

Kids on 'capital' school trip
Great time in Manchester and London

PAGES 8 & 9



Conservation group will carry on trying
Holyrood rebuff is a major setback

PAGE 10



ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8575

Established May 1848

Thursday February 26, 2026

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

'Langholm Eyesore' is not an Environmental Health issue

Erskine Church unsafe but not regarded as a 'nuisance'

Councillor Male recently received an email from a local man who has experience of dangerous buildings suggesting that Environmental Health might be the way to push for action relating to the Erskine Church. The man suggested that the most appropriate legislation would be the 'Statutory Nuisance' parts of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which he said should normally be enforced by environmental health teams.

Following this Council Male then contacted Dumfries and Galloway Council's environmental health team and he was advised by them that the deteriorating state of the Erskine Church building does not fall within the remit of environmental health under statutory nuisance legislation.

Denis was told that 'statutory nuisance' is interpreted very narrowly by the courts and applies only to conditions that affect public health or environmental exposure, such as dampness, mould, smoke, noise, odour, pests or accumulations. Case law shows that certain internal defects, for example problems that affect indoor living conditions such as a defective chimney that causes a health impact, may fall within scope. However, this does not extend to concerns that relate only to the external condition or the structural



The unsafe state of Langholm's Erskine Church does not come under Environmental Health's remit

integrity of a building such as risks to individuals from structural safety or the potential for personal injury.

Prejudicial

Environmental Health said that they are not aware of any supporting case law that treats external building defects, structural deterioration, or risks from falling masonry as statutory nuisances under either the "prejudicial to

health" or "nuisance" limbs of the legislation.

This closes down one avenue that people might have thought was available to have something done about the Erskine Church. Denis says this must not be the end of the process – we must keep looking for a way to get the owners of the building to take their responsibilities seriously and act on the planning permission already granted to create housing there.

INSIDE



Aoiffion 'relay' is an athletics star

Langholm athlete, Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan was part of the gold medal-winning 2 x 200m Relay team that took part in the Scottish Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow recently. See page 16

Family Announcements

Deaths

GRANT, Neil

Peacefully on the 10th of February at the Cumberland Infirmary with his wife by his side, Neil aged 85 years.

A devoted husband of Gwen, a much loved uncle and a great friend to many.

Funeral Service to be held at Langholm Parish Church on Thursday 5th March at 1:00pm followed by interment at Langholm Cemetery.

Friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be for Langholm Cricket Club.

All enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

ROWNTREE, Isabel 'Izzy'

Peacefully on Saturday 14th February 2026, at Borders General Hospital

Isabel 'Izzy', loving partner to the late Tony Anderson, loving mum to Keith, much-loved mother in law to Pam, greatly loved granny to Jack, Mhairi, Sam and Thomas, sister to the late John, will be sorely missed by all family and friends.

Service to be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at Robsons Dovetail Chapel at 12.30 pm, followed by committal at Borders Crematorium at 2.00 pm.

Donations if desired, to MacMillan and British Heart Foundation.

Family flowers only please.

A Touch of Purple may be worn.

Thanks for Sympathy

AITKEN, Alec

Elma and family would like to thank all friends for the many cards, flowers and kind wishes received following the sad and sudden passing of their beloved Alec.

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Church Notices

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

Sunday 1st March

Services led by
Rev Morag Crossan

NEWCASTLETON

9.30am

LANGHOLM

11am

Friday 6th March

LANGHOLM 7pm

World Day of Prayer
Service

Contact us for transport
to/from

Langholm service

Tel. 07989168299

Services led by

worship teams

CANONBIE

Messy Church 11am

WESTERKIRK

1:30pm

Rev Morag Crossan

Tel: 07861 736071

or email

mcrossan@

churchofscotland.org.uk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

Wool, Woven & Wild Festival this weekend

The excitement is building for the first Wool, Woven and Wild Festival in Langholm which starts tomorrow and Saturday. With over 50 Vendors across Buccleuch Mills, the festival offers something for everyone.

Visitors can turn up on the day to peruse the many stalls but for screenings, talks and tours, we do encourage you to book your place. You can find details on the website www.creationmill.org/wwwfestival

One of the performances is by local woman, Freya McCall, studying in Edinburgh and undergoing a traditional storytelling apprenticeship with the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Emerging storytellers Nina Willms, Freya McCall and Sháneen McGurnaghan love to tell stories about women, weaving traditional tales with creative interpretations informed by feminist perspectives.

Underground in the grassy knoll, three spinsters spin both flax and stories. Within the story of Habetrot, a traditional Scottish tale from the Borders, Nina, Freya and Sháneen tell



stories of past, present and future. Stories of how women across time and space weave themselves agency and togetherness in a world that tries to confine, overlook and oppress. The stories and songs that come out of the spinsters' freshly spun threads connect us with each other and with the power of women's creativity, work and words.

Another is a cooking demo by local celebrity chef, John Crouch who is using ingredients to cook with which can also be used to dye fabric – hence the title “cook and dye”

Of the many interesting and varied stalls, the majority are of local crafters and artisans with a few from further afield. They are gathering in Buccleuch Mills to share their love of all things textiles, heritage and storytelling.

The festival opens from 10am tomorrow and runs until 4pm Saturday. Screenings and performances are in the evening but already becoming fully booked up. Please check the website or contact Emma at Creation Mill to check availability. Email creationmill@outlook.org

Changes to burial legislation

Dumfries and Galloway Council is preparing for forthcoming national legislative changes to the way burial rights are granted and renewed in Scotland, following the implementation of Sections 14 and 16 of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016. These provisions come into force on 1 March 2026 and introduce a new framework affecting the duration and renewal of burial rights across the country.

These changes apply only to new burial lair rights granted on or after 1 March 2026. Lairs already held by families or individuals will remain unaffected. Under the new legislation, burial rights will be granted for a 25 year period, after which the holder

may apply for an extension. Renewals will be available in 10 year periods, with no limit on the number of extensions that can be granted. Burial authorities will have a duty to contact lair holders at least three months before expiry, explaining renewal options and what will happen if the lair right is not extended. As it will be 25 years before a renewal is required, the Council is unable to confirm what, if any, charge would be applied at this time.

The council recognises that updates to burial legislation are of significant personal and emotional importance to bereaved families, and are committed to implementing the changes with care, compassion and clarity. As part of this process, the council's

burial ground management rules, lair certificates and administrative systems have been updated to ensure they fully reflect the new legislation and provide transparent guidance for lair holders.

Dumfries and Galloway Council will work closely with funeral directors, community partners and bereavement services' teams to prepare for the transition.

Members of the public with questions about future burial rights or the upcoming changes can contact the council's burials team for guidance. The web page will be updated to reflect the new legislation on 2 March 2026: <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/births-marriages-civil-partnerships-deaths/funerals-burials-cremations>



World Day of Prayer 2026

Rev Morag Crossan provides a preview of next week's service

“Come... and I will give you rest”

On Friday 6th March 2026, Christians across the world will gather for the annual World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement that unites people in worship, prayer and reflection across more than 170 countries.

Each year, the service is written by women from a different country, offering a window into their faith, culture and daily lives. In 2026, the service has been prepared by Christian women in Nigeria, under the theme:

“Come... and I will give you rest.”

These words, drawn from Jesus' invitation in the Gospel, speak deeply into our modern experience. In a world that often feels hurried, anxious and uncertain, the promise of rest is both timely and powerful.

Nigeria is a country rich in culture, resilience and faith. It is home to hundreds of ethnic groups and languages, vibrant

Christian communities, and deep traditions of hospitality and worship. At the same time, many Nigerians live with significant challenges — including economic hardship, insecurity in some regions, and the impact of climate change.

Through the World Day of Prayer service, we will hear stories of courage, perseverance and trust in God amid these realities. We will learn about the strength of faith communities who continue to gather, pray and serve despite uncertainty. And we will be invited to reflect on what “rest” truly means — not simply an absence of activity, but a deep trust that we are held in God's care.

For us here in Eskdale and the surrounding communities, the theme speaks gently into our own lives. Rest is not always about stopping work - especially in rural communities where life is shaped by seasons, land and responsibility. Rather, it is about knowing that we do not carry everything alone. It is about remembering that there is a deeper rhythm beneath the busyness



For 2026, the service has been prepared by Christian women in Nigeria

of our days.

The local World Day of Prayer service will take place on Friday 6th March 2026 at 7.00pm in Langholm Church. All are warmly invited to attend.

The service is open to everyone - women and men, church

members and those who simply wish to learn more. It is an opportunity to join a worldwide wave of prayer, connecting our small communities with sisters and brothers in Nigeria and across the globe.

As we gather, we will pray

not only for Nigeria, but for peace, justice and hope in every nation. And we will hear again Christ's invitation:

“Come... and I will give you rest”

Postal votes

Over the next few weeks, around 10,000 residents in Dumfries and Galloway will receive a message from the Electoral Registration Office (ERO) explaining that their postal vote for UK Westminster elections has been cancelled. This is because new national rules require voters to reapply for their postal vote every three years. Some people will receive this notice by email, and around 4,000 will receive it by post. It's important to highlight that this change does not affect the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary Election. Your postal vote for Holyrood elections remains valid, and no action is required for that election.

If you want to continue having a postal vote for future UK General Elections, you can submit a new application at any time.

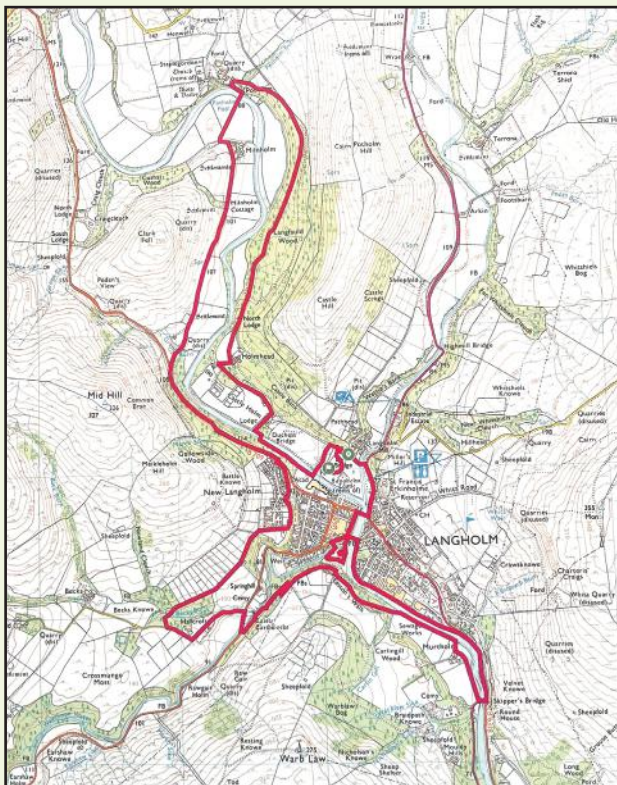
Bridge results

1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 3, Louise Grierson & Christine Burton, 4, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 5, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 6, Ann Smart & Barbara Addison.

Will you take on the Playcare Muckle Bridges Challenge?

The Muckle Bridges Challenge now takes place on Sunday the 8th March. It's an approximately 10-mile run over mixed terrain visiting the various Langholm bridges along the route.

The run starts at Langholm Cricket Club on the Castleholm as does the Muckle Wee Challenge which is open for all. Langholm Playcare, who are the organisers are inviting folk to come along for a great family day of fun. Competitors will receive a medal, soup and traybakes. For information about these events contact Langholm Playcare on 013873 80775 or email langholmplaycare826@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page to get the link to the registration form. It's £20 to enter the Muckle Bridges Challenge and £7.50 for the Muckle Wee Challenge. For those not taking part you should be aware that there will be lots of runners in and around Langholm that day. The event is funded by the Jock and Mary Elliot Trust.



Map showing the route of Playcare's Muckle Bridges Challenge



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D&G leader: "A perfect storm"

When I hear from people across our community, two concerns come up regularly and often: **the pressure on the NHS** and **the rising cost of living**. Today, we are seeing a perfect storm where these two issues collide putting real pressure on our health and social care.

Last year, the UK Government increased Employer National Insurance (NI) payments. While there was some mitigation for the NHS from these extra costs, they turned their backs on our Third Sector - the local charities, non-profits, and independent care homes that provide the vast majority of social care in Dumfries and Galloway.

Why this is a Jobs Tax on our Community

In a rural area like ours, with a higher-than-average elderly population, these care providers aren't a luxury; they are the backbone of our community services. But by lowering the NI threshold and hiking the rate, the UK Government has essentially placed a jobs tax on the very people who look after our parents and grandparents.

Care providers in our region already struggle with the high costs of travel and recruitment. Now, they are being forced to send thousands of pounds extra to the Treasury that should have been spent on front-line care.

The Traffic Jam in our Hospitals

The maths is simple but devastating. When a local care home or home-care agency is hit with these bills,

they have less money to hire staff. When there are fewer staff, it takes much longer for an older person to get a care package to help them live independently at home.

This is where it hits our NHS.

Many patients in the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary would otherwise be medically fit to leave, but they are stuck in hospital beds because there is no care package available for them at home. Like roadworks on a busy motorway - it creates a traffic jam that backs up through the entire system. If an older person can't leave a bed, a new patient can't be admitted for surgery or emergency treatment.

Our Demand

It is now 2026, and this is

no longer a prediction - it is a daily reality. We are seeing tighter controls on funding and longer waits for families.

The Westminster Government must act now. They need to exempt social care providers from this National Insurance hike. We cannot fix our NHS while increasing taxes on the social care system that supports it.

Our community deserves a care system that works, not one that is being taxed to a standstill.

Stephen Thompson,
Council Leader



Recognition of resilience group volunteers

A Council committee was last week recommended a new community resilience policy. The new policy is intended to clarify the Council's approach to strengthening community resilience within Dumfries and Galloway. The term 'community resilience' means that people and communities use their own skills and resources to prepare for, deal with and recover from emergencies.

Both Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk and Eskdalemuir Community Councils have resilience groups. The new policy advocates a community resilience recognition scheme.

The aim of the proposed scheme is to recognize community resilience volunteers who regularly give of their time to support their local areas. The scheme uses an award system from bronze to gold to recognise the level that local groups are at. Groups can either nominate themselves or be nominated by councillors, ward officers or a community resilience officer.



LEWCC Resilience Group leader
Stephen Scofield

At the time of the report there were 16 community resilience groups recognized in the scheme across the region. There is no formal regulation or guidance for community resilience but non statutory guidance from Scottish Government does exist. The Council's resilience team has been promoting the community resilience scheme regionwide which will be reviewed regularly.

Share the Love

#sharethelove
#weloveourdrivers



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Nominate a driver who cares

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

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

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



SCAN ME



Scottish Flood Forum meets with flood-affected residents

Mark Hallam reports on high level site meetings around Langholm

On Friday 20th February councillor Denis Male, together with local representatives Ashley Bank/Old EWM Sports Centre, residents from Townfoot, Hall Path and Hillside Drive met up with Doug MacPhee (Scottish Flood Forum) plus associate Kasha Jarosz and Ian Dalrimple (from D&G Roads department) to make the planned walk around of principle landmarks associated with the recent serious flooding events on A7.

Flooding events have been occurring on this already very dangerous section of the Langholm A7 (in DG 13) going back some years, however there were two especially severe events associated with Storm Drain failure on 3rd October and then again 17th December 2025, in addition to two of the more usual lesser events in between, in the November, due to longstanding multiple road drain blockages, especially on Hall

Path and Hillside Crescent/Drive. There was no representation from BEAR Scotland and representatives from D&G as well as Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Emergency Community Resilience Group had to give apologies - and will be updated on events in due course.

Places covered in the walk included the southern end of the A7 at Holmfoot, Ashley Bank, Hallpath, Hillside Crescent and Drive where blocked drains were pointed out to Ian Dalrimple. The storm drain at Burnside was also pointed out and the drain near the golf course.

Outcomes

In terms of outcomes for this walk it is too early in the process to supply full details - beyond that further enquiries are being made. Doug MacPhee will be supplying a report in due course. Ian Dalrimple advised that he will be feeding back to D&G



roads and expected that one early outcome would be diversion of newly commissioned heavy duty road drain suction equipment to tackle all the blocked road drains on Hall Path and Hillside Crescent/Drive system - as a priority. Another important discussion was around the need to further develop resilience groups and pathways with liaison between local and

regional (D&G) bodies.

A final important discussion point coming out was that beyond the need to clear and maintain the road drains better and desirable modifications to the storm drains, there is a need to look more closely at the hill-sides above the drain systems, where all the water feeds in



from, since any measures taken to slow the waters, could be of paramount importance.

After the walk around Denis Male took Scottish Flood Forum representatives and D&G Roads representatives on to meet Community Council's resilience representative to view surface flooding afflicted parts of Holmwood at the other end of town.

Eskdale Gardening Club

Eskdale gardening club is hosting a talk in Canonbie Church about sustainable gardening by Dawn McGeorge from D&G Community Food Network on Friday 27th February.

The food network helps share skills and good practice, knowledge and resources, access peer support and helps avoid duplication, promotes community food projects and attracts more interest, involvement and funding. It also allows members to have a collective voice to influence policy and practice at local and national level.

There's a small charge for anyone wishing to go along and everyone is welcome. For more information contact eskdalegardeningclub@gmail.com. The talk takes place at 2pm.

'Benty' is Quizmaster

Andrew Johnstone, locally known as 'Benty' acted as quizmaster at Friday in the Benty Hall. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable evening, and the hall committee wishes to thank Hazel and Ann for their sterling work in the kitchen and Margaret Sanderson for setting the questions. Next up is a bingo night at the hall on 14th March.

Busy Spring and Summer for Gilnockie Tower

Gilnockie Tower has an interesting schedule of events organised for 2026 which seems designed to appeal to everyone, young and old. Starting in March the Teviotdale Steel Bonnets a reenactment group who are involved in many of the events, will host equipment and leaflets week.

Leaflet week invites local tourism businesses to go along to network and bring their promotional material to share with others. It moves in April with a focus on the food of a border reiver.

Medical week is in May and mid-Summer weekend promises an extravaganza. The Steel Bonnets will set up a camp at the Tower and folk will have the opportunity to be immersed in the captivating world of the border reivers.

Fashion week follows on in July with weapons week in August.

For the dog lovers out there, September promises that the reivers will be accompanied by what were known as sleuth



Lots of events for locals and tourists at Gilnockie Tower

hounds. 'Howl on the Wind' sees the Steel Bonnets bring along two blood hounds, the breed used to track cattle thieves and men. In October there will be ghostly tales to tell with a day steeped in chilling lore.

For more information and opening times check out the Gilnockie Tower Facebook page. It's exciting to see one of our visitor attractions have a planned programme set out for visitors and local people alike.



Contact John Lamont MP

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Women confer

Women involved in agriculture took centre stage at Murrayfield for a conference organised by the Farm Advisory Service.

This year's theme was "land, legacy and leadership" and featured a number of speakers on a wide range of topics.

The conference was opened by Farmer Katie Brisbane who was born and brought up in a farming family but has suffered much tragedy over the years. She was just 20 when her father took his own life, and in 2023 her husband Alan died in an accident on the farm.

In her talk, entitled Farm Safety and Legacy, Katie stressed the importance of having a succession plan in place.

She was followed onstage by QMS Chair and farmer Kate Rowell who entertained the audience with a talk about her life in leadership, running her own farm and leading a national organisation. Her message to delegates was to say 'yes' to

opportunities.

Conference organiser Mary-Jane Lawrie said the day was a great success all round.

"We had a fantastic day at Murrayfield, and I was pleased with how it all came together," she said.

"Katie's speech was particularly impactful, she is a true inspiration, and I hope that everyone took something away from what she said.

"It was great to hear from Kate too, and I hope that they have inspired some of our attendees to put themselves out of their comfort zones and put themselves forward for leadership roles.

"The breakout sessions were lively, with lots of good discussion and helpful take home messages."



Big Farmland Bird Count 2026

If you intended to take part in this year's Big Farmland Bird Count but just didn't manage to get round to it – there's still time.

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust which organises the count have extended the deadline by a week till March 1st following exceptionally wet conditions in February. They say this will give farmers, land managers and conservationists a chance to get out onto their land to count their birds.

The count provides a snapshot of bird populations on farms across the country and aims to raise awareness of the vital role that farmers and other land managers play in the conservation of native farmland birds.

GWCT Director of Advisory Dr Roger Draycott says the more farmers who take

part, the better the results will be.

"We would encourage people to wait for a gap in the wet weather and take the opportunity to take part in this hugely important survey of the UK's farmland birds," he says.

"The BFBC gives us a valuable national picture of the impact of farmers' contribution to conservation and the data helps us demonstrate why it is essential that the Government continues to adequately fund agri-environment measures.

"The more farmers who take part, the clearer the picture we get of trends in the abundance of species and the stronger the message to policymakers."

No specialist knowledge or equipment is required to take part, just the willingness to



spend half an hour or so on the farm observing birds.

More details can be found on the Big Farmland Bird Count website.

Female yellowhammer in the snow

Photo: Pete Thompson, GWCT

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OBE for SRUC Professor

The Head of Research at SRUC has been awarded an honorary OBE for her long-term devotion to the study of animal genetics.

Eileen Wall is Professor of Integrative Livestock Genetics at Scotland's rural college. She has been recognised for services to Agricultural Science, scientific contribution to livestock improvement and leadership of research and innovation at national and international level.

The Professor first joined SRUC as a postdoctoral researcher in 2001 and since then has built an internationally recognised research profile in livestock genetics. Her work has focused on integrating quantitative genetics, data science and sustainability to improve productivity, fertility, health and

environmental performance in livestock systems.

She has contributed to advances in genetic evaluation, genomic selection and the development of tools that support farmers and breeding organisations in delivering long-term genetic gain.

Since becoming Head of Research at SRUC in 2019, she has represented the institution at sector level, strengthening collaboration and impact in agricultural and natural economy research in Scotland and internationally.

Professor Hall says she has always believed that science can and should make a difference.

"Whether working with farmers in Scotland or collaborating internationally, the aim is the same – to apply strong science



Professor Eileen Wall

in ways that impact policy and practice and lead to real change.

"Agricultural science is about delivering solutions that matter.

This recognition also reflects the work of colleagues and collaborators who share that commitment."

Farming and forestry's prospects in our area in 2026...part 2

The second part of Robin Farquharson's overview of prospects for farming, land-ownership and ecological projects over the coming year.

“ But, resolutely, livestock farming in Scotland's uplands continues to deliver the very best of produce and rightly maintains its reputation for quality ”



...OVERVIEW: SCOTTISH LAND AND ESTATES (SLE)

Cameron Gillies, Head of External Affairs at SLE, points to the abundance of new legislation - that impacts, for example, on farm payments, landownership and tenancies - to be the main headache component.

“But, resolutely, livestock farming in Scotland's uplands continues to deliver the very best of produce and rightly maintains its reputation for quality,” he comments.

“In recent years we have seen some fluctuations in livestock numbers; however, it is clear that livestock continues to play an integral role in the UK's food security, due in no small part to the efforts of farmers in South Scotland.”

The competing demands on land in Scotland throw up a lot of ques-

tions from Scotland Land & Estates (SLE) members. Increasingly, it is those who are responsible for putting food on our plates who are also being charged with the responsibility of Scotland's environmental stewardship.

“Navigating the delivery of both public goods can be hugely challenging and finding a way forward that enables business viability alongside the delivery of food security, climate mitigation and nature restoration forms a large part of the work we undertake at SLE,” says Cameron.

Innovation

Innovation in the farming sector is far more about evolution than revolution, states Cameron.

“There is a lot of innovation in



Cameron Gillies. SL&E.

the pipeline around gene editing that we can be proud of here in Scotland, with our universities very much at the forefront of this,” he comments. But the policy environment doesn't always enable us to make the most of these innovations.”

Crime

Rural crime has been a thorn in the side of farmers since time immemorial. In recent years, though, the damage that crime does to a rural business operating on tight margins is more acute than ever. England has seen new legislation come in to force recently that aims to increase penalties for perpetrators and make it easier to track stolen goods with forensic IDs for most equipment.

“We would like to see,” says Cameron, “Scotland follow suite in implementing similar measures to give farmers the protection they deserve.”

Repopulation

SLE recently launched a paper titled Repopulating Rural Scotland. It aims to offer solutions to the challenge of depopulation in rural areas. With 16 policy recommendations based on international best practice and financial viability this paper has provided a blueprint for the government to implement an easy-to-adapt strategy to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing rural communities. See www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/news/tackling-de-population-key-future-rural-scotland.

...TARRAS VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve manager Jenny Barlow and her team, and local volunteers, have a wide remit to enhance the rural environment....

Substantial efforts are being made by staff and volunteers at the Nature Reserve to reduce the impacts that climate change are wreaking on Scotland and beyond.

The Tarras Water is a particular focus for TVNR's estate manager Jenny Barlow. “It hosts fly species such as caddis, stone and mayfly, a staple of the river's salmon and trout.

“Now that we're into

February, most fish have spawned and their progeny needs a steady supply of food. So we constantly check the river's level and purity and production of flies.

“We are in the planning stage of a significant riparian study; all systems should be “go” this Spring, with results garnered later this year.

“More information will be on offer when we host a film about ecology – called ‘Riverwoods’ – at the Buccleuch Centre this coming April.”

Jenny Barlow is manager of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve



TINY TRAILER ABBATOIR

Meat supplier MC Kelly has devised a prototype moveable (rather than mobile) TTA: Tiny Trailer Abattoir.

As outlined in the news section of Country Life magazine last month (28 January) Andy Gray of MC Kelly uses two trailers to accommodate a slaughter unit and a chiller unit, the latter holding 20 carcasses.

The TTA unit has been commissioned by the Orkney Boreray Co-Operative and hired to neighbouring farms. It is set to be operational this April. Mr Gray is also working at the other end of the UK, in the Scilly Isles, to construct a new small abattoir on St Mary's.

Academy kids take unforgettable 'trip'

With everything from golf, football, waxworks and dinosaurs to Mexican food and a look at the palace, this adventure had it all

Pupils from Langholm Academy returned last week brimming with excitement after a four-day trip to London, held from Monday 16 to Thursday 19 February. The visit formed part of the school's annual cultural residential and gave pupils the chance to explore some of the capital's most iconic landmarks.

The group began their adventure with a stop in Manchester at Tree Top Adventure Golf, where pupils enjoyed a lively round before continuing the long drive to Monday's accommodation in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

On Tuesday, pupils arrived in London and visited Madame Tussauds, where they had their photographs taken with wax figures of celebrities such as Harry Stiles, Ed Sheeran and The Beatles. Later that afternoon, they enjoyed a guided tour of Wembley Stadium, followed by a lively meal at a Mexican restaurant.

Paradox

On Wednesday, pupils spent the morning at the Natural History Museum, where the dinosaur exhibits proved especially popular. In the afternoon, they visited the Paradox Museum before taking part in a guided walk around famous London sights including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and Downing Street.

Following an evening meal at an Italian restaurant, the group made their way to the Adelphi Theatre to see Back to the Future: The Musical. Pupils and staff were thrilled by the performance, and many agreed it was a highlight of the trip.

On Thursday morning, the group visited the London Eye, enjoying panoramic views of the city despite the blustery weather.

Pupils described the trip as both educational and unforgettable.

S6 pupil Glen Jamieson said, "The Natural History Museum was my favourite part. I learned so much, but it didn't feel like school-work at all."

Well-mannered

Group leader Stuart Clement praised the pupils for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour throughout the visit. He said, "On the Monday evening, a member of the public who was staying in the same accommodation approached me to comment on how respectful and well-mannered our pupils were. On the Tuesday morning at breakfast, another member of the public came over to the staff table to praise the excellent behaviour and manners of the pupils."

Mr Clement added, "I would like to thank my colleagues Mr Atkinson, Miss Bryson, Miss Wallace and Ms McLean for giving up their time to attend the trip. I would also like to thank Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council, Muirhall Energy Ltd and CWP Energy Ltd for their funding, which reduced the overall cost for parents and carers and ensured the trip was accessible to all pupils."

Plans are already under way for a trip in February 2027.



EYEING UP THE SHOT: At Treetops Golf in Manchester on the way



BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT: Meeting the family at Madame Tussaud's



STYLISH STILES: Finn and Knowledge meet Harry



WATCH YOUR STEP: He's keeping a watchful eye



EATING OUT: Mexican style: Food was great!



BITTA SHOPPING?: At Harrods Department Store



NEAR THE PALACE: At the Victoria Monument



FINE EXHIBITS: The Natural History Museum



HORSELESS: Horseguards Parade



EYE, EYE: On the London Eye



MOTLEY CREW!: Near the Houses of Parliament

Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Sq



By Gilly Fraser

“Continuing commitment to what is, in the end, only right.”

Government denial of protected status for the goats is major setback

Members of the Wild Goat Conservation Trust have thanked their supporters for their continuing commitment to saving the animals on Langholm Moor despite a major setback.

All of the Trustees went to the Scottish Parliament to hear its ruling on the petition calling for the goats to be given protected status.

More than 22,000 people signed the petition which was launched following the decision by landowners Oxygen Conservation to stage a major cull of the wild goats on their property.

It was the biggest wildlife-related petition ever to go before the Parliament's Petition Committee but was closed by MSPs.

The campaign to save the goats did find sympathy among the committee members.

MSP Maurice Golden said he found it utterly bizarre that seagulls are protected, but not “these lovely, cute goats.” However, he believed the committee had no choice but to close the petition.

Committee Convenor Jackson Carlaw conceded that the decision would not be popular but seemed to keep the door open for further action by the campaigners.



Committee Convenor Jackson Carlaw conceded that the decision would not be popular

“This won't satisfy anybody locally, I don't think,” he said. “This may be something that can be raised in other ways again.”

“What seemed like a widely supported view from people who represent the community

locally has been set aside in favour of a rule book.”

Trust member Gail Brown says the whole day was gloomy and disheartening, and very difficult to listen to. However, she's determined that the fight won't stop here.



Poor old goats must run the gauntlet of culling by landowners

Since that black day we have received so many messages of support from organisations and individuals,” she said. “They have been an uplifting tonic and an inspiration. The heart-warming words have provided us with the emotional resources

to continue this campaign.

“None of us are in this for glory, we are in it for the goats, and to simply see they get a fair deal.

“We thank you all for your continuing commitment to what is, in the end, only right.”

Rail disruption will lead to bus travel from Tweedbank

Rail users in Newcastleton may have to find alternative ways of getting to the capital over the next few weeks due to a series of planned line closures on the line between Tweedbank and Edinburgh.

The work's being carried out in preparation for the beginning of a £342m investment to electrify routes in Fife and the Borders and introduce new battery-electric trains.

Network Rail says it will help cut carbon emissions, improve air quality, enhance the passenger experience and reduce operating costs.

The closures are schedule for 14-16 March, 21-23 March and 28-30 March when buses will replace trains.

Scheme Project Manager Lynsey Maclean, says the Borders Railway was rebuilt with future electrification in mind, so the work can be done with far less intrusive engineering than is required on many older parts of the network.

“The infrastructure here is already suitable for this next stage of modernisation,” she said.

“Our teams have planned the activity carefully to keep disruption to a minimum for passengers and those living near the railway.

“Electrification will deliver long-term benefits for the Borders, and this work marks an important milestone in creating a cleaner, more reliable and more sustainable railway for the future.”



Electrification of Borders Railway route begins in March

Pines Burn Wind Farm fund approaching deadline

The deadline is fast approaching for funding applications to be made to the Pines Burn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

Newcastleton and District is one of seven communities covered by the Fund – the others are Hobkirk, Denholm and District, Hawick and District, Southdean, Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage, Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water.

The Fund is intended to contribute to the wellbeing and sustainability of those communities by supporting charitable activities as well as and economic, social or environmental sustainability of the local area.

It does not provide funding for religious or political groups or any activities which could bring the operators into disrepute.

Each community receives a share of the annual payment which comprises 64% of the total fund. The remainder supports the Borders Further



A blade for the Pines Burn Wind Farm makes its way to the site via the A7 in 2024

Photo © Walter Baxter on CC

Education Trust and properties near the site Hawick with electricity payments.

The seven-turbine windfarm near Hawick, which powers Sainsbury's operations, became

operational in 2024 following problems during the construction phase which caused significant delays.

The deadline for applications is Saturday February 28th.

Council meets with Youth Council

Importance of young people highlighted



Dumfries & Galloway Youth Council held a Joint Meeting with D&G Council

Dumfries and Galloway Council and Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council came together on Thursday 19 February for the sixth annual Joint Meeting at The Bridge in Dumfries, continuing the region's commitment to ensuring that young people are actively involved in shaping local policy, services and future priorities.

The joint meeting brought together elected members and elected Youth Councillors and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to exchange perspectives on key issues affecting young people across the region.

The session provided an opportunity for the Youth Council to present its current priorities, discuss areas of collaboration and highlight emerging concerns raised by young people in communities, schools and youth organisations.

Influence

Topics covered included strengthening youth participation in local democratic processes, shared priorities around education, wellbeing, transport and community safety, enhancing opportunities for young people to influence council planning and strategic

decision-making and continued development of partnership working between the council and Youth Council. Shared actions were agreed and the council and Youth Council will meet again in 2027 to review the agree actions and continue strengthening the youth voice in regional decision making.

If you would like to have more information about Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council, please e-mail:

info@dgyouthcouncil.com or visit @YouthCouncilDG on social media.

Consultation on refurbishment of Hawick Care Home



Friday sees a drop-in session at the home where members of the public can speak directly to the project team

A public engagement session is being held to share plans for the proposed refurbishment of Deanfield Care Home, Hawick.

The drop-in event will take place at Deanfield – on Roadhead, TD9 7HN - on Friday 27 February, 4–6pm; residents, families and the wider community will have the opportunity to view the proposed designs, learn more about the improvements planned, and speak directly with the project team.

For more details, please contact: ResidentialCareProgramme@scotborders.gov.uk

Works are due to begin in autumn. Approval to proceed with the refurbishment programme was given at the Borders' January Council meeting, with initial works scheduled to begin in the autumn. The project will deliver a modern, fully compliant 20-bed care facility

supporting enhanced residential, nursing and respite care.

Councillor David Parker, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing and Chair of the Integration Joint Board, said:

"We're delighted to be taking the next steps in our plans to transform Deanfield. The improvements we're proposing will bring huge benefits for residents and ensure the home continues to offer the very best care and support.

"This engagement session is the first of many that will take place throughout the project as part of our commitment to making sure residents, families and the wider community feel fully involved in the journey. I'd encourage anyone with an interest in Deanfield to come along, explore the proposals and share their thoughts with the team as we take this important project forward."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Benty's' Benty Quizmaster

Westerkirk's finest brains turned out on a rainy Friday evening to attend the Benty Hall Quiz Night. With prize money on offer plenty of head scratching and conferring ensued as Quiz Master Andrew Johnstone called out the brain teasers expertly compiled by Margaret Sanderson. There was also a prize for best team name and of course the traditional booby prize. The Raffle was well supported and thanks go to those who donated prizes. The evening was enjoyed by all and was rounded off by tea and biscuits. Special thanks go to Hazel Johnstone and Ann Wood for their sterling work in the Kitchen and to Ashleigh for assisting with the raffle.

Her Voice Her Choice

Grants of between £500 and £2000 are available for projects, events and groups that support young women and girls in Dumfries and Galloway. Dumfries and Galloway young women's network has £28,000 available to support opportunities and experiences for young women and girls.

The funding will be distributed through a process known as participatory budgeting which means that young women and girls themselves decide how the funds should be spend.

Applications close on 2nd March so not much time to apply and successful projects will be announced on 27th March. For more information about this fund email dgyoungwomensnetwork@gmail.com.

Brownies' Bingo

Canonbie Brownies are holding an Easter Bingo night on Wednesday 11th March in Canonbie public hall with Easter hampers and chocolate prizes to be won. The doors open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7pm.

Sight-impaired to be seen closer to home

People with visual impairments will receive care closer to home through a new Community Low Vision Service (CLVS). Development work has begun on the new national service which will allow patients with visual impairment, that cannot be managed through glasses, lenses or surgery, to be supported by community optometrists instead of in a hospital setting.

Optometrists will provide care to these vulnerable patients to help them maintain their independence – including low vision aids such as magnifiers and lights, regular specialist assessments and signposting of additional help including mental health support and social services. This service will build on the success of community eyecare services already in place, the Community Glaucoma Service (CGS) and Anterior Eye Service. The roll-



out of the national CLVS will be supported by record investment of £144 million across all community eyecare in this year's Draft Scottish Government Budget.

The Community Low Vision Service (CLVS) will provide specialist eye assessments, practical support, and low vision aids to people whose sight cannot be fully improved with glasses or medical treatment, helping them to manage daily tasks and stay independent. The CLVS will be based on a very successful low vision service that has operated in Wales.

Housing and Depopulation

A piece of research carried out by Dumfries and Galloway Council looked at the relationship between housing and patterns of depopulation in the region. The aim of the study was to better understand how housing acts as both a driver and a barrier to retaining and growing population.

The study found that the private rental sector is limited in scale and affordability. This reduces housing options for working age people and key workers. A clear link between limited housing availability and population loss was found. Where there is inadequate housing supply especially for single people and low-income households, migration out of the area is encouraged and migration into an area is deterred.

Not surprisingly, the study found that economic growth, social wellbeing and environ-



mental sustainability are affected by housing and poor housing restricts the movement of labour and undermines health outcomes. Investment in energy efficient, well-placed homes can strengthen communities. There are about 3000 homes removed from residential supply because they are either second homes or short term lets and these distort the housing market.

Some of the answers proposed

are unlocking brownfield land for housing, supporting small and medium sized companies to build housing and tailoring housing to local conditions.

The study says that people want to live where they can access services and cost is important in a region which has lower than average wages. Affordable housing is scarce in the region. To enable people to move and stay in the region housing has to be in the right place, of the right size, at the right cost, and available at the right time. These issues must be resolved the report says and that local, Scottish and UK Governments are the ones with the policy influence to make a difference to these issues. Most of the findings will not be a surprise to people locally who have been calling out for new housing to be built here for many years and yet have been disappointed by failed projects again and again.

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie with mair Romans and Ministers

Looking back...

The Roman camp at Raeburnfoot is not by any means the most ancient piece of archaeological interest in Eskdale. I have still by me some notes taken in the summer of 1912 when I had the pleasure of attending a Field Day with the Eskdale and Liddesdale Archaeological Society. Among the places visited for observation was what is locally known as the Girdle Stanes.

Here a very interesting and informative talk was given by the late Robert Hyslop who at that time had in preparation that book of intrinsic value "Langholm As It Was".

It would appear that the names of most of these "links with the past" were purely local and the circle no doubt took its name from that useful domestic commodity, the girdle. Nearly half of the circle has been washed away by the White Esk, which has, in the passage of the centuries, changed its course at this particular point.

Altogether there are 22 huge boulders of stone resembling the white stone found in the district. So that his hearers might more easily grasp the age of this stone circle, Mr Hyslop explained that they were in existence before that period in the world's history when Moses led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

Further along and connected by

a line of stones of similar appearance we come to the Loupin' Stanes This circle is not quite so distinct as the Girdle Stanes. We were told that their approximate date may be 3000 BC. From information gathered in the neighbourhood, this stone circle in days gone by was a favourite haunt of the farm youths, who spent much of their leisure time in the invigorating exercise of jumping from stone to stone, hence the name. A local farmer's wife, so the story goes, broke her leg while endeavouring to accomplish the feat.

A Notable Parish Minister

As we have already observed, the history of Eskdalemuir, in a considerable measure, is made notable by its remarkable parish minister. There was little that escaped the scrutinising eye of the Rev Dr Brown as his highly entertaining, yet eminently comprehensive notes of the district under his paternal care, cannot fail to reveal.

He followed with evident delight and pleasure the development of every new idea which would benefit the hard-working muir folk; whether it was the arduous toil of sheep rearing, or the draining of the land (of which he wrote with the evident knowledge of an expert); or the rather exclusive art of mole-catching, not always undertaken before the glossy-backed pest had multiplied to an alarming degree and



The Girdle Stanes in Eskdalemuir, near Langholm

Photo courtesy of Langholm Walks

ravaged the already backward soil of the poor hill farmer.

Unwearied

These and a hundred and one other matters engaged the unremitting attention of this unwearied mortal, whose pen reveals the mind of a man with infinitely broad, human sympathies. He tells us (and the reader is left to fill in what the pen did not reveal of the touching scene) of the departure one spring morning in 1831 of 20 of his parishioners – surely a goodly number out of a sparse population! – as they set out for the distant shores of that

new world of fortune, America.

As one read the brief note of the emigrants' leave-taking, one just wondered how many of that brave party ever saw again the hills of their native Eskdale. Were there amongst them those who "made good" in that land of promise and settled down to return no more to the scenes of their childhood? Or shall we visualise a picture more true to real life? – of others, now well on in years sitting round a blazing log fire on a winter's night in some far inland settlement, recounting to wondering children and grandchildren the glories of that far away Lowland

dale, where the purple tod-tails, the bluebells, and the wild rose, sang together in the sunshine if a past summer day; where rasps and scrogg-nuts and crab-apples – the delight of boyish desires! – flourished unhindered on roadside and in woodland; and where the restless water of the Esk frolicked and danced as it sped by frowning crag and smiling meadow, on its way to the distant Solway.

The passing of a century and more: what a multitude of recorded and unrecorded happenings in that seemingly measureless span of time the mind involuntarily conjures up!

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 19th 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 10,385 sheep comprising of 6,077 hoggs and 4,308 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 19th February 2026.

PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 6,077 hoggs sold to a very competitive increased ring of purchasers, ensuring all classes saw another huge increase in trade on last week's very high rates of return, being the dearest seen all week by a country mile!!

Included in the market averages were again a substantial number of hill bred hoggs (3,947) which proved to be selling away to rates unseen and a joy to sell yet again. Numbers handled with ease and are actively sought after on a weekly basis.

Heavy hoggs seeing an increase of return but it was the export weights and smalls that every outlet in the UK battled hard for and where in huge demand once again being way short of customer requirements. Good commercial export weights again seen regularly trading 405-420ppk with the best exports 470ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £228 for Beltex's from M/s Findlay, Easter Balgillo.

Messrs Findlay sold a run of 129 head to average 421ppk

Top per kilo of 519ppk for Beltex hoggs from M Dunlop, Corstane.

Please contact your auctioneers for fur-

ther enquiries and entries.

Overall average 372.7ppk (SQQ 391.3ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Beltex - £228 Easter Balgillo, £220 Station Yard, £218 Corstane, £216 Easter Balgillo, £215 Nookclose, £212 Easter Balgillo

Texel - £212 Kilnford Croft, £206 Nookclose, £202 Crumhaughhill, £200 Hillside, Kilnford Croft, Fauld Farm & Station Yard, £194 Middle Farm, Hallhill & Netherhill

Hill Cheviot - £201, £190 Mainside, £187 Balmaglester, £181 Mainside, £180 Round Meadows, £176 Raggettsyke

Suffolk - £200, £194 Kilnford Croft, £192 Gyralesmyre, £187 Borthaugh, £186 Ireshope Plains, £184 North House

Dutch Spotted - £200 River View, £188 Dranigower, £175, £172 8 Killeonan

Cheviot Mule - £188 North House, £173 Belvedere, £167 Corstane, £165 Kirkdale, £164 Grindon Hill

Blue Faced Leicester - £184 Mainside

Romney - £182, £170 South Bogbain

North Country Cheviot - £180, £172 Leapsrigg

Mule - £180 Ireshope Plains, £178 Cleughbrae, £170 Pitaldonich, £168 Old Irvine, £166 Hollin Close, £165 Archerbeck, Round Meadows & Old Police House

Blackface - £180 Peela Hill, £169 Heathery Hall, £168 Garvilland, £166 Upper Hindhope, £164 Garvilland, Glen-

doe & Westernhopeburn

Border Leicester - £180 Plenderleith

Charollais - £170 Knowe Farm, £169 Outer Huntly, £167 Knowe Farm, £162 Hallburn Croft, £161 East Farm

Herdwick - £168 Ashley Park, £163 Orthwaite Hall, £161 Ashley Park, £159, £156 Broomhills

Swaledale - £160 Round Meadows, £159 Orthwaite Hall, £155 Round Meadows, £154 Westernhopeburn

Shetland - £139 Rigfoot

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex - 519p Corstane, 500p Station Yard, 485.7p Easter Balgillo, 482.9p Pasture House, 474p, 465.3p Easter Balgillo

Texel - 439p Station Yard, 433p Dalmore, 429.5p Peela Hill, 427.9p Linton Farm, 424p Bogues Farm, 423.7p, 423.1p Gorthleck Mains, 423p Bogues Farm & Swaites

Dutch Spotted - 420p Station Yard, 372.3p 8 Killeonan

Suffolk - 414.6p Archerbeck, 412.2p High Stenries, 410p Borthaugh, 409p Moss View

Hill Cheviot - 413p Heathery Hall & St Johns Kirk, 411.1p Sonoma, 410.3p Whitecroft Mains, 410p Unthank & Sonoma

Charollais - 404.8p Knowe Farm, 402.5p East Farm, 397.6p, 385p Knowe Farm, 376p Outer Huntly

Mule - 407.9p Chesterhall Parks, 395p Shawhill, 394.9p Beltonhill Farm, 390p

Dalmore, 388.9p Devonport Farms, 388.1p St Johns Kirk

Blackface - 400p Westernhopeburn, 397p Chapel Farm & Westernhopeburn, 392.1p Beltonhill, 390p Garvilland & Westernhopeburn, 387p Larg Farming, 385.7p Peela Hill

Herdwick - 398p Orthwaite Hall, 383p, 382.4p, 382p Knott Houses, 369.8p Broomhills, 366p Ashley Park

Swaledale - 385p Westernhopeburn, 371p Round Meadows, 370p Devonport Farms

Romney - 371p South Bogbain

Cheviot Mule - 371.1p Corstane, 358p Heathery Hall, 334.7p Grindon Hill, 326.4p Belvedere, 323.5p Kirkdale

Blue Faced Leicester - 366p Silloans

Shetland - 365.8p Rigfoot

North Country Cheviot - 355.3p Garvilland Farm

Jacob - 332.4p Cardewlees

Border Leicester - 322.6p Kildalloig

CAST EWES AND RAMS

Another large show of 4,308 ewes and rams forward

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 £350 for Texel ewes consigned by Beckfoot Farms. Light ewes topped at £168 for Lonk ewes from S & J Fisher, Cleuchhead, Hawick.

Rams topping the sale at £265 for a Texel from R McClelland & Son, Dranigower, New Luce.

Heavy ewes

Texel £350, £310 Beckfoot, £310 Linton & Yatesfield, £300 Crumhagughhill, Belvedere & Yatesfield, £275, £270 Linton, £270 Horsley Hill Cottage.

Charollais £255 Beckfoot, £225 Belvedere, £220, £212 Beckfoot, £200 Belvedere.

Bluefaced Leicester £250, £205 Yatesfield.

Beltex £235 Corstane, £210 Whitecairn.

Suffolk £225 The Land & Beckfoot, £220 Archerbeck & Dalwyne, £215 Belvedere & The Land, £210 Dykenook & Buckies.

Dutch Spotted £220 Beckfoot.

Blue Texel £215 Whitecairn.

Cheviot Mule £212 Buckies, £208 Westhills, £202 Barrasford Green.

North Country Cheviot £200 Buckies, £184 Beckfoot, £180 Tister, £178 Barrasford Green.

Mule £195 Killeonan, £190 Westerhouses Cottage & Linton, £182 Dranigower, £180 Westerhouses Cottage.

Light ewes

Lonk £168, £138 Cleuchhead.

Blackface £156 Finland, £154 Pitland Hills, £151 Mains of Collin, £146 Whitchester, £144 Silloans & Pitland Hills.

Kendal Rough £155 Lynnshield.

Hill Cheviot £150 Killeonan &

Belvedere, £145 Pilmuir, £144 Uras, £142 Roughet Hill Buckies & Unthank.

Swaledale £142 Devonport, £128 Spoutbank, £120 Synton Park Head, £115 Boyach.

Easycare £141 West Mains of Kinbletmont, £136 Belvedere, £130 Hillhouse.

Kerry Hill £120 Old Jeddart.

Herdwick £95 Leapsrigg.

Rams

Texel £265 Dranigower, £240 Yatesfield, £220 Sheepriggs & Horsley Hill Cottage, £200 Corstane, Belvedere & Deuchrie.

Bluefaced Leicester £240 Yatesfield, £220 Saulmore, £190 Mains of Collin.

Charollais £240 Beckfoot.

Hill Cheviot £200, £188 Longoe, £188 Tister, £172 Cleuchhead.

Beltex £195 Hallhill.

Suffolk £190 Beckfoot, £185 Mossilee.

Blue Texel £175 Whitecairn.

Easycare £170 Deuchrie.

Blackface £165 Upper Hindhope & Garvilland, £160 Finland, £150 Mains of Collin.

Swaledale £138 Sundaysight.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 455.2p (358.2p)

Standard to 461.5p (386.9p)

Medium to 519p (393.7p)

Heavy to 465.3p (357.5p)

Ewes

Light to £168.00 (£99.11)

Heavy to £350.00 (£153.45)

Rams to £265.00 (£150.76)

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 2nd March 2026

Mon	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches - talk from Capability Scotland	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Sunburst Quilted Bag	10-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Creation Club age 6+ - vases and paper flowers	10-1	

Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3

Booking required, please visit
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

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The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2608 answers next week

- Which English university has produced the greatest number of Nobel Prize winners?
- In which county is the Long Mynd range of hills?
- Which English racecourse runs the only counter-clockwise horse race?
- Which is the widest of the Lake District's lakes?
- Prior to the creation of British Airways, for what did the initials BOAC stand?
- If you wished to travel to Wimbledon on the London Underground system, which line would you use?
- Name one of the two Irish ports that can be reached by sea from Holyhead?
- What is the only British city beginning with the letter Y?
- Who did James Bond marry?
- South Shields, on the north-east coast of England, was the site of the first what?
- What name is given to the Lord Chancellor's seat in the House of Lords?
- In which English city would you find an area called 'The Backs'?
- In which city would you find 'Arthur's Seat'?
- Which port on the Isle of Wight has a famous yachting week?
- Where is the famous Roedean Girls' School?
- Who compiled a 'Dictionary of the English Language' in 1755?
- What is the county town of Rutland?
- Which National Park begins with the letter B?
- Which town has the postal code prefix of BN?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2607

- Selfridge's
- Two pence
- East Midlands
- 25 per cent
- 1967
- Anita Roddick
- Glasgow
- Wast Water
- Birmingham
- Forest of Dean
- Olympia
- Bath
- Threepenny bit
- Martin Johnson
- X
- King's Cross
- Leicestershire
- Peat cutting
- Tower of London
- Norfolk Broads

Crossword 2607

Across: 1 Vienna, 5 Tiddly, 8 Rent-free, 9 Omit, 10 Lily, 11 Yule log, 12 Skid, 14 His, 15 Turn, 17 Gastric, 19 Save, 20 Saga, 21 Overdose, 22 Terror, 23 Sadist.

Down: 2 Ice-pick, 3 Nutty, 4 Array, 5 Trellis, 6 Droplet, 7 Lying, 13 Despair, 14 Harbour, 16 Revises, 17 Glare, 18 Crews, 19 Sided.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Fri 27th	Hard of Hearing Group Brew & a Blether	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12 noon
27th 28th	Wool, Woven & Wild Festival	Creation Mill from 10.30am
Sat 28th	Canonbie United Parish Church Soup Kitchen & Table Top	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1pm
Sat 28th	Langholm Old Bowling Club Fundraiser for Renovations	Clubhouse 2pm - Late
Sat 28th	David Traynor Medium	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Sat 28th	Langholm RFC vs Murrayfield Wanderers	Milntown KO 3pm
Sun 1st	Eskdalemuir Expressive Arts Film: 'Still pushing pineapples'	Eskdalemuir Hub 3pm
Thur 5th	Norrie MacIver	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Fri 6th	World Day of Prayer service	Langholm Parish Church 7pm

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

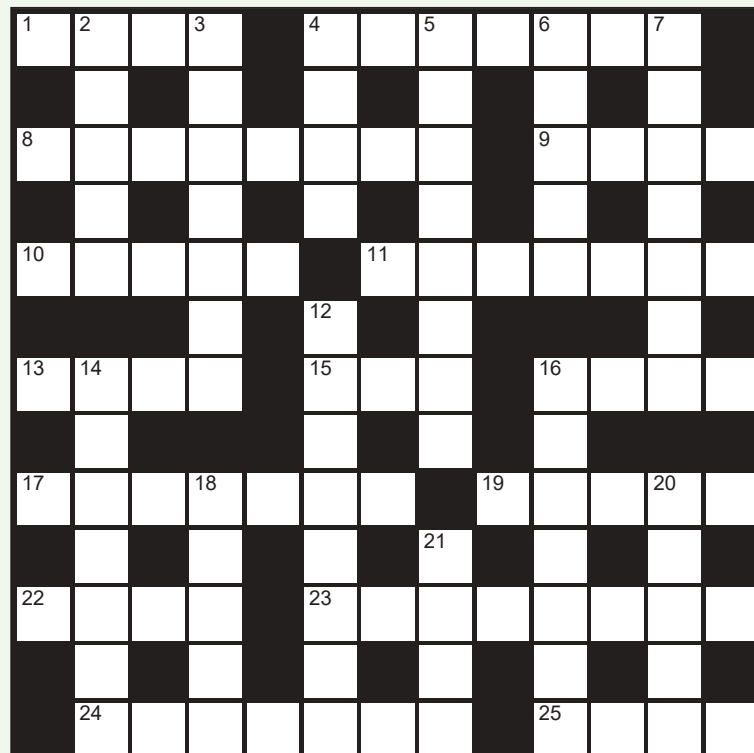
No. 2608 answers next week

Across

- This town used to be Aquae Sulis (4)
- Perceptible to the eye (7)
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- Six-legged creatures (7)
- As foal is to mare, so --- is to cow (5)
- The national one distributes juice (4)
- Boot Iran out - it's a failure (8)
- Depresses (7)
- Nip (4)

Down

- Wide-awake (5)
- Kind of bend (7)
- The power to reject (4)
- Press ten maladjusted old instruments (8)
- Fundamental principle (5)
- Send to school (7)
- Fashion industry (3,5)
- Entrails (7)
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Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (B)
 Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
 26/0193/LBC (B) Apartment 3, Riverside, Canonbie - Installation of 6 timber sliding sash windows to replace 6 upvc windows

(B709 LANGHOLM – ETTRICK – INNERLEITHEN) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER) ORDER 2026

The Council has made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to temporarily close B709 between the junctions of U259a and Billholmshiel Cottage, Westerkirk, Langholm from 0930 to 1530 on 02/03/26. The closure is necessary to facilitate BT pole replacement works. Alternative route available via B709, B723, B7068, B709 and vice versa. Emergency access will be available if required. Pedestrian access will be maintained.



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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
 26/0126/PIP (A) Land Off Arkinholm Terrace / Drive, Langholm - Erection of 14 dwellinghouses (Class 9)
 26/0226/FUL (A) Bowling Green And Pavilion, Thomas Telford Road, Langholm - Erection of garden room



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E&L JOB SPOT



Job Vacancy: Ecologist

Fancy joining the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve team to work in a stunning landscape on community-led nature restoration?

We are looking for an ecologist to join the Langholm Initiative staff team here at the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve in Langholm. The varied role will include everything from surveying, helping shape our ecological monitoring, providing advice on our ambitious ecological restoration work or supporting citizen science initiatives.

Hours: Part time - 2 days a week – may be scope to increase to additional days
Contract: Initial 2-year contract
Salary: £29 - £32k pro rata
Closing date: Thursday noon 5th March

Interested in applying? More information including application form is on the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve website.
 www.tarrasvalleynaturereserve.org/vacancies/



Sport Snippets

Cross Country

Last Wednesday, 14 pupils from Langholm Academy travelled to Dalbeattie Secondary School to compete in the Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships. The length of races ranged from 1 mile to 4 miles depending on age with

hundreds of pupils from across the region taking part. Notable results on the day included – S1 Boys – Sam Ellwood (3rd); S3 Girls – Mollie Phillips (1st); S3 Girls Team (2nd) Mollie Phillips (1st), Layna Pearson (12th) and Sian Morgan (16th).

Junior Section bowled brilliantly



Calum and Max win at Teviotdale indoor bowling club

Bowling

Langholm's old town bowling club took some of the juniors to the Teviotdale indoor bowling club at the weekend where the pairs winners were Langholm's Calum Grant and Max Phillips.

Well done to our junior section today and to all the kids who played in this event.

Weekend Bowling Round Up

Bowling

A fantastic night of bowling took place on Friday at Ewes Hall, where an impressive 45 entries competed in the Single Hand Tournament.

The final was shared between Ian Hall and Danny Hotson, who both produced excellent performances throughout the evening.

The beaten semi finalists were: Tommy Hepburn and Andrew Davidson

It was a brilliant night for the Club, with a full and lively hall adding to the atmosphere.



Ian Hall and Danny Hotson



Shane Richardson presenting his late father's trophy to Matt Hall



L-R - Robert Robson, tournament convener, Ian, Matt & Ally Hall, Billy Haining.

Saturday Newcastleton Rinks Competition

Saturday saw the annual Newcastleton Rinks competition held across the Village Hall and the Bowling Club, attracting 34 entries.

Congratulations to the 2026 champions: Ian Hall, Matt Hall, Ally Hall, and Billy Haining

A big thank you to Robert Robson for presenting the prize and the cup.

Runners up: Ryan Simpson, Alan Wilson, Davy Henderson, and Ian Henderson (Traquair)

Semi finalists: Lochside Tavern (Dumfries), Westruther B

Quarter finalists: Papa Langholm, W. Mair – Cairnvalley, Morebattle S, Butcher – Tarbolton

Sunday – Mick Rick Singles at Newcastleton

Well done to Matt Hall on winning the 2026 Mick Rick Singles on Sunday in Newcastleton. Thanks go to Shane Richardson for presenting the prize and cup.

Runner up: Stephen Murray, Castle Douglas

Semi finalists: Fiona Whitby, Castle Douglas, Ian Hall, Canonbie

Quarter finalists: Ryan Wood, Langholm, Danny Hotson, Langholm, Calum Calvert, Newcastleton, Jock Fisher, Castle Douglas

Thanks to all sponsors for their continued support.

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Kaye and Stephen are proud to announce the arrival of their first child
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Born on 1st March 2025
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Congratulations **ANDREW BROWN**
on passing your driving test at last!!
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Aoiffion wins last leg of 4 x 200 relay by 3 seconds

Athletics

On Sunday 8th February, 13-year-old Aoiffion McVittie Brangan from Langholm was back at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow to compete for Edinburgh Athletics Club in the Scottish National Under 16 Girls Indoor Relay Championships.

With 27 teams taking part in the 4 x 200m relay, the winners of the five heats and the fastest runner up would qualify for the final. Edinburgh Athletics Club comfortably progressed to the final in a time of 1:49.05, four seconds ahead of Shettleston Harriers who also qualified for the final as fastest runners up.

In the final, Falkirk Victoria Harriers and Edinburgh Athletics Club exchanged the baton at the same time going into the last leg however, Aoiffion who was running the last leg for Edinburgh pulled away from the field to win the final in a time of 1:48.80, nearly three seconds ahead of second place.

Aoiffion is grateful of the support she receives from the Welcome to Langholm Future Champions Awards and The Holywood Trust.



WELCOME to LANGHOLM
FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS



Broonie's Kelso preview

By Gordon Brown

IT is rare for a horse to triumph twice in a major race so that sums up the enormity of the heights scaled already by Cracking Rhapsody as he bids for a remarkable third successive victory in the bet365 Morebattle Hurdle at Kelso on Saturday.

At £120,000, it is the richest hurdle race staged in Scotland and there is also an additional £100,000 bonus up for grabs should the winner go on to win any race at next month's Cheltenham Festival.

And, with prize money on the day totalling £355,000, the eight-race card is the richest fixture staged at the Borders venue all year.

Cracking Rhapsody, currently 6/1 second favourite with the sponsors, carries the colours of John and Sheila Wright and is trained at Hawick by former jockey Ewan Whillans, who said: "He's in very good nick and he's done some nice work under his regular jockey Craig Nichol."

"We gave him a gallop after racing at the last Kelso meeting and he seems to be really coming to himself. He just seems to love the track and he's won four of his six visits and been second once as well."

"We gave him a breathing operation to improve his wind after he was sixth at Aintree in

December and he will come on for his run at Haydock in mid-January. He's a lot fitter now so it's hopefully all systems go for another big run - he won last year's Scottish Champion Hurdle off a 1lb higher rating so we know he can be competitive in a major handicap off that sort of mark."

After 42 horses were initially entered, there are 22 left at the five-day staged with a maximum of 18 runners allowed to participate in the two-mile handicap.

The Shunter scooped the £100,000 bonus in 2021 for Emmet Mullins and the two Irish contenders left this year are the current 4/1 favourite I Started A Joke, trained by Charles Byrnes, and William Durkan-trained Laafi.

Tayside businessman Jimmy Fyffe, a director of Dundee United, is represented by Jet To Vegas and City Of Diamonds as he bids to add to his 2023 strike with Benson.

And Benson's handler, Greenlaw-based Sandy Thomson, fancies his chances of another success with Dedicated Hero, who reverts to hurdles at his local track.

On the supporting card, the £60,000 bet365 Premier Chase (Listed) looks a cracker with Grand National favourite Iroko and Ryanair Chase entry Proktorat possibles for the final line-up.

Strong side brings Chirnside win

Football

By David Borthwick

Youngsters and veterans played their part in an important win away from home. The Legion lads were back in action on Saturday away to Chirnside in the league. It was a very challenging place to go, made even more challenging with five of last week's starting 11 unavailable. Fourteen lads made the long journey, and we were able to field a strong starting eleven and had good options on the bench. The game started and I felt we looked strong and could get a result. There was spirit and a good balance to the team.

My main worry was the heavy pitch and whether some players would last ninety minutes. We took the game to



Chirnside early on, but it was the home side that took an early lead, their number 7's strike from just outside the eighteen-yard box found the bottom corner. The lads stayed in the game and the

score remained 1-0 at half time. The wind was with us in the second half, and we battled hard to get level. Chirnside had a man sent off for a high boot, the player's studs connecting with the forehead of Finley Dell, A sore one for our centre half. Shortly after this incident James Borthwick's pass found our form winger Greig Cartner who levelled the score. We were very much on top in the second half but there were a few moments when we had to call upon our veteran goalkeeper Derek Johnson to make important saves. Alistair Little had to come off with cramp which gave our new signing, Zander (Keven de) Shipley, a chance to influence the game on his debut from centre mid.

We also brought on veteran striker Chris Gardner. Both played their part in our victory.

Greig continued to cause problems

for the Chirnside defence their substitute was last man and fouled Greig which led to another sending off. With around ten minutes to go we took the lead when James chipped the ball into Chris who then managed to lay the ball off to Brian 'Basil Brush' Mattinson who made no mistake in front of goal. With just a few minutes to go Greig capped off an excellent performance with a second goal. Chris played the ball through and Greig's pace was too much for the Chirnside defence and their goalkeeper couldn't stop his shot 3-1 Langholm. There were huge performances yesterday from so many of the team some hadn't played for a while. Some were playing out of position but everyone that played yesterday deserves credit for the win, a much needed three points secured. Next we face Greenlaw away in

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