

**International
Womens' Day**

**We celebrate with our
local women**

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



**Three pages of
sport this week!
from Karate to bowls**

SEE PAGES 14 - 16



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Town Band takes third place at Scottish Championships

More proof of our wee toon punching above its weight!



Langholm Town Band celebrate their third-place win outside Perth Concert Hall on Sunday

Perth Concert Hall was the venue for the Scottish Brass Band Championships last weekend when 59 bands from across Scotland including from Langholm, taking to the stage over the two days. Saturday saw bands in the 3rd, 2nd and 1st sections compete. On Saturday a story for Langholm which is more than 210 years in the making, took a further step forward when the town's brass band achieved third place in the third section. This ensured their promotion to the 2nd section of the Scottish Brass Bands Association for the first time in their long history. The system of promotion and relegation uses contest results over two years to determine the outcome based on accrued points.

The band has only ever been promoted 3 times, first in 1964 from the fourth to the third section under band-

master Alfred Chapman and then in 2010 under Alan Fernie when they again achieving promotion from the

fourth to the third section where they have remained until now.

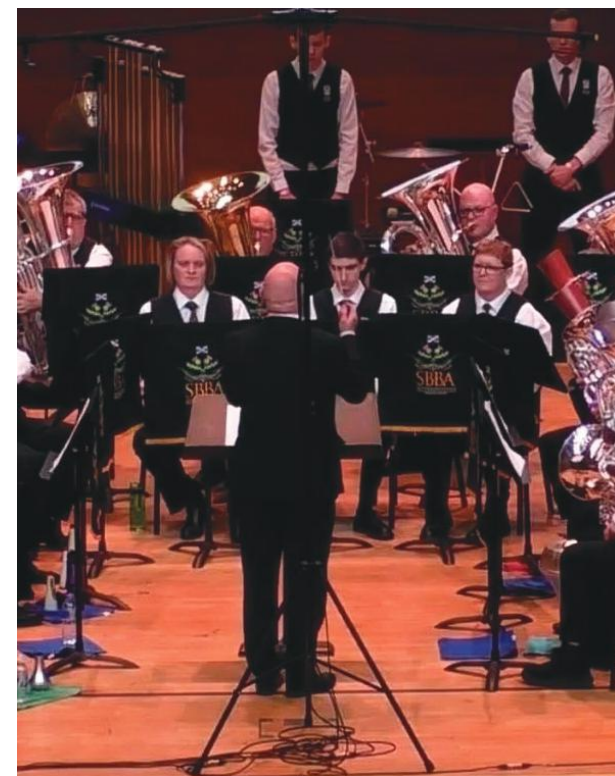
Following an open rehearsal on Friday evening at West Calder High School with the Whitburn Band, Whitburn Heartlands and Shotts St Patrick and, an overnight stay the band took to the stage around lunchtime. The band was drawn to play 10th in the 3rd section.

The test piece for the 3rd section composed by Gordon Langford was entitled 'Three Howarth Impressions'. The composition features three

movements 'Top Withens', 'The Three Bells' and 'The Worth Valley Railway' and is a celebration of the Brontë sisters who lived for a time in the town. 'Top Withens' is an abandoned farmhouse near Haworth and is associated with Emily Brontë's 1847 novel 'Wuthering Heights'.

Brontë sisters

'The Three Bells' represent the pseudonyms used by the sisters, Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. The final movement depicts a journey on the now



heritage railway Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

The band under MD Chris Bradley were awarded third place overall and narrowly missed out on another opportunity to attend the National Brass Band Championships in York in September. The band have been consistent performers in the third section having been promoted last in 2010 when they moved from the fourth section.

On Sunday MD Chris Bradley who is solo cornet with The Whitburn Band, won the best solo cornet in



the Championship Section. The band is grateful to MD Chris Bradley, Rob Hume and Jim Chamberlain for their guidance and support during the rehearsals for the championships.

Family Announcements

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Church Notices

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

Welcome to worship led by **Rev Morag Crossan**

Sunday 15 March CANONBIE 9.30am

LIDDESDALE 11am

Worship Group led services: -

LANGHOLM 10am

Contact us for transport to/from the **Langholm service**
 Tel. 07989168299

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

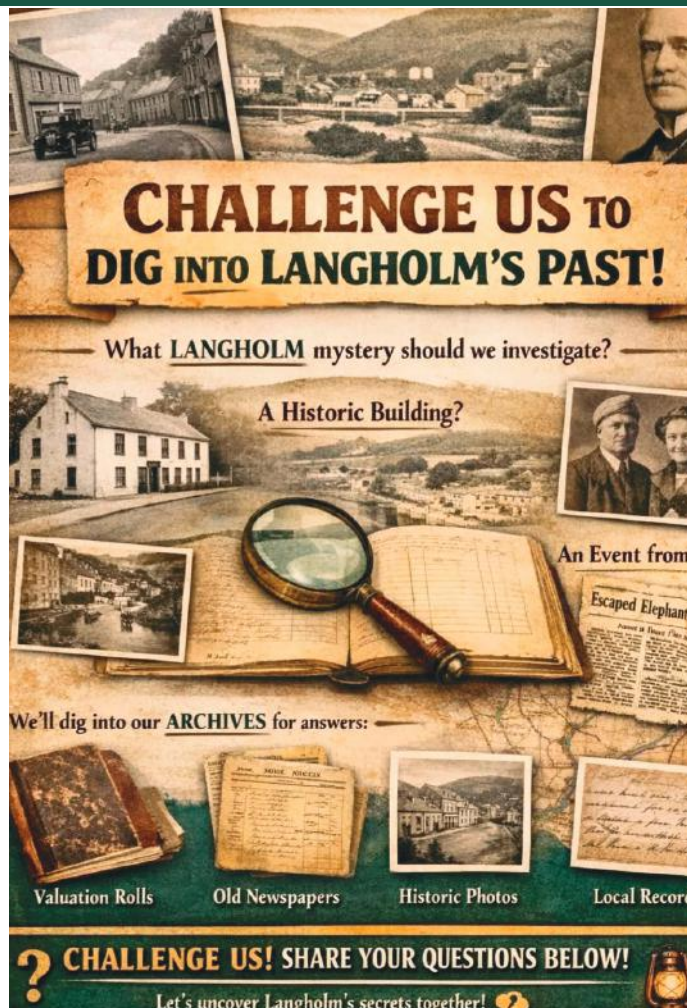
Let Langholm Library solve your mysteries

Langholm Library Trust is asking people to challenge the team to dig into Langholm's past.

The Trust is asking folk what Langholm mystery they should investigate. Following a post on Facebook several people responded. One woman was interested in the history of the Crown Hotel while another person wanted to know about the Elephant House at the Crown.

Another woman wants to know the history of Wapping Lane while a man wants to know the background to a house in Buccleuch Square. The origin of some local place names including 'Walker's hole', Jennie Nobles' and 'Tibbie Lugs' was also requested and someone wanted to know the full route of the Tarras Lade. Some great questions for the team to look into and respond to in the coming weeks. We hope the Trust can share its findings with the E&L Advertiser.

Langholm Library is situated upstairs in the town hall and is managed by a group of volunteers who look after what is quite an extensive archive relating to the area. If you have something you'd like investigated by the team let us know via newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk and we can pass it on.



CHALLENGE US TO DIG INTO LANGHOLM'S PAST!

What LANGHOLM mystery should we investigate?

A Historic Building?

An Event from Escaped Elephant?

We'll dig into our ARCHIVES for answers:

Valuation Rolls Old Newspapers Historic Photos Local Records

? CHALLENGE US! SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS BELOW!
 Let's uncover Langholm's secrets together!

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Happy Birthday

Happy 70th Liz!

Happy Birthday to the best Mam & Granny we could wish for!

Lots of love
 Euan, Laura, Oscar, Caroline, John, Sidney & Maisie



Glasgow Central Station update

Message from Network Rail 10/03/26

Following a full site assessment, Glasgow Central Low Level Station reopened for train services from yesterday (Wednesday).

However, due to the high level of instability of the building façade on Gordon Street and the required building assessment work that needs to be undertaken, Glasgow Central High Level station will not reopen this week.

We recognise the inconvenience this will cause for passengers, however we must wait until Scottish Fire and

Rescue Services and Glasgow City Council have completed their critical work to determine the safety of the Union Corner site.

When this work has concluded, our team will be able to undertake the structural assessment work that is needed to determine if there has been any damage to the station.

We will continue to work with Glasgow City Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to develop a plan to reopen the station when it is safe to do so for trains and passengers.

Our hearts go out to those affected by this devastating fire.



A7 Action Group addresses gateway signs for Langholm

Flashing speed warning signs to be part of the permanent upgrade

At a recent meeting of the A7 action Group which Councillor Male attended, several aspects concerning Langholm High Street were discussed, in particular the speed limit warning signage at the north and south gateway to the town.

Langholm – Gateway signs. Transport Scotland (TS) have been clear that we need to stick to TSRGD layouts as this is a trunk road and there are several options available within the regulations.

Langholm - 20mph temporary order commenced 28/03/25. Permanent order will follow 18 months after. Design complete and works planned in Spring 2026. See drawings.

Subject to potential funding, BEAR looking to undertake an end-to-end design of footway improvements in Langholm in order to improve crossing provision and facilities and maximise footway widths where practical. Being considered in SE Active Travel Strategy prioritisation. Prioritisation complete and Langholm footway improvements currently 9th on SE priority list. No change. Investigations currently programmed to start in 2026/27

subject to budget availability.

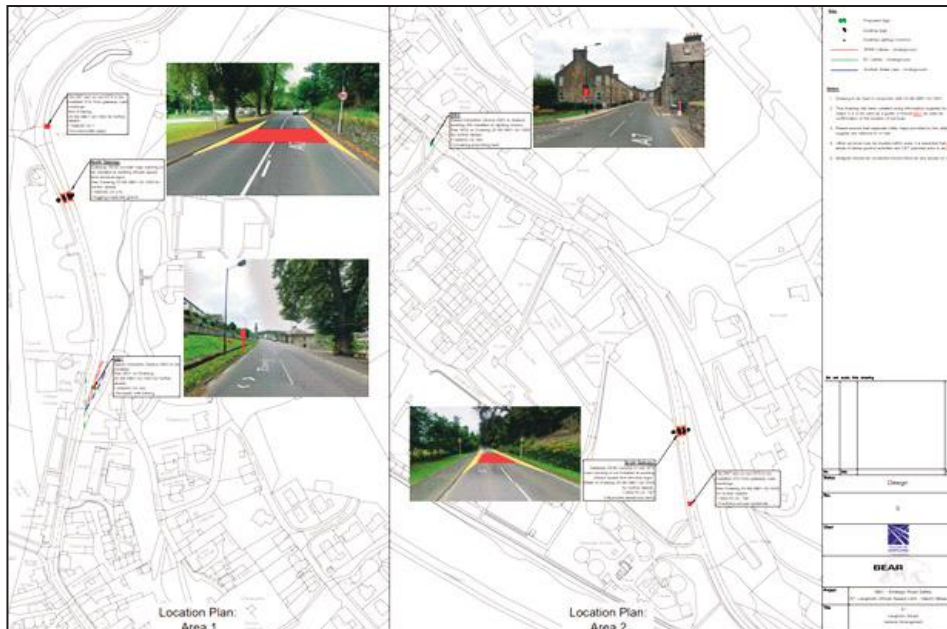
A slope failure has occurred just north of Mosspaul Inn on the southbound upslope. Geotechnical engineers are investigating, with a temporary repair to be planned shortly in order to keep trunk road users safe.

High Mill/Ewes Water, north of Langholm embankment failure – area continues to be monitored. Repair works completed October/November 2024. The work also included the installation of a section of safety barrier. Geotechnical engineers still looking at this general area as more embankment repair works likely.

Drystone walls at Kilgreen and Townfoot, Langholm – these walls are not part of the trunk road infrastructure. Further discussion required between Buccleuch and Transport Scotland. BEAR Scotland will organise. (TD)

Festive Lighting Langholm – BEAR Scotland’s Electrical Manager will continue to assist the community regarding safety and administration.

Langholm Street Lighting – LED lanterns to be replaced in 2026.



Planned Schemes	Profile £
A7 Kirkstile (4.1 miles north of Langholm)	£240,000.00
A7 Footsburn (1.5 miles north of Langholm)	£250,000.00
A7 North of Langholm (Ewes Water Cabins to Footsburn)	£490,000.00
A7 South of Langholm (Middleholm to Coop Jct)	£450,000.00
A7 North of B720 Hollows Jct (3.5 miles north of national boundary)	£800,000.00

Crossdykes Benefit Fund totals

In 2025 Crossdykes community benefit fund awarded a total of £252,732 to organisations in Eskdale for a wide range of activities. The largest beneficiaries were Langholm Day Centre and the Buccleuch Centre with smaller grants going to the two Langholm bowling clubs. Creation Mill, the Langholm Initiative and Eskdalemuir Expressive Arts were all awarded grants of over £20,000.

In 2023 BIGGAR Economics found that onshore wind community benefits have delivered around £30 million to the South of Scotland. With a draft South of Scotland standard for community benefits from onshore wind being mooted it is likely that our communities will continue to benefit from this funding source in the future. Some would argue though that there is potentially more to be gained through initiatives such as community shares in turbines in wind farm developments. Having a share in a turbine would mean a regular income for community organisations and greater freedom on how to spend it. For details of how to apply to Crossdykes community benefit fund see <https://www.wccbf.org.uk>

Was there a 'Punk Scene' in Langholm?...there sure was!

Definition of the Early Living

We received a comment about the John Lydon event at the Buccleuch Centre and the review by Anthony Lane from erstwhile Punk, Kenneth Pool. This is what he said

“Good review by Anthony Lane on John Lydon at Buccleuch Centre. He asked did Langholm have a punk scene and answer is yes. See attached poster for the shortlived band, ‘Definition of the Early Living’ from 1979 which included Geoff and Roger Maxwell, Kenneth Pool and Ed Bell. The group ‘supported’ the band ‘Another Pretty Face’ which included Mike Scott now of Waterboys fame, at a gig held in the Lesser Buccleuch Hall April 1979. Great fun. Geoff went on to play with local group Kaos for a number of years. The others faded into punk music oblivion. More details if required.”

Does anyone else have any memories of punk in Langholm or were they a punk themselves? Let us know by emailing newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk. We’d love to hear from you and see photos if you have any.



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Letters to the Editor

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or email: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Dearth of banking services

Rural communities across Dumfriesshire are being left behind when it comes to access to basic banking services. We've seen high street branches close, one by one, leaving residents, small businesses and older people facing long journeys simply to withdraw cash or speak to someone in person.

In Dumfriesshire, the closure of rural post offices has created a "double blow" for communities already struggling from the withdrawal of traditional bank branches. With the recent closure of Bank of Scotland branches in Sanquhar, Langholm, and Moffat, and the closure of the Annan branch this month, the region is becoming a banking desert.

Local post offices were promoted as the main alternatives for essential face-to-face services, but as these sites face

their own pressures or transition to limited outreach models, the safety net is fraying. In towns like Moffat, residents now face a 40-mile round trip to Dumfries for a full-service bank - a journey that is often unfeasible for the elderly or those dependent on local bus routes.

While shared banking hubs have proven effective in some towns in Scotland, the current system used to decide where they are located is not fit for rural areas. The criteria applied by the interbank network, LINK, and overseen by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) tend to prioritise larger retail centres, overlooking smaller towns and villages that act as vital service hubs for wide rural catchments.

When a bank branch closes in a rural town, it affects not only that community but the surrounding villages and farms that depend on it. The result is growing financial exclusion - particularly for older people, disabled residents, and those without reliable internet access.

As highlighted by Caithness, Sutherland and Ross MSP Mairé Todd, the rules fail to properly account for ageing popu-

lations, poor broadband connectivity and the sheer geography that shapes rural life. Those same challenges are familiar here in Dumfriesshire. Too many residents are not able to bank online easily, and small businesses still rely heavily on cash.

I have signed and shared the UK Parliament petition calling for a review of access to cash in rural areas and reform of the FCA's rules and LINK's criteria. It seeks a fairer system that properly reflects rural realities and ensures communities like ours are not overlooked.

If we are serious about supporting rural economies and tackling inequality, access to banking services must be treated as essential infrastructure - not an afterthought. I would encourage readers who share these concerns to consider adding their support to the petition and making sure rural voices are heard. You can add your name to the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/751773>.

Stephen Thompson
Council Leader
D & G Council"



Further calls to upgrade the A75

The Leaders of South Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council are once again calling on the Scottish and UK Governments to invest in the A77 and the A75. The A75 is the main road to Dumfries from Eskdale and the road which we use to access Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

These two major trunk roads are critical for connecting passengers and freight between England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Despite this, the roads which run from Ayr to Stranraer and from Stranraer to Gretna, are mainly single carriageway.

The speed limit for heavy goods vehicles (HGV) is restricted and although there are proposals to increase the speed limit for HGVs, the tight bends and rural nature of the roads would still slow traffic considerably.

Congestion can lead to some drivers taking risks and in 2024 unofficial figures show there were 26 series accidents on the A77 and 18 on the A75. Since 2016 there have been 20 confirmed fatalities on the A77

and 12 on the A75.

Dualling

The councils are calling on the Scottish and UK Governments to invest in their trunk roads to improve safety, commerce and address environmental concerns. Studies show that dualling the A77/A75 would bring £5bn of positive benefits to the UK economy. Benefits range from reduced journey times, improved road safety and vehicle operating costs (£700 million) to combined CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) savings of around £95 million.

A75 for goods traffic, travel to work and cross region and border connection linking the north of England and Northern Ireland. It is a route that is known for issues, delays and accidents and is impacting on the ambitions of the region for economic growth, investment and jobs that could sustain the communities along its route. It also impacts on all of us who need to access hospital and other services in the region.

MPs praise menu at Langholm Day Centre



Pictured, left to right: Craig Hoy MSP, David Mundell MP; Pearl Mitchell, Doris Mitchell and Elaine Anderson

Members of Langholm Day Centre had the chance to catch up with two Dumfriesshire-based parliamentarians at their lunch on Friday. Local MP David Mundell and South of Scotland MSP Craig Hoy enjoyed chatting to members and were updated on a number of Eskdale issues. Both representatives were also in the Muckle Toon for one of their scheduled advice surgeries.

Mr Mundell said: "There is always a warm welcome at the Day Centre where the team do a fantastic job for the members." Mr Hoy added: "Popular day centres like Langholm are rightly at the heart of our communities and greatly appreciated by many senior citizens."

Lamont: Are oil companies profiteering from situation in the Middle East?

People are increasingly concerned about the impact the war in Iran is having on oil prices with the price of Brent crude oil having reached 100 dollars a barrel. The impact on the price of petrol and diesel and on heating oil for the many rural homes reliant on that form of heating will be significant.

John Lamont MP for the Borders has raised the price of heating oil with the UK Government to ask what action they will be taking to control the situation as it's causing huge worry.

'Price gouging'

He says the price of heating oil is causing particular concern in the Borders. On his social media John has included a copy of a letter from the Shadow Secretary of State for Energy, Claire Coutinho MP who wrote to



Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security Net Zero to ask what the government is doing to protect heating oil users from 'price gouging'. She asked the government to 'bring forward a mandatory price transparency scheme for heating oil suppliers requiring them to publish their prices

publicly so that consumers can compare suppliers and regulators and monitor margins during price spikes?' The impact on other industries will also be as businesses are already hard pressed with energy prices and other costs that will kick in with the costs of national insurance rising next month.

Warblaw and the Natural Environment March 2026

Save Warblaw Action Group updates us on the current situation

Scottish Forestry has informed Save Warblaw Action Group (SWAG) that Scottish Woodlands, the agents for Warblaw's landowners, James Jones, has finally submitted the draft scope for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The scope was delayed, no doubt, because of both the challenging nature of the site and the vigorous local opposition. Scottish Forestry will have 28 days to make changes, after which all remaining Environmental Impact Assessment work will be completed before results are assessed by Scottish Forestry. SWAG is aware that some survey work has been ongoing, during this process.

Meanwhile, in January, the Scottish Parliament passed the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, a landmark nature restoration bill. The Scottish Government states that it is "delivering for both nature and people with ambition at its heart and showing

respect for nature, for the land and the people who steward and care for it."

When set, the targets will ensure Scotland is on a bold and ambitious journey to be 'nature positive' by 2030 and has actively and substantially restored nature by 2045 in a way that works for communities the length and breadth of Scotland. Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy Gillian Martin said:

"This Bill commits us to becoming nature positive by 2030 and restoring our natural environment by 2045. By putting nature targets into law, we are ensuring that the government can be held to account for delivering real, measurable change. Scotland's natural environment underpins our economy, our wellbeing and our quality of life. Protecting it is not optional – it is essential."

SWAG fully supports this governmental commitment to enhancing nature and protecting



Photo by Chris Jones

biodiversity and expects any proposals for Warblaw to do both. SWAG will work to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment will measure the full future impact of the scheme, not simply whether it complies with current legislation.

The 2024 Royal Society of Edinburgh inquiry into tree planting

included research showing how planting on peatland can release more carbon than the trees can sequester, causing significant damage to the ecosystem. SWAG expects the EIA to correctly measure the carbon capture and loss inherent to the proposal.

SWAG agrees that it is essential to protect our natural environment,

and to safeguard the peatland and moorland on Warblaw with its biodiversity, its rare mosses, skylarks and barn owls, from industrial monoculture forestry. Warblaw, adjoined to Langholm and opposite the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, must be protected for nature, biodiversity and the community.

Scottish Parliamentary debate

Langholm, Ewes and Wester Kirk Community Council is hosting a Scottish parliamentary election debate on Monday 13th April in the Buccleuch Centre. Four of the candidates have confirmed their attendance and this will be an opportunity for the community to put local issues to them, before the election in May. Candidates who have confirmed their attendance are Linda Dorward for Scottish Labour, Craig Hoy for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist party, Iain Macdoanld, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Stephen Thompson, Scottish National Party. The event will take place at 7pm – the Community Council is awaiting confirmation from other candidates.

Transport Hub update

Work is progressing on building the transport hub at the Kilngreen at Langholm although no completion date is yet known. There are likely to be washing facilities for bikes and dogs and possibly charging points for E-bikes.

Club has been tying the March Brown



Young members of Langholm Fly Fishing Club with their newly tied flies

Some serious fly tying has been taking place in Langholm with Langholm fly fishing club taking part in tying the March Brown.

Young and old had heads down at the club to create this fly which is meant to imitate a mayfly that hatches in early Spring and attracts trout in fast flowing rivers.

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

✉ john.lamont.mp@parliament.uk

☎ 01450 375948

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Farming with Gilly Fraser

Standout day for Bells of the Bloch



Ross, James and Ian Bell with Bloch Romeo

The Galloway and Whitebred Shorthorn sale in Carlisle brought a lively crowd and a touch of excitement for Langholm's Bell family. They'd brought two bulls: Bloch Romeo as Lot 1, and Bloch Smirnoff close behind.

Romeo, bred by I. Bell & Son of Langholm and sired by Springview George William out of Bloch Iona R, drew immediate interest in the ring. Bidding climbed quickly until the hammer fell at 8,500 gns, briefly achieving a breed record before settling as one of the day's

standout sales. JRF Pattinson & Son claimed him.

Smirnoff followed with a solid sale at 2,900 gns, rounding out a strong showing for the Bloch cattle, known for breeding Whitebred Shorthorns ideal for crossing with Galloways to produce hardy Blue Greys.

But the top price slipped away by a whisker—Gordon Jackson of Toftholm, Newcastleton edged ahead with a bull sold at 9,000 gns, stealing the day's crown with a friendly bit of rivalry. Full report on the H&H website.

Turkeys selected for bird flu vaccine research

Trials have begun to find an effective vaccine against avian influenza.

At the moment the work is concentrated in England, using only turkeys, which have been selected because they are highly susceptible to the disease.

So-called bird flu has had a huge and unprecedented impact in the UK and Europe over the past few years, causing widescale devastation for birdkeepers and the poultry sector.

Annual outbreaks cost the UK Government and industry up to £174m each year. The disease has significantly impacted both captive and wild birds globally since 2020.

The trial will sample a small group of birds under strict supervision following approval from the



Turkeys are particularly susceptible to Avian Influenza

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and using UK/ EU authorised vaccines. Vaccinating poultry against bird flu is not cur-

rently allowed more widely in the UK.

UK Chief Veterinary Officer Christine Middlemiss says the targeted trial will be key to

understanding how vaccines can be effectively used for disease control in the UK.

"They have the potential to be a really valuable additional tool in helping us protect birds from infection," she said.

"Stringent biosecurity will always remain our best defence and urge all bird keepers to continue to take the steps needed to prevent avian influenza spreading onto their premises."

UK Biosecurity Minister Baroness Hayman says it's a significant step forward in the fight against the disease and will contribute to global research efforts.

"We are hopeful vaccines can be used in the UK as an additional tool to control bird flu to protect the UK's biosecurity and food supply."

H & H forges partnership with Young Farmers Clubs

A new partnership has been forged between Auctioneers Harrison and Hetherington and Young Farmers Clubs in Cumbria.

The YFC clubs will be able to use H&H's Dick Harrison Show Hall at their Borderway Mart site four times a year for events.

Both H&H and Cumbria YFC say they are deeply rooted in rural communities, and organisations share a long-term commitment to the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

The partnership will also encourage greater affiliation and links between the two organisations. H&H staff will be invited to assist at YFC events in volunteer roles such as judging and stewarding, while YFC members will be given the chance to gain valuable experience in large-scale event delivery.

H&H Group CEO Richard Rankin said the collaboration is a natural fit for the company.

"This partnership means that more of the funds raised through YFC events can be directed back into opportunities for young people across the county," he said.

"We are proud to support an organisation that contributes so much to the strength and continuity of our rural communities."

Cumbria YFC County Chair Abigail Graham said they were delighted and extremely grateful for the H&H commitment.



Richard Rankin
Chief Executive at H&H Group plc

"The offer of the Dick Harrison Showhall, along with the included security costs, is a fantastic contribution and will really help us with our fundraising efforts," she said.

"Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this possible."

Murrayfield 'meat'ing

Farmers, processors, retailers, policy makers and industry partners gathered at Murrayfield Stadium this week – not to celebrate Scotland's latest rugby success, but to take part in a special conference on all things meat.

The event, organised by QMS Scotland, explored challenges facing the industry and aimed to equip delegates with the tools they need to "move forward with confidence."

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, was there to reinforce the importance of Scotland's red meat sector to rural communities and the national economy.

Dr Phil Hadley, Secretary General of the International Meat Secretariat addressed the global livestock supply challenge and Scotland's competitive position in a tightening marketplace.

Lesley Ann Gray of Worldpanel by Numerator examined market and consumer trends



QMS
Chief
Executive
Sarah
Millar

alongside a retailer's perspective from Richard Wood of Tesco, offering insight into category performance, shopper behaviour and future opportunity for Scotch red meat.

David Millar, Executive Chef at Carlowrie Castle and Scottish Chef of the Year 2025, championed the premium qualities of Scottish produce.

QMS Chief Executive Sarah Millar said she was thrilled to see such strong demand for the conference.

"The fact that the event has around 300 attendees demonstrates just how committed our industry is to engaging with the big issues, from livestock supply and market dynamics to reputation and the next generation," she said.

"By bringing together global insight, government leadership and expertise from across retail, foodservice and farming, we aim to ensure Scottish red meat is well positioned for a resilient and profitable future, both at home and internationally."

Funding awarded for Changing Places toilet



People with profound disabilities and complex needs will have greater freedom and independence with the development of five new Changing Places Toilets (CPT) across Dumfries and Galloway. Backed by a total Scottish Government investment of £10 million into The Changing Places Scotland Fund between 2025-27, £4.7 million has been allocated this year to help individuals, families and carers across the country to take part in everyday activities and community life.

Further awards being considered from this first applications round will be confirmed early in the New Year and a second applications round of funding open in 2026-27. CPTs offer a vital facility for disabled people and their families and carers whose needs cannot be met through standard accessible toilet provision. This includes people with profound or multiple disabilities, people with muscular dystrophy, older people,



An example of a Changing Places toilet

veterans, people who require the use of a larger wheelchair and people who require a calm and quiet environment.

The Eskdale Foundation in Langholm receives £40,000 to build next to the current public toilet at the north end of Langholm to ensure the needs of people with disabilities can be met with dignity and so they can make the most of the community.

Other projects in Dumfries, Sanquhar and Ae were also awarded grants. CPTs have key features which distinguish them

from standard accessible toilets. They offer adequate space (at least 12m²) for a disabled person when they are not in their wheelchair, as well as space for their wheelchair to turn, and one or two carers; have an adult-sized, height-adjustable changing bench to allow people to lie down to have their personal care needs met; have a ceiling hoist to lift people out of their wheelchair safely and have a centrally placed peninsular toilet which provides access for people who require support on both sides.

Fly tipping on Fairy Loup

It's becoming a huge problem



Yet more fly tipping has been reported to us. Doors have been dumped at the base of the Fairy Loup walk, off the old A7. One has broken glass, which for wildlife and dog walkers is treacherous. It really is an on-going problem and there are no easy answers as to how we deal with it.

Tinnisburn's Scillas

Our gardening columnist, Helen Knowles, is opening Tinnisburn Plants to show her heritage collection of Scilla (Chionodoxa) on Saturday/Sunday, 21/22 March, 10am - 4pm. Developed over the last 39 years, this one-acre, plantswoman's garden is home to an eclectic mix of truly hardy perennials, trees and shrubs.

Planted for year-round colour and interest and to provide habitats for wildlife, there is something new to see each month - if you're lucky, you may spot red squirrels. Admission is £5.00, children free. Helen's nominated charity is: Fauna & Flora International 30% & Eden Valley Hospice 30%.

Refreshments will be available; there will be plants on sale and dogs on leads are welcome. Helen's garden is at Upper Millsteads, Canonbie DG14 0RY, Take the B6357 north from Canonbie. At Harelaw turn left onto the B6318 and after one mile turn right onto the track. It is 1.5 miles long and is unarmacked but suitable for all vehicles. Just drive slowly and carefully.

Bridge Results

- 1, Brenda & George Bullamore,
- 2, Tom Stothart & Janet Ivison,
- 3, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir,
- 4 = Louise Grierson & Christine Burton and Lorraine Morton & Aileen Graham, 6, Bob Francombe & Nancy McLure.

£9.5m projected cost of residential placements for young people in D&G

A report to Dumfries and Galloway's social work committee last week set out information and costs of residential placements for young people as well as the programme to prevent overspend of budgets.

According to the report the service has grown considerably in relation to the need for alternative homes for children and young people. This includes children's houses operated by non-Council organisations often out of the region and also the complex care arrangements and needs for an increased number of secure care placements.

Residential placement numbers have continued to increase over the last two years and there are challenges in securing local residential placements for children and young people. As a result, there are significant budget pressures with funding having to be allocated to meet

the increased costs. The projected annual cost of residential placements for this financial year is £9,482,000, representing an increase of £0.677 million compared to the 2024/25 period.

Specialist needs

Reasons for the consistent rise in residential placements include reduction in the number of available foster households creating placement pressures and reducing options in the community. The other factor is the increasing complexity of children's needs. Children with higher or

specialist needs often require specialist intensive care which is more often delivered in residential settings. Work with a registered social landlord in the region is going on to develop two children's houses and construction of these is likely to start next year. Work to ensure that there is full due diligence and scrutiny of all residential placement contracts is also being carried out. A number of other actions have also been taken to improve the situation within the region and to bring down costs.



DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY Health and Social Care

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International Women's Day 2026

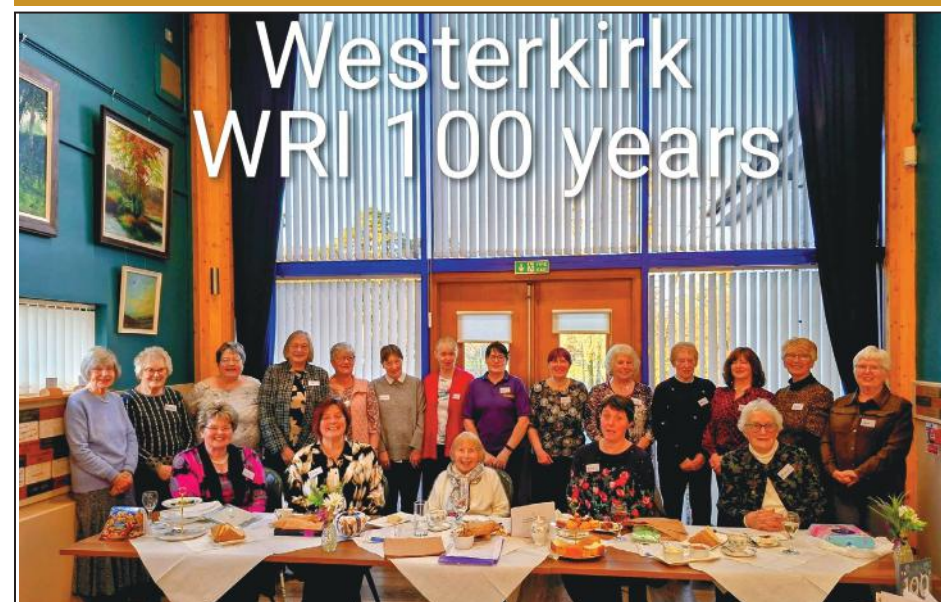
International Women's Day was celebrated globally last Sunday. 8th March annually is the day people aim to raise issues about gender equality and celebrate women's achievements. Here we focus on some of our local women and their activities past and current.

Remember Mother's Day

Sunday 15th March is Mother's Day so hopefully you're all going to treat your lovely Mum's to something special.

Whether a meal out or a gift there are plenty of local places to help you make sure that your Mum is well looked after on the day that celebrates mothers everywhere. Mothering Sunday, as it's also known, is exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday.

Whatever you're doing we hope that if you're a mother that you get well and truly spoiled this Sunday.



Westerkirk Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) held their Centenary Afternoon Tea at the Buccleuch Centre on the 3rd of March. President Diana Stewart welcomed members past and present, also members from Ewes and Canonbie SWIs along with members from National Headquarters and the Dumfriesshire Federation.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea served by Tracey Goodfellow and her team.

Diana reflected on the last 100 years of Westerkirk SWRI/SWI with excerpts from the old minutes' books.

For example, one of the first fundraisers was held to purchase a stove for the Hall. This served to heat the hall and to allow cookery demonstrations to be held. Through

the years things have progressed and now we can use microwaves and air fryers!

Susie Finlayson National Vice President presented Margaret Sanderson with an Honorary Membership Certificate, recognising her many years as an active member including at least two terms as President. Diana and Margaret then cut the celebration cake and a toast was made.

Many crafts made over the years were on display for everyone to see. A short quiz was held on SWI happenings over the last 100yrs.

This was won by a team of Ann Hislop, Ila Jackson, Catherine Tod and Kay Kinstry. A fun task of fastest to thread a needle caused a few groans and many laughs. After a very enjoyable afternoon a free raffle was held and everyone departed completely satiated and with somewhat tighter waistbands.



Canonbie SWI welcomed Karen Pearson (sadly Cliff Pearson could not attend due to illness) to talk about their Korean visit.

They attended the Veterans of Korean War, where Cliff was awarded the Ambassador for Peace Medal by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

Cliff was in active service in the Korean war from 1952 to 1955. Karen and Cliff had their own caring Korean helpers to look after them during their visit. They visited many beautiful venues as long as the temperatures allowed them, it was 42 degrees through the days. Karen was thanked by vice Chair Diane Hope.

Competition winners: Handmade Valentine's card: Gill Lamont. Bell: Catherine Lithgow. Dundee Cake: Diane Hope. Next meeting March 19th which is a visitor's evening at 7pm in Canonbie Hall.



Langholm Probus Club is entertained by Leila Hallam with tales of her worldwide trails and endless days in the saddle

Some of us have ridden a horse, gone on a ride out or even braved the last Friday in July up the Kirk Wynd but few of us have travelled mounted as far as Leila Hallam.

Last week Leila gave Langholm Probus Club an interesting talk about her journeys by horse in The Andes, Turkey, France and Spain. She obviously has a great love of horses having been given one by her stepfather as a teenager and has honed her skills as a rider over the years. Unfortunately, after a fall in 2018 she has decided to stop. This was a couple of years before she came to Langholm where she said she would have been in heaven exploring the Borders on horse-back.

Instead, a cloth band was placed around the horse's head and pulling on this restricted the animals breathing so it slowed down. Luckily her particular party were using somewhat calmer mares. Some of her slides showed pictures of the amazing Cappadocia landscape with cave houses and churches.

Leila's favourite place was France where she went on beach and forest riding holidays galloping along the shores of the Bay of Biscay on a lively one-eyed horse. She also went into the Pyrenees and described how they managed some of the steeper inclines. They had to dismount and then hang on to the horse's tail while it pulled them up the slopes.

Looking back, as well as enjoying her many trips, Leila admitted that she wondered how she had done some of the things. I'm sure she's not alone in this view as we've all done things in our youth which we probably wonder how we did them.

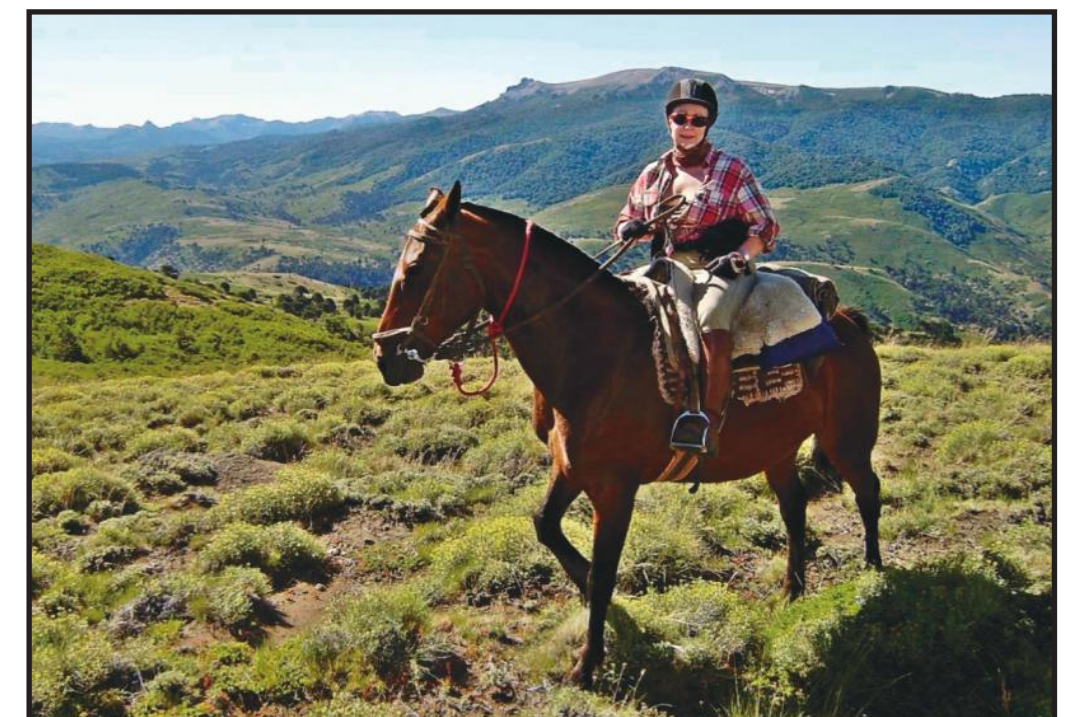
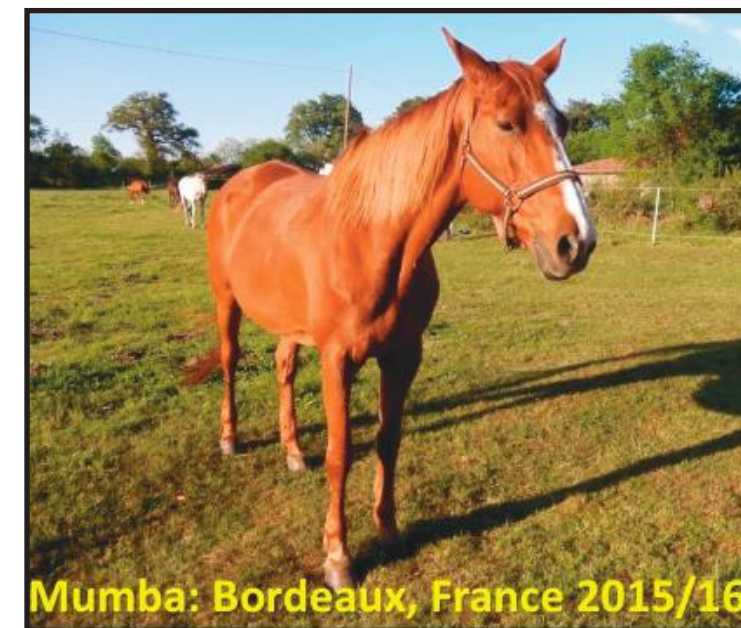


Her first big trip was to Argentina where Mark, her husband, was climbing Aconcagua. They arrived in Buenos Aires and while sight-seeing were beaten up and struggled to hospital. After being patched up they went on their separate trips. Riding with a group for ten hours a day, Leila made it through an Andean pass to Chile. She reminisced about the wonderful long open-air lunches where the horses and the riders could rest.

Her second big adventure was to Turkey in particular to Cappadocia. She explained that Turkish horse-riding traditions were different from ours. They generally rode fast stallions and there was



EQUESTRIAN ADVENTURER: Leila Hallam



By Gilly Fraser

PLEASE leave the goats on the moor

Goat kid found alone near village

Villagers are demanding answers to the mystery of how a tiny wild goat kid born on Langholm Moor, turned up all alone at business premises just outside Newcastleton. How it got there no-one seems to know – but clearly it did not travel miles all by itself.

As if the wild goats on Langholm Moor didn't have enough to worry about...

The Newcastleton-based Wild Goat Conservation Trust has been recording and cataloguing the animals as part of their ongoing campaign to protect them from culling.

The Trust's Gail Brown is appealing to the public to leave the goats alone.

"We know that this kid was born on Tarras Valley Nature Reserve from where it went missing. This caused much distress as it still relies on its mother's milk and its mother spent days looking for it.

"Please leave them in the wild where they belong as they're facing enough challenges without adding to their burden.

Facebook has been flooded with angry comments and questions as to the kid's whereabouts and wellbeing, especially as



Down from the hills came a lonely goat kid...but why and how?

it's been confirmed that the animal was "claimed by a Newcastleton resident."

Gail Brown says this further strengthens the case for the goats being granted protected status.

"If anyone has any concerns about the goats on the moor, they should contact a member of the Trust as they usually can call on volunteer resources to investigate."

Liddesdale Heritage Centre needs some help

The Centre which houses Newcastleton's history and proves a popular draw for tourists from all over the world as well as returning exiles keen to trace their ancestors, is in need of more volunteers to keep the service running.

The Heritage Centre is home to a number of displays as well as local photographs and memorabilia charting the course of the village and its people over the years.

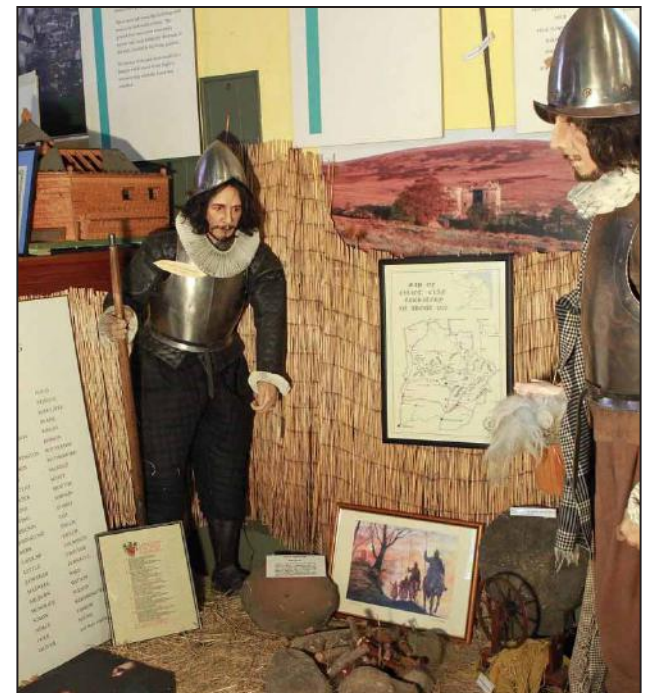
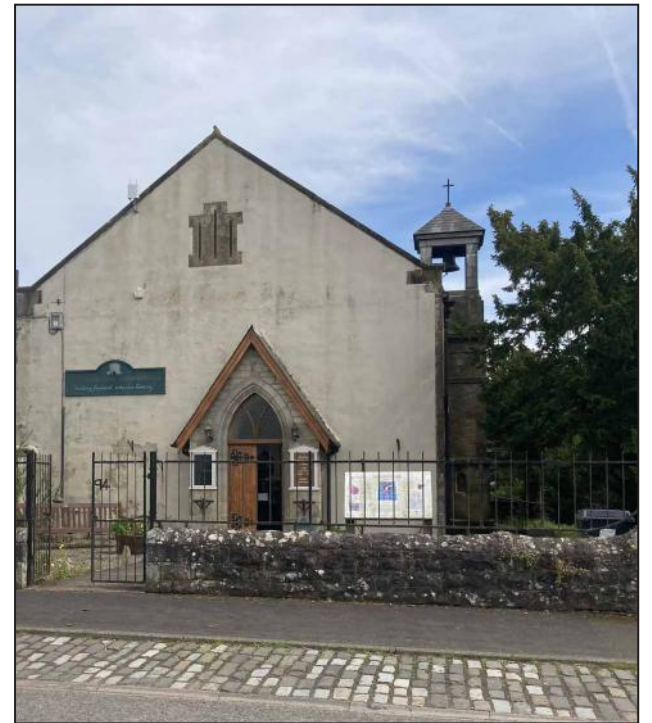
The Centre also features a number of well-known people who have their roots in the village, like Nobel prizewinner Richard Henderson whose ed-

ucation began in the local Primary school, and renowned Broadcaster Eric Robson.

The Heritage Centre is a registered charity – entry is free to local people and there's a small charge for visitors.

It's run by a dedicated band of loyal volunteers who give up a few hours to man the desk and answer any questions visitors may have.

Now the committee which runs the centre is on the lookout for new people to come on boards and says they will be warmly welcomed on board and taught all the necessary ropes.



Can you spare a few hours to volunteer at th Heritage Centre?

Blue skies sure shine on Primary School gardeners

Newcastleton Primary School was blessed with blue skies and sunshine for its Gardening Weekend – and attracted so many helpers it was able to tick off every job on a long list in one day instead of two.

The school had put out a request for people to help prepare the ground and polytunnel for planting new seeds and bulbs for the Spring and Summer.

The village clearly has no shortage of green-fingers, and the helpers were able to get all the tasks done in record time.

Acting Headteacher Fiona Irvine said they had all done a marvellous job.

"We would like to say a huge thank you to all the children, parents, grandparents and wider community who came to help us in our garden area today. We really appreciate your help and support."



The school garden with people at work

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

CREATION MILL W/C 16th 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
	Overlockers for Beginners	1-3	
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Macrame - level 2	10-2	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Fair Isle Hat - Week 1	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Scottish Wool Producers Showcase	11-4	Civic Hall Perth PH15PH

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

Langholm Musical Society
 (Formerly LAODS)
 Presents
A MUSICAL SPECTACULAR
 featuring songs from the
West End and BROADWAY
THE BUCCLEUCH CENTRE, LANGHOLM

Wednesday 25th March - 7:30pm
 Thursday 26th March - 7:30pm
 Friday 27th March - 7:30pm
 Saturday 28th March - 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Tickets: Adults £15 • Concessions £12

Tickets available from the Box Office:
013873 81196
www.Buccleuchcentre.com

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Sat 14th	Cheltenham Festival Cocktail Night	The Buck Hotel 6pm till late
Sun 15th	Mother's Day	
Sat 21st	St Patrick's Day Quiz Night	Eskdalemuir Community Hub 7pm
Sun 22nd	Eskdale Pony Club Fundraising Lunch	Masonic Lodge from 12pm
25th to 28th	Musical Spectacular Langholm Musical Society	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Fri 27th	Hard of Hearing Club Brew and Bletcher	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12 noon
Sat 28th	Canonbie United Parish Church Soup Kitchen and table top	Canonbie Public Hall 11.30am - 1pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2610 answers next week

- Why did Poldhu in Cornwall become particularly famous in 1901?
- Where in Britain is a judge called a deemster?
- For what sporting event was Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire noted?
- Which two English counties border Scotland?
- Which Hertfordshire property is England's most impressive Jacobean house?
- Which Suffolk town is situated on the rivers Lask and Linnet?
- How did Saffron Walden in Essex get its name?
- Which is the nearest range of hills to London?
- Which Cornish landmark was built by Rowena Cade?
- At which museum a few miles south of Cambridge can Europe's biggest collection of historic aircraft be found?
- There are four separate modern-day counties of Yorkshire. What are they?
- Shrewsbury is probably Britain's finest town of which period?
- On which river does the Shropshire town of Ludlow stand?
- What is consistently the north of England's most visited leisure attraction?
- Which British bird has most feathers?
- Which English cathedral is known as the Ship of the Fens?
- What is the most common spoken English word?
- Where would you find the Latin inscription 'Decus et Tutamen'?
- Which city has suburbs called Aston and Handsworth?
- In the world of finance, for what did MIRAS stand?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2609

- Leeds Castle
- Earthquake
- Romans
- The Tabard
- Aintree racecourse
- Birmingham
- Waterloo
- Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bristol and Buckinghamshire
- Warwickshire
- Glasgow
- Clwyd
- Darts
- It will rain for 40 days and 40 nights
- Self-adhesive
- Betty Boothroyd
- Cat's eyes
- 1964
- Sky TV
- Badger
- Cat

Crossword 2608

Across: 1 Triple, 5 Allege, 8 Fortress, 9 Roe, 10 Deal, 11 Sun-baked, 13 Gynaecologist, 18 Subsonic, 22 Rods, 23 Doe, 24 Easterly, 25 Priest, 26 Satire.

Down: 2 Rookery, 3 Patella, 4 Evens, 5 Arsenal, 6 Larva, 7 Geese, 12 Koi, 14 Nab, 15 Connect, 16 Garment, 17 Saddler, 19 Under, 20 Speke, 21 Costs.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

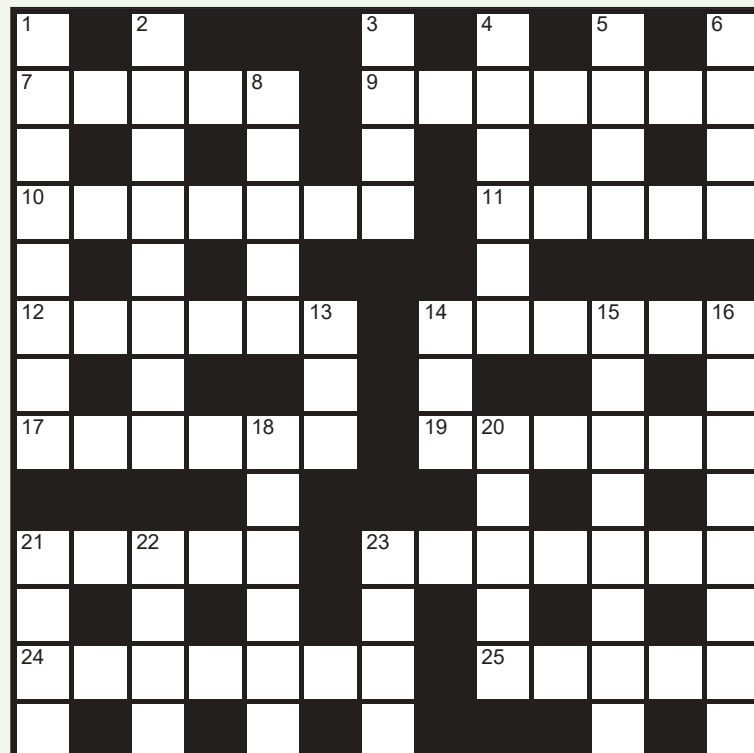
No. 2610 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

Across

- Jostle (5)
- Singular (7)
- Correspondence (7)
- Unctuous (5)
- We rave about carpet-maker, perhaps (6)
- Oddball (6)
- Hate (6)
- Burst of speed (6)
- Distance of water exposed to the wind (5)
- Snow vehicle (7)
- Best (7)
- Lustre (5)

Down

- Recently hitched (5-3)
- Theoretical (8)
- Chafes (4)
- Wagga Wagga woman or Manly man (6)
- Mountain lion (4)
- Drama (4)
- "--- the bee sucks, there suck!" (Shakespeare, "The Tempest") (5)
- "Poppycock!" (3)
- Is no more (3)
- Red Irene sorted out Christmas Dancer, for example (8)
- Sociable (8)
- Plot (6)
- Layers (5)
- Sell off (4)
- Small children (4)
- Unspecified in number (4)



Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie on the banks of the Wauchope

Fishing

The casual remark about that illegal though sometimes alluring practice of poaching, somewhat associates itself with the perfectly legitimate pursuit of fishing and this leads one to observe that the apparent intimate knowledge of a neighbouring parish minister regarding the inhabitants of the local rivers and burns, suggests that he was no stranger to the art of plying the rod.

In his racy notes on the subject, he tells us with obvious satisfaction that of the three rivers and main burns in Eskdale, Wauchope provided the most excellent trout. We remember, of course, that the river whose praise he sings is within sight and earshot of the Manse, and always accessible for a "cast" between the Auld Caul and the Auld Stane Brig before breakfast.

He imparts the gratuitous information that the trout from Wauchope and Tarras are of more delicate flavour than those either in the Esk or Ewes and one is naturally curious to know whether these differences exist at the present time. The minister winds up by ventilating what to him appears to be a grievance that, although salmon are plentiful in the Esk, most of the catch is sent to London and York and very little reaches Langholm and when it does it is often as high as eightpence a pound!

Whilst on the subject of fishing, one cannot forbear recounting here what a son of the manse has so delightfully set down in his reminiscences of seventy or eighty years ago.

At the time of writing he was far away from his native Wauchope and looking back, he paints a charming word-picture which at once transports the reader of an older generation to those sunny days of boyhood when tuneful birds sang in every tree and skies were ever blue.

Even now, in the glowing sunshine of a summer day, we can, in thought, hear again the joyous laughter of the rippling water as it tumbles over the river's stony bed at the Manse Brae Foot in its haste to reach the more peaceful waters of the Meikleholm Pool, and as we sit on the stone dyke at the Pool corner, let us read again what the exile son of the parish minister writes as he plies the rod farther up the water. "As for fishing" he writes, "who does not remember the rapture of his first trout, caught, perhaps like mine, with a crooked pin and literally dashed to death overhead on the sandbed! The lovely dell was an Eden in this connection; so near the Manse you could, on a still evening, at an open window, hear the splash – and yet so remote in its quiet seclusion. "It was a never-ending delight to



Pool corner on the Wauchope courtesy of Langholm Archives - photo by George Irving

clamber, rod in hand, up the difficult channel by which the Wauchope finds its troubled way through the gorge in ever varying mood, now by pebbly bits of rippling shallow; now by deep rock-bound pools of crystal clearness and now by swift cascades plunging into darker profundities – always with the interlacing branches overhead through which the chequered sunshine falls upon the water."

The Kirkyard Pool

As in thought we wander along the banks of the murmuring

Wauchope, there is brought to mind a tragic incident which occurred at what is known as the Kirkyard Pool.

On a lovely summer evening in the month of July 1878 there occurred one of the most painful and melancholy, tragedies that had befallen our peaceful valley for a long time. It was the day before the Volunteers' annual picnic, held in the Lodge grounds, an event which vied in popularity with that of the Common Riding, and there were few of the younger folks of Langholm and neighbourhood who did not look forward with light-hearted enthusiasm to this local

gala day.

Three girls – for they were just out of their teens – engaged upon the necessary preparations for the eventful morning were in the middle of ironing their dresses when, encouraged by the glorious weather, it was suggested by one of them that they go to the river to bathe. The iron heaters were plunged deeper into the fire to be in readiness to resume ironing on their return from bathing and the trio made their way up the Wauchope road and round behind the Manse to a secluded spot on the river remembered as the "Kirkyard Pool".

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 5th March 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 9,513 sheep comprising of 6,512 hogs and 3,001 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 5th March 2026.

PRIME HOGGS

A similar show of 6,512 hogs were forward to a full contingent of buyers with fed sheep still in big demand. Export hogs seen to biblical rates of return regularly over 400ppk and still countless pens of heavies £180 plus. Small hogs 30kg to 35kg consistently around 390ppk plus.

Included in the market averages were again a vast amount of hill bred hogs (3,594) selling with great ease.

Incorporated in the weekly sale of prime hogs was the prize show and sale of Cheviot hogs kindly sponsored by PJ Tractor Parts, Longtown. The directors, auctioneers and all the auction mart staff would like to thank all parties involved with today's show and sale.

Judging was left in the very capable hands of James Linsley who awarded the prizes as follows:

20 HILL CHEVIOT PRIME HOGGS

CLASS 1 – 30-39 KILOS

1st – Reid, Glendearg 39kg £153

CLASS 2 – 39-45 KILOS

1st – Reid, Glendearg 45kg £169

CLASS 3 – 45.1 KILOS & OVER

1st – Carruthers, Woodhall 49kg £172

2nd – Reid, Glendearg 50kg £172.50

3rd – Carruthers, Woodhall 49kg £169

CHAMPION – Reid, Glendearg 45kg £169
RESERVE CHAMPION – Carruthers, Woodhall 49kg £172

20 NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT PRIME HOGGS

CLASS 1 - UP TO 30-39 KILOS

1st – Tweedie, Buchtrig 38kg £154

CLASS 2 – 39.1-45 KILOS

1st – Findlay, Easter Bagillo 42kg £165.50

2nd – Beattie, Guardsmill 44kg £169.50

3rd – Muir, Cleughbrae 45kg £168

CLASS 3 – 45.1 KILOS & OVER

1st – Findlay, Easter Bagillo 51kg £175

2nd – Tweedie, Buchtrig 46kg £168

CHAMPION – Findlay, Easter Bagillo 51kg £175

RESERVE CHAMPION – Findlay, Easter Bagillo 42kg £165.50

Top price per head of £240 for Texel's from A R Bell & Son, Kirkton.

Top per kilo of 488ppk for Beltex hogs from G & W Halliday, Crawthart.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries and entries.

Overall average 374.01ppk (SQK 387.26ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel £240, £220 Kirkton, £218 Bolton Village, £200 Newtonhill, Greenacres & Carskyle, £199 Barnakill, £196 Desoglin & Marbrack

Beltex £216 Station Yard, £209 Crawthart, £208 Lurgan & St Johns Kirk, £200 Galleywreay, Hobbiesburn & Crawthart

Suffolk £204 Riverside, £200 Quarry House, £195 Airdlin Mains, £194 Riverside, £190 Inshes Farm, £186 West Houses, £182 Gibston Farm, £181 Airdlin Mains, £180 Riverside

Dutch Spotted -£199 Galleywreay, £182 Lowfield, £175 Airdlin Mains

Hill Cheviot £194, £191 Kirkton, £179 Riverside, £176 Aucharua, £173 Dyke Farm, £172.5 Glendearg, £172 Woodhall, £171.5 Catslackburn

Blackface £193, £185 Kirkland Farming, £170 Balliemanoach, £168.5 Cowburnrigg, £165, £163 Upper Wellwood, £163 Thornton Tower, £162 Barnyards, £160 Balliemanoach & Kirkhouse

Blue Faced Leicester -£190 Ghyll Brae

Charollais £190 South Bogbain, £175 Nether Dargavel

Easy Care -£186, £171 Monellie, £170 West Mains of Kinbletmont, £161 Ireshope Plains, £160 Edingarioch

North Country Cheviot £185 Station Yard, £178.5 The Craggs, £175, £173, £172.5 Easter Balgillo, £172 Patties Hill, £171.5 Station Yard, £170 Gillesbie Farms, £169.5 Cleughbrae & Easter Balgillo

Mule £183 Riverside, £181 High Burnfoot, £177 Ireshope Plains & Quarry House, £176 High Burnfoot, £170 Quarry House, Barnakill & Allfornaught

Cheviot Mule £178 Riverside & Allfornaught, £174 East Rackwood Hill, £168.5 Baurch, £162 Tangytavil

Oxford -£170.5 Inches, £154 Guards

Herdwick £170, £168 Orthwaite Hall, £160 Moss House

Hampshire -£170 Beechgrove, £151 Dykenook

Border Leicester -£165 Chesterhall Parks

Zwartble -£161 Supplebank

Half-Bred -£160 Airdlin Mains

Swaledale -£157.5 Nuncleugh, £137 Devonport, £135, £130.5 Westernhopeburn, £129 Devonport Farms, £128 Whitton

Valais Blacknose -£152 Bridge End Farm

Dartmoor -£150 Litharge Farm

Shetland -£145 Galleywreay

Ryeland -£138 Supplebank, £132 Lowfield

Jacob -£100 Parks Farm

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex -488p Crawthart, 480p Station Yard & Killocrow, 474p Killocrow, 472.2p Crawthart, 470.3p Lurgan Farm 469.7p Wyseye Hall

Texel -428p Netherhill, 426.3p Ireshope Plains, 423.7p The Land, 421.1p Ireshope Plains, 417.9p Kirkland of Longcastle & Netherhill, 413p Dykenook

Hill Cheviot -418.9p Lurgan Farm, 416.2p Becks, 410p The Land, 402.6p Cadgillhead,

400p Allfornaugh, Buchtrig, Kirkland of Longcastle & Heathery Hall

North Country Cheviot -413p Humbleheugh, 408.1p Nether Ernambrie, 408p, 406.4p Humbleheugh, 405.9 Dryfeholm, 405.4 East Rackwood Hill, 405.3p Buchtrig, 404.9p Aucharua, 400p Roughet Hill

Suffolk -410.3p Killowcraw, 408p Heathery Hall, 404p The Land, 398.8p St Johns Kirk, 395.1p Broomhills, 393p St Johns Kirk, 390p Dryfeholm & Oswie, 389.7p Rigfoot

Blackface -402.6p Lurgan Farm, 400p Kirkhouse, 398.8p Westernhopeburn, 391.7p Carskyle, 390.2p Kirkhouse, 390p Upper Wellwood, 389.7p Craigdaroch, 389p Sonoma

Herdwick -395p Orthwaite Hall, 390.2p Moss House

Easy care -395.3p West Mains of Kinbletmont, 375p, 373.5p Edingarioch, 360p Monellie

Mule -394.7p Westernhopeburn, 394p Dunveaden, 393p Chesterhall Parks, 391p Ireshope Plains, 387.2p Oswie, 386p Allfornaught, 385.9p Ralphshield, 383.9p Silloans

Charollais -385p Faebait, 380.4p Nether Dargavel, 355.4p Glenjaan

Oxford -363p Inshes, 358.1p Guards Farm

Swaledale -363p Westernhopeburn, 358.3p Devonport Farms, 341.7p Pasture House, 337.5p Westernhopeburn, 334p Devonport Farms, 321.4p Westernhopeburn & Nunsleugh

Hampshire -359.5p Dykenook

Dutch Spotted -350p Airdlin Mains, 343.3p, 340.5p Lowfield, 331.7p Galleywreay

Cheviot Mule -339p Whitton, 337.5p Tangytavil, 337p Baurch, 329.6p Riverside, 329.6p Allfornaught

Border Leicester -330p Chesterhall Parks

Ryeland -328.6p Supplebank, 322p Lowfield

Zwartble -322p Supplebank, 361p Heathery Hall

Valais Blacknose -317p Bridge End

Jacob -312.5p Parks Farm

Blue Faced Leicester -310.3p Glenjaan

Dartmoor -310.3p Lowfield, 307.4p Litharge Farm

Half-Bred -308p Airdlin Mains

CAST EWES AND RAMS

An entry of 3001 cast ewes proved very good to sell with all classes meeting increased demand. Many more wanted on a weekly basis to satisfy customer demand. Keep them coming for premium returns.

Heavy ewes topped at £365 for Texel ewes consigned by R & A Harrison, Hazel Head, Kirkland. Light ewes topped at £162 for Blackface ewes from E & TN Ballantyne, Cowburnrigg, Haltwhistle.

Rams topping the sale at £270 for a Texel from AR Bell & Son, Kirkton, Hawick

Heavy ewes

Texel £365, £315, £300 Hazel Head, £300 Mainside, £285 Beckfoot, £278 Crawthart, £265 Hazel Head, £250 Beckfoot.

Charollais £238 Beckfoot, £208 Stewartfield.

Beltex £235 Hobbiesburn, £230 Carskyle, £222 Hobbiesburn, £220 Low Northscaugh.

Blue Texel £225 Somerfield House.

Suffolk £218, £210, £207 Beckfoot, £218, £210 West Stobs Wood, £206 Nether Dargavel, £204 South Bogbain, £202 Beckfoot, £200 Somerfield House.

Dorset £194 Jacaranda.

Bluefaced Leicester £192 Ghyll Brae, £186 Silloans.

North Country Cheviot £190, £188 Drumreach, £176 Maidencots, £172, £170 Beckfoot.

Border Leicester £188 Maidencots.

Mule £186 West Stobs Wood, £174 Smallmuir, £168 Thuster Mains, £167 Beckfoot, £166 Carskyle, £164 Inshes & Hoddamtown.

Oxford £186 Cassington.

Cheviot Mule £179 Errington, £178 South Bogbain, £170 High Stenries, £168 Meadowside & Dunnabie.

Light ewes

Blackface £162 Cowburnrigg, £156 Kirkhouse, £153 Ralphshield, £146 Inshes, £139 Allfornaught.

Goat £156 Stewartfield, £148 Somerton, £130 South Bogbain.

Lleyn £148, £142, £134 Incheoch.

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The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 26/03/2026 (Type A).
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)
Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
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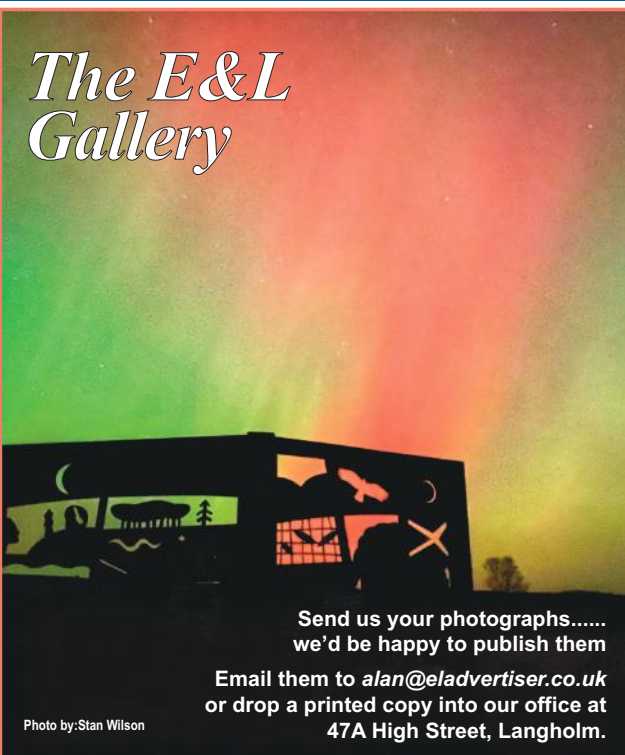
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Muckle Bridges Challenge a huge success for Playcare

Big and wee enjoy the fun runs

Langholm Playcare held their Muckle Bridges Challenge on Sunday 8th March at the Cricket Club. This proved to be a fantastic success, with runners of all ages taking part in the unique route across the bridges in and around our town. The weather was on our side, with the sun shining throughout the event, making it a perfect day for everyone involved. As well as the 10-mile Muckle Bridges Challenge, we were delighted to also hold the Muckle Wee Challenge, a 2-mile run aimed at children, parents and beginners.

The event brought the community together for an active and enjoyable day, with participants challenging themselves while taking in the local scenery. The atmosphere was brilliant, with plenty of encouragement from spectators and volunteers who helped make the day such a positive experience for everyone involved.

We would like to give a huge thank you to The Jock and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust who

funded the event and 'Yarns To Yearn For' and 'Holmspun' who sponsored the event.

We would also like to give many thanks to Castleview Catering, the local SWI's, The Eskdale Hotel, The Cricket Club, the Common Riding Committee for the flags, Co-op, Xcel, as well as all the marshals, helpers, bakers and soup makers who contributed to making the day such a success. Also a thank you to the photographers.

It was wonderful to see so many

people come together, and the day was a great reminder of the strength of our community spirit. We look forward to making the Bridges Challenge an even bigger success next time. Watch this space for a date.

The winners for the Muckle Bridges Challenge were:

James Norwood – 1.14.29 – 1st Overall Male; Gemma Skelton – 1.20.14 – 1st Overall Female; Andrew Hope – 1.14.47 – 1st Local Male; Mhairi Beattie – 1.36.00 – 1st Local Female

The winners for the Muckle Wee Challenge were:

1st – Alexander Irving-Lang – 15.04; 2nd – Ruaridh Phillips – 15.42; 3rd – Mollie Phillips – 17.22



Local runners and Playcare supporters took part in the Muckle and Wee Bridges Challenge last Sunday in the sunshine



Primary schools' Super 4s superstars!



L to R: Ruaridh Phillips, Sebastian Serge Currie-Neuville and Arthur Legg



L to R: Indie Goodwin, Ophelia Forrest and Evie Phillips



L to R: Murray Cubbon, Daniel Patterson and Oscar Sproat

Langholm and Canonbie pupils did well in the Super 4s cross country event held recently in Langholm. Results are as follows.

Boys: Murray Cubbon of P7 came 2nd in his year group while Cameron Jardine of P7 came 11th; Jack Irving P7 came 29th; Sebastien Serge Currie-

Neuville of P6 came 3rd in his age group; Alex Cuthbert of P6 came 6th while Ruaridh Phillips of P6 came 10th; Oliver Davidson of P6 came 26th; Calum

Grant of P6 was 27th; Finlay Yarrow of P6 came 33rd; Stuart Miller P6 came 39th; Sonny Robertson of P5 Canonbie came 38th; Jasper Cook P5 Canonbie

came 40th; Connor Irving of P6 Canonbie came 42nd.;

Girls: Evie Phillips P6 came 3rd; Ellie Couperthwaite P6 came 15th; Sally Matthews of P5 Canonbie came 32nd.

Youth Rugby Festival attracts 400 players despite weather

Youth Rugby

By Caroline Jardine

We recently held our annual Borders Rugby Festival but unfortunately, due to the weather conditions, we had to finish the festival earlier than planned. The safety of our players, volunteers and supporters always comes first.

With over 400 children taking part it was a great sight to see on Milntown. There were lots of muddy, smiling, happy children — and honestly, that's exactly what we want to see a bit of rain certainly didn't stop proper grassroots rugby in the Muckle Toon.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along, supported, helped in the kitchen, refereed, coached and cheered from the sidelines despite the conditions. We'd also like to say a massive thank you again to all of our fantastic sponsors: Wm. Armstrong Longtown Ltd; The Retreat with Vickie; adMN Business Solutions; Henderson's Travel and Sarah Laing's Country Catering. The organisers said "Your support means so much to our club and our young players. We truly couldn't do it without you. We are always looking for new helpers within the youth rugby section of the club, if you are able to help in anyway whether it be coaching, admin skills, social media etc - many hands make light work."



CLAIRTY: The glaury conditions at Milntown didn't affect the enthusiasm of the young rugby players one bit!

Ava and Aoiffion are admirable athletes

Athletics

Ava Bell one of Langholm's young athletes was competing on Saturday when she stepped up to the under 20 nationals and ran her best 60m for 2 years. She ran a time of 8.27 seconds but just missed out on a place in the semi-finals. Ava will now look forward to competing in the SAIL U18 Mixed Relays and Sprint-Fastest Invitational later this month at Grangemouth.

Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan was competing at the Scottish Under 16 indoor athletics championships on Saturday. At 13 years of age, she is competing against young women much older than her but ran a personal best of 7.90 seconds in the 60-metre race to win the silver medal missing out on the gold medal by 0.04 seconds. In the



afternoon she won a second silver medal in the 200 metres running her second fast time in the heats and semi-finals.

The finals of the Scottish national indoor league are to look forward to in two weeks'

Ava Bell ran her best 60m in 2 years time and the last race of the indoor season. Aoiffion has enjoyed a great few months over the Winter and bringing home two silvers on Saturday was a fantastic achievement.

Tough game at Coldstream

By David Borthwick

Today we faced Coldstream in the cup with a somewhat depleted squad, 13 signed players unavailable for various reasons meant a call up for the manager and assistant manager in the starting 11.

It was a glorious day for football and we set our stall out early playing with Chris Gardner as a solo striker. It wasn't too long before a Robert Maclean cross was met by Daniel Winter whose header gave us the lead in the first half.

Our lead was short lived when the ball was only half cleared from a long throw, and it landed at a Coldstream players foot who struck the ball well through a sea of players and found the back of our net 1-1. After half time both teams tried to push for a winner with several

chances squandered. And after 90 minutes the score remained 1-1. In the first half of extra time Brian 'Basil Brush' Matinson got himself in front of goals and finished well to reclaim our lead.

Riley Brannan came on to replace Chris Gardner which allowed Alistair Little a run out of goals. Our final goal was a lovely move with Brian flicking the ball on to Greig Cartner who left the Coldstream defenders behind and then squared the ball to Brian who calmly made it 3-1. It was a tough game with some many players missing, but everyone dug deep to secure the win. Thanks to those who came to support today, and to stand in gaffer Iain Little and Gary Brannan who ran our line today.

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One of the Murrayfield's greatest matches ever!

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Scotland 50 | France 40

Following a great comeback by Scotland in Cardiff two weeks ago there was a great air of expectation amongst Scottish rugby fans for the match against France on Saturday. With France still on course for a Grand Slam could Scotland give the French a game and try to upset their "grand" plans? What transpired was one of the greatest matches seen at Murrayfield with a total of 90 points scored.

With a capacity crowd, a large French contingent and the weather perfect for early March both anthems were sung with great gusto, and the scene was set for a match which will be talked about for many years to come.

Not being at Murrayfield, but watching from the comfort of an armchair, the nerves and excitement were still at a high level as France kicked off. Scotland made much of the early running and were playing with speed and tempo. They made a couple of good breaks towards the French line before Darcy Graham ran in for a



Great celebrations from the Scottish team
Photo courtesy of Scottish Rugby

good try after just 5 minutes, Russell converted. Scotland continued to dominate but Scotland lost the ball near their line and France scored a converted try with 17 minutes on the clock. They went in for a second try just 4 minutes later and suddenly Scotland fans both at Murrayfield and in front of their TV's had a uncomfortable feeling that the tables might be turning.

The score 7-14.

However, the Scotland team did not appear to be worried and continued to pressurise the French. A line out saw the ball come back to hooker Turner

who popped the ball to Kyle Steyn who ran in for a great try from a move straight off the training ground. Another attack saw Scotland score through Schoeman and with the clock in the red, scrum half White nipped in for a fourth Scottish try to make the half time score 26-14.

Buzzing

Murrayfield was buzzing as were Scottish fans everywhere, but we all knew there was a lot of work still to do for a Scottish victory. What we didn't foresee was the way Scotland would take control of the sec-

ond half and effectively cause complete disarray of the French side for most of that half. A second try for Steyn and another for Graham both converted by Russell stretched the lead 40-14 and Scottish fans everywhere were in raptures not quite believing what they were seeing. After 63 minutes try number 7 was scored by Tom Jordan and Finn Russell once again converted.

Incredible

Watching this match unfold in the hoose was special enough but to have been one of the many Langholmites inside Murrayfield on Saturday afternoon must have been truly incredible. What a match, what a performance, what a win.

Watching Scotland play rugby over the past few years has often been a difficult and sometimes a painful experience for us fans. Expectations dashed, good leads whittled away, frustration and annoyance with the team. However, Saturday's match against France showed what a good squad Scotland are currently with wealth of great players. They took on a very strong French team who were grand slam favourites, beat them in great style and sent them homeward to think again.

Karate kids meet world champ



Karate

By Phil Gunn

On Sunday 8th March three children from Langholm karate club attended a course held by four times world champion Koji Arimoto.

The course was held at the Victoria Hall, Kirkpatrick-Fleming, I would also like to thank the JKS Hattatsu karate club for the opportunity to train with such a high-profile Karate instructor.

Pictured in the photo left to right: Alex Hope, Koji Arimoto, Eden Worstencroft and Neive Paisley.

Wamphray win Wull's trophy

Bowling

By Luke Tolson

Well done to "Wamphray B" Alasdair Sloan and Rory Sloan beating last year's winners Aaron Wood and Gary McColm in the final of the Wull Little Trophy which was presented by Amy Kinstrey. (Pictured)

The tournament was generously sponsored by Jim Wood, and Wull little Semi Finalists Luke Tolson and Chris Wood Ross McFadzen and Andrew Davidson

Last 8 Jack Hall and David Goodfellow Roy Park and Mark Goodfellow John Kinstrey and Colin Little David Orchiston and Rachael Simpson

Thank you to Anne Wood and Val in the kitchen, Stuart on the Bar, John and everyone who took a turn umpiring! Thanks also to all 32 entries and to all who bought raffle tickets!



SPORTS BRIEFS

Old Town BC Opens in April

Langholm Old Town Bowling Club will open the green on Saturday 18th April at 2pm and are inviting new members or folk just to come along and have a go. Subs for members are also due'

Macmillan Rally

KPT Development Trust in Dumfries and Galloway are delighted to once again be staging this year's Kirkpatrick Macmillan Rally on 22-25 May.

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