

**Castleholm
Community Trust
holds third AGM**

SEE PAGE 5



**Forgotten Fleece
Tales returns to
Creation Mill**

SEE PAGE 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8635

Established May 1848

Thursday April 16, 2026

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

Eskdale Hotel makes it to final in Scottish Hotel Awards

Langholm's prime hostelry nominated in three
categories in prestigious industry competition



The Eskdale Hotel is delighted to announce that they have been short-listed as a finalist in the 9th annual Scottish Hotel Awards prestige 2026 in three categories. The Prestige Hotel Awards were created to showcase and reward outstanding service within the hotel industry in Scotland. Voted for by the public this independent, non-political platform is completely free to take participate in. 3, 4, and 5 star hotels can register and members of the public have one opportunity to nominate their top hotel, putting them forward to be considered across the categories.

Once voting closes, the hotels with the most nominations are longlisted

as Prestige Hotel Awards' finalists. All hotels will be considered by judges who will assess the hotel within the categories which received most votes.

The awards have a number of sponsors and this year the main one is Innis and Gunn. The Eskdale has been shortlisted in the Best Hotel Restaurant, Best Afternoon Tea and the Best 3 Star Hotel categories. The gala final dinner will be held on 14th May. We wish the Eskdale Hotel well and hope they are successful in these awards.

John, John and team said "Thank you so much to whoever voted for us, it means so much to the team here. We are forever grateful for your ongoing support and custom."



John Galloway and Az Abaran of Langholm's Eskdale Hotel are grateful for the nomination

INSIDE



**Colin hangs up
his boots after
20 years with
Langholm RFC**

End of season win and deserved retirement for veteran Langholm player, Colin Dirom. Full story on Page 16

Family Announcements

Deaths

TURNBULL, Margaret

With sadness, we announce the passing of Margaret Armstrong Turnbull.

Margaret passed away peacefully at Lydiavfield, Annan, on 2nd April.

Beloved wife of the late Zander, a very special lady who was "Aunty Mag" to many, and a wonderful friend to all who knew her.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday 21st April at 12 noon in Langholm Cemetery.

Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, may be given in aid of Langholm Day Centre.

Refreshments will be served following the service at The Eskdale Hotel.

Margaret will be deeply missed by all her family and friends.

All family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896557941

Thanks for Sympathy

PORTEOUS Isabella

Brian and his family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the expressions of sympathy and support following the loss of Ella.

The family thanks all those who attended the cremation service, sent cards and condolences and generous donations to Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

Finally thank you to Morag Crossan for her comforting service and to Nicholson's Funeral Directors for making life so much easier at this very difficult and sad time.

In Memoriam

Scott Morrison

Precious memories of our dearly loved son Scott, taken from us in an accident on 22nd April 2020, aged 22.

*Of all the special gifts in life
However great or small
To have you as our son
Was the greatest gift of all*

Our Shining Star, Forever in our Hearts

Love forever and always, Mum and Dad.

Funeral Services

SHAUN TURNBULL 24 HOUR
LOCAL, INDEPENDENT, FAMILY PROFESSIONAL
FUNERAL DIRECTORS CARE & SERVICE

28 LANGHOLM STREET
NEWCASTLETON
TD0 0DX

Chapels of Rest in
Langholm & Newcastleton

PHONE: 07896 557 941
EMAIL: shaunturnbullfuneraldirectors@outlook.com

Nicholson's
Funeral Directors
(Independent Family Run)

**Bank House, Longtown &
33 High St, Annan**

For a professional, compassionate
and caring service

24 hours a day Telephone
01228 791098 or 01461 759214

Chapels of Rest
in Langholm, Annan & Longtown
Pre-paid Funeral Plans available

Church Notices

ESKDALE &
LIDDESDALE
PARISH
linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish
Church

Welcome to worship

Sunday 19th April

**JOINT SERVICE
at
Newcastleton 10am**

**No services at
Canonbie and
Langholm**

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

A wakeup call for the Whaup as Curlew numbers decline

By David Braithwaite

On first hearing the Curlew in March we are uplifted by the prospect of the end to winter. We would be forgiven for thinking that all is well with the Curlew, but Curlews are in crisis, that crisis is real and that crisis is now.

The 21st April marks World Curlew Day and the 10th anniversary of Mary Colwell's epic 500 mile walk across Britain and Ireland to raise awareness of the plight of the Curlew. Landscape scale changes to their habitats are causing Curlews problems and numbers are declining.

Scotland is home to 15% of the world breeding population yet here Curlews are declining faster than anywhere else in the UK. The Curlew is now a high priority species.

The Langholm-Newcastleton Hills Site of Special Scientific Interest is an interesting case in point. The "Whaup" has all but disappeared, yet the SSSI is there to protect the Curlew.

Recently acquiring landowners are relatively new conservation land managers. Some actions to help moorland birds have been undertaken. But this is evidently not enough to restore the Curlew population. Species recovery takes detailed planning and a commitment to make it happen. Just across the border in the northern fells of Cumbria, staff at RSPB Geltsdale are protecting Curlews and the results are positive.

Oxygen Conservation is on record as stating their business plan relies upon public grants and carbon credit income. There is no grant or carbon credit income for direct Curlew conservation. Personally, I believe there should be. But the stark reality of capitalising nature conservation in the Oxygen Conservation approach is that you may only get what gets paid for, potentially leaving Curlews out in the cold.

The task of saving Curlews carries a big responsibility



Curlew or Whaup by Polly Pullar

but save Curlews we must, we have strong emotional and cultural connections with them. They should not be considered expendable and simply lost in Scotland's rewilding, destocking, renewables and afforestation policies for its uplands. If ever a March arrives without the Curlew call, then these hills, and our lives, will be much the poorer.

Initiative Chair, Mairi, speaks at Edinburgh's Saltire Society

Mairi Telford Jammeh spoke at the Edinburgh branch of the Saltire Society lunch on Saturday 11th April about the work of the Langholm Initiative in her capacity as Chair.

The society supports arts and culture in Scotland and is a small non-profit organization which gives awards to writers, people who have made a contribution to Scottish cultural life and graduates. For almost 90 years the society has been committed to Scottish innovation and creativity, from social housing design and literature to public art and emerging creatives. Today, the Saltire Society upholds its founding principles of inspiring culture and enabling re-

sponsible debate for contemporary Scotland.

The Society has a broad international outlook and is not affiliated with any political party.

Members were interested to hear about Langholm and Eskdale, the work of the Langholm Initiative, what is happening in the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve and our famous sons including Hugh MacDiarmid and Thomas Telford. Attendees were also interested to know about Langholm's connection to Neil Armstrong. They were familiar with Common Ridings and asked about Langholm's and were genuinely interested in all going on in the Muckle Toon.

Most of the audience and



members are retired professionals who meet regularly and have a variety of speakers. There are other branches of the Saltire Society in other parts of Scotland. The lunch was held in the Royal Scots Club

and Margaret Pool accompanied Mairi and enjoyed meeting the members of the society. They were both made to feel very welcome. A vote of thanks was given by the Chair.

Support for oil and LPG users

Households struggling with the rising cost of oil and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) for heating will be able to apply for £300 of support with their bills from 1 April. The Scottish Government's Emergency Heating Oil Scheme will be available to users of both heating oil and LPG who are struggling with recent price increases. Payments will be made directly to suppliers, where possible, to help qualifying households to place an order.

The scheme, which will be administered by Advice Direct Scotland, is envisaged to run for up to six months with two opportunities to apply during that period. It will focus on low-income households, including those in receipt of means-tested social security, but will also be open to applications from other people who have unavoidable additional heating needs and may face hardship including people with disabilities or those at risk of self-rationing fuel.



Support is available for households struggling with the rising cost of oil and LPG

Photo by Boom photography

Around 7% of households in Scotland rely on oil or LPG, with rural and island areas disproportionately affected. It is estimated that approximately 142,000 Scottish households use heating oil and around 27,000 use LPG.

The support amount is to be £300 per eligible household. Target households are primarily low income and vulnerable households in-

cluding those receive means tested benefits such as universal credit, Scottish child payment, housing benefit, income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, pension credit and income-based employment and support allowance. Others may also apply. Applications can be submitted online at www.homeheatingadvice.scot or by calling 08000 487413

Fewest homes built in 2025 for eight years

The Scottish Government has announced that there were 17,336 new homes built and 14,999 new builds started across the social and private sector in 2025. An annual decrease was reported for all-sector starts – a 6% decrease and completions, a 13% decrease between 2024 and 2025. The private sector built 13,725 homes and the social sector built 3,611 homes. In terms of starts, building work on 11,929 was started by the private sector and 3,070 homes by the social sector.

Leaving out 2020, when Covid 19 affected building activity, the private sector completed fewer homes in 2025 than in any year since 2017 and started fewer homes than in any year since 2013. For social housing, completions were the lowest since 2014 and starts were the lowest recorded since this data series began in 1997.

In 2025 the Affordable Housing Supply Programme



delivered 6,289 affordable completed homes, approved 5,833 homes, and started 5,856 homes. As we know the local situation has been disappointing with Loreburn Housing Association pulling out of its much publicised plans to create extra care and affordable housing on the Murtholm site. It's hard to see any other housing association or private company building homes here given the continued rising costs and lack of available land that can be built upon.

Canonbie flower show needs help

Canonbie flower show and vintage rally is calling out for community volunteers. This much-loved local event has been run by volunteers for generations. But to keep the Canonbie flower show and vintage rally thriving they need new helpers from across the community. If you enjoy community events, meeting people or just want to help keep a local tradition alive they'd love to have you involved. Check out the Facebook page on how you can volunteer and get involved. Contact 07825 615824

Fly-tying champions

Langholm Fly Fishing club held a little competition to tie a fly of the competitor's own design recently, using all the techniques they had learnt up to that point. Adult winner was Richard and junior winner was Freyja. Each won a box of threads. Well done to both of them.



Slim-Jim Gregor cooks up a treat

It's great to see a much-slimmed down Gregor Fisher demonstrating his cooking skills on Facebook. Gregor, who used to live in Langholm and who is probably most famous for his role as Rab C Nesbitt is said to have made lifestyle changes because of his health.

Gregor can be seen on Facebook cooking traditional Scottish fare such as stovies, tattie and girdle scones and more exotic dishes like Bang Bang chicken.

In December he even gave us a hangover cure. He's looking great and here's hoping his new slim self gives him many more years in which he can provide us with his humour.



Morag Mitchell and the winning Dundee Cake

President Tessa Lumley welcomed members and friends to our April meeting in Ewes Hall. The speaker was Greg Hanson, a paramedic from the local ambulance service.

Greg outlined the changes he had experienced in his years of working in the local service and described the demands and rewards of his job. Members asked a variety of questions which he answered with humour and sincerity. Marjorie Pringle gave the vote

of thanks for a most interesting talk.

He judged the competitions as follows - First Aid Tip - 1, Morag Mitchell, 2, Nancy McLure, 3, Lorraine Morton. Two Cup Cakes - 1, Morag Mitchell, 2, Marjorie Pringle.

Susie Grant judged the Federation competition for a Dundee cake and this was won by Morag Mitchell. The evening was concluded by the drawing of the raffle and a discussion of business matters.

Book your eyetest today in your
Personal care and attention from your first appointment with us.
Spectacles and Contact Lenses to suit all budgets etc

ERIC HAGAN Longtown
Tel: 01228 7916
Brampton
www.erichaganopticians.co.uk

WANT TO TEST RIDE THIS BIKE?

BIKESEVEN cycle service

Come to **BorderBlast.v2 Demo Event** at RockUK/7Stanes - Newcastleton
Sunday 19th April 09:00 till 15:00hr
Register on www.bikeseven.co.uk
or just turn up on the day. (ID document required)

Letters to the Editor

Send yours to: E&L Advertiser,
47A High St, Langholm DG13 0JH
or email: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

Where have all the bees gone?

Where have all the bees gone? We have a cherry tree in our garden which has plentiful blossom. In past years, say 5 years ago you needed to raise your voice to make yourself heard such was the number of bees swarming around. Last year a score or so. This weekend just one. Does anyone know why? Is this unusual to our location or is it the same elsewhere in Langholm? We miss our bees.

Michael Clarke,
Langholm



Following an article on the BBC website last week about common ridings being at risk the E&L contacted Langholm's Common Riding committee. The article had said that 'in the Scottish Borders a working group had been established to safeguard the future of the ridings with organising committees citing unsustainable costs.' It also said that in Dumfries and Galloway some towns have difficulty attracting riders to act as principals.

Ross Mabon, Secretary of Langholm Common Riding said 'The Members maintain close relations with both committees from the Scottish Borders Common Ridings along with Dumfries and Galloway events, although, many of them find themselves in very different situation to ourselves. Langholm Common Riding has so far been able to maintain a stable financial position and is self sufficient in regards fund raising. This means that we are not reliant upon any financial support from Dumfries and Galloway or Scottish Borders Council - this bucks the trend compared to many other



organisations.

'The members also continue to plan our expenditure, where possible, well into the future and benefits from many very kind donations (both large and small). The Common Riding could also not continue without all the support and time so generously volunteered.

'There are also a number of other groups in the town who both directly and indirectly

benefit the Common Riding; the Young Riders and Castle Craigs Club to name two who help foster the spirit of the Common Riding for people of all ages.'

Centrepiece

We're delighted to hear that our Common Riding can be sustained going forward and that it has such strong support as it is the centrepiece of Langholm's annual calendar. A huge effort

from volunteers goes in to making it happen and there's no doubt that organisations like Langholm Playcare foster the 'Common Riding spirit' in the youngsters of the town creating the future supporters of our ancient traditions. Once again we will be voting for our Cornet in May and it's likely that the voter turnout will be greater for that event than for the Scottish election on 7th May.

Make sure you register to vote

With only a few days left to register to vote in the Scottish Parliament election, the Electoral Commission is urging people to register before the deadline at 11.59pm on Monday 20 April. Registering takes minutes and can be done online at gov.uk/register-to-vote. Voters who are already registered will have received a poll card, which tells them where and when to vote.

Electoral Commission research shows that young people, students and those who have recently moved are less likely to be registered to vote. Anyone previously on the register who has recently moved home or whose details have changed will need to register to vote again. Those who do not have a fixed address, whether due to homelessness, being a part of the Gypsy or Traveller community, or because they are, or have been, in care, can still register to vote using a declaration of local connection.

Cahir Hughes, Acting Head of the Electoral Commission



Scotland, said:

"On Thursday 7 May, people across Scotland will head to the polls to have their say on the issues important to their daily lives. If you've recently moved, or you're a student living away from home, it's especially important to check you're registered and you can do that quickly and easily at gov.uk/register-to-vote.

"If you do not have a fixed address to register to vote at,

you can still take part by registering through a declaration of local connection. For this election, eligibility for care experienced young people has been extended up to the age of 21, from 16, so we'd encourage those who need to make use of this option to do so. Importantly, voter ID is not required for the Scottish Parliament election. If you're registered to vote, all you need to do on the day is turn up and have your say."

Golden eagles are spreading their wings into north of England

Restoring Upland Nature (RUN) led by Cat Barlow, formerly of the Southern Uplands Partnership and the Langholm Initiative has announced that the organisation will be working with Forestry England on a golden eagle reintroduction project in the north of England.

A piece on their social media page says

"We're thrilled that Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds has approved £1m of additional funding to explore a new golden eagle reintroduction programme. This presents a truly exciting, and potentially game-changing moment for the return of golden eagles to Northern England. Our success to date is testament to the strength of collaborative working between conservationists, raptor study groups, gamekeepers and land managers, and to the incredible support of thousands of people across communities in southern Scotland.

"With the backing of the Department for Environment, Food



and Rural Affairs (Defra) and our partner Forestry England, we now have the opportunity to replicate and build on this approach in Northern England. Our priority will be to listen, to work in partnership, and to ensure that golden eagle recovery supports both nature and the people who manage these landscapes, so that everyone can enjoy the thrill of seeing golden eagles flying high once again across the uplands of the UK.

"Spread over three years, the funding from Forestry England

will enable RUN to invest in highly trained staff, foster community engagement, and carry out selected translocations. The funding news comes as Forestry England published results of a feasibility study which has found England has the capacity to sustain populations once more. You can read more about this here: <https://www.forestryengland.uk/nature-wildlife/golden-eagles>. The findings of this study will guide us in our work with partners including Forestry England."

Castleholm Community Trust holds its third AGM



Trustees inform public about progress and development of aims

Castleholm Community Trust Chairman, Roger Maxwell, opened the Annual General Meeting by confirming that a quorum was present and that apologies had been received and minuted. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved as circulated. Trustees reported a further year of regular meetings, strong commitment, and continued engagement with user groups through quarterly consultations, ensuring that community views inform decision-making.

Site Management and Improvements

Significant progress has been made in improving the appearance and usability of the site. Works included vegetation management around river areas, paths, and the Millennium Bridge, supported by the council's community payback team. Although winter storm damage was limited, ongoing maintenance addressed moles, tree works, and general upkeep. Trustees also highlighted infrastructure challenges, land-

use constraints, and the need for longer-term solutions supported by external funding. While parts of the site remain under-used, there is growing local enthusiasm and a clear vision for a sustainable, income-generating community asset.

Governance and Finance

Members received the annual accounts and trustees' report for the year ending 31 December. An error identified after circulation meant that, in line with trustees' responsibilities, members were not asked



Photo: Glen Laidlaw

to approve the accounts at this stage. Corrected figures will be returned to the board before resubmission for approval.

Trustee Elections

Roger Maxwell and Duncan Elliott retired by rotation and were re-elected by show of hands for new three-year terms. Colin Graham, the sole co-operative trustee appointed

under Article 33, also retired and was approved by members to continue for a further year.

Roger then opened the meeting to the members of the public present.

Fishing Rights Proposal

A proposal was raised to let fishing rights to a local fishing and fly-making club to support youth participation. Trustees noted

the river stretch is short and may require oversight by a wider authority. Roger Maxwell will consult Dennis, who has expertise in River Fishing Authority matters, to clarify permissions and legal requirements.

Roads, Seating, and Events

Trustees do not believe the trust is responsible for the main road through the

Castle Hall area, though some shared responsibility may exist. A broken bench near the Old English Kirk is believed to be the responsibility of Buccleuch Estates, who will be informed. Concerns regarding event materials being left behind were noted, and trustees agreed these should be removed promptly after events.

Castle, Access, and Woodland

Langholm Castle, marking its 500th anniversary this year, continues to deteriorate. Trustees will meet with Historic Scotland to discuss maintenance within conservation guidelines. Issues were noted with the cricket club road crossing, woodland condition between Duchess' Bridge and the school, and parking in the central tree-lined area. Trustees will revisit a historic agreement with the Eskdale Foundation following its AGM.

Food Week at Gilnockie Tower

It's food week at Gilnockie Tower. On Saturday 18th April you can step into the world of the Border Reivers at Gilnockie Tower and discover what was really on their table. You can join the Teviotdale Steel Bonnets for a session that looks at the food of a reiver which offers a fascinating look at how they sourced food, what they ate, and how they survived. You can book a place on the website. www.gilnockietower.co.uk/food-week/

Canonbie Community meeting

Canonbie Community Enterprise is holding a public meeting on Tuesday 28th April at 7pm in the hall to update people about the post office and shop. The organisation will present progress and the challenges encountered and is asking for community support by attending. More help in the way of volunteers is needed and the group is seeking feedback on products stocked in the shop.

Better weather may mean broken kids!

As spring is in full swing and many kids are taking advantage of the nicer weather to head outdoors, NHS 24 is reminding parents and carers where to find trusted advice if a minor injury happens during play.

With longer days and better weather, children are more likely to be outdoors running, climbing, and exploring. While scrapes, bumps, bruises, and sprains are often part of active play, knowing how to respond can help families manage minor injuries safely and confidently at home.

Trampolines, bikes, footballs, and playground equipment are among the most common causes of minor musculoskeletal (MSK) injuries in children. These can include sprained wrists or ankles, and in some cases injuries to the collarbone or elbows after a fall.

Simple steps such as using trampoline nets or encouraging the kids to wear protective gear when cycling or using scooters can help reduce the risk of injury.

Dr Julie Ronald, Associate Medical Director NHS 24, said:

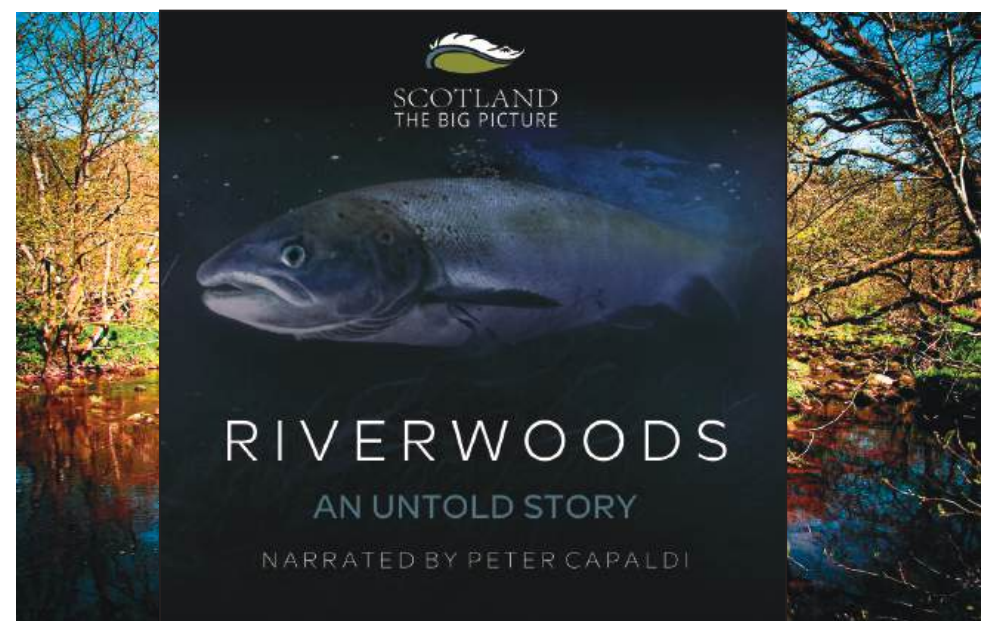


"Being active and playing outdoors is hugely important for children's physical and emotional development. Action packed play is completely normal, but it can sometimes lead to minor injuries such as sprains or strains. If your child has a mild injury, simple steps like resting the area, taking child-appropriate painkillers, using a cold pack to help reduce swelling, and keeping an eye on symptoms over the next few hours and days can make a real difference. Most minor injuries will improve with time and

gentle care."

NHS 24 manages the national health information website NHS inform, which provides clear, NHS-approved advice on treating minor injuries at home. Parents and carers can find guidance on sprains, strains, bruises and when it's safe for a child to return to normal activities. Parents and carers are encouraged to use NHS inform as their first port of call for trusted health advice this spring. Visit nhsinform.scot/spring for more seasonal health advice and guidance.

River restoration project for TVNR



The Tarras Valley has secured the funding to take forward and develop an ambitious river restoration project over the next 11 months. It will look at everything from riverside habitat to re-meandering, wetland creation and creating woody debris in the channel to support declining species such as Salmon.

The team welcome people to attend the project launch evening which will involve a screening of the feature documentary film *Riverwoods* as well as a panel discussion with the project partners including Scottish Wildlife Trust, Tweed Forum and Galloway Fisheries Trust.

It will be held on 22nd April 6:30 – 8:00pm at the Buccleuch Centre in Langholm.

Farming on the Border



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



Farming with Gilly Fraser

New ventures for dairyman Bryce

The team at the Ayrshire-based Mossiel Dairy have been keeping consumers tantalised over the past few days by dropping heavy hints about new ventures and expansions for the operation.

It comes in the wake of the news that German dairy giants Muller have told up to 100 farmers in Scotland and Wales that their contracts will expire next year.

Mossiel owner Bryce Cunningham has been building up the suspense by drip-feeding titbits of information over the course of several days to whet the interest of social media followers.

Then at the end of last week, he announced that the dairy has just started working with three organic farms in the north of Scotland.

One had already lost its contract, and the others had been told their milk wouldn't be collected anymore.

"It's not because they were doing anything wrong," Bryce wrote, "but because the system



no longer works for farms like them. So, we stepped in and asked them to collaborate with us.

And they said yes."

Mossiel knows what it feels like to lose important business – last year East Ayrshire Council ended four years of partnership with them to supply around 150,000 litres of organic milk annually to schools, care homes, nurseries and leisure centres.

Ironically the contract went instead to Muller.

Now, with the three new farms on board, Mossiel has more milk coming in than it's currently selling, but Bryce Cunningham says he still has more announcements to come. So, watch this space!

Government needs to act as effects of war deepen

Farmers' leaders in Scotland say immediate action is needed by the country's Government to help the industry which is being severely hit by the war in Iran.

Global energy markets have been severely impacted by disruption to the Strait of Hormuz, driving oil prices above \$110 per barrel and triggering sharp increases in fertiliser costs.

NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon says this is not just a distant geopolitical issue.

"It is already hitting farm businesses across Scotland hard," he said.

"Farmers cannot absorb these unprecedented cost increases indefinitely. Without urgent government intervention, we will see a contraction in food production, with consequences for consumers and the wider economy."

Governments in Europe have



Photo by planetvolumes on Unsplash

Oil and fertiliser prices have increased exponentially since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz

already acted to support their agricultural sectors, with such

measures as fuel subsidies, fertiliser support and tax relief.

NFUS says our farmers need the same.

The union is urging ministers to introduce a targeted package of emergency measures, including a targeted input support package to offset exceptional fuel and fertiliser costs, including enhanced red diesel rebates and direct fertiliser support.

The union also wants the government to recognise agriculture as a priority sector if fuel has to be rationed in the future.

NFU Scotland says failure to act now will have predictable consequences.

"The cost of intervention today is far lower than the economic and political cost of inaction tomorrow," Andrew Connon added.

"This is about food security, affordability and resilience. Government must act decisively to support domestic production and give confidence to farmers, crofters and growers."

Farming charity seeks to increase awareness

The Scottish farming charity RSABI is launching a new campaign to make people more aware that mediation can play a huge part in helping farming families to resolve conflict.

The initiative has led to a dozen people with a farming background being trained as mediators.

The charity will also help farmers and crofters cover the cost of mediation, by offering an initial £500 towards fees.

It follows a recognition of the stress and anguish which can result when tensions emerge in many different aspects of farming life – whether that be relationship breakdowns or arguments with neighbours.

The mediators will work with those involved to help them move constructively towards an agreement and improved understanding.

They won't suggest solutions but will work impartially and fairly to provide support and always with the assurance of confidentiality.

RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren says it happens far too often that families can reach an impasse.

"The pressure which builds can be immense and the outlook can start to look bleak, but the good news is mediation – which has an 80% success rate – can make a big difference in these situations," she said.



RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren

"By increasing awareness of the benefits of professional mediation we hope to find a way to improve the lives of many farming families. Mediation won't work in every circumstance, but it is definitely worth giving it a go and it is never, ever too late to try to improve a situation."

Rural crime seminars

With rural crime an ever-increasing problem, Harrison & Hetherington are to host two free seminars offering practical advice to sheep farmers.

Members of local police rural crime teams will be present at both events to outline measures to help safeguard equipment, share insights into current rural crime trends, and provide updates on new legislation relating to livestock worrying.

Guidance will also be given on farm and livestock insurance, highlighting the need for vigilance and advising farmers on warning signs they should be aware of. Insurance experts will also clarify the distinction between theft and so-called 'mysterious disappearance' of items.

Local suppliers will be on hand to demonstrate anti-theft solutions, including locks, chains and CCTV systems.

Cumbria Police PCSO Karen Dakin says it's a great opportunity for sheep farmers to hear



directly from the Rural Crime Team about how they operate, the risks currently facing rural areas, and the practical steps that can be taken to reduce the threat of livestock worrying and opportunistic theft.

Intelligence

"We will also highlight the importance of reporting suspicious activity and how intelligence from the farming community plays a vital role in

tackling rural crime.

"There are new laws and penalties around livestock worrying, which remains a persistent issue for local farmers. It's important that people are aware of these changes and stay up to date with the legislation."

The first seminar is on Wednesday May 6 in the Auctioneer Suite at Borderway, running from 6.30pm to 9.30pm and with a pie and pea supper thrown in for good measure.

Exeter University Masters students visit to TVNR

Tarras continues to pique the interest of country-wide groups

Despite the poor forecast, it turned out to be a beautiful day on April 1st for the fifth annual visit of the University of Exeter Conservation Biology, Marine Biology and Zoology Masters Students to the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve. It was a full house in the morning with 60 students on the hill to look at peatland restoration, spotting hen harriers and discussing other topics such as designated sites and shifting baselines.

In the afternoon, half of the group stayed after lunch to get stuck in with clearing little Sitka

spruce saplings from the Lower Tarras clear-fell area. It was all hands on deck and they managed to fill a tonne bag with thousands of tiny saplings, which will help to reduce their regeneration across the site and support the restoration of native woodland habitat.

Phoebe Carter, Graduate placement at the Tarras Valley said 'A big thanks to the group who were so enthusiastic and helped to make a big difference in such a short time. We look forward to their visit to us next year and hopefully they bring the sunshine with them again.'



Storm Dave puts a damper on sky dancers' aerial displays

On Saturday 4th April, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve hosted their first Sky Dancer Day. The name for this event comes from the courtship flying behaviour that the harriers do to secure mate. It's a fantastic display if you're lucky enough to catch it.

The day involved 4 minibus tours onto the moorland to meet with the local raptor group for a bird watching session. The first two groups managed to stay dry and spot the hen harriers (albeit not displaying), who have returned to the reserve now the weather is getting milder. The last two groups were not so lucky, as storm Dave made an appearance with rain and high winds. The intrepid visitors were not discouraged and the group still ventured out. The hen harriers had other ideas and, unfortunately, they had hunkered down to shelter from the weather. Instead, the raptor group gave an interesting talk about the birds and the Tarras Valley team were able to talk in more detail about upcoming projects.

The Raptor Group said, 'It was



Photo by John Wright

an excellent event to welcome new visitors to the area to come and experience our hen harriers, which are a rare sight in the region. It

was great to witness people seeing a hen harrier for the first time and we are really looking forward to being part of the tours next year.'

Eskape to Eskdalemuir

Following last week's launch Eskdalemuir Active Travel Hub, a community-led initiative is working to improve access to walking, wheeling, and cycling across rural Dumfries and Galloway. Building on the Eskdalemuir Local Active Travel Action Plan (2025), the aim is to create an inclusive, sustainable network that helps residents and visitors travel actively and explore the area. Through community activities and an affordable bike and e-bike hire scheme, the team support local access to active travel, encourage community-led tourism, and generate income. This will help sustain and grow active travel opportunities in Eskdalemuir for the long-term. They are also looking to introduce women only rides/walks, mid-week evening rides and walks in the summer months, beginners' confidence rides and many more.

Gardening Club

Eskdale Gardening club is having a talk about old Lakeland farming and the food grown, made and eaten in olden days by Christine Hudson. The talk is to take place on 23 April at 7.15pm at Canonbie Church. Everyone is welcome to go along but it's probably best to let the club know by emailing eskdalegardeningclub@gmail.com or phone 07799 600042.

Could this be food for thought?

Development Trusts association Scotland (DTAS) has launched a guide to help communities in Dumfries and Galloway take ownership of local churches, as more and more close down or are left to ruin. New research by Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) shows a record 320 communities moved to buy or lease local buildings in Scotland in the past 12 years – an increase of 300% since 2024. There is now a significant number of buildings in community ownership across Scotland.

Much of the growth is being driven by the transfer of former places of worship. In Kirkmaiden in the west of Dumfries and Galloway, (pictured) the community is in the process of buying the Old Kirk – also known as the Kirk Covenant – to preserve its unique history and to provide space for community events. At the same time, Inch Community Hall Association is taking steps to purchase Inch Church Hall near Stranraer. It hopes to combat social isolation for people of all ages by creating



a community space which will host events.

Claire Martin, Churches Advisor for Central and South Scotland at DTAS, said: "Church buildings are much more than bricks and mortar – they often sit at the heart of a community and hold shared memories. In some places, they are the last communal space left in a village. Community ownership of a church building is not a task to be undertaken lightly. I have been inspired by community groups across Dumfries and Galloway who are taking on the challenge and seeking creative ways to

ensure that these buildings evolve into a new use, for the long-term benefit of their community."

DTAS has produced a new Churches Crowdfunder Guide to support communities taking on local buildings. The resource gives practical guidance on how to run a successful crowdfunding campaign and is illustrated with recent case studies. One example of a community which took on the running of their church building some years ago is Westerkirk to the north of Langholm which is managed by trustees.

Online subscriptions to the

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

are now available at www.eladvertiser.co.uk

A new way to read the 'Langholm Paper'.
Published weekly and available to read anytime and anywhere using multiple devices from mobile phone to tablet and laptop.

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



Haithwaite Farm project will bring visitors to Penton

Transformation of derelict farm buildings into regenerative tourist hub

Haithwaite Farm is a major rural regeneration and visitor economy development just over the border from Scotland which aims to transform largely derelict former farm buildings into a regenerative tourism hub focused on food, heritage, craft, hospitality and sustainability. It's designed to boost tourism, create long term employment and support local supply chains. It's due to open towards the end of this year.

The development will include a café, farm shop, heritage centre, craft workshops, a distillery, a taphouse bar, an event and exhibition space and two self-catering accommodation properties. The heritage centre will highlight the story of the Border Reivers, drawing on the centuries of local history, while the craft workshops will provide a platform for skilled makers from the local area.

The on-site distillery and taphouse will champion small-batch production and local ingredients. The café and farm shop will also shine a spotlight on local produce and products. The farm is owned and operated by Netherby Hall Ltd, the same company behind Netherby Hall and the Michelin starred restaurant Pentonbridge Inn at Penton which is close to the farm development site. The three businesses are designed to complement one

joined up approach aims to encourage longer stays, repeat visits and deeper engagement with the area, strengthening the wider tourism offer and local economy.

Haithwaite Farm has been designed with the same long-term environmental ambition that underpins both Netherby Hall and Pentonbridge Inn. The company has already invested heavily in renewable energy across its sites, and Haithwaite Farm will build on that foundation with a combination of biomass, solar generation and ultra-short supply chains that reduce food miles. All buildings are being restored within the original farm footprint, reusing up to 80% of the original stonework.

The farm shop, café, distillery and craft spaces will prioritise local suppliers, growers, makers and producers, providing reliable, year round routes to market



CHIC AND MODERN: An artist's impression of how the development will look

for local businesses. Anyone interested in their products being stocked in the farm shop can get in touch with the team at info@netherby-hall.co.uk.

Other services include cultural and educational experiences via the heritage centre and exhibition space, event space, craft workshops and maker spaces, visitor experiences linked to landscape, heritage and sustainability.

The development is expected to boost tourism and visitor spend in the local area, support local farmers, growers, producers and makers, strengthen rural employment, including creating more than 50 year-round jobs and provide new community engagement opportunities through open days, talks and shared spaces

Extensive research has been carried out to ensure the long

term viability of the Haithwaite Farm development and its positive impact on the local economy. It's been shaped by detailed analysis of changing visitor behaviour, particularly the growing demand for authentic, experience led and regenerative tourism rather than short, transactional stays.

Visitors increasingly want destinations that combine high quality food, heritage,

local produce and unique experiences in one place, encouraging longer stays and repeat visits rather than one off trips.

The aim is to attract both local people and destination visitors from further afield, positioning Haithwaite Farm as a gateway to exploring North Cumbria, the south of Scotland and the wider region.



UNDERWAY: Architects and planners have worked to create an inspiring vision



SUSTAINABLE: the development will be focused on food, heritage, craft, and hospitality

47% of Academy leavers choose work over college or uni

Langholm bucks national trend

At the end of March Head Teacher of Langholm Academy Lauren McLean reported to the Council's Annandale and Eskdale Area Committee about the destinations of school leavers from Langholm Academy. This is what she told the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser.

"At Langholm Academy we have a very positive post school destination rate, with 100% of pupils consistently leaving to go into a positive sustained destination. Interestingly, in the last 4 years we have observed a shift in the percentage of young people choosing to leave the area to attend Higher Education at University, in favour of going straight into local Employment.

"In 2020, 36% of our pupils left us to go into Higher Education and this figure has dropped in the last year to 21%. In contrast, in 2022, 31% of our pupils finished school and went straight into employment. This year the figure rose to 47% of leavers going into employment, against the national average of 23% of school leavers going into employment."

Lauren went on to say that the school is working closely with local community



WELL ATTENDED: A previous careers fair held in The Buccleuch Centre

partners, such as the Stevenson Trust, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, Creation Mill, Buccleuch Estates and Langholm Alliance to offer a programme of mock interviews, careers fairs and work experience in the senior phase. She said

"We believe this strong partnership working leads to our young people making positive connections and building relationships with employers, often leading to job opportunities within the local com-

munity. We are now working on developing our Foundation Apprenticeship programme, which offers a SCQF Level 6 (Higher equivalent) qualification, utilising a mix of classroom learning, online learning, work placements and completion of portfolios, without the pressure of a final exam. This style of learning suits many pupils who are more practical and wish to combine their studies with work placements in the local community."

Forgotten Fleece Tales exhibition returns to Langholm

Runs till June at Creation Mill

The touring exhibition, *Forgotten Fleece Tales*, has returned Langholm and this time you can find it at the Creation Mill Textile Centre from now, until the end of June. This exhibition of sustainable textile arts focusses on the theme of wool as an undervalued resource and demonstrates the material's enduring beauty and versatility.

Twenty artists from across Scotland were asked to make pieces using waste wool - raw fleeces that would otherwise be consigned to the scrap heap. The result is an exciting exploration of the place wool holds in Scotland's history and heritage and how it can be reimagined as part of a sustainable future for fashion, design and conservation. The exhibition includes the Tarras Textile which was created by Creation Mill and which went on tour last year as part of Community Land Scotland's 100-year anniversary celebrations.

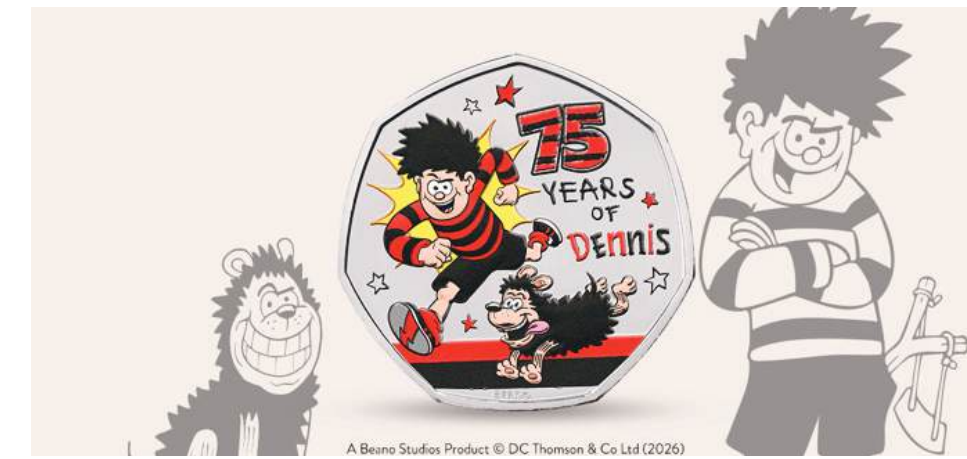
The exhibition runs from, from 10am to 3pm at Creation Mill, admission is free and there are refreshments on hand. The textile scrap store and shop will also be open for a browse. Everyone will be made welcome.



Some of the items on show at Forgotten Fleece Tales at Creation Mill which is on until the end of June



Dennis the Menace 50p coin



Beano lovers will be delighted to hear that the Royal Mint has launched a 50p coin to commemorate 75 years of Dennis the Menace. The Beano was published by Dundee publisher D C Thomson and was part of many people's childhood. The comic strip that included Dennis and his dog Gnasher first appeared in an issue in March 1951. The design for the coins has been created by Beano Studios.

Summer of play and sport

Funding is available for local third sector organisations in Dumfries and Galloway to give children and young people, aged 5 - 18 years a summer to remember through the Summer of Play and Summer of Sport fund. For more information about the funding, criteria and how to apply to the fund see <https://orlo.uk/PAFdX>

The work organisations apply to offer should enhance equity by widening opportunities for children and young people to play, socialize, get active and take part in activities that broaden their experiences, support learning and deliver positive outcomes. Projects should include provision of food wherever possible and focus on chil-



dren and young people within priority groups. These are lone parent families, families that include a disabled adult or child, larger families, minority ethnic families, families with a child under one year old in the household and families where the mother is under 25 years of age.

A total of £100,000 is available and awards will be between £500 and £4000. The Summer of Sport fund has £50,000 available and is for projects for young people from aged 5 to 26 and awards will be between £500 and £3000. Closing date for applications is 12 noon on 5th May.

By Gilly Fraser

25 years 'On the Buses' for Lorna

Telford's employee enthusiastic as ever

Being made to clean a bus as punishment for a teenage prank might well put some people off public transport forever – but for Copshaw's Lorna Elliot it marked the start of a long career.

This year holds two big and significant landmarks for Lorna – she reaches the Big 40 – and also celebrates 25 years with the locally-based Telfords Coaches.

"I can't remember exactly what I did to deserve the punishment, but it was probably a combination of being cheeky, sitting on my backside, throwing stuff around and generally acting the goat," Lorna says.

"I must have made a half decent job of cleaning the bus as I ended up with a Friday night job cleaning the school buses and Sundays cleaning the tour buses, plus anything else that had been out on the Saturday."

Lorna has had a lifelong passion for horses and says she was glad of the work initially because it helped her fund her horse habit. The cleaning led on to shunting buses round the yard, and then she was asked if she would like to try for her bus driving test.

"I said absolutely not! But at the time I had applied for various



Lorna Elliot has had a long career with local firm, Telfords Coaches

different jobs and nobody seemed to want me. So off I went and sat my test, with that out the way I became the youngest driver in the country at the time.

"As I was under the age of 21 I was restricted to what I could drive and how far I could go so I did mainly school runs and service for the first few years, which is probably where I got my passionate hatred of service work from.

"Once I got to 21 and the restrictions were lifted, I did a bit of everything. Service, schools, private hires, rail replacement and the odd tour. My most memorable trip was a Dambusters tour to Germany. It was

absolutely fantastic."

Lorna says she was happy on the buses but never wanted to work in the office, so she always refused when asked to do the weekly schedule. However, she eventually gave in and has been stuck with that task ever since.

"Nowadays I do a bit of everything, office and compliance work mainly and a bit of cleaning but not so much driving.

"I guess the best bit about the job is working for a local family run business. Although I'm pretty much my own boss and I'm sure Alistair will agree with that, I don't know how he's put up with me for so long. I also enjoy seeing satisfied customers."

"Mr & Mrs... take time for each other"

How well do you know your other half?

Brave couples put themselves to the test in a special fundraising evening held in the Bowling Club in Newcastleton to find out.

For those old enough to remember, the evening was based on the popular show Mr & Mrs, hosted by Derek Batey, which ran for more than twenty years on Border TV.

Some of the couples taking part in the Copshaw version weren't even born then, but proved themselves more than equal to the challenge.

They were faced with questions like – "What would your partner save first from a burning house" and "Which food do they hate most" and "How would they rate themselves as a dancer."

Derek Batey's role was handled brilliantly by Greg Cuthbert, who has played the part of MC in countless village shows and events over the years and it's easy to see why. He put all the couples at ease and kept the audience laughing.

The winning couple to be crowned – literally – at the end of the evening, were Shane and Alex.

The event was organised by Val Collins and money raised during the evening is going to Pancreatic Cancer and Dementia charities. So far the total is well above £600 but there's more to come as Val has also organised a raffle for a signed Carlisle United shirt and football, which can be viewed at the Beehive in Carlisle. The raffle will be drawn on May 11.



Railway feasibility progress presented to Borders Council

A report to Scottish Borders Council's Executive Committee on 14 April provides an update on progress with the feasibility work and business case work related to the extension of the Borders railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.

In February last year the UK and Scottish Governments provided written confirmation of up to £10 million of financial support available for the work.

Turner and Townsend have been appointed as senior project manager and stage one of the business case process was submitted to both UK and Scottish Governments last September. A review of that by both Department for Transport and Transport Scotland officials and discussions resulted in a revised proposal being submitted last December which has been agreed. Consultancy work to help sup-

port the business case is out to tender with appointments like to be made in May. This work is estimated to cost approximately £1 million and will take approximately 18 months to complete. The budget and timescales will be officially confirmed once the completion of the procurement process has taken place. It is likely that six major consultancy groups, all named in the report, will bid for the work which is split into two parts. The first work package will assess multi-modal transport options and appraise the work and will identify and highlight the preferred transport option for the area. Some technical/engineering feasibility work is also likely to be included.

The second work package will develop a document that aims to understand and set out the



long-term vision, ambition and socioeconomic opportunities for the transport corridor. The report will also look at identifying the growth potential for the region – economic, social and envi-

ronmental - and help define the ambition for future investment and development.

A dedicated webpage on the Scottish Borders Council website is being developed to provide

project updates and answer frequently asked questions. A report on progress will be provided at a later date on the appointment of the consultants who will deliver the two work packages.

New signs 'Scotland Starts Here'

Folk will have noticed new signs at the Border saying 'Scotland Starts Here'. Signs also include Gaelic wording. The council is replacing old designs with new ones to enhance the visibility of the region's branding and to support the Gaelic language plan. This follows a decision made last year by a Council committee. A Responsible Tourism Strategy endorsed in 2024 included an action to make the Scotland Starts Here branding significantly more visible across the region.



LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 20th April 2026

Mon	Quilters Group Mending Monday	10-1 1-3	Creation Mill DG13 oES
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 OUX
Wed	Welcome Wednesday Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-3 10-12	Creation Mill, DG13 oES Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Thurs	Scrappy Tulip Keyrings	6-7:30	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat	Fair Isle Hat - Session 2 Upcycling Drop-in	10-1 10-2	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat & Sun	Wonder Wool Wales	10- 4:30	Royal Welsh Showground, LD2 3SY

FORGOTTEN FLEECE TALES
OPEN 10-3PM MON-SAT

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

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Advertise on the NOTICEBOARD this size 5cm x 1col only

£15 inc VAT

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

Advertise on the NOTICEBOARD this size 5cm x 2col only

£20 inc VAT

Contact: alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

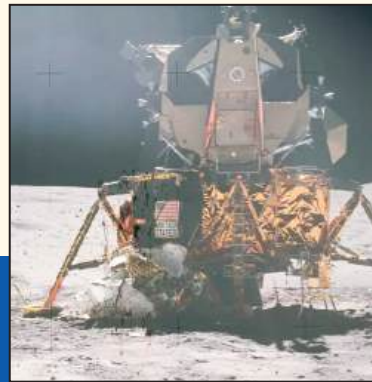
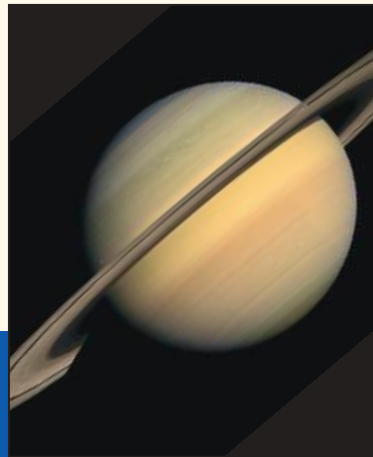
WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Sat 18th	TVNR Guided Bird Walk	Meet Broomholmshiels Car Park 8am - 10am
Sat 18th	Nearly New Clothes Sale	Eskdalemuir Hub 11am - 3pm
Sun 19th	The Legends of American Country Show	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Mon 20th	Dementia Catch-up Group	Langholm Day Centre 1.30 - 3.30pm
Thu 23rd	Eskdale Gardening Club Talk by Christine Hudson	Canonbie Church 7.15pm
Fri 24th	Hard of Hearing Group Brew and a Bletcher	Langholm Day Centre 10.30am - 12 noon
Sat 25th	LRFC Langholm Sevens Tournament	Milntown First Tie - 2pm
Sun 26th	Open Mic Session	Eskdalemuir Hub 2am - 5pm
Tue 28th	Canonbie Community Enterprise Public Meeting	Canonbie Village Hall 7pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2615 answers next week

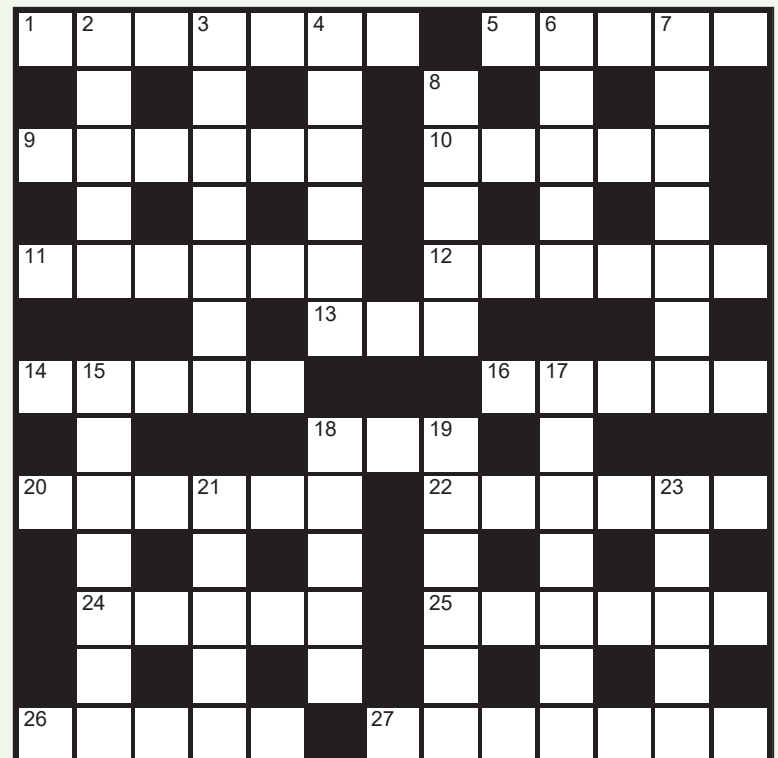
- Which is the hottest planet in the solar system?
- In which year were the spacesuits built that NASA uses: 1974, 1994 or 2004
- What gas is the sun mostly made of?
- What is NASA an acronym for?
- In which year was the first space flight?
- Which planet is the smallest?
- Who accompanied Neil Armstrong on the moon walk?
- What was the first animal to be launched into space?
- Does the moon have no atmosphere? True or False
- What are saturn's rings made of?
- Which planet has the biggest volcano in the solar system?
- Which planet is called the Red Planet?
- 70% of earth's surface is made up of what?
- What two chocolate bars are named after space items?
- What is the closest planet to the sun?
- Which planet rotates on its side with a tilted axis of 98 degrees?
- Which planet has the shortest day?
- Which planet has the nickname 'Morning Star'?
- What is the name of Earth's only natural satellite?
- What is the name of the first spacecraft to land humans on the moon?



NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2615 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across**
- Paris product (7)
 - Office team (5)
 - Chinese province, mostly an island (6)
 - Asparagus serving (5)
 - Summon back (6)
 - Uncover (6)
 - Broadcast (3)
 - More secure (5)
 - Dull-coloured robes undone (5)
 - Welkin (3)
 - Render harmless (6)
 - Purpose (6)
 - In pieces (5)
 - Irrational fear (6)
 - Bundles (5)
 - Fixed (7)
- Down**
- Rub out (5)
 - Trumpet flourish (7)
 - Paper capital? (6)
 - Moor (3,2)
 - Predict (7)
 - Tares ripped up, revealing garden flower (5)
 - "Arabian Nights" hero (3,4)
 - Farthest away (7)
 - Metalworker (5)
 - Joyful expression (6)
 - Rouse (5)
 - Hubbub (5)



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2614

- Egham
- Beautiful gardens
- Red
- Suffolk and Norfolk
- The Pharos (lighthouse)
- Essex
- Reading
- Speak English
- Oil-seed rape
- Squirrel
- Samuel Johnson
- Maid Marion
- Turkeys
- Meadow
- Dundee
- Bat
- Six (M1, M3, M4, M11, M23, M40)
- Linfield Park
- Bank of England
- £10

Crossword 2614

Across: 1 Sierra, 5 Hasten, 8 Flagship, 9 Move, 10 Solo, 12 Idaho, 13 Learn, 14 Peal, 16 Dose, 17 Hosni, 18 Edits, 20 Volt, 22 Seen, 23 Legality, 25 Stares, 26 Exempt.

Down: 2 Igloo, 3 Rag doll, 4 Aah, 5 Happiness, 6 Samoa, 7 Envious, 11 Bath salts, 15 Element, 16 Divulge, 19 Inner, 21 Let up, 24 Gee.

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie with mair handfasting

The King Pool

At the point of the Handfasting Haugh where the two rivers join there is a place called the King Pool. The name is derived from the tradition that a Pictish King was drowned in that pool when crossing the frozen river, after his tribe had been defeated in battle and he himself forced to flee.

The legendary account of this tragic happening which has been left on record and recapitulated in a paper, "Antiquities of Eskdalemuir" by the Rev John C Dick, a former minister of the parish, was read before the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History Antiquarian Society in 1896 and is not without interest.

Within a short distance of the mansion house of Castle O'er a cairn of rough boulder stones used to be pointed out, beneath which was found a rude grave or "cist" where a human body at one time had been buried.

As already observed, tradition says that a battle between the Picts and Scots was fought over the very ground where the ancient sepulchral lies. The Picts were completely routed, and the king lost his life in the swirling waters of the Esk. The body was afterwards recovered, carried back to the battlefield and interred in the stone coffin.

In his book "My Strange Pets" published over forty years ago, Richard Bell, laird of Castle O'er,

a noted local antiquarian and naturalist, devotes the closing pages to a brief outline of the historical aspect of his native parish in which he supplements the story of the Pictish King with some interesting observations.

It appears that the cairn or tumulus over the ancient grave remained in position up to the year 1828, when the stones were carted away and used in the construction of the nearby march dyke. The site of the grave, which is located on Airdswood Moss, where the battle was fought, can still be seen.

Some idea of the dimensions of the huge cairn can be obtained from the fact that over 150 cart loads were removed from the pile before the discovery of the cist containing the human skeleton. One of the finders – so it is said – laid claim to a thigh bone which he carefully washed and took home to serve as a mantelpiece "ornament". The story is still told in the district that on the morning after a convivial party had taken place it was found that the "relic" had disappeared. No trace of it could be found and it was strongly suspected that one of the party, in jocular mood, had carried off the ancient king's femur in his pocket, for what purpose it is not known but the gruesome relic was never heard of again.

A Laird's Odd Pets

In the volume already mentioned,



Castle O'er House, home of the author Richard Bell and a copy of 'My Strange Pets'

the author is revealed to the reader in the role of naturalist, in which interest he had a few equals.

From boyhood, Richard Bell was ever a lover of pets. These, in his younger days, consisted of a variety of specimens of wildlife, for which he contrived to find sanctuary in outhouse or bedroom.

"In the same ratio as my years increased" he writes, "so increased by ambition and the size of my pets until these had run from the size of a white mouse to emus and rheas!"

In the realm of Natural History the Laird of Castle O'er was well known but it was his venture as a breeder of emus and rheas – large birds of the ostrich family – that not only brought

the author unbounded celebrity but was also the means of placing his native Eskdalemuir on the map.

'My Strange Pets'

It was in the year 1874 that the Laird thought he would try his hand at breeding both species of these birds and had a pair of emus, for which he paid the sum of £20, sent from a London dealer in wild animals and birds. The venture met with eminent success and eventually Richard Bell was able to make the claim that he was the first person who had succeeded in breeding emus in Scotland – a claim that was never challenged.

The emu is a native of Australia

where, on its vast plains, the species might have been seen in great numbers when our colonists first settled there. The rhea, a similar species to the emu, is frequently called the South American ostrich.

The fame of the Castle O'er Laird as a specialist in the culture and study of the life and habits of animals, birds and reptiles, imported from many parts of the world, reached far beyond the bounds of his native country. His vast collection, which consisted of a multitude of specimens of wildlife was housed in a veritable menagerie, specially constructed for the purpose, on his large estate in the desolate uplands of Eskdale.

Looking back...

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 9th April 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 6,408 sheep comprising of 3,648 hogs and 2,760 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 9th April 2026

PRIME HOGGS

A slightly smaller show of hogs forward this week at Longtown.

A Texel x Herdwick hogg was kindly donated by Jonathan Hope, Orthwaite Hall to sell in memory in of Barrie Ward. The hogg got sold 11 times and a total of £4,000 was raised from the sale which will go towards supporting the fantastic work of Hospice at Home.

Jonathan and Cath would like to thank everyone who purchased the hogg.

Top price per head of £240 for a single Beltex hogg from S Mckie, Fininness

Top per kilo of 505p for a Beltex hogg from W & J Armour, Milton Farm

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries and entries.

Overall average 400.63ppk (SQQ 415.94ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Beltex - £240 Fininness, £225 Beckfoot, £224 Cleughbrae, £220 Newton Cottages, £217 Beckfoot, £216 Galleywreay, £212 Old Irvine, £208 Syke Head, £207 Cleughbrae.

Texel - £245 Thackwood, £235 Knock, £232 Syke Head, £230 Thackwood, £228 Burnside, £226 Tetcott, £225 Thackwood, £221 Highwood, £220 The Land.

Suffolk - £228 Syke Head, £224 Beckfoot, £223 Whitelums, £220 Tetcott, £216 Syke Head, £214 Pasture House, £213 Beckfoot.

Rouge - £230 Beckfoot.

Mule - £222, £220 Kirkhouse, £200 Galleywreay, £197 Kirkhouse, £192 Fininness & Hollin Close, £190 Ardmaleish & Scotchcoulthard.

North Country Cheviot - £222, £219 Newtonhill, £204 Carruthers, £202 Crossdykes, £200 Kingside, £198 Guardsmill & Newtonhill.

Cheviot Mule - £219 Newtonhill, £210 Kingside.

Dutch Spotted - £218 Galleywreay, £212 Beckfoot, £195 Cardewlees.

Charollais - £210 Thackwood.

Hill Cheviot - £209 Dunjop, £207 Becks Farm, £204 East Deloraine, £202 Falnash, £200 Kingside.

Blackface - £205 Dunjop, £200 Balliemeanoch, £187 Dunjop, £185.5 Milton Farm, £183 Dunjop.

Herdwick - £200 Red Holme, £177, £173 Orthwaite Hall.

Dorset - £200 Beckfoot, £172 Tetcott.

Welsh - £186 Dainton Cross.

Easy Care - £185 Oakshawhill, £168 High Trewihitt.

Swaledale - £184, £179 Woodhall, £178 Scotchcoulthard, £175 Orthwaite Hall.

Zwartbles - £170 Tetcott.

Romney - £152 Beckhall.

Oxford - £148 Guards Farm.

Badger Face - £144 Newton Field.

Shetland - £138 Fininness, £131 New Hum-

merbecks.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex - 505p Milton Farm, 500p Fininness, 481.8p Old Irvine, 480p Fininness, 460.5p Kirtlebank, 459.5p Inch Farm, 457.9p Newtonhill.

Texel - 484p Oswie, 466p New Hummerbecks, 455p Fininness, 447p New Hummerbecks, 446p Milton Farm, 445.5p Tetcott, 444p Pasture House, 441.2p Boat Croft, 440p Fala Hill, 439.5p Milton Farm.

Hill Cheviot - 476p Newton Field, 461p Upper Hindhope, 447.5p The Land, 437.9p Megdale, 436.8p Balgreen, 432.4p Nether Ernambrie.

Charollais - 474p Scotchcoulthard.

Suffolk - 441.7p Inch, 435.6p Broomhills, 434.2p Syke Head, 434.2p Newton Field, 432p Balegreggan, 427.9p Fala Hill, 427p Fala Hill, 426.3p Old Hall.

Welsh - £433p Dainton Cross.

Herdwick - 432.5p Orthwaite Hall, 426.3p Hightown.

Blackface - 426p Newtonhill, 424p Garvachy, 420p, 419p Swinsty.

Easy Care - 420p High Trewihitt.

Dutch Spotted - 418.6p Tetcott, 407.7p Lowfield.

North Country Cheviot - 416.7p Fala Hill, 396p Guardsmill, 392.2p Kingside, 388p Carruthers, 372.5p Newtonhill, 370.9p Carruthers, 366.7p Newtonhill.

Cheviot Mule - 414p Becks, 396p Novally.

Shetland - 411.9p Wellpark.

Mule - 406.3p Scotchcoulthard, 402p Kirk-

house, 400p Pasture House & Westernhopeburn, 397.8p Balliemeanoch, 396.4p Kirkhouse.

Rouge - 389.8p Beckfoot.

Dorset - 382.2p Tetcott, 353p Lowfield House.

Swaledale - 380p Orthwaite Hall & Bridge End Farm, 376.7p Westernhopeburn.

Romney - 380p Beckhall.

Oxford - 379.5p Guards Farm.

Zwartbles - 370p Tetcott.

Badger Face - 360p Newton Field.

CAST EWES AND RAMS

Smaller show of Cast sheep forward at Longtown. More needed on a weekly basis to fulfil buyers demands.

Heavy ewes topped at £410 for Texel ewe from B Haigh, Hightown.

Light ewes topped at £196 for Blackface ewes from, Rosegate.

Rams topping the sale at £312 for a Texel from, Riverside.

Heavy ewes

Texel - £410, £355 Hightown, £340 Beckfoot, £355 Rosegate, £330 Thackwood, £310 Laughtmuirsides & Kopje.

Charollais - £305, £275, £270, £240 Thackwood, £235 Beckfoot, £230 West Stobs Wood.

Beltex - £280 Kilnford Croft, £250 West Stobs Wood, £235 Burnshall, £225 Rosegate, £220 Newton Cottages, £210 Pretoria Road, £200 Newton Cottages.

Suffolk - £270, £268 The Land, £265 Kiln-

ford Croft, £260 Thackwood & The Land, £255 The Land.

Mule - £222 Galleywreay, £205 The Land, £202 Broomhills, £198 Highwood, £194 Tetcott.

Bleu Du Maine - £220 Rosegate.

Blue Faced Leicester - £215 Little Fithie & West Stobs Wood, £188 Kingside.

Dorset - £208 South Bogbain.

Cheviot Mule - £198 Dainton Cross, £188 West Stobs Wood, £187 Beckfoot, £185 Kimmeter Green & Tetcott.

Romney - £198 Beckfoot, £188 Tetcott, £185 West Stobs Wood, £179, £168 Tetcott.

Wensleydale - £188 Little Fithie.

North Country Cheviot - £185 West Stobs Wood, £182 Maidencots, £172 Carruthers, £165, £150 West Stobs Wood, £146 Carruthers.

Hampshire - £170 Riverside, £168 Galleywreay.

Lleyn - £158 Burnshall.

Valais Blacknose - £158 Galleywreay.

Dutch Spotted - £144 Portneath.

Merino - £134 Mains of Drumtochty.

Ryeland - £130 Tetcott.

Light ewes

Blackface - £196 Rosegate, £190 Bridgestone, £186 Allfornaught, £177 Rosegate, £176 Allfornaught, £172 Rosegate, £170 Riverside.

Hill Cheviot - £178 Little Fithie & Hightown, £175 Tetcott, £173, £171 Allfornaught, £169 Hightown.

Kerry Hill - £172 Inch Farm.

Easycare - £160 Burnshall, £158 Stouslie, £154 Dainton Cross, £148 Burnshall, £140 Ardovie, £137 South Bogbain.

Swaledale - £148 Allfornaught, £130 Hollin Close.

Herdwick - £140 Allfornaught, £138 Bridge End.

Shetland - £137 West Stobs Wood.

Welsh - £122 Allfornaught.

Rams

Texel - £312 Riverside, £310 Kopje, £280 Lower Moor, £277 Riverside, £275 Flagstaff, £272 Riverside.

Suffolk - £252 Riverside, £250 Kingside.

Beltex - £237 Riverside, £235 Craigslea, £232 Riverside, £230 Knock & Bridge End Farm, £227 Riverside.

Zwartbles - £220 Lower Moor.

Border Leicester - £210 West Deloraine.

Hill Cheviot - £200 Upper Hindhope.

Kerry Hill - £178 Beckfoot.

Easy Care - £175 Stouslie.

Blackface - £162 Laughtmuirsides.

Swaledale - £158 Spoutbank.

Averages:

Hoggs

Light to Standard to Medium to Heavy to Ewes

Light to Heavy to Rams to

476.0p (417.43)
484p (415.72p)
505.0p (416.07p)
500.0p (395.57p)
£196 (£127.46)
£410 (£193.44)
£312 (£190.79)



The E&L Gallery

A little-seen view of Glen Tarras now the trees are gone and Warblaw on the horizon - Stan Wilson gets everywhere!

Camera: SONY RX10

Hear beautiful vocals at The Buccleuch

THE APEX SINGERS SCRATCH CHOIR WORKSHOP & CONCERT SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026 - THE BUCCLEUCH CENTRE

SCRATCH CHOIR WORKSHOP	5:00 PM
THE APEX SINGERS CONCERT	7:30 PM



Embark on a journey through folk song and storytelling with The Apex Singers, the critically acclaimed vocal ensemble. Renowned for their intricate harmonies and gorgeous melodies, this live concert promises an unforgettable musical experience.

The Apex Singers are an eight-part vocal ensemble celebrated for their bespoke a cappella arrangements of traditional folk songs from around the world. Their distinctive sound blends classical choral technique with traditional folk and contemporary a cappella, creating a richly textured and captivating musical experience.

The Apex Singers regularly tour the UK and Ireland and have headlined festivals including the International Irish A Cappella Festival, City of Derry International Choir Festival, and Banstead Arts Festival. Their recordings have received widespread recognition, earning four Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, four A Cappella Video Awards, and the Best Music Video award at the British Independent Film Festival for *The Mermaid Wife*.

LANGHOLM, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY, DG13 0AW, UK

CONCERT - £20/£15
WORKSHOP & CONCERT - £32/£27
TICKET AND EVENT INFO AVAILABLE AT:

THEAPEXSINGERS.COM

A
P
E
X
S
I
N
G
E
R
S

E&L CLASSIFIEDS

The Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser
 47A High Street, Langholm DG13 0JH
 013873 80012 • alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

TREE & FORESTRY SERVICES



A.S.H.
FORESTRY & TREE SERVICES
 HEDGE & TREE PLANTING
 TREE FELLING - PRUNING - REMOVAL
 All Forestry Work Undertaken
 CONTACT: 07495 992215 | ahoggforestry@aol.com

SCRAP METAL

CUMBRIA METALS
FARM SCRAP
URGENTLY WANTED
 Wire • Tin • Machinery
 Lorries • Cars • Vans
 and all other scrap metal
Big or small, we remove it all
 Registered Dealer: Call Patrick: 07979 877391

PLANNING NOTICES

PLANNING

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 30/04/2026 (Type A).
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)
 Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
 26/0525/FUL (A) 38 Henry Street, Langholm - Change of Use of former retail premises (Class 1A) to form ground floor flatted dwellinghouse



PROPERTY TO LET

OFFICES-STUDIOS-WORKSHOPS-STORAGE
TO LET - LANGHOLM

- Ashley Bank House
- The Old Post Office
- The Old Bakery, Well Close
- BFA - Enquiries welcome

for further information, please contact
 Gillian McCartney, Ashley Bank House, Langholm DG13 0AN
 Tel: 013873 81066 | email: gillian@ashleybank.co.uk

BLINDS

DATS BLINDS
 3 Blinds for £160
 (70 x 50)
 Your local manufacturer of top quality blinds
FAST EFFICIENT SERVICE

Special Offers on Conservatory Blinds **Perfect fit blinds ideal for tilt & turn windows**

Vertical • Venetian • Roller • Roman • Blackout
 Wooden Venetians • Pleated • Velux • Fly Screens

For a free, no obligation survey and to view our extensive range, call
01461 20 48 42 or 01461 20 61 48
 or text your name and contact number to
077 382 192 88
 www.datsblinds.co.uk

ADVERTISING



Advertise with the
E&L
it's cheaper than you think!
Call 013873 80012 for details

POP UP SHOP

LANGHOLM POP-UP SHOP
May 2026

- **Sat 2nd May** (74 High St)
 Katrina Kenny – Beatson Cancer Centre Bake Sale
- **Thu 7th - Sat 9th May** (74 High St)
 Langholm Gardening Group – Fundraiser
- **Fri 29th May** (74 High St)
 Langholm Shotokan Karate Club – Fundraiser

To book a space: Call Sharon Irving on 07862 67209 or email: sharon@ashleybank.co.uk



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Online subscriptions to the



are now available at
www.eladvertiser.co.uk

A new way to read the 'Langholm Paper'.
 Published weekly and available to read anytime and anywhere using multiple devices from mobile phone to tablet and laptop.

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



To advertise in the E & L Advertiser please call
013873 80012

GROW Your Business with the E&L!

Employers!!

- Do you have vacancies to fill?
- Are you seeking to expand your business?

We have a wide readership covering Langholm and Eskdale, Newcastleton, Longtown, Annan and Lockerbie and very competitive rates.

To discuss your employment needs contact us on
 013873 80012
 or email alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

Advertise in the E & L....
 You'll be surprised how little it costs!



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser
 born in 1848 and still going strong!

Old Town makeover makes for a bright future for club

Determination and funding have made LOTBC sustainable

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE SCOTLAND

Langholm101
Newcastleton 101

COUNCILS

Dumfries and Galloway Council
.....030 3333 3000
.....www.dumgal.gov.uk
Fault reporting (potholes/street-
lights etc.....0800 042 0188
Langholm Town Hall/Library
.....013873 80255
Dumfries and Galloway
bus timetables
www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables
Scottish Borders Council .
0330 100 1800
out of hours01896 752 111
Scottish Borders
bus timetables
...www.scotborders.gov.uk

UTILITIES

Scottish Water
.....0800 0778 778
...www.scottishwater.co.uk
Scottish Power
.....105
...www.scottishpower.co.uk
Scottish Gas emergency ..
0800 111 999
National Rail enquiries
03457 484 950
.....www.nationalrail.co.uk
Floodline SEPA
.....03000 996 699
.....www.sepa.org.uk
BEAR Scotland (A7)
.....0800 0281414
.....www.bears Scot.com

POST OFFICES

Langholm013873 52022
Newcastleton...013873 75361
Canonbie013873 71348
Rowanburn.....013873 71542

HOSPITALS

D&G Royal Infirmary
.....01387 246246
Cumberland Infirmary
.....01228 523444
Borders General Hospital
01896 826000
Thomas Hope Hospital
.....013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm ..013873 83100
Newcastleton013873 75100
Canonbie ..013873 71313
NHS24111

CHURCHES

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

SCHOOLS

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

CHEMISTS

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

Bowling

As phase one of the projects of re-roofing with solar and battery storage was nearing completion at Langholm Old Town Bowling Club, phase two, in accordance with the Business Energy Scotland report and discussions with engineers and contractors was about to begin.

The aim of insulating and draught proofing the building would require a full refurbishment of the clubhouse. This would include new toilet facilities, cladding internal walls with insulated plaster boarding, plastering, painting, replacing external and internal doors, fixtures and fittings, renewing entrance stepping, insulating the floor and renewing floor coverings.

None of the above would have been possible without the generosity of the local trusts via the Funder's Forum and a second substantial grant from Ewe Hill 16 community benefit fund.

With the opening of the new season on the 18th of April, we feared this amount of work would delay an



opening on this date. Using all local contractors was a plus as they liaised with each other as well as coordinating with Stephen Barker avoiding delay in the process and all work was completed on time, on budget, and to a standard above and beyond our expectations.

We now look forward to a bright future for our club and hope to see locals and visitors alike using this upgraded clubhouse for years to come.



Phase Two of the project included refurbishment of the interior of the clubhouse (above)

The whole project, including solar panels and battery storage, (left) has been completed on time, on budget and to a standard far beyond the members' expectations

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



Last home game of season and a farewell to Colin after 20 years

Rugby

By Kenneth Pool

Langholm 64 - North Berwick 5

Having had a reasonably dry week with two sunny warm days it was an unpleasant surprise first thing Saturday morning to find both pitches at Milntown badly waterlogged. The heavy rain early on Saturday had done its damage and there was a real danger, especially due to the sodden condition of the main pitch, that the match against North Berwick may have to be postponed. However, due to the considerable team effort of a number of committee and members, the other pitch at Milntown was worked on to help remove the lying water and new white lines were laid. This ensured that the final league match of the season could take place as scheduled. A huge thanks to all involved.

This match was notable for two very different milestones. It was Ben Jardine's 50th match for the club and he was presented with a specially inscribed bottle of port after the match. It was also notable as Colin Dirom, at the age of 46 had decided to hang up his boots after more than 20 years great service to the club as player and youth coach. This season has seen Colin play alongside his son Ellis in the



LRFC players say farewell to team mate Colin Dirom (third from right front row) who has played for Langholm for over 20 years

1st XV.

Conditions were cold and windy as the match kicked off. North Berwick was first on the scoreboard after 12 minutes with an unconcerned try. This obviously rattled the home side a bit and they stepped up a gear and Lewis Miller was in for a try with 15 minutes played. Langholm continued to put on the pressure, and it was winger Jay Gordon who ran in for a second home try. Lewis Miller scored his second try before Josh Duffy crashed over for Langholm bonus point try just before half time. With Bailey Donaldson kicking 2 conversions the half time score was Langholm 24 North Berwick 5.

The second half started as the first had left off with Langholm in control.

That man Miller scampered in for this hat trick try with 43 minutes played. Tries by Bailey Donaldson and Tommy Hope followed as Langholm stretched their lead. Josh Duffy got his second try of the match with 70 minutes played before Aidan Wilson showed some good skill to score a well-made try. With Donaldson kicking a further 4 conversions the score was now 57-5 with less than 3 minutes remaining. Langholm were still making some good attacking moves and in the last minute, Wilson ran in for his second try and Langholm's 10th try of the match. The conversion was given to Colin Dirom who gave the ball a good boot. In the words of Bill McLaren, the ball looked a bit "inebriated" but it rose up, hit the

uprights and went over for 2 points. A great cheer went up around Milntown, and the ref blew up for full time.

A good performance from Langholm in very windy conditions with some cracking tries.

That brought the curtain down on league matches this season. Langholm sit 4th in East League 1 on 40 points. Having had a good start to the season winning 6 of their first 8 matches, a number of long-term injuries between December and February saw the team disrupted and they lost 4 matches on the trot. However, coach Craig Hislop, assistant Craig Cottrill, the team managers and of course the players should be congratulated on a good season's rugby for the Milntown men.

Legion make semi-final

Football

By David Borthwick

On Saturday Langholm Legion had a nervy end to the season as they faced Biggar in the quarter final of the Waddell Cup. They have now progressed to the semi-final although conditions were far from ideal with the wind causing problems for both teams.

Langholm elected to play with the wind in the first half and despite a lot of possession and good chances it took until the twentieth minute before they got the first goal through Daniel Winter who lifted the ball over the Biggar keeper giving Legion a well-deserved lead. Callum Summerbee continued his goal scoring form adding a second after getting on the end of a Robert Maclean clearance/ throughball. The first half ended 2-0 Langholm.

With 45 mins to go the team knew the second half would be tougher. For the majority of the half, they continued to control the game and had several chances to increase their lead. But it was the away side who scored with less than 10 minutes to play making for a very nervy end to the game. Credit to the lads, they saw out the win and the reward of a semi-final awaits.

There was some fantastic football played and all the lads involved should be proud of their performance. Big thanks to those who came to support yesterday, and to The Douglas Hotel for the after match hospitality. Next week Legion welcomes Highfields to the scholars in the league.

Langholm New opens on Sunday

Bowling

Langholm New Town Bowling Club is opening the green and club for the upcoming 2026 season this Sunday 19th April.

President David Pool and committee are inviting anyone to come along and give bowls a try. We have a great membership made up of all ages. Our green committee has been working hard all winter to ensure the green is playing as well as it can. This season we are planning to introduce new team wear as well as facilities for members' benefit. The club has had a tidy up and the bar will be open. The club opens at 1:00pm on Sunday and treasurer Mark Grieve

will be on hand to take this year's subscriptions. The club has been successful in Bowls Scotland, Border bowling association and border friendly league competitions as well as open tournaments held at different times in the year.

We hope anyone who fancies giving bowling a try can come along on Sunday.



E&L SPORT

