcards, 900 of which are now in Dumfries Museum.

And of course there is a Robert Burns connection. Charles Sharpe from Hoddom was a fiddle player, as was Burns. Burns wrote to Sharpe stating: 'The other day, a brother catgut gave me a charming Scots air of your composition.'

# Council Tax bill by email

From 9 March, many customers will receive their annual Council Tax bill for the 2026/27 financial year by email, rather than by post. This will apply to customers where the council already holds a valid email address. Sending bills by email means they can be delivered more quickly and are easier for customers to keep and refer back to. It also helps reduce printing, postage and the council's carbon footprint.

Paper billing is not being removed. Customers who prefer to continue receiving paper bills can opt out of email billing at any time, and paper bills will continue to be available for anyone who chooses this option. Customers who do not read the email notifications about this change will also continue to receive paper bills. During an initial transition period, if a customer's circumstances change after annual billing and an amended Council Tax bill needs to be issued, some amended bills may still be sent by post for a short period while systems are fully aligned.

Customers who would prefer not to receive their Council Tax bill by email can opt out using the online form linked in the email they receive, or by contacting Revenues and Benefits directly. Customers who currently receive paper bills and would like to sign up for email billing can also do so at any time.

# GP appointments limited in March

## Langholm Medical Practice issues important Patient Update: Computer System Change.

The practice will soon be moving to a new computer system. During the changeover period from Monday 9th March to Friday 13th March 2026, the team will have limited access to both the current and new systems.



Langholm Medical Practice will undergo a computer system update in early March

### What this means for patients:

- GP appointments: The practice will be operating an EMERGENCY ONLY service for a significant part of the changeover week. Patients requiring urgent attention or advice should contact the surgery as normal.
- Prescription requests: The practice will not be able to process repeat prescription

requests during the changeover week, so patients are asked to ensure they order their repeat medications in advance of this date.

- Advanced booking of appointments: The practice is currently unable to book future appointments beyond Monday 9th March due to the system changeover.

Once installation and testing have been completed, normal booking will resume.

The practice appreciates patients' understanding and support during this important improvement. The goal remains to provide the best possible care, and this upgrade is a key step toward achieving that.



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Craig Hoy MSP**

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



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# Farming on the Border



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Farming with Gilly Fraser

## ALBAS awards for SRUC students

Two Dumfriesshire students have been selected as finalists for this year's ALBAS awards.

The awards are presented by the charity Lantra Scotland which works to increase the number and diversity of employees in the land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation sector.

Jack Ritchie and Liam Clive are both currently undertaking SVQ courses in land-based Engineering for Forestry with Scotland's rural college SRUC. They're also both working as Apprentice Mechanics for Forestry and Land Scotland.

They are part of a group of twelve SRUC students to be named in the final shortlist of 26. SRUC Vice Principal, Mary Thomson says it's a great boost for them.

"Reaching the finals is a huge achievement and whatever the outcome, they have already made a significant impact within their chosen industry and a fantastic start to their land-based

career and lifelong learning journey," she said.

### Aquaculture

Dr Liz Barron-Majerik MBE, Director of Lantra Scotland, says the ALBA awards are a long-established and important part of the land-based and aquaculture sector, shining a spotlight on the outstanding achievements of skilled and dedicated people at every stage of their careers.

"They also demonstrate to employers, businesses and partner organisations the real value of skills development and collaborative working," she said.

"I'm delighted that we have once again received a record number of entries, so warmest congratulations go to everyone nominated.

"My thanks also go to our independent industry judges, to the training providers and employers who put forward nominations, and to our generous supporters whose commitment makes this event possible."

## The 'world's loneliest sheep' now has company

Fergus and Felicia have joined Mum at home in Dalscone

A sheep giving birth doesn't usually merit hitting the headlines – unless of course the ewe is Fiona, who became famous all over the globe as "the world's loneliest sheep."

Fiona gained a worldwide following after she became the centre of a daring cliff-face rescue.

She had been living all alone at the bottom of a cliff on an inaccessible stretch of shoreline in the Cromarty Firth for more than two years when she was spotted by a lone kayaker.

Renowned sheep farmer Cammy Wilson spearheaded what was described as "an incredibly complex mission" to rescue her. Two men had to be winched 250 metres down the cliff face, then they found Fiona in a cave and carried her to safety.

She found a new home – with lots of company – at Dalscone Farm in Dumfries. She was not in the best condition when she



Fiona with twins Felix and Felicia

first arrived at her new home, and was carrying a bit of excess weight, so farmer Ben Best made sure to get her into the best shape possible before letting her get pregnant.

Since then, fans worldwide have been avidly following her

progress, and the audience grew still larger after it was announced that she was going to have twin lambs.

Fiona gave the farmer and her fans a nail-biting time when she went into labour as things weren't entirely

straightforward.

However, the local Vet arrived to lend a hand, and two healthy, beautiful lambs duly made an appearance – one boy and one girl. They've been named Fergus and Felicia after characters in the movie Shrek.

## Well-deserved award for the 'face of farming'

He's a farmer, a TV Presenter, a podcaster, writer and commentator and he's done so much to raise the profile of the industry in Scotland that for many he's become the face of farming.

Now Cammy Wilson has been officially recognised and rewarded by NFUS Scotland with the presentation of the union's prestigious Ambassador Award.

In 2019 Cammy launched his own YouTube channel called The Sheep Game and it attracted hundreds of thousands of viewers worldwide. Since then he has become one of the most relatable and influential voices in the industry, using humour, honesty and real-life experience to shine a spotlight on modern farming and rural life.

His online videos – filmed around shearing sheds, lambing fields and farmyards – have found a huge audience far beyond the farming community, helping to connect the public with where their food comes from and the people who produce it.

Presenting the award, NFUS President Andrew Connon said Cammy has a unique ability to tell farming's story in a way that is accessible, engaging and authentic, helping to build understanding and trust between farmers and the wider public.

"The message from across Scottish agriculture is loud and clear – our farmers and crofters are stepping up to deliver food security, protect nature and drive innovation, but they need confidence,



Andrew Connon presents the Ambassador Award to Cammy Wilson

clarity and support to do it. Telling that story with honesty and passion, like Cammy does, makes all the difference in helping people understand the realities of modern farming."

In his acceptance speech Cammy said he was massively proud to be part of the Scottish farming community.

## Westerkirk farmer addresses NFUS AGM

A claim by Scotland's First Minister that funding for agriculture announced in the recent Budget was the most generous and substantial package for agriculture anywhere in the UK, failed to impress one leading Langholm farmer.

Speaking at the AGM of NFUS Scotland, Lorraine Luescher pointed out that it amounted to less than one per cent of the Scottish Government's total budget and represented a real-terms cut in funding.

Speaking from the floor, Lorraine said, "Is this fair or is agriculture an easy target for cuts?"

Earlier delegates heard John Swinney promise the country's farmers there will be no abrupt changes or 'cliff edges' in agricultural policy that could undermine confidence, business planning or long-term investment.

He confirmed that at least 70% of future agricultural funding will be made through direct pay-



ments through to 2030 and beyond and said government backing for the Future Farming Investment Scheme will continue, with a £14.25m commitment for a second round, to allow more farms and crofts to invest in equipment, infrastructure and technology.

NFUS President Andrew Connon welcomed the funding commitments and said they would offer stability to Scottish farming.

"Today's announcements send a strong signal that the voice of

farmers and crofters is being heard," he said.

"Predictability in funding, targeted capital support and a more practical approach to species management are all essential building blocks for a profitable and resilient future for Scottish agriculture.

"This level of alignment gives our members greater confidence to invest, plan ahead and continue delivering for rural communities and the wider economy."

# Farming and forestry's prospects in the Southern Uplands in 2026

**T**his month we introduce a guest columnist who has spent many years as a journalist before retiring to Eskdale four years ago. Robin Farquharson has been speaking and listening to the people who know these landscapes best, in this piece he brings an unvarnished view of how land use is changing across the Border valleys—and what that means for the communities that rely on it. Their reporting takes them from hill farms facing shifting economic pressures to valleys where habitat restoration is beginning to take hold.

In a couple of articles, Robin will examine the tensions and opportunities shaping the rural economy: how livestock producers are adapting to new environmental expectations, where conservation projects are succeeding or faltering, and why local voices are crucial in decisions about the future of the uplands. The column will offer clear-eyed analysis and on-the-ground insight into a region where tradition, resilience, and ecological change meet.



## ...MAINTENANCE OF HEALTHY FLOCKS — AND PLANTATIONS

**Mhairi Dawson, the NFUS' Regional Manager for Dumfries and Galloway, points out that farmers - away from storms, ice and flooding - are all too aware of how policy and land-use pressures affect their businesses.**

Key concerns include: the future of the tenancy sector, limited opportunities for new entrants, and the loss of productive land to energy, forestry, and rewilding initiatives.

High standards of animal welfare remain fundamental to all livestock farmers, comments Mhairi.

"Farmers continue to focus, understandably, on disease

prevention, responsible medicine use, biosecurity, and better housing and handling systems. Thankfully, there is strong engagement in health schemes and veterinary-led improvement programmes.

"Mhairi says that mental health and wellbeing among farmers and their staff remains a major priority. "Isolation, financial pressure, and regulatory uncertainty take a toll, and farmers increasingly value peer networks, support services, and open conversations about mental health — something NFUS actively promotes."

Right: Mhairi Dawson of NFUS



**Langholm's Mark Seed, (r) owner of Mark Seed Forest and Land, continues to be active in the Southern Uplands – and beyond: venison production, agriculture and forestry are the mainstays of his activity.**

"Currently of course we are confronted by climate change and the challenges it brings to both farming and forestry," he says. His research into good, profitable forestry management is leading him, generally, to favour restocking plantations with a mix of Scots pine, Douglas fir and Norway spruce – downplaying "traditional" Sitka, which is less resilient.

He also champions diversification: "Installation of eco-lodges, for example, can equate to a useful "harvest", bringing financial benefit to upland landowners and tenants once all building and design constraints have been satisfied."



## ...CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Eastern and northern Scotland have borne the brunt of especially adverse conditions this winter, the result of the western Atlantic's severe, roiling jet stream; there can be little confidence that conditions will improve in the near-term, unfortunately. So, what are the prospects for hard-pressed landowners and tenants in the Southern Uplands?**

They may have escaped the dismal fate of their counterparts in Aberdeenshire and the Highlands but flocks here, and their keepers, are under similar – if not critical – duress.

### Climate change

When it comes to climate change, it is the people on the ground doing the hard work who are delivering, believes Scottish Land and Estates. Camaron Gillies head of external affairs with the organisation says

"We are really keen that this is recognised across the policy landscape, and that credit is given to the people who do the most to help us tackle the challenges that are brought about by climate change.

Everyone has a role to play in mitigating climate change. However, we need to ensure

that we get the balance right between competing demands on the time and resources of farmers across Scotland.

"What we find," adds Cameron, "is that, in most cases, there are fewer people in the world who care more about the environment than farmers and other participants in rural businesses.

After all, they bear the brunt of climate change the hardest and make the greatest contributions to its mitigation."

Next week Robin gives us an overview of Scottish Land & Estates and their legislation and also our own Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.



Photo by Roger Bradshaw

# Roger has bagged them all!

## Langholm Rotarian successfully climbs 282 Munros in 21 years

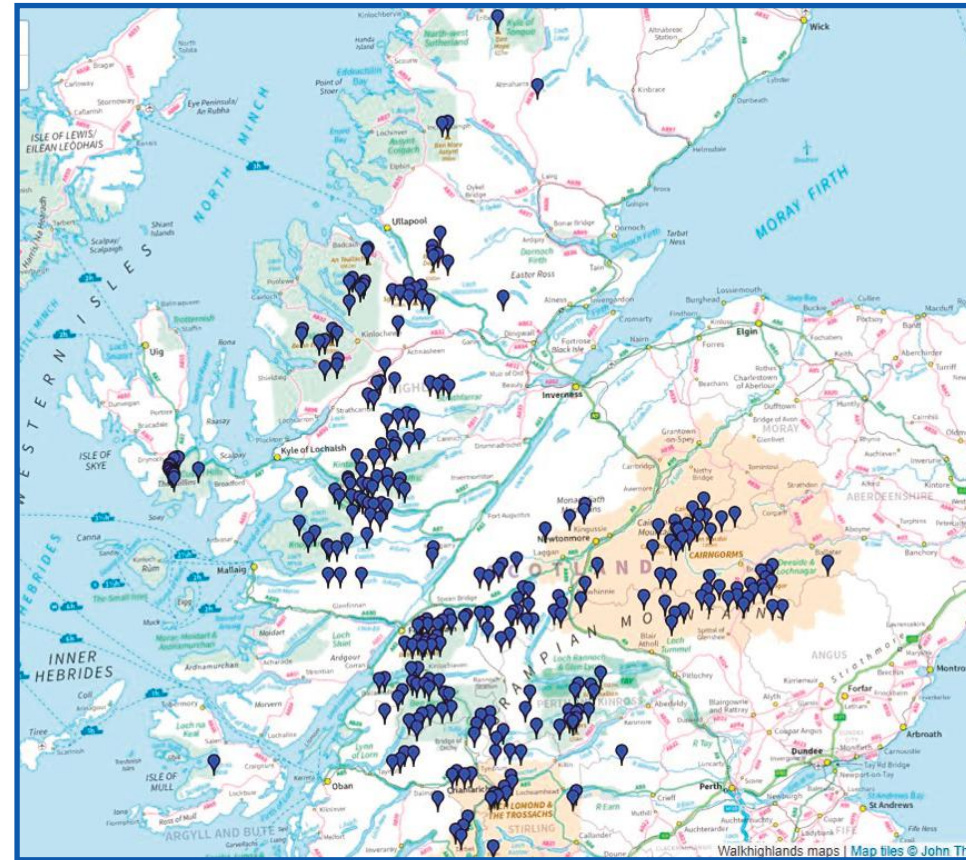
By Mark Hallam

Roger Maxwell gave a very enjoyable slide-show about his 21 year Munro journey to fifteen people at Langholm Rotary on Thursday 12th February at The Eskdale Hotel.

When he climbed his first Munro, Ben Nevis 4406ft - the highest - in July 2004, it was part of completing the National Three Peaks challenge of reaching summits of highest mountains in England, Wales - and Scotland - all in 24 hours. With it being third of the three tough ascents with long road trips between, climbing more Munro's was far from his mind. Then, in the October, in challenging conditions, he climbed another three very remote and difficult hills in the depths of Glen Affric, allegedly Scotland's most beautiful glen.



ANOTHER ONE: Roger, Cooper and Michaela atop Schiehallion



IT'S OFFICIAL: Roger's Walk Highlands page completed 282 Munros as of 2025

missed in the mist...) in spectacularly beautiful conditions - especially, back in Glen Affric area, which had started his odyssey, but with having saved the very toughest and remotest Mullardoch group until last - and with the fabulous scenery offset by marauding clegs, said to be of Gestapo ferocity.

### Schiehallion

Roger's very last ascent, was a much more benign and civilised affair, making the easy ascent of Schiehallion, 225th highest at 1,083m or 3,553ft, on 26th September with wee Cooper - and also Michaela, his daughter, who has herself climbed between 20-30 Munros.

There was a rigorous Q & A at the end of Roger's most entertaining talk. His favourite accomplishment is the airy Cuillin Ridge of Sky, with some 11 summits, some of which required rock-climbing skills to reach - and favourite peak Sgurr nan Gilleann, highest on this most challenging crest. And

of next objectives: repeating some especially impressive Torridonian Munros, whose ascents were spoiled by bad weather and - whilst up north, making the ascent of non-Munro but iconic Suilven, of famed outline and summit views. And then, with a son living just 3 hours away perhaps Mont Blanc at 4810m 15,780ft the highest summit in the Alps and Western Europe bon voyage Roger!

**Munro bagging is the pursuit of climbing all Scottish mountains over 3,000 feet, known as Munros. Enthusiasts explore rugged landscapes, challenge themselves physically, and enjoy breathtaking views. The activity blends adventure, navigation skills, and outdoor appreciation, offering hikers a rewarding way to experience Scotland's dramatic highlands in all seasons too.**



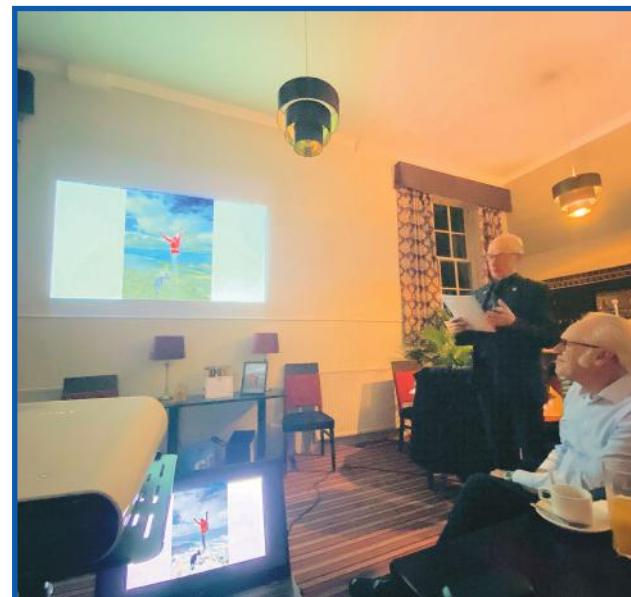
This experience proved inspirational to Roger and set the scene for the next 21 years, in which he tackled all the remaining 278 peaks, revelling especially in the remoter, more challenging ascents, with long walk in or better a rough cycle ride approach. He tackled many with companions - including Cairngorm with Rotarian Tom Stothard, when in the area, attending a Rotary Conference, in early 2000's. However, many he tackled completely alone, facing the additional challenges of long drives to and from distant

hills, all packed into a weekend, and with the need to be back and resuming his demanding job as builder, first thing Monday. Roger also made well over 100 of his ascents with his faithful hound Cooper, Jack Russell, who has walked 1000's of miles on his tiny little legs!

### 'Compleat or Complete'

For years there was no especial hurry to complete - or in Munro parlance compleat - until he upped the ante for 2025, setting himself the goal of tackling remaining 21, before his 65th

birthday. Thus Roger's last year was hardest, with several remote and complex multi-peak rounds still to accomplish - all around 'the day job' - and on top of many other commitments. Additionally, early on in this formidable year, he had to contend with short daylight hours and need to start and finish walks in darkness. Fortunately he was much assisted by fine some fine summer weather - and he was able to achieve some very long days (including to catch one particularly remote summit he'd accidentally



Roger takes his Rotary colleagues through a slide-show of his Munro Bagging

# WOOL, WOVEN & WILD

## Creation Mill invites you to their exciting wool festival

**E**xciting news. At the end of next week, Langholm will come alive with the buzz of the Wool, Woven and Wild Festival, an event you won't want to miss. This festival is the first of what we hope will be an annual celebration, hosted by Creation Mill CIC, and it promises to be a vibrant showcase of all things woolly, woven, and wild. With approximately 50 vendors lined up, you'll find a delightful array of products ranging from wool and textiles to nature-inspired goods and local foods.

The festival will take place at the Creation Mill Textile Centre, within Buccleuch Mills, Glenesk Road on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February from 10am to 4pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore Langholm's rich wool heritage, experience its vibrant textile creativity, and appreciate its remarkable natural landscape. A place where craft, agriculture, and landscape are deeply connected. We hope to foster conversations around sustainability, heritage, and creative practice through this event.

### Nature-inspired

Organiser and Creation Mill Director, Emma Duncan says: "Our festival programme is brimming with exciting activities. You can expect to find a curated selection of stalls featuring local wool, textiles, and nature-inspired products. There will also be fascinating talks that delve into various aspects of sheep farming, from traditional methods to modern practices. Additionally, inspiring textile

practitioners will lead community workshops, and there will be guided tours of local farms and businesses, offering a unique behind-the-scenes look at the people and processes that make this region so special".

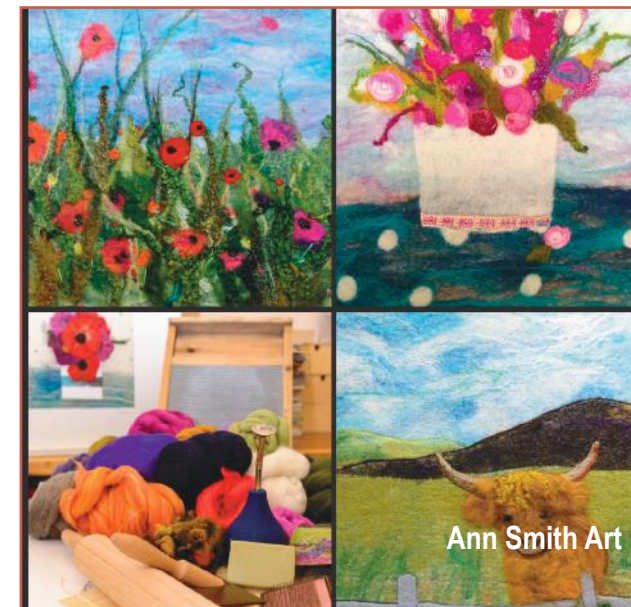
Thanks to the generous sponsorship by Dumfries and Galloway Council through their Regional Cultural Fund which supports cultural activities that strengthen communities and celebrate local identity. Entry to the festival is completely FREE for all visitors! Although, a suggested donation of £5 is appreciated to support the engaging workshops and insightful farm tours planned throughout the weekend.

Tickets can still be purchased through [www.creationmill.org/wwwfestival](http://www.creationmill.org/wwwfestival)

Looking forward to seeing you there and celebrating together!



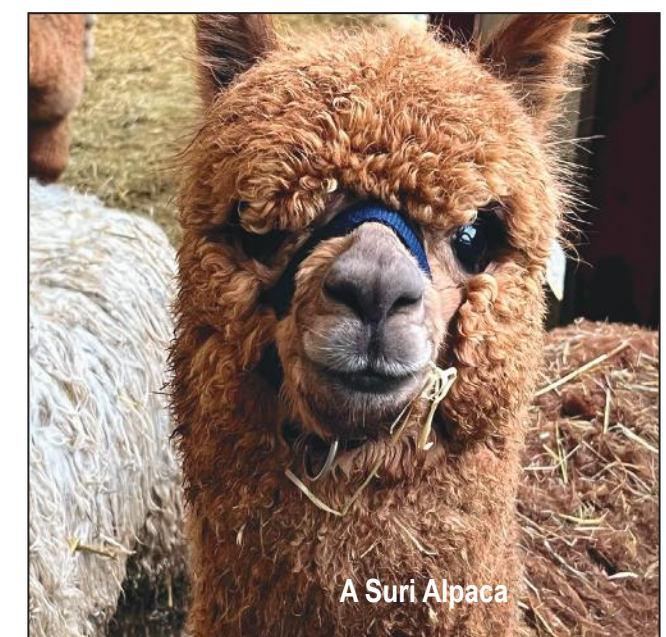
A wee lamb in locally-made woolen blankets



Ann Smith Art



Scouring



A Suri Alpaca



Daniel Lacey Design

By Gilly Fraser

# Langholm Moor goats are not worthy of protection

Campaigners vow to fight on despite Holyrood's rejection of petition

**C**ampaigners who have been battling fiercely to save wild goats on Langholm Moor from further culling say they're determined to fight on despite a major defeat in the Scottish Parliament.

A petition with 22,000 signatures calling for protected status for the goats – the largest wildlife petition ever to go before the Parliament – was rejected by Public Petitions Committee Convenor Carlaw Jackson.

In his proposal to close the petition with no further action, North-east Scotland Conservative MSP Maurice Golden dismissed the goats – which are loved by local people and visitors alike – as 'cute.'

Borders MSP Rachael Hamilton had proposed an amendment to the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill to schedule the wild goats under section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and grant the goats protected status through this mechanism. That amendment was defeated.

David Braithwaite, Chairman of The WGCT said it was a bitter disappointment.

"We were aghast at the apparent trivialisation of the issue



Members of the Wild Goat Conservation Trust who presented the 22,000-strong petition to Parliament

by MSP Golden," he said. "This left us feeling that the committee had fallen short of properly comprehending the issues, the wildlife legislative framework in Scotland, and the concerns of so many people who were clearly asking for change.

"In a session where this committee openly congratulated itself for allowing falconers to hunt

the protected Mountain Hare, it is shameful that Carlaw's committee showed such ineptitude on the matter of protecting the endangered wild goat.

## Inhumane

"They should have at the very least recommended regulation to create a closed season for wild goat shooting. Currently,

the law allows landowners to shoot wild goats at any time of year, and this includes when nannies are heavily pregnant or suckling kids. This is callous, inhumane and uncompassionate. It is so obviously wrong, the law must change and a real opportunity has been missed.

The Scottish Government and its nature conservation and

forestry agencies have insisted all along that wild goats are a non-native species and are therefore debarred from wildlife protection. However, non-native species, such as the Mandarin Duck and Ring-necked Parakeet, are afforded statutory protection under UK wildlife laws.

Vice-chair and Secretary of the Trust, Gail Brown said the 22,000 people who signed the petition have been left wondering why the Scottish Parliament encouraged them to have their say in Scottish politics and then simply ignored their concerns. But she said, the Trust is determined not to give up.

"We have a lot of work to do. One of the most pressing things is to get an accurate count of the total wild goat population that roam the 47 square miles of moorland. This requires expensive thermal drone technology, and we are currently fundraising for the £15,000 price tag.

"We believe there are a few hundred of these wild goats left and strongly suspect that landowners have been inflating numbers to help justify their culls. Over 200 goats were shot last year and there are more culls planned in 2026."

## Lemon Drizzle a firm fave at School Coffee Morning

**T**he baking skills of Newcastleton Primary School pupils were highly praised by all those who attended the NSP Coffee Morning in the Village Hall.

Children in P4/P5 had transformed themselves into Bakers for the day to create delicious Lemon Drizzle Cake specially for the Coffee Morning.

Customers voted with their tummies and the home baking obviously hit the sweet spot with all because the event raised a whopping £600. The money will be used to help fund school activities.

The NSP have thanked everyone who attended and helped out at the Coffee Morning for their hard work and dedication.



Above: Pupils baking Lemon Drizzle Cake for Newcastleton School Partnership Coffee Morning



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# LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**  
W/C 23rd Feb 2026

<b>Mon</b>	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
<b>Tues</b>	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
<b>Wed</b>	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
<b>Fri</b>	<b>WOOL, WOVEN + WILD</b>		
<b>Sat</b>	<b>WOOL, WOVEN + WILD</b>		

Scrap Store is open Monday - Thursday 10-3

For tickets and info about Wool, Woven & Wild Festival, visit: [www.creationmill.org/wwwfestival](http://www.creationmill.org/wwwfestival)

**Langholm Musical Society**

**BAKE SALE**  
**Saturday 21st February**  
From 9:30am in the Pop Up Shop  
**Home Baking · Tombola**

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

<b>Fri 20th</b>	<b>Benty Hall Quiz Night</b>	Benty Hall 7.30pm
<b>Sat 21st</b>	<b>Langholm Musical Society Bake Sale</b>	Pop-up Shop, Market Place from 9.30am
	<b>Magical Messy Moments Little Builders</b>	The Studio, Maxwell Place from 10.30am
<b>Sun 22nd</b>	<b>Eskdalemuir Expressive Arts Workshop with Helen Walsh</b>	Eskdalemuir Hub
	<b>Langholm Accordion &amp; Fiddle Club Langholm All Star Band</b>	Langholm Social Club 2 - 5pm
	<b>Open Mic Session</b>	Eskdalemuir Community Hub 2 - 5pm
<b>Fri 27th</b>	<b>Hard of Hearing Group Brew &amp; a Bletcher</b>	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12 noon
<b>27th 28th</b>	<b>Wool, Woven &amp; Wild Festival</b>	Creation Mill from 10.30am
<b>Sat 28th</b>	<b>Canonbie United Parish Church Soup Kitchen &amp; Table Top</b>	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1pm
	<b>Langholm Old Bowling Club Fundraiser for Renovations</b>	Clubhouse 2pm - Late

# The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2607 answers next week

- Which Oxford Street store opened in 1909 with the slogan "All your shopping under one roof"?
- On which British coin would you find the feathers of the Prince of Wales?
- Which general region of England comprises the counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Lincolnshire?
- How much of the Lake District is owned by the National Trust: 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 per cent?
- In which year did Radio One begin broadcasting?
- Who founded the Body Shop chain?
- In which city can you walk through Merchant City, a planned 18th century civic development?
- Other than Windermere, which other main Lake District lake begins with the letter 'W'?
- Which English city is home to Snow Hill and Moor Street stations?
- In which forest do 'Free Miners' still have ancient privileges to mine on their own?
- Which other major exhibition centre is near to London's Earl's Court?
- Alphabetically, what is England's first city?
- Which coin, which is no longer legal tender, featured a portcullis on one side?
- Who captained England's victorious Rugby World Cup side in 2003?
- Which letter begins the fewest words in the English language?
- Under which London station is Queen Boadicea reputed to be buried?
- The Battle of Bosworth in 1485 ended the Wars of the Roses. In which county is Bosworth Battlefield?
- What created the Norfolk Broads?
- What is the best surviving example of Norman military architecture in Britain?
- In which area of Britain are there more than 125 miles of lock-free waterways for use for pleasure?



## Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

### Quiz 2606

- River Wey
- Dartmouth
- Eros
- Buckinghamshire
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Berkshire
- Battle of Flowers
- New Street
- The Potteries
- Puddletown
- Cumbria
- River Ure
- Richmond
- 11.30am
- Edinburgh
- M4
- London Bridge
- Pembrokeshire Coast
- 250 miles
- Staffordshire

### Crossword 2606

Across: 1 Upright, 5 Stain, 8 Drama, 9 Nervous, 10 Noisy, 11 Eternal, 12 Telephonist, 17 Naphtha, 19 Piece, 20 Respect, 21 North, 22 Waste, 23 Decided.

Down: 1 Undone, 2 Realise, 3 Gravy, 4 Tender-hearted, 5 Surgeon, 6 Acorn, 7 Nestle, 13 Extreme, 14 Sneered, 15 Andrew, 16 Method, 18 Pesos, 19 Panic.

# NEVER A CROSSWORD!

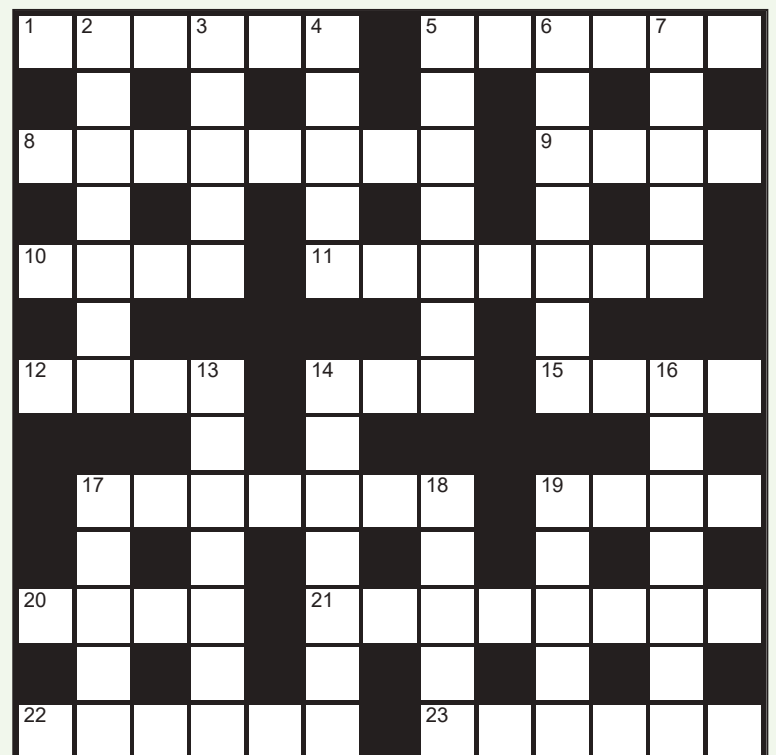
No. 2607 answers next week

### Across

- "Tales from the --- woods" (Strauss waltz) (6)
- Moony (6)
- Chopped up tree fern is complimentary, property-wise (4-4)
- Leave out (4)
- Pond flower (4)
- Christmas tradition (4,3)
- Cargo platform (4)
- Not hers (3)
- Rotate (4)
- Stomach-related (7)
- Salt away (4)
- Heroic narrative (4)
- Too much (8)
- Programme of political violence (6)
- Inhuman human (6)

### Down

- Climber's tool (3-4)
- Bananas (5)
- Marshal (5)
- Support for climbers (7)
- Not much water (7)
- Not being straight (5)
- All at sea, aspired to give up (7)
- Conceal (7)
- Examines and corrects (7)
- Brilliant reflection (5)
- Ships' companies (5)
- Got into bed (5)



# Lang Syne in Eskdale

## ...David J. Beattie with mair about the Romans in Eskdale

...and so it continues

The two most important of the forts are Bailiehill and its more famous neighbour, Castle O'er, a mile and a half further up the valley. The latter, judging by its size, must have served as a stronghold for a considerable period. All the principal trenches are excavated for several feet through solid rock. The fort lies at a height of nearly 300 feet above the mansion house of Castle O'er.

The ramparts and ditches are still very striking. There is an inner stronghold which was once surrounded by a stone wall, with a deep ditch outside it. The late Richard Bell of Castle O'er traced an elaborate network of trenches linked up with this fort. The name Castle O'er for the fort is found as far back as 1682 and Overbie seems to be its more ancient name.

An investigation of the fort at Raeburnfoot, which was first brought to light by Dr Brown, marks the last chapter of our authoress's sojourn in Roman Eskdale.

Crossing the swing bridge over the White Esk and passing through a meadow, there is a steepish bank, covered (or so it was when I was there many years ago), with fir trees. This marks the western boundary of the fort. Away to the right can be seen the Rae Burn, running into the White Esk. As has



The remains of the Roman fort at Castle O'er, part of the Eskdale Prehistoric Trail

Photo courtesy of Langholm Walks Group

already been observed, the fort lies in the angle formed by the junction of the two streams.

### Joon Dalgliesh

An enquiry from a man who was sweeping down the hay with long strokes of his scythe, revealed the beaming face of a native who was ready to impart to his fair interrogator all she wanted to know about the fort. The worthy mower threw down his scythe and walked across saying: "A'm Joon Dalgliesh o'

Raeburnfoot;" and so it turned out that in 1898 John had helped Mr Barbour of Dumfries, in the important excavations for the Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society and was as keen as ever on describing what had been discovered, and in pointing out what could still be traced.

He showed where the main road had run, north and south; and where traces of gravel had been found along a line parallel to it as if marking a road between huts.

The eastern rampart is now

almost obliterated, having lain where the ground is low and marshy. On the west the fortifications end abruptly on the edge of a steep declivity for the plateau on which the fort stands rises nearly 40 feet above the meadows by the water's edge. The ditches and mounds are best preserved on the north side. The area of the fort now visible is little more than four acres but there is every likelihood it was originally of much greater dimensions.

"When we had finished examining

the fort" writes Jessie Mothersole, "John Dalgliesh asked to see my map. We sat down on the grass and spread it out and he said: 'A'll show ye where the catrail goes, where A've seen it wi' my own een'. And he marked a pencil line on y map extending from the 'Deil's Jingle' south-westward towards the Black Esk." The name "Catrail" for an earthwork, commented the writer, is often used locally where it does not really belong.

John also told of someone in Langholm who had a silver inscribed ring, which her husband had found, together with some coins, when digging peat in the "Deil's Jingle". From the elevation of Clerk Hill, looking down on the site of the fort, and on the Esk twisting its winding way below, it is fairly obvious, even to the casual observer, that the river had changed its course. In fact, both the Esk and the Rae Burn, now flow at a greater distance from the fort than when the Romans designed this outpost of that great empire which at that period held sway.

And now, having reached the end of her wanderings in the Esk valley, we will leave our lady historian to finish her chronicle in the kitchen of Craighaugh farmhouse over a homely cup of tea and well-buttered freshly made girdle scones.

Looking back...

## C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

### Thursday, 12th February 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 an entry of 8,271 sheep comprising of 4,897 hogs and 3,374 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 12th February 2026.

#### PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 4,897 hogs, sold to a very competitive ring of purchasers ensuring all classes saw another increase in trade on last week's very high rates of return. Included in the market averages where again a substantial number of hills bred hogs (2,489) which proved a joy to sell yet again. Numbers handled with ease and are actively sought after on a weekly basis.

Longtown auction provides the perfect platform to market all classes of prime hogs from 29kg Shetlands to 70kg Texels and everything else in between. Facts speak for themselves, as week on week Thursday sales have proved to be head and shoulders above earlier sales in the week. No sea, No splash, No madness just consistency at its finest.

Heavy hogs seeing the same increased rates of return seen as previous weeks. Export weights and smalls proved in huge demand once again being way short of customer requirements. Good commercial export weights again seen regularly trading 355-380ppk with the best exports 430ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £250 for Texels from W Graham & Son, Craigharroch.

Top per kilo of 530p for Beltex hogs from C J Roots, Kilnford Croft.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries and entries.

Overall average 336.2ppk (SQQ 350.4ppk)

#### Principal prices (Per head)

**Texel** - £250, £215 & £212 Craigharroch, £208 Maidencots.

**Beltex** - £216, £214 Crawthat, £212 Hill View & Kilnford Croft, £210 Station Yard & Linnhead, £209 Crawthat, £206 Hill View.

**Suffolk** - £212 Kirkhouse & Hill View, £195 Maidencots, £185 Station Yard, £185 Bogrie Farm, £179 Huntley Wood, £178 Slealandsburn & Mayne Farm.

**North Country Cheviot** - £195 Broomhill-bank, £175 Mainside, £171 Leapsrigg, £164 Newtonhill, £151 Leapsrigg, £149 Prestrie Farm, £148 Mainside.

**Zwartble** - £190 Holmea.

**Hill Cheviot** - £172 Gillahill, £160 Sund-hope, £157.5 Glendearg, £156 Aird Place, £155 Laundry Cottage & Aird Place, £154 Burnfoot Hill.

**Mule** - £170, £158 Kirkhouse, £157 Newtonhill & South Bogbain, £151 Kirkhouse, £150.5 Thornton Tower.

**Blackface** - £166 Arnicle, £165 Kirkhouse, £163 Milnmark, £160 Balliemeanoch, £154 Milnmark, £152 Sidlaw, £151 Mouldyhill.

**Cheviot Mule** - £164 Allfornaught, £152 Townhead Cottage, £151.5 Marwhirn, £151 Orchardton & Allfornaught, £150 Grindon Hill.

**Romney** - £163 Ridgeview.

**Swaledale** - £157, £145.5 & £143 Round Meadows.

**Blue Faced Leicester** - £151 Corncockle, £150 Nunsleugh.

**Ryeland** - £150 South Bogbain.

**Dorset** - £150 South Bogbain, £142 Gillahill.

**Dutch Spotted** - £149.5 West Challoch, £148 High Parkfoot, 134 Prestrie Farm.

**Herdwick** - £148.5 Orthwaite Hall, £146 Ashness Farm, £145 Allfornaught, £144 Orthwaite Hall, £138 Dryfeholm.

**Jacob** - £145 Fawside.

**Easy Care** - £140 High Trewhitt.

**Border Leicester** - £124 Prestrie Farm.

**Principal Prices (Per Kilo)**

**Beltex** - 530p Kilnford Croft, 525p Station Yard, 480p, 465.2p Crawthat, 448.6p Tor-rax, 445p Crawthat, 438p Newton of Logierait, 432p Hummerbecks.

**Texel** - 449p Gillahill, 395.6p Slealandsburn, 395p Glendearg, 394.9p Newton of Logierait, 392.5p Torrax, 390p Comeside, 386p Lintrathen.

**Herdwick** - 384.2p Ashness Farm, 363.2P Dryfeholm, 358.1p Ashness Farm, 353.7p Allfornaught, 351.3p East House.

**Easy Care** - 378p High Trewhitt.

**Hill Cheviot** - 374p Dryfeholm, 372p Glendearg, 367p Commonsides, 363p Aucharua, 360p Glendearg, 358p Commonsides & Sorbie, 356p Glendearg.

**Mule** - 363p Arnicle, 362p Camphill, 358p High Cattadale.

**Blackface** - 359p Arnicle, 349p Wester-hopeburn, 348.8p Grindon Hill, 342.1p Sorbie, 341p Thornton Tower.

**Cheviot Mule** - 356.1p, 355p Marwhirn, 354p Baurch Rigg, 353p Netherthofts, 353p, 346.2p Marwhirn, 339.5p Orchardton Mains.

**Suffolk** - 356.1p Whins, 354.1p Culfargie Estate, 354p Netherwood & Pestrie Farm, 352p Netherthofts, 350p Burnstones, 349p Culfargie Estate, 348.7p Kimmeter Green.

**Dutch Spotted** - 352.9p Prestrie Farm, 334.3p, 331p.

**North Country Cheviot** - 350p, 339p Langdyke Cottage, 323.9p Prestrie Farm, 315p Leapsrigg 332.9p Westerhopeburn, 320.2p, 319p, 316.3p Round Meadows.

**Border Leicester** - 326.3p Prestrie Farm.

**Blue Faced Leicester** - 311.4p Belzies Farm.

**Jacob** - 309p Fawside.

**Hampshire** - 308.6p Prestrie Farm.

**Romney** - 301p Ridgeview.

**Dorset** - 284p Gillahill.

**Ryeland** - 277.8p South Bogbain.

**Zwartble** - 243.6p Holmea.

**CAST EWES AND RAMS**

A larger show of 4,230 ewes and rams forward selling to increased returns. Several pens of pure bred texel ewes breaching £300 with heavy commercial ewes in big demand.

Plain and light weight ewes met some resistance being harder to place.

Longtown's cast ewe and ram ring is thriving as retained customers become stronger and more competitive. 15 active competitive purchasers operating on 54 accounts so keep the numbers coming for premium returns.

Heavy ewes topped at £340 and £320 for Texel ewes from AR Lawson & Son, South Farm, Newcastle upon tyne.

Light ewes topped at £160 for a single huge Swaledale ewe from M Smith, Mount Farm, Blackford.

Rams again selling to huge rates of return with heavy tups in short supply. Topping the sale at £248 for Bluefaced Leicester's from Marygate Farms.

**Heavy ewes**

**Texel** £340, £320 South Farm, £320 Linkshead, £310 Fearn, £305, £300 Allan-fauld, £300 Mount Benger, £300 Beckfoot, £300 South Farm, £300 South Bogbain.

**Beltex** £280 Fearn, £250, £238, £225 Hill View Cott.

**Bluefaced Leicester** £245 Linkshead, £235 Mount Farm.

**Charollais** £225 Beckfoot, £200 Upper Dullarg, £190 Beckfoot & West Stobs Wood.

**Suffolk** £220 Hill View Cott, £218 Small-burn & Beckfoot, £205 Low Ranachan, £202 Marygate & Linkshead, £200 Shaw Head.

**Cheviot Mule** £208 Linkshead, £195 Mainside, £185 West Stobs Wood.

**Blue Texel** £200 Cleughbrae.

**North Country Cheviot** £198 Humble-heugh, £192 Philiphaugh, £188 Beckfoot, £186 Humbleheugh, £185 Biggin & Ballinloan.

**Mule** £191 Linkshead, £185 Blackford, £178 Linkshead, £170 Beckfoot & Bolam West House.

**Zwartble** £190 Holmea.

**Light ewes**

**Swaledale** £160 Mount Farm, £122 Hollin Close, £110 Linkshead, £108 Low Stokoe.

**Blackface** £155 Mains of Collin, £148 Linkshead, £142 Mains of Collin, £141 Blackford, £138 Baraskomel.

**Hill Cheviot** £155, £154 Philiphaugh, £154 Drumreach, £148 Mount Benger & Philiphaugh Old Mill, £145 Drumreach.

**Easycare** £152, £136, £135 Harwood on Teviot.

**Herdwick** £94 Orthwaite Hill & Farlam Hill, £90 Low Ranachan

**Rams**

**Bluefaced Leicester** £248 Marygate, £220 Morley Hill, £215 Springwells.

**Zwartble** £240 Holmea.

**Beltex** £235 Crawthat, £205 Supplebank.

**Suffolk** £220 Beckfoot, £190 Gillahill.

**Texel** £218 Marygate.

**North Country Cheviot** £180 Ballinloan & Dalmakethar,

**Hill Cheviot** £178 Stirrfield, £175 Sund-hope.

**Blackface** £148 Holme Farm, £140 Chapel.

**Averages:**

**Hoggs**

Light to Standard to Medium to Heavy to 4 Ewes

Light to Heavy to Rams to £

365.6p (342.4p)  
449.0p (347.3p)  
30.0p (352.1p)  
65.2p (325.2p)  
£160.00 (£106.33)  
£340.00 (£155.15)  
248.00 (£151.79)



*The E&L Gallery*

A serene but wintry White Esk in Eskdalemuir cbeautifully captured by Chrissie Coburn-Krzowzka

CAMERA: Apple iPad

# ‘Heaven’s Messenger’ returns to Buccleuch

**C**oming to the Buccleuch Centre on 28th February is David Traynor who is said to be one of the world’s leading Psychic Mediums with one of the longest running tours in the UK demonstrating Mediumship bringing peace to thousands of broken hearts.

He is said to be renowned for his accuracy and detail, speaking candidly, but always with a light-hearted and compassionate demeanour, delivering his messages from spirit directly to members of the audience. Unique is not the word – a stage medium and psychic artist who draws the images of folks spirit loved ones; and using physical mediumship, can allow loved ones to come forward and touch people’s face, reuniting them with more than just words, but also the acknowledgement of their actual presence and even the occasional soft caress of a spiritual kiss.

“Using his amazing and varied gifts to re-connect loved ones, proving life is eternal, and that Spirits continue to watch over us, David Traynor really does demonstrate All who We Love, Live. Share in this unforgettable, entertaining experience but leave knowing, mediumship can change someone’s life bringing about comfort, purpose and peace. Be lifted by the power of Spirit, truly an evening not to be missed.”



*The E&L Gallery*

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

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

Photo by: Stan Wilson

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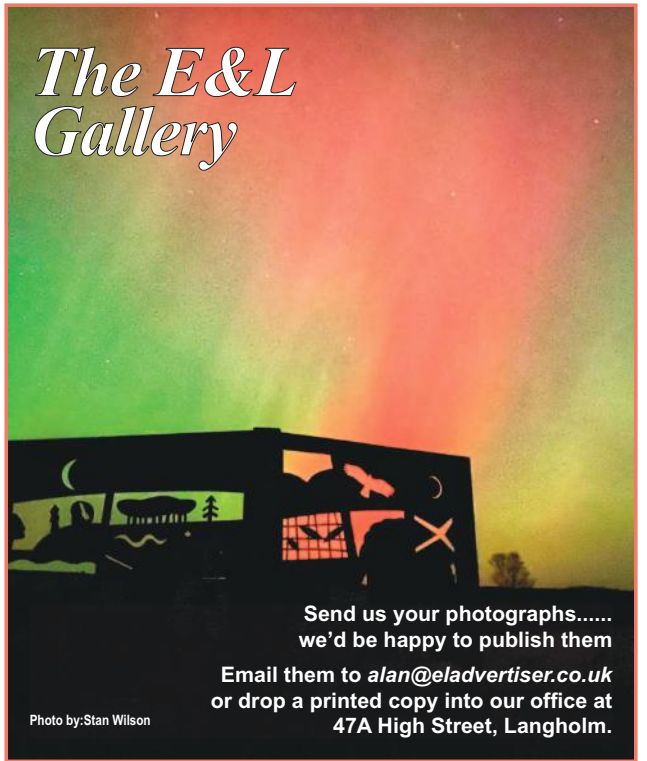
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*The E&L Gallery*



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Photo by: Stan Wilson

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Contact 013873 80012 for details.

*Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser*

# Wembley, Wembley, here we are!

## Stadium visit during London trip

Senior pupils of Langholm Academy have been touring London this week with visits to Treetop Adventure golf in Manchester on the way.

The first London site the group visited was Madame Tussaud's where no doubt some famous people were encountered. This was followed by a tour of Wembley stadium and some shopping at the Wembley designer outlet. A Mexican meal out ended the day.



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

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

It's a BOY!

**JENKINS**  
Kaye and Stephen are proud to announce the arrival of their first child  
**OWEN JAMES**  
Born on 1st March 2025  
first grandchild for Jean & Steve and Carol and Tony. Special thanks to all concerned.

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

Happy Ruby Anniversary  
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

**Eskdale & Liddesdale**  
Advertiser

drop in to the office  
or call us on 013873 80012

# Busy week on the mats for Langholm Carpet Bowls

## Carpet Bowling

A junior singles and pairs tournament were held at the social club with 14 people in the singles and 15 in the pairs. Congratulations to Mark Goodfellow on winning the singles cup who beat Aaron Wood in the final. Beaten semi-finalists were Layton Foster and Ally Hall. Well done also to Mark Goodfellow and Ollie Vandale on winning the pairs. Cody Parker didn't have a partner in the pairs unfortunately. He was beat in the final. He played well with 6 bowls.

Also, a happy 85th birthday to Roy Park - Tracey very kindly provided a birthday cake for him. Thanks to our sponsors who were - Janie and Steven Hotson, The Xcel Project, Paul and Nemo. Janie presented the prizes. Hope you all had a good night and enjoyed the Maanos pizzas provided by the club.

### BENTY

Benty Bowling Singles was held on Friday night. Well done to David Orchiston beating Dominic Murray in the final. Presented by club member Ryan Wood. Beaten semi finalists: George Robinson and Jim Little. Last 8: Stuart Mabon, Alasdair Sloan, Danny Hotson and Ally Park. Thank you to everyone



for coming and supporting the night as it really means a lot, 58 entries is amazing for our wee club and keeps us going.

Thanks to Anne in the kitchen, Stewart on the bar, Stuart M helping hand out cards, Wag selling raffle tickets, John for all his help, and Luke helping with the draw. See you all 7th of March for the pairs.

### GRETNA

Gretna pairs final was split between Matt Hall and Ryan Wood and Adam Purdie and Eve on Sunday. Well done. Semi finalists: Luke Tolson and Roy Park; Aaron Wood and Ally Hall. There were 32 entries making it a good wee tournament.

### STAPLETON

Stapleton pairs final was split on Sunday 8th February between Luke Tolson and Ally Park and Ryan Wood and Mark Goodfellow. The semi finalists were Graham Denby and Joanna Liddel and Ally Hall and Aaron Wood. There was an entry of 16 pairs.

# Kelso Treble for Russell and Scudamore



## Horseracing

By Gordon Brown

**Lucinda Russell and Michael Scudamore returned to form at chilly Kelso where Triple Crown Ted, King of Answers and Wal Bucks supplied them with a 46/1 treble.**

The former took the Racing's Best Ratings with Timeform Handicap Chase before the other pair also completed a treble for Derek Fox in their respective races.

Russell said: "It's been a horrible time, and the awful weather hasn't helped. Hopefully things will start to pick up now and it's been a lot better today.

"Derek gave them all great rides, and I thought he was particularly cool on Triple Crown Ted for dropping him out like that."

Kaka's Cousin, jointly trained by Jonjo & A J O'Neill, was an impressive winner of the opening Johnston Smillie Novices' Hurdle.

"He's done that well, but he's also handled the ground better than most of the others," reported winning jockey Jonjo O'Neill junior. "He's got a lovely pedigree and will make a smashing chaser further down the line."

# Legion lose in last 2 mins

## Football

By David Borthwick

Langholm Legion were back in action on Saturday as they faced Eyemouth at home in a league game that saw a spirited come back and a crushing blow right at the end.

The game started a little nervy with both teams looking for a positive result and both teams had chances to take the lead, but it was the away side who got the first goal, followed by another right on the stroke of half time.

Second half the legion lads showed their fighting spirit, and it was veteran striker Chris Gardner who found the back of the



net when the ball broke to him inside the 6-yard box. 2-1

LLFC kept the pressure on and most of the second half was played in the opposition half, pushing and it wasn't long before Robert Mclean delivered a cross and this time it was young Greig Cartner who got the equalizer. 2-2.

It wasn't to be Legion's day with

Danny Hotson also having to come off injured after being on the end of terrible tackle.

Legion really wanted the win on Saturday, and as we continued to try and secure the full 3 points, it was Eyemouth who broke away and scored the winner, 2 minutes before the end. One of the worst ways to lose, especially after coming back from 2-0 down.

Again, the team need to show resilience, togetherness and pick themselves up from this and go again next week when they face Chirnside away.

Thank you to all of you that came to support on Saturday and to The Douglas Hotel for the after-match hospitality.

## Now that's a while ago!



### Eskdale Thistle 1976

Back Row: Ramsay Johnstone, George Wylie, Brent Thomlinson, David Yarrow, Kenny Gordon, John Armstrong, Billy Kinnear, ?? Bill McDonald

Front Row: David Bell, Tony Mattinson, ??, ??, Robbie Trussler

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SPORT

