

Deacon Blue and Shakin' Stevens tribute acts

SEE PAGE 13



A super-competitive race card at Kelso on Saturday

SEE PAGE 16



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8632

Established May 1848

Thursday March 19, 2026

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Signs of movement for the 'hole in the ground'

Community Council and Stevenson Trust progress discussions with retail company on use of the land



HOLE IN THE GROUND: Hopes are increasing for a resolution to the problem of the derelict land at Townfoot, Langholm

Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council recently posted an update on social media about the 'hole in the ground' vacant site at Townfoot. The E&L put some questions to Mr David Stevenson of the Stevenson Trust which owns that piece of land.

The E&L asked "I understand that there is some update regarding the 'hole in the ground' at Townfoot which is owned by the Stevenson Trust. Can you tell me what is happening? Why did the Stevenson Trust buy it in the first place?" and this was the response:

Within our charity, we undertake community developments whereby we acquire old buildings which are be-

coming a bit of an eyesore, refurbish them and then try to find a use for them. For the past 10+ years there's been an ongoing programme with the dozen or so high street shops we own and the Townfoot site is another. We bought the Townfoot site about eight years ago as it had lain empty for a similar period of time and we thought it would help us to develop plans for Border Fine Arts which had also lain empty for a few years. The Visitor Centre proposals fell by the wayside through a combination of factors - Covid, inflation and lack of support from some local organisations - and we've been exploring various ideas since then.

(The Stevenson Trust had plans to create a visitor centre at the former Border Fine Arts site.)

E&L: "Can you say if it's the Co-op or is it another retail business? Will you sell the land or lease it to the company?"

Mr Stevenson: The proposal is that the Stevenson Trust will build the new property and then lease it to the retail tenant. As with the rents from our high street properties, the income from this property will be used to support local projects and local organisations. At this stage we are bound by a confidentiality clause from saying who is or is not a likely tenant.

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INSIDE



Spring is in the air at Tinnisburn

Helen Knowles gives us some tips on what to do in the garden at the end of March.

And gives us the chance to see her stunning display of Scilla this weekend.

See centre pages

Family Announcements

Deaths

BARKER, James Oliver (Jim)

Peacefully on Monday 9th March, 2026. James (Jim) Oliver Barker aged 80 years of Creg-Ny-Baa, 10 Leafield, Stranraer. Beloved husband of Josephine Girvan, dearly loved father of Angela and Stuart and father-in-law of Neil. A much loved papa to Emily. Funeral on Thursday 26th March, 2026. Service in Langholm Parish Church, Langholm at 1.00pm. Thereafter to Langholm Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited, family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to The Salvation Army on retiral from service.

BELL, James Irving (Silver)

Peacefully on the 25th of February at Notwen House, Irving aged 82 years. A much loved brother, brother-in-law, uncle and a great friend to many. A graveside service will be held at Langholm Cemetery on Monday 23rd March at 11:00am. Friends are respectfully invited to attend. All Enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

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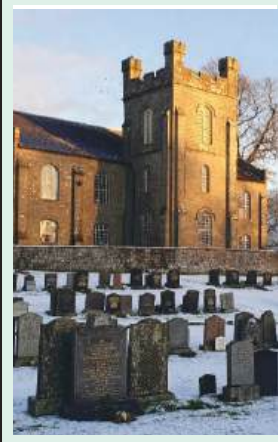
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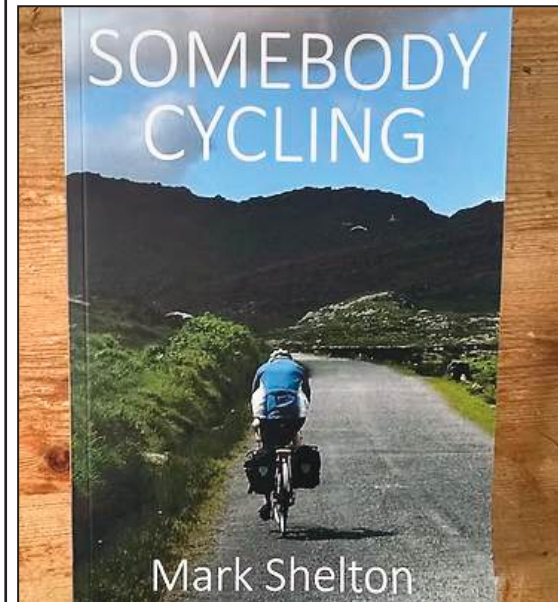
Gully clearance



Gully clearance in Langholm is due to begin on Monday 23 March according to Stuart Caven, road maintenance manager at Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Residents in the town are being asked to ensure the people carrying out this work can get as much access to drainage gullies as possible.

Cycling stories



Idiosyncratic cyclist Mark Shelton will relay the anecdotes that underpin his portfolio of journeys on two wheels when - in front of a public meeting at Westerkirk Public Library in Bentpath on Sunday 29 March at 3pm - he provides attendees with an enjoyable insight into the ups and downs of life in the saddle.

The stories he has garnered during several decades pepper his highly-readable book Somebody Cycling, which will be available on the day. Beautifully illustrated, it is a book to treasure.

Please reserve your seat at this much-anticipated free-of-charge event by emailing:
westerkirkparishlibrary@gmail.com

Discussions ongoing for five years

< From Page 1

E&L: Do you think this will support the regeneration of Langholm if the project moves forward?

Mr Stevenson: Anything which brings empty, dilapidated buildings into use is a step in the right direction to regenerating the town. The problem is the number of empty properties and sites lying in a flood plain where redevelopment is either impossible or inordinately expensive. A lot of what we do is not commercially viable and can only be done through a charity.

E&L: How likely is it that jobs created if the proposal comes off? And has it taken a long time to get

this far with the hole in the ground?

Mr Stevenson: Discussions started with the prospective tenant five or so years ago and we're really still just at the starting line so we've a long way to go to bring something meaningful to this site. At least, we're now moving forward.

E&L: What are your hopes for the future with this site?

Mr Stevenson: As with every property we own, the intention is to refurbish it, bring in a new business or activity which creates employment and add to the facilities and services which make Langholm such a fine place to live.

The infamous Townfoot hole in the ground



Conservation work completed on listed Riddings viaduct

Distinctive Victorian cross-border edifice is repaired

National Highways has completed a major programme of repairs to secure the long term future of one of the most distinctive structures spanning the England-Scotland border. The Grade II listed Riddings viaduct, which sits on the former Langholm branch railway line, has undergone extensive conservation work to preserve its life and character. The structure was built in 1864 and has stood unused since the railway line it carried was closed in 1967 under the Beeching plans. Work included repairing and filling gaps in the stonework, fixing damaged sections and restoring the railings along the bridge's edges. All repairs were carried out using materials that closely match the original, to preserve the viaduct's historic appearance.

Riddings Viaduct was built by the North British Railway as part of its branch from Riddings Junction to Langholm. The line opened on 18 March 1864. Prior to the opening of the line, areas around the England-Scotland border such as Langholm had been isolated. The introduction of the railway brought an economic boost to the area, with the local whisky and coal industries benefitting. The unique location of the line meant that a journey from Langholm to Carlisle – less than 20 miles as the crow

flies – would involve crossing the England/Scotland border three times, with one of these being over Riddings Viaduct.

The tracks were lifted after 1967 and the viaduct has sat unused since then. The viaduct curves from the north towards the southwest over Liddel Water. Its southern half is located in England, and its northern portion in Scotland. In both nations it enjoys listed status. South of the border is Grade II while to the north it has category A status.

National Highways engineer



The iconic Riddings viaduct has been restored for future generations to enjoy

Colin McNicol, said:

“Working on a structure that spans two countries brings unique challenges. We’ve worked closely with partners

in both England and Scotland to meet the distinct heritage and ecological requirements on each side of the border. Our work will preserve this

Photo courtesy of National Highways iconic viaduct, allowing people in both countries to enjoy its beauty for many years to come.”

Eskdale Gardening Club

The Eskdale Gardening club is having a demonstration on creating beautiful hanging baskets at the next Eskdale Gardening Club meeting. Avril from Whitesyke Garden Centre will be giving the demonstration and will be full of ideas and tips for the coming gardening season. The meeting takes place in Canonbie Church at 7pm on Friday 26th March. Non members are welcome.

Bridge Results

1, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 2, Tom Stothart & Anne Ferguson, 3, Louise Grierson & Christine Burton, 4 = Barbara Addison & Ann Smart and Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 6, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor.

Correction

The Langholm Library is not situated upstairs in the town hall. That is where the community council meets. The library is upstairs, on the second and third floor of the library building. Accessed on Saturday morning, by the side door off Parliament square. Come and visit sometime. The band hall in the library building, was the original library.

Kilngreen transport hub making progress on joined-up travel

Dumfries and Galloway Council says that work is progressing well on the new active and sustainable transport hubs being delivered across Dumfries and Galloway including in Langholm at the Kilngreen.

The hubs are intended to support more joined-up and accessible everyday journeys for communities across the region and form part of a wider programme funded through the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund. The aim is to support everyday travel by making it easier for people to move around their towns and reach shops, services, education and workplaces.

The steel frames are now installed at Annan, Langholm and Sanquhar, marking an important stage in the build process. Work is also underway at Stranraer and Newton Stewart to prepare



It is hoped that the new transport hub at the Kilngreen in Langholm will encourage accessible, everyday journeys

for the steel structures being lifted into place. Construction starts at Castle Douglas this week, with work at Gatehouse of Fleet expected to begin in April. Hubs in Dalbeattie and Whithorn will also be delivered in the coming months with updates on

start of construction due soon.

Zero-emission

Each hub will bring together practical facilities for walking, wheeling, cycling and zero-emission travel, including secure cycle parking,

e bike and EV charging and EV hire. Construction is expected to continue through the spring and summer, with all hubs scheduled to open to the public before the end of the year. Further updates will be provided as the programme progresses

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Politicians talking rubbish!

Politicians often talk rubbish, but I think we need to talk more about rubbish. It may not be the most exciting political subject, but it is one that affects every community in Dumfriesshire.

Travel along almost any of the region's roads and you'll see the evidence: bottles, cans, and takeaway bags tossed from vehicles and left to rot on the verges. This isn't just an environmental nuisance; it is a visible sign of how we treat the places we share. Dumfriesshire is famed for its beautiful countryside, yet that reputation is being undermined by a minority who treat our roads like a moving bin.

The burden of this neglect falls on others. Local volunteers and Council staff spend countless hours clearing waste that should never have been there, and it usually ends up in landfill at additional cost to the public purse, all while residents are left with the impression that their area is being abandoned.

Civic pride matters. Most people care deeply about their surroundings, and it is frustrating to see that effort undone by casual disregard. As the Holyrood elections approach, we'll hear plenty of grand political promises. However, I believe we should start with the basics: take your rubbish home, respect our countryside, and let's clean up Dumfriesshire for everyone's benefit.

Stephen Thompson
Council Leader,
Dumfries and Galloway
Council

Common Riding still in safe hands

The trustees and members of the Langholm Common Riding gathered on the evening of Monday the 16th of March for the Annual General Meeting.

Office bearers remain the same as 2025, with the post of Chairman held by ex-Cornet Kevan Hotson, Vice Chairman by ex-Cornet Jamie Fletcher, Treasurer by Joyce Bell, and Secretary by Ross Mabon.

Chairman ex-Cornet Kevan Hotson read the report from the 2025 Common Riding, which members and trustees agreed was a great success, and congratulated Cornet Ewan Patterson on a job well done.

The members noted their sadness at the closure of The Lost Chef, who has provided catering on the Castleholm for almost ten years. New applications, however, have been received from other vendors, and should any one wish to submit an application, this should be sent to secretary@langholmcommonriding.com by Friday the 1st of April.

The members were also made aware that David Thompson's



at Jedburgh, the outfitters that has been kitting out Langholm Cornets for many years, is set to close. However, Cornet Patterson and his Right- and Left-Hand Men have made enquiries and new plans have been made to ensure Langholm's Front Threi still remain smartly

dressed.

It was raised that Hound Trailing would have to be renamed Hound Racing due to the change in government legislation.

That being all pressing business, a vote of thanks was proposed to the chairman.

BBC Debate Night in Hawick

BBC Scotland's Debate Night is coming to Hawick on 25th March. This is a live topical debate show which focuses on issues affecting Scotland and beyond. People can apply to be a member of the studio audience and send in questions for Debate Night's panel. The panel varies from week to week. To apply to be part of the audience you should go to BBC Scotland Debate Night online and fill in the form. Stephen Jardine is the host and he has been involved in various broadcasting roles including presenting on BBC Radio Scotland and STV's Scotland's Today.



Stephen Jardine

Gold Award for Hub's resilience

Eskdalemuir hub has been recognised with a gold award certificate for its work on community resilience. We reported in February that Dumfries and Galloway Council had adopted a new community resilience policy which is intended to strengthen community resilience in the region. The scheme aims to recognise volunteers in communities who give their time to support their local areas.

Eskdalemuir Hub has done a lot of work following a number of incidents, including weather events that impacted the people who live in that area. A resilience plan has been drawn up and there are active volunteers willing to help out if there is any kind of emergency that affects members of the community. The Hub has worked with Eskdalemuir Community Council as well as other partners to ensure it is prepared to meet the needs of people who live there sometimes in houses that are several miles from the main road. Recognising that the community is aging and that there is increasing vulnerability, the Hub continues to review how it can support the community in a range of different ways.

The certificate says 'Thank you for the time, commitment and care you have given



to community resilience. Your efforts play an important role in empowering your local community to prepare for, respond to and recover from civil emergencies.'

Muckle Toon walks as popular as ever



A group of ten walkers from Dumfries Ramblers paid a visit to Langholm on Saturday to enjoy one of the town's walks

They were led by Marion Glover (in the bobble hat), whose late husband, John, was from Langholm.

They did the 13 Langholm Bridges walk, which was about eight miles.

Langholm Walks group are delighted that they have sold all 1,500 of their walks leaflets and have ordered a reprint of 250 to tide them over until an updated version is published later this year.

New Maggie's Centre for D&G

A new Maggie's centre, to be located at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, will provide free, tailored practical and psychological support for people at all stages of cancer, as well as their family and friends. Maggie Keswick Jencks used her own experience of having cancer to create a new type of cancer care and the first Maggie's centre opened in Edinburgh in 1996. One of the design team for the new centre is Lily Jencks, Maggie's daughter who is working with architect Roz Barr. Maggie's and NHS Dumfries and Galloway are also exploring the best means of serving a region which is largely rural, with a population spread across a large geographic area.



Empty Homes Matchmaker Scheme introduced to D&G

Project to bring unused homes back into productive use

Dumfries and Galloway Council is encouraging owners of empty properties – as well as prospective buyers – to take part in the Empty Homes Matchmaker Scheme, a free service designed to bring unused homes back into productive use.

The scheme delivered by the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership (SEHP), connects owners wishing to sell empty homes with people actively looking to purchase them. It offers a straightforward, no cost way of increasing a property's visibility and helping revitalise communities.

Through the Matchmaker platform, owners can register their property online, upload photos, and share key details that will be visible to prospective buyers. Owners receive email notifications when someone expresses interest

and can decide whether to make direct contact. Benefits for owners include a simple registration process, exposure to hundreds of potential buyers, and access to wider guidance, such as council tax, renovation support and links to the local Empty Homes Officer.

Buyers, meanwhile, can browse available empty properties, view photos and partial addresses, and submit an enquiry form that is passed directly to the owner. Many empty homes – whether needing renovation or ready to move in – offer affordable opportunities for homeownership or investment.

Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, said:

“Bringing empty homes back into use is a vital part of strengthening our com-

munities, supporting local Galloway.”

website at:



The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership (SEHP), connects owners wishing to sell empty homes with people actively looking to purchase them

services, and increasing the housing options available across Dumfries and

Owners and buyers can learn more and register through the council's

www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/housing/ and search for buy/sell empty homes

A7 closure tonight

The A7 south of Hawick will be closed for resurfacing between 19:30 and 06:00 on Thursday 19 March.

Transport Scotland's operating company BEAR Scotland will be managing the works, which will see over 1,000 metres of road surface renewed at Parkdail, immediately south of Hawick, and a further 774 metres resurfaced at Teindsie, seven miles south of Hawick. During these works, a signed diversion route will be in place between Hawick and Canonbie via the A698, A6088, B6357 and B7201, adding an additional 17 minutes and 8.1 miles to journeys.

Tommy Deans, BEAR Scotland's South East Network Manager, said: “We understand that road closures of this nature can be disruptive and so we've planned for these works to take place overnight to reduce their impact.

“We'll do what we can to ensure we mitigate noise disruption to local residents, including completing the noisiest operations by 11pm each night. We thank the local community for their patience while these essential improvements are completed.”

All work is weather dependent and subject to postponement in the event of adverse conditions. Live traffic information is available from Traffic Scotland at www.traffic.gov.scot or on X at @trafficscotland.



Amy Gospel (r) with the Esk Singers entertained Ewes SWI and guests

President Tessa Lumley welcomed members to the March meeting. Joining us were members from Canonbie, Westerkirk, Newmill and Teviothead SWIs to be entertained by the Esk Singers under conductor, Amy Gospel.

This delightful choir meets in Longtown and has members from both sides of the border.

The absolute enjoyment of singing shone through in a variety of songs from The Rose of Allandale, Sunshine on Leith to Singing Bird and Highland Cathedral. Marjorie Pringle thanked the choir and musicians for such an uplifting evening.

Supper was served, the raffle drawn and the evening concluded with a hilarious game of pass the parcel. Amy

judged the competition for favourite CD or LP with written reason for choosing it.

First for the visitors was Beverley Eyre from Westerkirk SWI with Souled Out and the Ewes results were, 1, Marjorie Pringle, (A' The Way to Galloway) 2, Tessa Lumley, (Pink Floyd Relics) 3, Grace Brown, (Marion & Ian).

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Craig Hoy MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for South Scotland region

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Farming on the Border



In association with
C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Farming with Gilly Fraser

Dedicated Holstein farmer awarded

A Penrith dairy farmer who has dedicated her life to the Holstein breed has been honoured with a prestigious award.

At the 2026 Borderway UK Dairy Expo, Sue Armstrong of Cumbria's renowned Wolfherd, was presented with the John Dennison Lifetime Achievement Award. It was established in memory of dairy farmer and Holstein breeder John Dennison and recognises individuals who serve as role models within the industry.

Sue and husband Michael suffered the devastation of losing their entire herd during the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001 but rebuilt the herd by carefully selecting animals from some of the UK's leading cow families.

Now the elite herd has around 90 milking cows and 120 followers, all homebred, and the family continue to see success in the show ring.

Sue has been a long-standing supporter of Holstein Young Breeders and has served as Treasurer of the Border & Lakeland

HYB for more than 20 years.

H&H Dairy Sales Manager Glyn Lucas presented the award and said it was very well deserved.

"Sue's passion for dairy farming, her commitment to the Holstein breed and her tireless support for young breeders make her a truly deserving recipient. Her dedication to the industry and to the people within it perfectly reflects the qualities that this award was created to honour."

Sue said it was a great honour. "John Dennison was a great man for our Holstein breed and a tremendous family man. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with HYB – it is such a tremendous organisation for young Holstein breeders."



Government should help fund bioresources

The Green Gas lobby is calling on the Scottish Government to establish a £50 million fund to support the country's farmers to finance modular systems that will reduce their own heating and energy bills and offer the opportunity to diversify their income.

The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) says this fund could see more than 100 farmers benefit from the circular system saving the equivalent of more than half a million tonnes of CO₂, and upwards of £100,000 a year off their bills.

In a Green Gas Manifesto entitled 'Powering Prosperity: Scotland's Biogas Opportunity' launched ahead of the Scottish Elections on 7 May, ADBA highlights how the biogas sector is uniquely positioned to provide dispatchable green energy, cut emissions from the



An example of a biogas installation

hardest to decarbonise sectors, support rural and economic

growth, and cement Scotland's place as leader in biogas and

green energy.

The manifesto also highlights the environmental benefits the sector can bring, including reducing food waste in landfill, and enabling Scottish farmers to replace synthetic fertilisers with the biofertilisers (digestate) generated through anaerobic digestion (AD) – the process used to produce biogas.

ADBA Chair Chris Huhne says it's vital to act now.

"If the Government takes these actions, we could see over 25% of Scottish Gas supply being met by biomethane, and a 50% reduction in the use of synthetic fertiliser – producing massive carbon savings and keeping over £40m in the Scottish economy – thus ensuring energy resilience, supporting Scotland's world famous farming and distillery sector and meet the country's net zero ambitions."

Arla Creamery plans for solar power help

The giant creamery Arla Foods has submitted plans for a solar farm to help power its Lockerbie dairy factory.

The company, which is the UK's largest dairy co-operative, wants to install thousands of panels at the creamery.

Electricity generated will be solely for the plant's use and a direct wire will connect the solar farm to the factory.

Work began last year to invest £90m in the site to focus on the production of UHT and lactose-free milk.

Arla Foods say the proposals will contribute "significantly and positively" to carbon emission reduction targets.

It also says the development will help to address increasing concerns about energy supply security. "Our proposed low impact solar facility will generate clean, renewable energy to supply power directly into the Creamery. At 6 Mega Watt peak (MWp) the solar farm will reduce emissions while enhancing local biodiversity."

If the plans get the green light, the solar farm will comprise nearly 9,000 panels across a 10 hectare (24 acre) site and be surrounded by a security fence.

CCTV cameras would also be put in place which would be activated if there were any intruders to the farm.



This development has a 35-year lifecycle and at the end of its lifecycle, all equipment will be dismantled and removed.

The creamery, which was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth 50 years ago, employs about 242 staff and produces 600 million litres of milk and 42,000 tonnes of cheddar annually.

Young conservationist

Awards ceremonies are generally glittering affairs, but when SRUC student Ollie Kwan was honoured for his dedication to wildlife conservation, he had a rather unusual but very apt audience.

Olli, who studies Wildlife Conservation and Management received the Young Conservationist of the Year Award 2026 from Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) in recognition of his voluntary work with Edinburgh Zoo.

The award was presented by RZSS Chief Executive David Field during a unique ceremony held inside the zoo's capybara habitat, while surrounded by the South American mammals.

Mr Field praised Ollie's enthusiasm and passion for wildlife which he said was infectious and had inspired children and young people to protect, value and love nature.

Since 2025, Ollie has supported events and outdoor learning programmes at the Zoo, including



Ollie Kwan with RZSS Chief Executive David Field and a capybara. Image RZSS.

Summer School and year-round sessions such as the Conservation Action Team (CAT) and RZSS Wild Learning.

Ollie said he was deeply honoured to receive the award.

This recognition is a powerful motivator to continue contributing to the field," he said. "My hope is to inspire others to appreciate and protect the fascinating world of wildlife and nature."

Senior Lecturer John McGregor said Ollie was an exceptional student.

"He was always willing to get stuck in on practical tasks, whether that be getting mucky during path construction activities or out during his Ecology & wildlife identification modules.

"Ollie has a genuine passion for wildlife conservation and truly deserves the recognition bestowed upon him by RZSS."

Litter-pick time in D&G

Dumfries and Galloway Council is encouraging individuals, families, schools, community groups and businesses across the region to take part in this year's #SpringCleanScotland, running from 13 March to 24 April 2026.

Led by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, #SpringCleanScotland is the country's annual nationwide effort to tackle litter by supporting friendly, sociable and active clean up events. Tens of thousands of volunteers take part each year, helping restore and protect local places while building pride in communities.

Dumfries and Galloway has a strong record of leading the way nationally and in Langholm, Margaret Pool and the Langholm Initiative (formerly it was Bonnie Langholm) has organised litter picks over the years and will be doing so once again this year. The information kiosk will be opening up again on 30th March and from that date equipment and bags will

be available to pick up between 11am – 1pm.

In Eskdalemuir, Al Green, Chair of the Community Council along with a group of volunteers is organising a litter pick – Al is a regular cyclist and is aware that the roadsides can be strewn with cans, carry out papers and other rubbish.



Byelaw passed restricting public access to farmland around Center Parcs

Law will also prohibit access to the holiday village

A new byelaw has been passed restricting public access rights over land at Huntlaw and Muirfield Farm, Hassendean, near Hawick. The Council says this marks a key step in regulating land access for the proposed Center Parcs holiday village, following the council's recent approval of the £450 million development.

Councillors had previously unanimously agreed to make the byelaw and to undertake a statutory consultation process. The byelaw will come into operation in April 2026.

Councillor Euan Jardine, Leader of Scottish Borders Council

“We warmly welcome the decision by Scottish Ministers to grant the new Byelaw, which recognises the careful and balanced approach taken by the Council in considering the needs of Center Parcs as it makes this major investment in the Scottish Borders, alongside the rights and traditions of public access in Scotland. This positive decision provides clarity and confidence for the project to move forward, bringing significant economic and employment opportunities to the Borders, while ensuring our communities and environment are respected.”

In December 2025, Scottish Borders Council Planning Committee approved Center Parcs' planning application, to create Scotland's first Center Parcs holiday village at Huntlaw Farm, Hassendean, near Hawick.

The E&L is not aware of other byelaws that have been passed restricting public access rights



in Scotland. Landowners are obliged under the 2003 Land Reform (Scotland) Act to use and manage land in a way which is responsible in respect of access rights. Scotways, the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society told the E&L that

“To the best of ScotWays' knowledge, the only other byelaws made under S.12 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 that restrict public access apply to Crawick Multiverse at Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway. However, it is our understanding those byelaws are less restrictive than the ones recently confirmed in respect of Huntlaw and Muirfield Farms, near Hawick to facilitate the operation of the proposed Center Parcs holiday village, in that informal access out of opening hours of the Inventory Designed Landscape is permitted. In contrast, the Huntlaw and Muirfield Farms byelaws will prohibit access to the holiday village to non-residents at all times.”

Active April for Bowel Cancer

BBC Scotland's Debate Night is coming to Hawick on 25th March. This is a live topical debate show which focuses on issues affecting Scotland and beyond. People can apply to be a member of the studio audience and send in questions for Debate Night's panel. The panel varies from week to week. To apply to be part of the audience you should go to BBC Scotland Debate Night online and fill in the form. Stephen Jardine is the host and he has been involved in various broadcasting roles including presenting on BBC Radio Scotland and STV's Scotland's Today.

Help with oil heating

The UK Government has announced this week that it is giving the Scottish Government £4.6 million to support vulnerable people with heating oil costs. There is no confirmation as yet as to how this money will be used to support those who depend on boilers that need heating oil for their hot water and heating. Approximately 130,000 households in Scotland are believed to use heating oil.

Prostate cancer awareness month

March is prostate cancer awareness month. broadcaster and actor Grant Stott is supporting Prostate Scotland and encouraging men across Scotland to talk openly about prostate health. Grant recently had his first PSA test after hearing Sir Chris Hoy speak about his diagnosis. Although he had no symptoms, being 58, he decided to get checked and encouraged his long-standing school friends to do the same.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland, affecting around one in ten. Early prostate cancer often develops without symptoms, meaning men can feel completely well. A PSA test is a simple blood test arranged through a GP. It is not part of a national screening programme, but it is the starting point for discussions about prostate health.

As Scotland's prostate cancer and disease charity, Prostate Scotland provides information, advice and support to men and families affected by prostate

prostate
scotland



Actor and broadcaster, Grant Stott is supporting Prostate Scotland

disease across the country. The charity is encouraging men to remember three key facts: Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland: It often develops without symptoms; From 50, speak to your GP about a PSA test or from age 45, if you have a family history of prostate cancer (dad, brother, uncle) or are a black man.

Online subscriptions to the

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GREAT IDEA FOR A GIFT! STARTING AT £1 A WEEK



It's early spring in the Tinnisburn garden

Horticultural guru Helen Knowles takes us through the dos and dont's of March gardening

March is always a month when the weather swings from extremes, cold and wintery one moment then warm and spring-like the next but the one constant is the steady lengthening of the days and the undeniable fact that spring really is on its way. It's always wonderful to see the first spring flowers braving the elements and this month it's the turn of Daffodils, Tulips, Leucojum, Scilla, Helleborus, Corydalis and many more.

Many of our early flowering plants are referred to as spring ephemerals, being the first to come back into growth and flower. Generally woodland plants they emerge early to take advantage of the sunlight that penetrates through the bare branches of deciduous woodland before the light is reduced by the summer canopy of leaves. These plants grow, flower and die back to dormancy by early to mid-summer where their underground storage organ, bulb or corm will patiently wait until the following spring to do it all again.

Just because they are classed as woodland plants doesn't mean that they can't be grown in a normal garden setting, the growth of later-flowering plants having the same effect as the woodland canopy closing in and also covering up the



Jetfire D6



Corydalis solida 'George Baker'

dying foliage of the ephemerals as they retreat underground. The garden at NTS Branklyn shows this perfectly with layer upon layer of plants making it a spectacular garden throughout the year.

The other things taking advantage of the sunlight, although that has been in short supply of late, are seeds. The first weed seedlings are beginning to appear in the bor-

ders so it's time to deal with those before they become much bigger but it's also a timely reminder to begin sowing seeds of hardy annuals such as sweet peas, cosmos and cornflowers, along with some of the hardy veg (peas, leeks and brassicas) plus salad crops and perennials for the garden. The ground is still cold so seeds are best sown into pots or trays but even in an unheated

greenhouse or cold-frame they will start to germinate very quickly.

Mulch-time

March is mulch-time! I know I mention it every year but this because it is important. It will make your life so much easier, and your garden will thank you for it if you put down a good (ie 2-3 inches or 5-7cm) thick layer of the stuff on

the beds around your plants. Don't mulch over the crowns of your plants otherwise you'll end up suppressing them as well as the annual weeds that you're trying to keep in check. The mulch has the added benefit of helping to reduce moisture loss and keep the roots of the plants cool during the summer months; the soil may be water logged now but it's surprising how quickly it can dry out

once the sun puts in an appearance again. Any organic material is good; home-made compost (needs to be weed seed free), bark chippings, composted bark or very well-rotted manure are all ideal.

Alpines

If you need a bit of inspiration to get you back out into the garden then it is Alpine show season and if

you have never been to one then you really are missing out as not only are the plants in the show simply stunning but there is always a plant fair with a mouthwatering selection of plants on sale from some of the UK's top nurseries. The AGS & SRGC Hexham Spring Show is on Saturday 28th March at Hexham Auction Mart, NE46 3SG from 11am to 3.30pm



Fritillaria meleagris



Iris reticulata Katherine Hodgkin



Helleborus x hybridus (double)

Scintillating Scillas



Helen Knowles with her National Collection of Scilla (Chionodoxa)

Tinnisburn Plants Garden + Nursery + Tearoom

Scotland's Gardens National Scilla Collection

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

Admission £5.00, children free.

✦ Nominated charity:

Fauna & Flora International

30% & Eden Valley Hospice 30%.

✦ Refreshments

✦ Plants for sale

✦ Dogs on leads welcome

Upper Millsteads, Canonbie, DG14 0RY

Open Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March

10am-4pm

www.tinnisburn.co.uk phone:07544 373815



...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Hopes that energy works will solve power cut problems

Villagers are hoping planned works by energy giants SPEN will go a long way towards reducing Newcastleton's vulnerability to power cuts.

The Scottish Energy Power Networks company has notified the village of a two-phase scheme of work to upgrade electricity supplies.

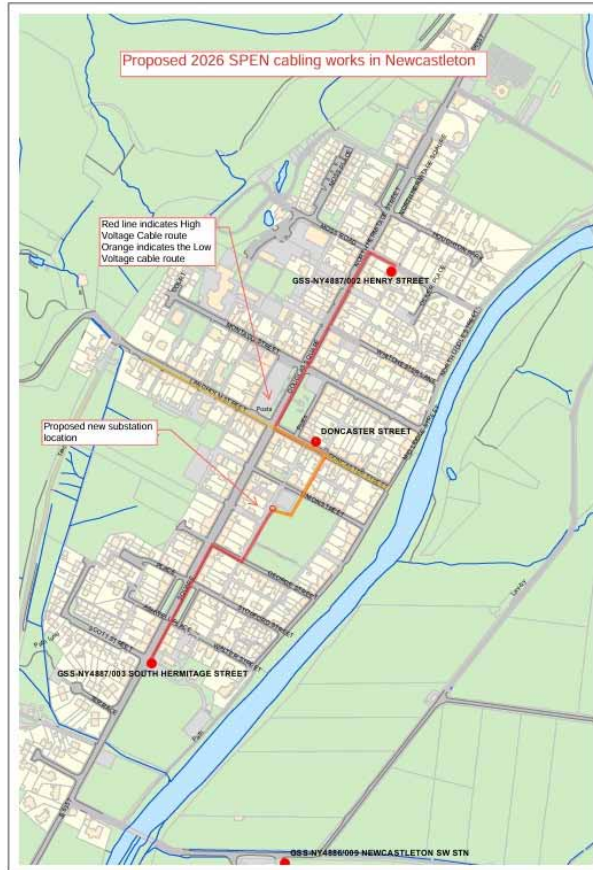
Details of dates haven't yet been published, but it's understood that the first phase of the work will see a new secondary substation installed in the park between Union Street and George Street.

Preparatory work for this LV network reconfiguration will involve installing ducting along Doncaster Street and Langholm Street. The LV overhead line will be removed along the full length of both streets.

Work will also be carried out on Union Street and George Street to allow for cables to be laid and jointing works.

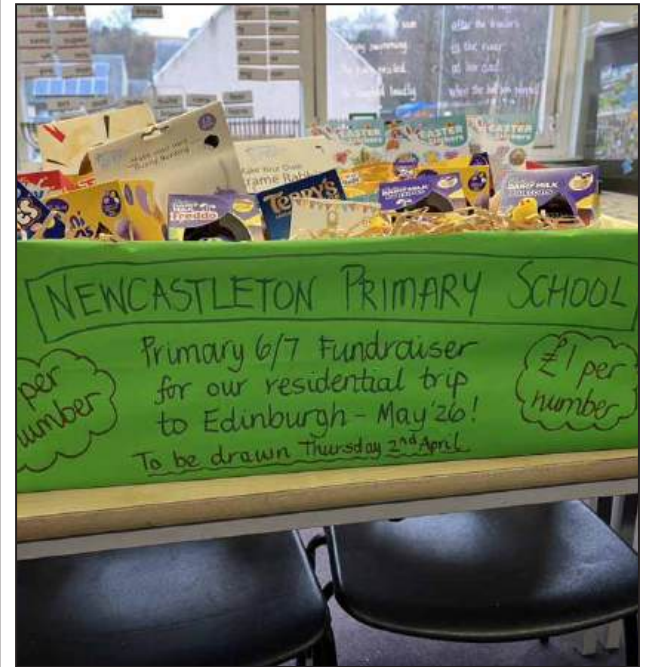
The second phase of the project will see a High Voltage cable installed from South Hermitage Street right up to Henry Street.

This will interconnect all the substations in the village and SPEN says will provide much greater resilience in the event



Map shows proposed works

A hankering for an Easter Hamper



Newcastleton Primary School pupils have been working hard to raise money to help pay for their residential trip to Edinburgh in May.

Now villagers can contribute to the cause and might even win a special hamper packed full of bursting with Easter-themed goodies.

The Easter hamper is making special appearances in the village shops from now till the draw date of Thursday April 2nd, so there's still time to get your tickets.

It costs just £1 per number and all the money raised goes towards the trip, which is always one of the major highlights of the school year.

Care worker cruelty case

A Newcastleton-based care worker who acted aggressively towards a 91-year-old woman in her care has pleaded guilty at Selkirk Sheriff Court.

Lindsey Cass admitted offences including repeatedly shouting and swearing at the pensioner who suffers from dementia. She also admitted acting in an aggressive manner, as well as repeatedly uttering offensive and derogatory remarks towards her.

The Court heard she told the woman she did not deserve to be looked after, taunted her, threatened her with violence and failed to treat her with sufficient care.

The offences happened at a house in the village between September 1st and 12th last year.

The Crown accepted a plea of not guilty to a charge of assaulting the pensioner to her injury.

Sentence was deferred for background reports, and the case will resume at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on April 7.

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

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

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

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

Happy Ruby Anniversary
Congratulations to **JEAN & JOE JAMIESON** married in Eskdalemuir Church 14th April 1985
love from all the family

Let us know if you have something to celebrate....
Births
Birthdays
Engagements
Graduations
Anniversaries
Passing your Driving Test
.....anything really!

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of
CARLA JONES & JOHN DEANS
on 1st March 2025
here's wishing you both all the love and luck in the world!

Send details to:
alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

drop in to the office
or call us on 013873 80012

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



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

Mon	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 0UX
	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches - Capability Scotland	1-4	
	Creation Club age 6+ - Easter crafts	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

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

The Studio
AGM
will be held on
Tuesday 22nd April
at 7pm
in
The Buccleuch Centre
All Welcome

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

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
	Langholm Rugby Football Club vs Broughton RFC	Milntown KO 3pm
Sun 29th	Open Mic	Eskdalemuir Community Hub 2pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2611 answers next week

- Which hedgerow fruit is often used to produce a red fortified gin?
- Who was Britain's best loved poet who died in his beloved Cornwall in January 1981?
- On which motorway are the Clackett Lane services located?
- Who was the first woman to ride in the Grand National?
- In 1995, what senior post did Pauline Clare become Britain's first woman to hold?
- In which year was Red Nose Day first held?
- On to which motorway did a British Midlands Boeing 737 crash in January 1989?
- At 23 feet (7 metres) thick, which Welsh castle has the thickest walls of any building in Britain?
- Which is the largest resident coarse fish to be found in British lakes and rivers?
- Which building was described by Prince Charles in 1988 as an Academy for Secret Police?
- In which Scottish loch is St Serf's Island?
- Where is Britain's largest indoor theme park?
- What is the oldest white hill figure in Britain, dating from 150 BC?
- Which airport is located near Kegworth in Leicestershire?
- Which Brighton hotel was the target of an IRA bomb attack on the Government in 1984?
- Which art gallery outside of those in London attracts the most visitors?
- What is the largest county or region in Britain?
- Who, immortalized in a Shakespeare play, is believed to have founded the city of Leicester?
- Which castle on the Isle of Skye has been home to the Clan MacLeod since 1270?
- Which title did Princess Anne assume in 1987?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2610

- Marconi transmitted the first transatlantic radio signals from there.
- Isle of Man
- Paraplegic games
- Cumbria and Northumberland
- Hatfield House
- Bury St Edmonds
- From the saffron crocus which was cultivated in the surrounding fields
- Chilterns
- Knebworth House
- Minack Theatre
- North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire
- Tudor
- River Teme
- Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- Mute swan
- Ely
- I
- On the edge of a £1 coin
- Birmingham
- Mortgage Interest Relief at Source

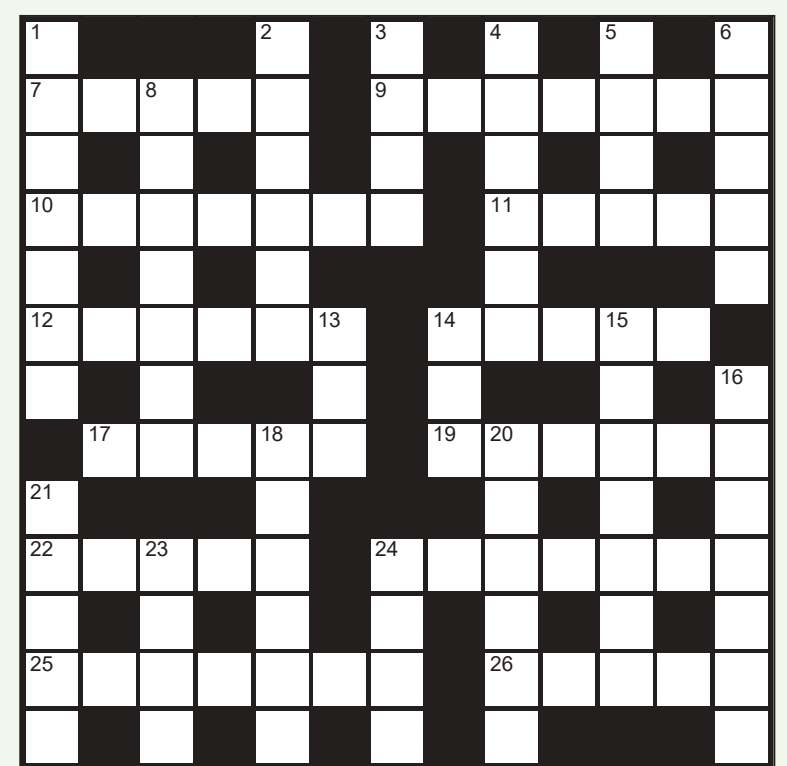
Crossword 2610

Across: 7 Elbow, 9 Unusual, 10 Letters, 11 Soapy, 12 Weaver, 14 Weirdo, 17 Detest, 19 Sprint, 21 Fetch, 23 Skiddoo, 24 Optimum, 25 Sheen.
Down: 1 Newly-wed, 2 Abstract, 3 Rubs, 4 Aussie, 5 Puma, 6 Play, 8 Where, 13 Rot, 14 Was, 15 Reindeer, 16 Outgoing, 18 Scheme, 20 Plies, 21 Flog, 22 Tots, 23 Some.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2611 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across**
- Indian class (5)
 - Simian (3-4)
 - At the apex (7)
 - Affliction is cruel cut (5)
 - Russian sleigh (6)
 - Energetic (5)
 - Tolerate (5)
 - Rarely encountered (6)
 - Get new guns (5)
 - Lunges (7)
 - No good (7)
 - Simultaneous firing of artillery (5)
- Down**
- Transparent overlay (7)
 - Do over (6)
 - Engrossed (4)
 - Tie up rescue craft (6)
 - Spine separator (4)
 - Earth (5)
 - Champion (7)
 - Facilitate (3)
 - Ballet step (3)
 - Sun protector (7)
 - Income earned in the past (7)
 - Show song (6)
 - Pre-revival zombie (6)
 - Arrogant (5)
 - Blows away (4)
 - Cooking measure (4)



Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie on tragic occurrences

The Kirkyard Pool continued

The girls were full of life and high spirits and one of them, possibly giving little thought to the dangers of this treacherous pool, took a leap from the breast of the bank into the river. On coming to the surface, the girl realized that she was beyond her depth and, being unable to swim, called loudly for help.

One of her companions immediately went to her assistance and a desperate struggle took place between them. The remaining girl, seeing the peril her companions were in, rushed into the water in a brave attempt to rescue them. By this time the three were quite out of their depth and in the frenzy of the awful predicament frantically struggled together for a considerable time.

One of the girls ultimately scrambled to the side in an exhausted state, but her two companions sank in the midst of the pool and drowned. The screams of the terrified girls, as they struggled for life in the deep waters, attracted the attention of two boys in the kirkyard nearby, who in turn gave the alarm to two men, one of whom scrambled down the steep bank and, throwing off part of his clothing, dived into the river. He soon recovered the body of one of the victims which was lying in about four feet

of water but had considerable difficulty in recovering the other as it was lying in the deepest part of the pool. In the meantime, assistance was sent for to the town and Dr Anderson was soon on the scene.

Everything possible was done to restore animation but all efforts towards that end proved of no avail as life was extinct in both cases. The girl who survived the awful tragedy was perfectly paralysed with fright and could give no coherent account of the dreadful occurrence, passing out of one fit into another during that night: she was very ill for some time afterwards.

Bathing

Needless to say, the event caused a painful sensation in the town and for years afterwards remained a depressing remembrance as the annual event for which the young folk were preparing, came round. Wauchope Water was ever a favourite bathing place at that time, even more so than today, and I find an interesting statement giving the depth of the various pools frequented by the youthful bathers of the neighbourhood – Upper Dumlings 10 feet; Lower Dumlings 10 feet the Auld Wa's Pool (opposite Wauchope Castle site) 6 feet; Kirkyard Pool 5 feet 8 inches; The Plump 7 feet; Meikleholm Pool 6 to 7 feet.

Owing to the contracted form of all these pools, only a small rise of



water in the river would cause a considerable increase in depth. These measurements were taken during the fateful summer referred to when the water was probably at its lowest point. With the passage of time, together with a thousand

and one floods, present-day measurements may now have little relation to those taken 70 years ago. The mention of these "weel-kent" pools still haunts the memory as one recalls the foolhardy daring in the enjoyment of our boyhood

bathing exploits, not unmixed with the dread of what might have been.

With this digression we will retrace our steps by way of the Galaside to the desolate uplands of Eskdale. Tragic Snowstorm

It would appear that the lot of the Eskdale sheep farmers, particularly during the winter months, was ever a precarious and not altogether an enviable one. Up to the beginning of 1800 it seems to have been the practice during snowstorms of great continuance, to drive the sheep over to the more sheltered pastures of Annandale. To those living under altogether different circumstances at the present time, it is scarcely possible to conceive the extent to which this was carried. One instance, taken from a memorandum at this time, may be given. On 15th January 1802, the thaw came which relieved many thousands of sheep. For a great number of years, such a general "flying" for pasture had not been experienced. Every part of Nithsdale, Annandale and the lower parts of Eskdale that could take in sheep was filled with them from Crawfordmuir, Tweedsmuir, Ettrick and Yarrow, the head of Teviotdale, Ewes and Eskdalemuir; and had the frost continued eight days longer it is difficult to imagine what the farmers would have done.

Looking back...

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 12th 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 10,154 sheep comprising of 6,609 hogs and 3,545 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 12th March 2026.

PRIME HOGGS

Very similar numbers forward sold to an increased ringside of buyers ensuring all classes were dearer again on the week. A shortage of best export sheep on offer with majority consisting of hill bred hogs regularly selling away 400ppk plus. Well-bred and fed heavies 56kg plus selling between £200 to £225 throughout the sale. Incorporated in the weekly sale of prime hogs was the Prize Show and Sale of Blackface hogs, with the judging in the capable hands of James Linsley who awarded the prizes as follows:

20 BLACKFACE PRIME HOGGS

CLASS 1 – 30-39 KILOS
1st – Wallace, Finland 42kg £165

CLASS 2 – 39-45 KILOS

1st – Reid, Glendearg 53kg £187

2nd – Taylor, Heathery Hall 53kg £180

3rd – Simpson, Kirkhouse 49kg £173

CHAMPION – Reid, Glendearg 53kg £187

The directors, auctioneers and all the auction mart staff would like to thank all parties involved with today's show and sale. Top price per head of £232 for Beltex hogs from J Wales, Thackwood.

Top per kilo of 524ppk for Beltex hogs from R & J Lines, Killocrow.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries and entries.

Overall average 383.26ppk (SQQ 404.07ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Beltex £232 Thackwood, £228 Station Yard, £222 Thackwood, £220.50 Corstane, £218 Thackwood, £215 Sperrin Bawn, £212 Auchentaggart, £206 Killocrow, £202 Nookclose

Texel £227 Sperrin Bawn, £224 Rowan

Garth, £222 Mainside, £220 Sperrin Bawn

& Mainside, £219, £216 Sperrin Bawn

Suffolk £216 Serrin Bawn, £215 Newton-

hill, £207 South Bogbain, £202 Riverside,

£201, £200 South Bogbain

North Country Cheviot £214 South Bog-

bain, £195 Station Yard, £190.50

Guardsmill, £175 & £173 Carruthers

Hill Cheviot £210 The Shaw, £198, £195

& £194 Floors Farming, £191 Kirkton, £189

Cleughbrae, £186 Macharoch, £184.50

West Scales

Mule £200 Sperrin Bawn, £193 Main

Street, £191 Blackcleugh, £185 Kirkhouse,

£184 Galleywreay, £183.5 Broomhills, £182

Wydou Eals

Blackface £199 Amicle, £187 Glendearg,

£180 Heathery Hall, £176.50 Glendearg,

£176 Peela Hill, £175.50 Kirkhouse, £175

Glendearg, £174.50 Kirkhouse & Long-

burgh Fauld, £174 Glendearg

Charollais £195, £191 South Bogbain,

£182 Nookclose, £179 Outer Huntly

Dutch Spotted £192 Galleywreay

Half-Bred £190 Nookclose, £172.50 Gal-

leywreay

Border Leicester £190 Mainside, £171

Camphill & Newtonhill

Cheviot Mule £188 Blackcleugh, £179

Corstane, £178 Marwhirn, £177 West

Scales, £172 Marwhirn, £171 Outer Huntly,

£166 Oswie & Catslackburn

Easycare £178, £170, £169.50 Home

Farm, £160 Monellie & High Trewitt

Herdwick £166 Todsyehead, £156 Pas-

ture House, £155 East House

Jacob £165, £152 Kinloch Farm

Blue Faced Leicester £165 Round Mead-

ows

Valais Blacknose £165 Moss View

Swaledale £164 Meadows Farm, £150 Low

Stokoe, £148 Westernhopeburn, £146 Pas-

ture House, £145.5 Westernhopeburn,

£141 Round Meadows

Gritstone £161, £159 Prestrie

Ryeland £160 Woodburn House

Dorset £155 Ballycoach

South Down £152 Woodside

Lleyn £139 Sir Archibald

Shetland £120 Newtonhill

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex 524p, 500p, 497p & 490.3p Kil-

locraw, 488p Newtonhill & Lurgan, 485.3p

Lurgan, 465.1p Killocrow

Texel 463.2p Killocrow, 458.3p Newtonhill,

£176 Peela Hill, £175.50 Kirkhouse, £175

Glendearg, £174.50 Kirkhouse & Long-

burgh Fauld, £174 Glendearg

Charollais £195, £191 South Bogbain,

£182 Nookclose, £179 Outer Huntly

Dutch Spotted £192 Galleywreay

Half-Bred £190 Nookclose, £172.50 Gal-

leywreay

Border Leicester £190 Mainside, £171

Camphill & Newtonhill

Cheviot Mule £188 Blackcleugh, £179

Corstane, £178 Marwhirn, £177 West

Scales, £172 Marwhirn, £171 Outer Huntly,

£166 Oswie & Catslackburn

409p Knockreoch & Milnmark

Herdwick – 425.6p Todsyehead, 422p

Pasture House

Charollais 420.5p Redford Smithy, 416.3p

Outer Huntly, 400p Newtonhill

Cheviot Mule – 420p Catslackburn, 410p

Marwhirn & Prestrie, 405p, 396p Marwhirn,

395p Catslackburn, 389p Crosslee

Mule – 415.8p Camphill, 415p Blackcleugh,

408p Prestrie, 403p New Hummerbecks,

398.8p Broomhills, 396p Guardsmill, 395.2p

Todsyehead

Easycare 410p Monellie, 405.1p Home

Farm, 400p High Trewitt, 380p Home

Half-Bred 401.2p Galleywreay

Gritstone 397.5p, 393p Prestrie Farm

North Country Cheviot – 389p Guardsmill,

376p Carruthers, 342.1p Station Yard

Jacob 381.6p Kinloch, 353p Redford

Shetland 375p Newtonhill

Swaledale – 374.4p Pasture House,

373.1p, 370p Westernhopeburn

Blue Faced Leicester 358.7p Round

Meadows

Badgerface 354.8p New Hummerbecks

Dorset 352p Ballycoach

Valais Blacknose 351p Moss View

Dutch Spotted 342.9p Galleywreay

Border Leicester 335.3p Newtonhill,

292.3p Mainside

Ryeland 326.5p Woodburn

South Down 281.5p 9 Woodside

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A larger entry of 3,541 cast forward dearer

again on the week especially the plainer end

of ewes with 14 active buyers operating on

several different accounts. Many more cast

sheep will be needed going forward into the next few weeks, please contact our auctioneers for any enquires.

Heavy ewes topped at £400 for Texel ewes

consigned by W Tindale, Paradise, Durham.

Light ewes topped at £178 for Blackface

ewes from CJ & NC Brodie, Allfornaught, Wa-

terbeck and J & D Longlands, Tone Hall, Hex-

ham.

Rams topping the sale at £245 for a Blue-

facel Leicester from A Carruthers & Son,

Peela Hill, Bewcastle.

Heavy ewes

Texel £400 Paradise, £375, £350 Green

Hills, £320 Paradise, £310, £300, £295 Ter-

crosset, £285 Orchardton Mains.

Beltex £298, £260 Tercrosset, £250 Beck-

foot, £245 Paradise, £240 Hobbiesburn.

Charollais £272 Thackwood, £244 Beck-

foot, £230 Hillside House, £228 Beckfoot.

Suffolk £270 Rowan Garth, £260, £250

Skimafilly, £242 Lairdlaugh, £235 Rowan

Garth.

Dutch Spotted £250 Kimmeter Green.

Bleu du Maine £250 River Side

Blue Texel £245 Cleughbrae.

Bluefaced Leicester £232 River Side,

£215 Leithenhall £212 Laverhay.

North Country Cheviot £222 West Stobs

Wood, £198 Westend, £196 Drumreach,

£193 South Bogbain.

Mule £210 Synton Park Head & Gibbs Hill,

£198 Tone Hall, £192 Beckfoot, £190 South

Bogbain.

Cheviot Mule £196 River Side, £188

Slealands, £186 Gyatesmyre.

Light ewes

Blackface £178 Allfornaught & Tone Hall,

£167 Allfornaught, £160 Toft House, £158

Greenside & Maidencoats.

Easycare £166, £157 Pilmore, £154 South

Bogbain, £152 Twizell.

Hill Cheviot £148 Irvington & Boreland,

£140 Allfornaught, Oswie & Reddis Hall.

Herdwick £145 Low Longlands, £140 Pil-

more.

Swaledale £140 Allfornaught, £126 The

Craggs, £124 Farnbury.

Rams

Bluefaced Leicester £245 Peela Hill.

Texel £235 Struanlee, £215 Killocrow.

Beltex £230 Slealands, £228 Longthwaite

Villa.

Suffolk £228 Boreland, £225 Chapel.

Rouge £225 Beckfoot.

Berrichon £200 Higher Roserow.

Charollais £195 Pilmore.

Hill Cheviot £185, £160 Boreland, £160

Hollanmake, £156 Eldinhope.

Blackface £164 Greenside, £160 Peela

Hill.

North Country Cheviot £160 Riverside

Cottage.

Swaledale £160, £150 Low Stokoe.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to 490.3p (400.8p)

Standard to



The E&L Gallery

PRICKLY CHARACTER: A fantastic photo of a hedgehog captured by Stan Wilson of Langholm

Camera: SONY RX10

Coming soon to

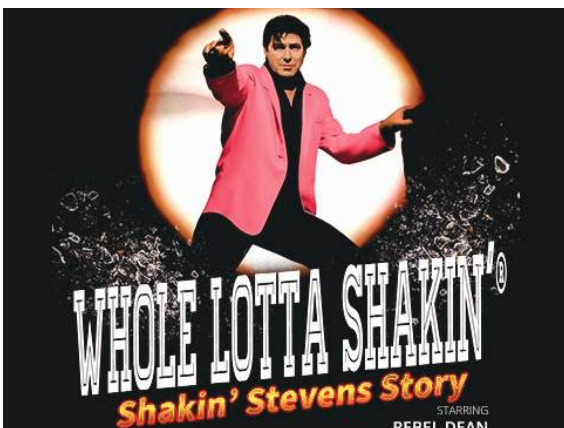
the **Buccleuch Centre**
LANGHOLM

'Dignity – The Deacon Blue Experience'

is Scotland's Premier 6-piece all-live tribute to the iconic Scottish band Deacon Blue. They come to the Buccleuch Centre on **Friday 10th April** and anyone going along should expect an evening celebrating the hit songs and music of one of Scotland's best loved Bands. Hits will include Raintown, Ragman, Circus Lights to Real Gone Kid, The Hipsters and Fergus. The band is currently on their Scottish villages and towns tour and look forward to sharing the joy of all the iconic hits, fan favourites and fun. If you're a Deacon Blue fan this should be a great night.



The following night, the **11th April**, sees **The 'Shakin' Stevens Story'** at the Buccleuch Centre. A 'Whole Lotta Shakin' should also be a great night with west end star Rebel Dean guiding the audience through a full audio-visual spectacular with his live band. It will include rare footage and images which tell the story of the rockin' boy from Wales and his rise to chart topping superstardom. The show features unforgettable hits including 'Green Door', 'Oh Julie', 'You Drive Me Crazy' and 'This Ole House'....as well as the classic songs which were covered by Shaky from artists such as Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, Ritchie Valens and Elvis Presley.



Both concerts start at 7.30pm and people are advised to book in advance. www.buccleuchcentre.com

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- The Ainslie Charitable Trust
- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
- Crossdykes Community Benefits Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland
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Langholm well represented in Regional Schools Under 15s

Girls' Football

By Calum Graham

On Thursday 12th March, the Dumfries and Galloway School's Regional Under 15 Football Team entertained Ayrshire in the new Girls Under 15 National Trophy Competition. The game was played at Gala-bank, home of Annan Athletic Football Club, on a wet and windy afternoon. However, that didn't deter from the quality of football displayed by both teams on the day.

In a frantic start where D&G had opportunities to take the lead, Ayrshire were first to score with a well finished goal however, it wasn't long before D&G were level when Orla McClelland finished from close range.

Despite Ayrshire taking a 3-1 lead, the teams were evenly matched in an end-to-end game with opportunities to score at both ends and the D&G Goalkeeper, Kara McKenna making some outstanding saves. D&G reduced the deficit when Orla McClelland rounded the goalkeeper to finish well from a tight angle. However, every time D&G reduced the



GREAT EXPERIENCE: Four Langholm girls were in the D&G squad for last Thursday's regional match against Ayrshire

lead Ayrshire managed to find another goal to extend their advantage. D&G scored again with a well finished goal from Lily Trotter following a through ball from Orla, however, Ayrshire managed to keep their noses in front and following two more goals ran out 6-3 winners.

The final scoreline was harsh on the D&G Team

who played some excellent football against a team that included several players from Rangers, Celtic, Kilmarnock and Ayr United Football Club Teams.

Renfrew

The Dumfries and Galloway Regional School Team will now travel to Renfrew on the 24th March to play

Paisley and District in the next game of the group stage.

Many thanks to Annan Athletic Football Club for allowing the use of their pitch and facilities for the game, and to the Ayrshire team for making the long journey down to Annan. A special mention must also go to all the club coaches from local football clubs in the region

who obviously do a fantastic job with the girls week in and week out developing them into fine footballers.

SQUAD: Three Langholm players were in the team - Lauren Davidson (Langholm Academy); Isla Davidson (Langholm Academy); Ronnie Holliday (Langholm Academy); Layna Pearson (Langholm Academy).+

Dumfries serves up new indoor tennis centre

Tennis

A new indoor tennis centre at the King George V sports complex in Dumfries is now open to the public in what is a huge step forward for the sport in Dumfries and Galloway.

Delivered through the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis (TSIT) fund, the new facility provides a year-round home for tennis for the

schools, clubs and players in the many nearby rural communities.

This is a hugely significant moment for sport in the area, as Dumfries and Galloway has never before had a home for tennis which provides year-round access to the sport. It will be an inclusive, accessible and affordable facility providing more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to play tennis.

Work began in February and the three-court centre is now to launch with an official opening event planned for a later date.

1000 membership

Dumfries and Galloway already have a strong tennis network with 11 registered clubs and total membership approaching 1000. The new centre gives an excellent opportunity to grow participation, giving clubs and players the chance to play year-round and removing the weather as a barrier to playing time.

In recent months local coaches have been going through coaching qualifications with Tennis Scotland.

Nearly £1.7 million of funding from the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis fund, operated by the LTA, LTA Tennis Foundation, SportsScotland and Tennis Scotland, has helped make the plans a reality. That amount includes a £211,347 loan to Dumfries and Galloway Council. Alongside the loan, the council has provided nearly £500,000 with the total cost of the project set to be £2,361,937.

A challenging financial climate and increased costs in the construction industry caused a rise in the total cost of the facility from original projections. However, the organisations involved put in a concerted effort to find additional funding to ensure the project went ahead. Hollywood Trust, a local charity which helps young people in the area, are making a significant contribution of £200,000.



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Super Saturday brings super game to Dublin

Rugby

By Keneth Pool

Super Saturday, 14th March, was the final round of the 2026 six nations, with all 3 matches being played one after another during the afternoon and evening. Having been one of the best six nations championship for many years there was a very interesting set of permutations to be played out.

Scotland were in Dublin and a win against the Irish would not only see them claim their first Triple Crown since 1990 but would also see them challenging for the six nations title. Should Ireland win, the Triple Crown would be theirs and they would still be in the race for the title. England were in Paris and a win for France would see the French crowned six nations champions, England were keen to show what they were made of after a disappointing set of results. Wales took on Italy in Cardiff with the hosts desperate for their first win of these six nations.

First up was the match in Dublin. Although Scotland's last victory in Dublin was 16 years ago, their recent excellent form has the Scottish supporters hoping that this may be their



Darcy Graham touches down during the Ireland-Scotland Six Nations fixture
Photo Courtesy of Scottish Rugby

year. The Irish on the other hand were determined not to lose that long winning streak against the Scots on home turf.

The match kicked off and was only 2 minutes old when Ireland was in for their first converted try scored by Osbourne. That man Darcy Graham hit back with a try before Sheenan went in for Ireland's second try. At half-time Ireland led 19-7, following another try from Robert Baloucoune establishing control despite Scotland's pressure. In the second half, Scotland briefly closed the gap with tries from Finn Russell and Rory Darge, but Ireland responded imme-

diately with scores from Darragh Murray and Tommy O'Brien, extending the lead and securing the bonus point. In the closing minutes O'Brien scored a second try and Jack Crowley added a penalty to make the final score 43-21. So, despite some good patient play and scoring three tries, Scotland's hopes of a win in Dublin, the Triple Crown and a possible six nations title were dashed on the pitch of the Aviva Stadium. Disappointing for both the team and Scottish supporters but with 3rd place in the six nations secured they could reflect on three good wins, 2 of them being

Murrayfield crackers and their best championship for some time.

Ireland now had the long wait for the match in Paris to find out whether an English victory would see them crowned champions. As it transpired with less than three minutes of the match left England scored what looked like a winning try (converted) to take the score to 45-46. Ireland must have thought things had gone their way and had the champagne ready when with the clock in the red, France won a penalty and the French number 10 Ramos, cool as a cucumber, slotted the kick and France had won by 48-45. What an ending to what was a great six nations with France champions for the second-year running.

The 2026 championship will be long remembered for some great rugby. For Scotland soundly beating both England and France in Edinburgh, Italy winning twice in Rome, England only winning 1 match, a record number of tries scored (111) and Welsh prop Rhys Carre on the hoof for a memorable try against Ireland.

We now look forward to some summer rugby with Fiji at Murrayfield in July and the tough Autumn Tests against New Zealand, Australia and Japan in November.

Three Paralympic curlers train in Dumfries



Curling

Photo by Dumfries Curling Ltd

Three of Great Britain's Paralympic curlers who competed in Italy at the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics train at a converted bowling hall in Dumfries.

Jason Keane, 39, was involved in a serious accident four years ago and spent five months in hospital. He is now competing at the Paralympics in the mixed doubles. Stewart Pimblett watched wheelchair curling on TV at the Torino 2006 Paralympics, found there was no club to join, and founded one — England's first wheelchair curling club. Karen Aspey only took up curling in 2021. She made her Paralympic debut at Milano-Cortina 2026 last week.

All three train at Dumfries Ice Bowl — a venue originally built as an indoor bowling hall, converted to curling by the local authority in 2010, and now home to around 400 members with wheelchair and able-bodied curlers competing side by side. It is one of Scotland's most quietly remarkable sporting venues, and this week it has three athletes on the Paralympic stage to show for it.

£285k in prize money at Kelso

Horseracing

By Gordon Brown
A super-competitive Kelso card on Saturday, carrying £285,000 in prize money, forms the middle-leg of the Racing Post Go North Finals weekend.

The three-day extravaganza kicks off at Musselburgh on Friday and concludes at Carlisle on Sunday.

Holding centre stage at Kelso is the £100,000 Betwright Herring Queen Series Final Mares' Novices' Handicap Hurdle, a race won for two of the last three years by Fergal O'Brien.

The Gloucestershire trainer struck in 2023 with Bonttay

and last year with Leloopa as well as going close in the £50,000 version in 2024 when Politacus was only pipped into second place by half a length by Stuart Crawford-trained Lily Du Berlais - it was a renewal rescheduled in early May after its initial slot was abandoned.

O'Brien said: "The whole format is a great idea, and we have always found a horse or two to send up. This mares' race is also a fantastic idea and it's usually a tremendously competitive affair.

"It has been good to us in the past and we have aimed Eastern Shores at it this year. The only problem is she's rated 101 and may make the final cut



as there are so many entries."

Dan Skelton is currently running away with the jump trainers' championship title race, and he could be double handed with Belle Le Grand and First Candidate ridden by Liam Harrison and Tristan

Durrell respectively.

Paul Nicholls, with whom Skelton learned his trade, is likely to be represented by handicap debutant Beauty In The Park, a comfortable winner at Taunton last month.

Judicial Deference bids to

extend his winning sequence to four-in-a-row in the Betwright Handicap Hurdle for the Go North Cab On Target Series Final.

Jointly trained in Cheshire by Oliver Greenall and Josh Guerriero, he has been raised a total of 10lbs for wins at Musselburgh, Haydock and Kelso.

Danny McMenamin has been booked for the ride on Glen Road by Sue Smith and Joe Parkinson in the Betwright Novices' Handicap Chase for the Go North Forgive 'N Forget Series Final.

The West Yorkshire raider's only previous visit to Kelso yielded a success over hurdles in December last year.

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