

Huge crowd for Sevens

Report and photos on centre pages



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Lydiafield residents make a return visit to the Muckle Toon

Day Centre welcomes homecoming for Langholm residents of Annan Care Home in a nostalgic visit

A number of Langholm citizens who are residents in Lydiafield care home in Annan visited Langholm Day Centre last Monday to catch up with old friends. With no Langholm-based care home, Lydiafield is one of several in the region which offers residential care to people from this area who need full time care.

Accompanying residents Matt Potts, Jen Nicol, Beryl Porteous, Cathie Jardine and Geoffrey Ireland from Lydiafield on the visit were carers and June, the activities co-ordinator at the care home.

The visit seemed to brighten up everyone's day and it was lovely to see this happening here with a 'homecoming' for care home residents. Let's hope this is the first of many visits that the care home residents are able to make to catch up with 'auld freens'.

Lydiafield Care Home is a registered care home located in Annan, providing a range of care services for up to 51 residents.

The home offers residential, dementia, and respite care, ensuring a supportive and caring environment for its residents. The care home is well-maintained, with clean and welcoming facilities, with activities for residents and is surrounded by established gardens. Lydiafield Care Home has received a "Good" rating from the Care Inspectorate - Scotland, indicating that the service meets the required standards for care and support.

The home is accessible to visitors and offers various activities and outings to engage residents socially.



Jen Nicol (l) enjoys lunch with a friend



Beryl Porteous catches up with Margaret Dunn



Cathie Jardine and daughters Arlene and Catherine enjoyed their visit

INSIDE



Langholm Cricket Club remembers 1976 win

In 1976, against expectations, Langholm Cricket Club captured the Border League title — the oldest cricket league in Scotland, founded in 1895.

Full story on Page 15

Family Announcements

Deaths

Bannatyne Avril, nee Baird

Peacefully after a short illness on 24th April aged 80.
Beloved mother of Iain and Fiona, mother-in-law to Phil and Grandmother to Richard. A funeral service will be held in Westerkirk Church on Friday 8th May at 11am followed by interment into Langholm Cemetery. Family and friends respectfully invited.

Shaun Turnbull funeral directors 07896 557941

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- The Ainslie Charitable Trust
- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
- Crossdykes Community Benefits Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland
- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust

Church Notices

ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE PARISH linked with CANONBIE United Parish Church

Welcome to worship
Sunday 3rd May
Services led by Rev Eleanor McMahon
LANGHOLM 9:30am
CANONBIE 11am

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

Services led by worship teams
NEWCASTLETON 10am
WESTERKIRK 1:30pm

Rev Morag Crossan
Tel: 07861 736071
or email mcrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

Ashleigh and Ben tie the knot at a lovely Kinmount Wedding



Langholm couple Ashleigh Calvert and Ben Callow were married in a lovely ceremony held at Kinmount House near Annan on 4th April.

Ashleigh was attended by Bridesmaids Victoria Miller, Kerrie Waitt and Rachael Young.

Best man was Ben's dad Darren Callow and the Groomsmen were John Calvert, Josh Calvert, Sam Callow, and Fred Prestidge

Community Windfarm Grants programme dates

The Community Council has agreed to set fixed dates for its windfarm funding sessions, providing greater clarity and consistency for local groups seeking support.

Three community funding opportunities will now be available each year for groups that support people within the Langholm, Ewes, and Westerkirk area, ensuring regular access to financial assistance for local projects. In addition, applications for the education funds will open every September.

Applicants are asked to ensure they follow the instructions on

how to apply and adhere strictly to the published timescales, as late or early applications will not be considered.

Speaking after the decision, Stuart Clement JP, Chair of the Community Council, said: "This money is here for our community, and we want to see it being used. If your group supports people or the communities of Langholm, Ewes, or Westerkirk, please apply. These funds can make a real difference, and we strongly encourage every eligible organisation to come forward and make full use of the support that's available."

LANGHOLM, EWES AND WESTERKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Chair: Stuart Clement JP Vice Chair: Mary Hudson
Secretary: Rachael Donnelly Treasurer: James Taylor

Community Windfarm Grant Funding Programme Dates

Please email lewccgrants@outlook.com for an application form

If you do not email LEWCC to request an application form during each funding session, any application received will not be considered valid.

Session 2: Spring/Summer Funding:	
Funding Open	01 May
Funding Closes	Noon 15 June
Decision Meeting	July
Session 3: Autumn Funding:	
Funding Open	01 September
Funding Closes	Noon 15 October
Decision Meeting	November

lewccgrants@outlook.com

Plainly pathetic parking poses potential problems

Alliteration aside, its plain dangerous

There was a bit of a stramash in Langholm Market Place last Thursday when some spectacularly selfish parking led to a bottle neck for vehicles trying to access David Street.

Cars were managing to just squeeze past between the bollard and the illegally parked SUV. There are three parking bays outside Welcome to Langholm, not four!



Things came to a head when the Royal Bank of Scotland mobile branch arrived to take up its usual parking spot in the Community Centre car park.

No way could it get through the gap. A bystander tried to look for the owner in First Bite but to no avail. Therefore, an ambulance couldn't have got past either...not good. The bank van ended up in the grounds of the parish church!

The parking situation is fairly well marked out on the Market Place, so the driver must just have decided to chance their luck.

All the best to this year's school leavers



Langholm Academy said farewell to pupils in S4/5 and 6 last week. Some lovely photos of them were taken underneath the big cherry tree in the playground. The pupils were piped out of the school by David Jeffrey. Head teacher Lauren Mclean said

"Last Wednesday afternoon we held our annual Leavers' Service, which was full of emotion as we said goodbye to our S4/5/6 leavers. In a blink of an eye pupils who took their first tentative steps into Primary 1, are now ready to step into the world as 16/17/18 year olds and embrace exciting futures ahead.

"They were such a great year group and we will all be left

with lots of memories of their time at Langholm Academy, which I'm sure will remain with pupils into their old age. No matter where they go, or what they do in the future, Langholm Academy will always be a part of their lives.

"Through the years they have enjoyed experiences like Ullswater, London, ski trips in Italy and a multitude of day trips. They have excelled in sport, music and the arts, and have achieved academic excellence in SQA endeavours. They have made us so proud to say they're Langholm Academy students and we wish them all the very best for their futures."

Alastair's bench

A memorial bench formerly at the meeting of the Liddle and the Esk in Canonbie has been relocated. The bench was erected in 2014 in memory of the late Alastair Davies who lived at Gilnockie and who was a member of the Rotary Club of Langholm, at the spot where he served juice and biscuits – or a dram to walkers doing the Umbrella Walk. When rising water levels threatened the bench the club acted quickly and removed it. It has now been relocated to a tranquil spot in a wooded setting. Kirsteen Davies, Alastair's widow says thank you to Roger Maxwell and Mark Hallam for assisting with that.



Bridge Results

1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 3, Ann Smart & Barbara Addison, 4, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 5, Anne Ferguson & Fiona Key, 6, Nancy McLure & Tom Stothart.

A gem in Langholm's retail crown

G. J. Latimer & Co celebrates 144 years on Langholm High Street

The E&L is delighted to publish Latimer's first advert placed in the paper 144 years ago. Latimers must now be the oldest business in Langholm that is still trading and going well and providing employment for a good number of people. It is the 'go to' shop on the High Street for so many items. The staff will sell you one or two nails or a three piece suite or furnish you with everything required for your new home.

Latimers' staff are always on hand to help with the customers' needs and some of them must run up and down those stairs many times a day. And then there are the less visible staff who are involved in the carpet laying side of the business who go far and wide and provide a highly professional service to so many people.

It's great to see that the next generation are also involved in the business now with both Katherine and 'young' David taking on increasing levels of responsibility. Without Latimers on Langholm High Street it is hard to imagine what it would be like. Both visitors and exiles, as well as local people, love to pop in and have a browse in the shop and whether they make a purchase or not, they're always made to feel welcome. There is no comparable shop in the region. Katherine Latimer said

"Here's a wee throwback to our first ever advert - 144 YEARS AGO TODAY. We may have expanded beyond glass and china, but we're still proud to serve - happy birthday to us!" And congratulations to the Latimer family and staff from everyone at the E&L Advertiser.

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Letters to the Editor

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Reform UK: The Enemy Within

To clarify my position, I am an European Citizen first and foremost. Whilst acknowledging Brexit has happened, I will never accept what was the gravest post-war political catastrophe in UK history. The current Westminster Government is taking tentative steps to restore relationships with the European Union and, just over a week ago, plans to rejoin ERASMUS+ have been agreed, to take effect from 2027. Many thousands of young people will welcome opportunities for, and benefits from, forging cultural links with European nations working together harmoniously. Renewing those senses of shared identity and values with our close neighbours can only yield positivity and altruism.

The dark forces of far-right extremism have infiltrated every facet of British corporate and public institutions, undermining them from within. Aided by advances in communications technology, it has become far easier for these to not only prey on people's vulnerabilities but also to modify behaviour patterns, with devastating consequences.

Within the last two years, there have been a small number of brutal sexual assaults and murder by those from the immigrant community. Observing the public backlash, I was struck by the rapidity of escalation and geographical spread. It was almost as if the protesting forces had been mustered and marshalled in advance, awaiting a signal for action. Two questions arise. Firstly, who were the main beneficiaries of these riots (I'll give you three guesses) and, far more controversially, my second query: What really happened behind the scenes in Southport on 29th July 2024?

On the vexed matter of revenue,

Reform UK's tax cut proposals are not only illiterate and innumerate but also utterly dishonest. Whether we, the public, like it or not, then even just maintaining essential public services at their current functional levels, rises are inevitable. Of course, if Westminster had a genuine socialist Government a more equitable and stringent income tax system would be in force. Thus, a certain Thai-based businessman, instead of donating £12 million to Reform UK, along with a cryptocurrency magnate based in Hong Kong, set to add a few more millions in "gift aid," would both be paying their fair dues. The public expect and deserve much better essential services - and be prepared to pay for them. Rights and responsibilities, methinks. And remember borrowed money has to be paid back, with interest.

In Langholm, the Thomas Hope Hospital and adjacent Health Centre employs approximately fifty staff. Their services cover an area larger than my

beloved Dartmoor. Their families use local shops, cafes and participate in community life. Therefore, the complex is uniquely essential to Langholm and must remain so. If Reform UK is able to wield influence in Holyrood after 7th May 2026, the future prospects for the Thomas Hope could be rendered non-existent due to "rationalisation of health care services." Reform UK supporters hoping for tax cuts need to consider these points very carefully indeed.

Generally, I worry deeply about Britain being governed by either a government led by, or a Coalition with, Reform UK. Its racist, xenophobic policies, tantamount to ethnic cleansing by stealth, are clear for all to see, except those so fanatical that any rational thought processes are absent. Looking at Donald Trump's American "New Order," it's not difficult to envisage life in Farage's dominion.

Richard Stanbrook
Langholm

Expect 59 years of good health

We are now at a 'Watershed moment' according to the Health Foundation as Healthy Life Expectancy is at its lowest in Scotland since records began. The Health Foundation has published an analysis revealing an average decline in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) in Scotland of three years over the past decade, dropping below 60 years for the first time since records began to 59.1 years for men and 59.4 years for women.

New data from the Office for National Statistics shows that those living in Dumfries & Galloway on average, can expect to live just 58.9 years in good health. This is well below the state pension age and is just below the national average.

HLE is the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on current mortality rates and levels of self-reported good health and is a key measure of the nation's health. The Health Foundation is calling for a new approach to turn the tide on Scotland's declining health.

David Finch, Assistant Director of the Health Foundation, said: "The deterioration in

Scotland's health should be a watershed moment that acts as a wake up call to government and policy makers to tackle the nation's ill health. Males and females living in Dumfries and Galloway can expect to live as little as just 58.8 and 59.1 years respectively in good health.

"Scottish males have the worst healthy life expectancy across the whole of the United Kingdom, and of the 21 high income nations, only the USA has a worse healthy life expectancy than the UK. This is an issue that needs urgent attention. Not only does this carry a substantial human cost, but a growing economic and fiscal impact which reduces workforce participation and increases reliance on social security and benefits. Improving health must be a priority for the next Scottish Government."



Photo by Michelle Henderson on Unsplash

The other side of story

As the member of the public featured in the article on the front page of the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser on 23 April 2026 I am writing to make known what I have had to contend with. There are always two sides to a story.

I attended the October monthly meeting of Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council (LEWCC) as a member of the public, never moved and only spoke when asked a question. Two weeks later I was informed of a motion to ban me from LEWCC meetings and was proposed and seconded. This was subsequently amended to ban me for a period of twelve months. The motion was raised and passed at an AGM on 3 November 2025 but prior to the AGM I had lodged a complaint against LEWCC.

A review was carried out by

an independent panel on 22 January 2006. Whilst my complaint was not upheld the panel was of the opinion the process had been fatally flawed by the failure of LEWCC to comply with the Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway. Nowhere in the amended scheme is there a provision empowering a community council to ban an individual member of the public from attending a community council meeting. The amended scheme also states all community councils are required to adhere to its terms.

Incompetent

Myself and all community councillors were provided with a copy of the report into the investigation. Interestingly enough the report states the Chair confirmed that no concerns had arisen about my conduct at the two meetings I attended prior to the review. During my interview some words used by the panel were 'This is nonsense', 'This is

ludicrous' and 'The motion is incompetent'.

Dumfries and Galloway Council's advice remains consistent in that all meetings of community council and its sub-groups should be open to members of the public. It would appear that LEWCC is not accepting the decision of the independent review panel.

Yes, I did attend March and April monthly meetings and was asked to leave but refused to on the grounds that a community council does not have the authority to ban me as a member of the public. Yes, the police were called on 2 March 2026 but arrived when the meeting had been adjourned and some community councillors had left. I have since been advised the matter was closed by the police.

The statement 'Council members being frightened for their safety' is a very serious statement. I will be taking this further.

Ronnie Tait
Langholm

Canonbie Probus and SS Brother Jonathan

Club member Paul Williams, a retired Merchant Seaman, was the speaker at last week's meeting of Canonbie Probus Club. Paul, who retired in 2011 after 44 years at sea, titled his presentation "Load Lines, and a Shipwreck off the Pacific Coast of the USA". The ship featured was the Brother Jonathan, a 1359 tonne side-wheeled, timber, paddle steamer built in Brooklyn, New York, and launched in November, 1850.

It was to be involved in transportation for the California gold rush.

On 29th July, 1865, shortly after leaving San Francisco under the Golden Gate on its way to Portland and Victoria the Brother Jonathan ran into gale conditions. The captain aimed for shelter but the following day the vessel ran aground on St George Reef about 16 miles north-west of Crescent City. Within five min-



utes the order was given to abandon ship. Only three lifeboats could be deployed and only one of these managed to reach safety with 19 personnel aboard. Many lives were lost.

At the time there was speculation that the ship was overloaded as it was believed that it was carrying a large amount of gold as well as other cargo. The gold, much of which is still to be recovered, was for annual treaty payments due to Indian tribes, Wells Fargo shipments consigned for Portland and Van-

couver, as well as passengers' gold, money and items.

The debate about the overloading of ships led to the work of Samuel Plimsoll who in 1875 introduced a bill in parliament regarding safe loading of ships and the establishment of the Plimsoll Line, also known as the Load Line.

After questions and discussion president John Mitchell thanked Paul for his enlightening presentation before closing the successful and enjoyable meeting.

Eskdale & Liddesdale
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So, our worries will endure

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When they seem like treason
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Should we greet the Messiah
Their assertions are hollow
Should they be a pariah

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More than waffling or snipes
The cry goes up for new ideas
But some produce subjection
So, despite nagging fears
There's nothing like an election



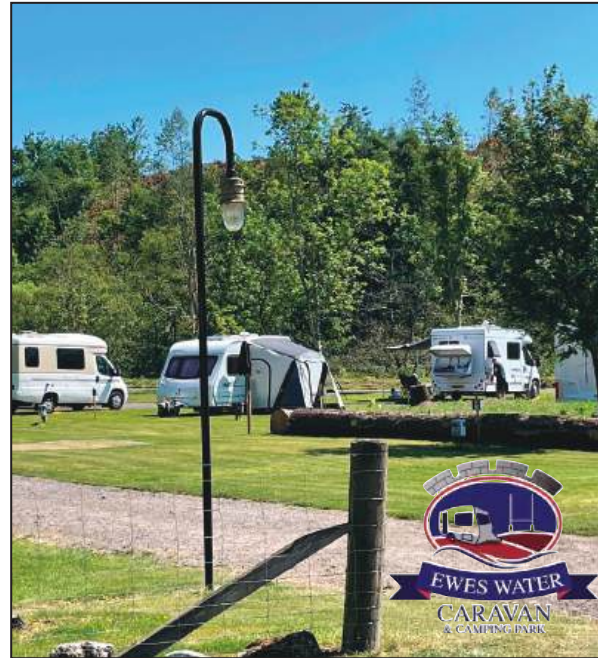
Popular campsite reopens at last

Ewes Water ready for busy summer

Langholm's Ewes Water Caravan and Camping Park at Milntown is up and running again after being forced to close for the whole of last season due to issues with the bridge access. This site is rated 4.83 stars out of 5 on Campsites.co.uk.

On site there's a modern facilities block featuring male and female facilities which includes two free hot showers, two toilets, wash hand basins and a baby changing facility located in the female toilets. There's also a disabled toilet and laundry room, with a washing machine and dish-washing points. The site also has a complimentary bike wash and repair station. There are electric hookups and pets are allowed on site and it's close to the electric car charging points at the Kilngreen.

We wish the volunteers and staff all the best for the new season and hope that the visitors bring footfall to our



shops and food businesses in Langholm. The site is in a beautiful setting 'nestled amongst nature' and close to Bonnie Langholm and is ideal

for anyone looking to explore the border area. Bookings can be done online via the website <https://eweswatercaravanandcamping.co.uk>

Painting for pleasure

Painting for Pleasure is hosting a Block Print workshop with Helen Walsh in The Studio, Maxwell Place on Saturday 2nd May 1- 4pm.

All materials supplied, refreshments included. Artistic experience not a requirement. Cost is £20 per adult, £10 per child (under 14's must be accompanied by an adult) Open to all. Please send a message to Eileann Bloomer on Facebook for details or to book a space.

Borders Book Fest

Borders Book Festival has announced this year's programme for Friday 12 – Sunday 14th June. The festival is held in Melrose and this year includes Prue Leith, Steph McGovern, Alexander McCall Smith and Lorraine Kelly to name just a few of the authors taking part. Tickets for single events are very reasonably priced. There is a programme for children including Bookbug sessions and a teen writing workshop as well as a monster draw-a-long. There will be author signings in Harmony Garden venues where the bookshop will be located. There's even an option to watch events online. Check out the website. <https://bordersbookfestival.org>

Gunther and Co to walk for the Beatson

In May 2023 Langholm man David (Gunther) Jeffrey was admitted to the Beatson Hospital with acute myeloid leukaemia. Whilst undergoing treatment the Beatson Hospital and charity were amazing in helping David and his family through the journey of this horrible disease.

Thankfully David is now in the position to raise vital funds for this charity and along with friends and family will be taking on the walking challenge of the Lairig Ghru. This is a 19-mile mountain pass walk from Braemar to Aviemore, and the challenge will take place on the 3rd of June 2026.

To help with the fundraising David and his friends will be holding a bake sale in Langholm Pop Up Shop on Saturday the 2nd of May 2026 opening at 9am until everything is sold. David also has a just giving page should you wish to donate, and you will find this on his Facebook page.

The Beatson Cancer Charity supports people affected by cancer every step of the way.



Dave Jeffrey and friends are raising funds for the Beatson Clinic

They aim to make the journey easier by transforming the way cancer care is funded and delivered. They provide vital services as well as funding specialists, research and education to invest in a better future for cancer patients. Any support would be very much appreciated.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Craig Hoy MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for South Scotland region



Contact Craig: Serving Dumfriesshire



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Farming on the Border

In association with

C & D AUCTION MARTS - LONGTOWN & DUMFRIES



Charolais herd under hammer

Fans of the Charolais are in for a rare treat at Borderway Mart next month as a renowned herd goes under the hammer.

The Cockerington Herd is being sold on Saturday May 9th by the Needham family from East Lincolnshire who, in 1969, were among the first to import the breed to the UK.

Founder Ralph Needham established the poll genetics by crossing Lincoln Red cattle with Charolais and retaining the best females.

The herd has evolved through a highly selective and long-established breeding programme, alongside the introduction of polled Swedish genetics.

The list of animals for sale includes 54 cows with calves at foot and in-calf cows; 25 two-year-old heifers; 19 yearling heifers and two Swedish imported stock bulls.

The herd is 100% polled and predominantly homozygous polled, which means calves can be produced without horns, even when bred to horned bulls.

Breeder Alistair Needham says it has been a very difficult decision to disperse the herd.

"This dispersal marks the end of an era, with the herd built on the vision and dedication of my father, Ralph Needham, whose pioneering work in the breed laid the foundation for what is now one of the most distinctive poll Charolais herds in the UK," he said.

"From the very beginning we have been committed to developing poll genetics, with a strong focus on producing easy-calving, well-tempered, and naturally polled cattle, and we are proud to have been among the first to take this route in the UK."

Study on the increasing threat of wildfires starts

Scottish Land & Estates has welcomed the launch of a UK Parliamentary examination of the growing threat of wildfires. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee wants to hear from experts in the field as well as organisations who care for landscapes and public services who have to deal with wildfires every year.

SL&E Director Ross Ewing says wildfires are happening far too often.

"Wildfires are no longer a rare or seasonal threat – they are becoming an increasingly frequent and dangerous feature of life across both rural and urban parts of the U," he said.

"Land managers and rural businesses are on the frontline when wildfires occur. They are often the first to respond, working alongside the emergency services in difficult and fast-moving situations, and they play a vital role year-round in managing vegetation and reducing fuel loads.



"Wildfires are no longer a rare or seasonal threat"

Photo by Tim Mossholder

"It is essential that we fully recognise the importance of practical land management techniques – including controlled muirburn and other forms of vegetation management – in reducing wildfire risk. These tools, when carried out responsibly

and with the right safeguards, are a key part of the solution.

2025 broke UK records for the most reported incidents of wildfires, surpassing the previous record in 2022.

Scotland recorded its worst wildfire ever at Carrbridge and Dava

in Strathspey when nearly 12,000 hectares of moorland and woodland were devastated by fire.

More than 100 people from 33 rural businesses, including 27 estates, tackled the fires alongside the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

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Farmers take a rain-check on planned UK wide demo

Plans for a major protest by farmers throughout the UK over tax and fuel costs appear to have been put on hold for the moment.

The Farmers For Action group had been preparing to organise a nationwide demonstration after being approached by farming organisations across the UK but wants to meet first with the government before setting a date for the protest.

The group has written to Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Environment Secretary Ed Miliband requesting urgent talks, but so far have not received a response.

FFA has also requested a meeting with the EFRA Committee to discuss a proposed "Farm Welfare Bill".

This would aim to guarantee

farmers are paid at least the true cost of production, linked to inflation, plus a margin.

Farmers For Action co-ordinator William Taylor said this could ease massive corporate food retail induced financial pressure.

He said the legislation could have an immediate stabilising effect, giving banks the confidence to support farm businesses while the policy is phased in.

However, although the protest plans may have been paused, the group has made it clear it's well aware that the pressures facing farmers have not eased.

Fuel and fertiliser prices have surged amid global energy instability linked to tensions involving Iran, with disruption in key supply routes driving up costs across the sector.



Farmers' protest put on hold for now

Photo by Stefan

These pressures are being felt across both arable and livestock farms, particularly during key

periods such as spring fieldwork and lambing, when demand for inputs is at its highest.

Armed forces veterans supported by Citizens Advice

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service (D&G CAS) recently confirmed their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, by signing up to support the region's armed forces veterans. Phil Stewart, Chief Executive of D&G CAS explains, "This covenant demonstrates our commitment to supporting those who have served their country. Veterans and their families are vulnerable if they haven't been supported well enough through their exit from the forces and we are here to ensure they get everything they are entitled to. It also provides access for them to engage in volunteering roles and potentially for paid employment."

The Armed Forces Covenant is a national promise, recognising the unique sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and their families, including the bereaved, and to ensure they are treated with fairness and respect in all areas



Katy Caie, Phil Stewart and Cllr Archie Dryburgh

of life, including communities, the economy and public services.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE, Armed Forces Champion for Dumfries and Galloway Council, is delighted D&G CAS have signed the covenant, "It means that the many veterans across Dumfries and Galloway will not face discrimination, but be treated fairly when applying for jobs and seeking advice at D&G CAS, who also offer retraining opportunities through volunteering."

"Whilst there are thousands of veterans' charities out there," said Training Officer, Katy Caie, "as a veteran myself I know it can be difficult to know who to approach. Citizens Advice is an independent service and being part of the Armed Forces Covenant means veterans can come to us for impartial, confidential and free advice. We can direct them to the right avenues for help, both locally and nationally. We are a beacon of hope for all ex-services personnel."

Strait of Hormuz situation affects supply of drugs



According to Think Global Health the escalating war in Iran and the Middle East has disrupted two of the world's most critical logistics corridors—the Strait of Hormuz and major Gulf air hubs—triggering delays across global supply chains.

The fallout applies to the transport of critical medicines as well, and Think Global Health says that the consequences underscore a need for acute remedies and long-term structural reform. Immediate responses should focus on visibility of supply-chain gaps across the region and cargo reroutes through non-Gulf hubs.

As of March 2026, MediWatch, a UK organisation, was tracking 218 active medicine shortages across the UK. Drugs where there are critical shortages include some that are used to treat cardiovascular problems, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and weight management. ADHD, HRT and contraception but according to MediWatch the severity of shortages changes frequently.

NEWS IN BRIEF

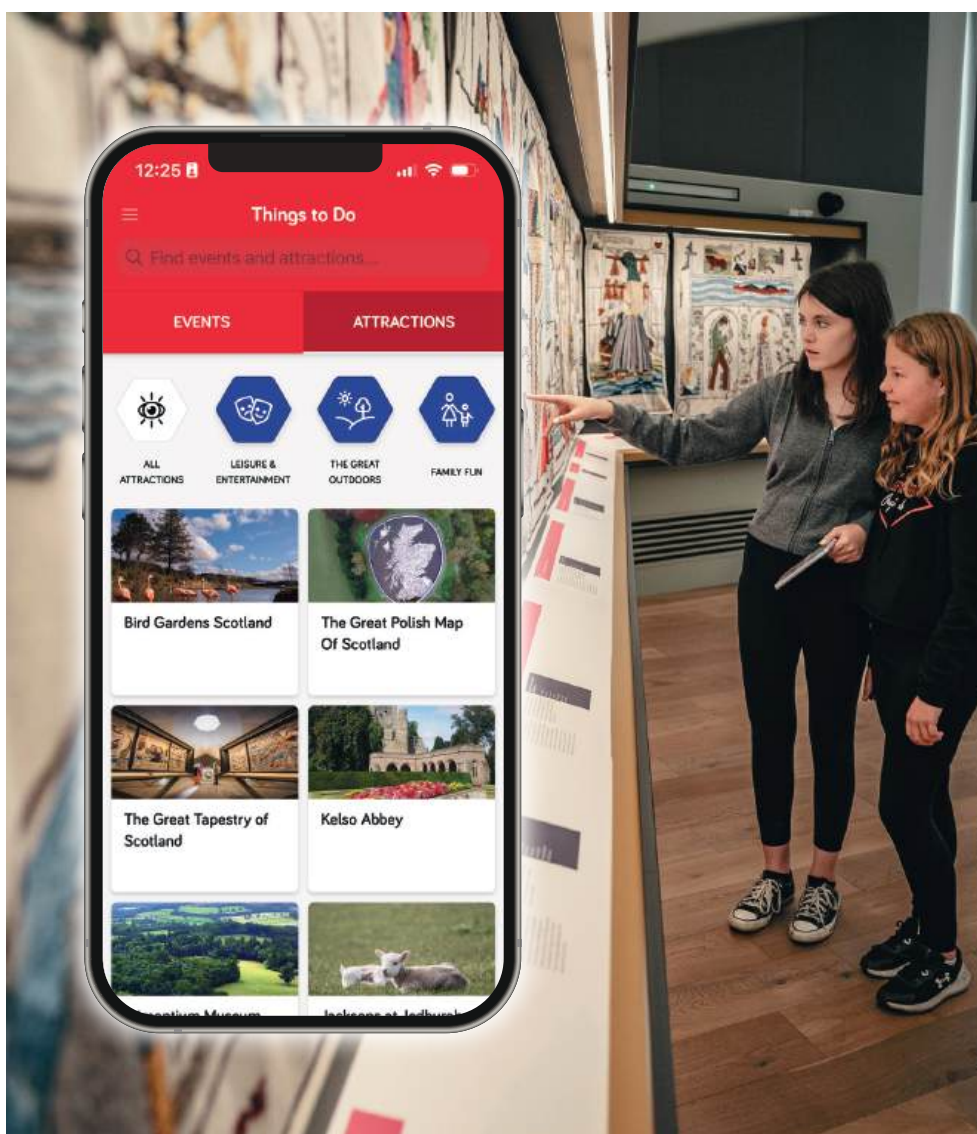
Calling all foragers

Are you a forager? Eskdalemuir community hub is looking for an expert forager to lead a wild food workshop. They would like to take community members out into the woods to safely identify, touch, taste and learn how to use the incredible plants around us. If you have a passion for wild edible plants get in touch with staff at the Hub. Phone on 013873 73760



Who's standing?

Speculation is building in the town as to who will stand for cornet this year. Langholm Common Riding cornets are elected by a public vote which will take place this year on Friday 8th May. We don't yet know who is in the running!



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Langholm Sevens 2026



All Photos by Stan Wilson

Langholm Sevens were blessed with great weather on Saturday and the large crowd of spectators enjoyed the warm sunshine for the whole afternoon and into the evening. Twelve teams were competing for the Scott Cup and the dry conditions made for some exciting ties and good rugby on show. There were a number of closely fought ties in the pool stages, with the first tie of the afternoon between favourites Melrose and Hawick being a 19 all draw.

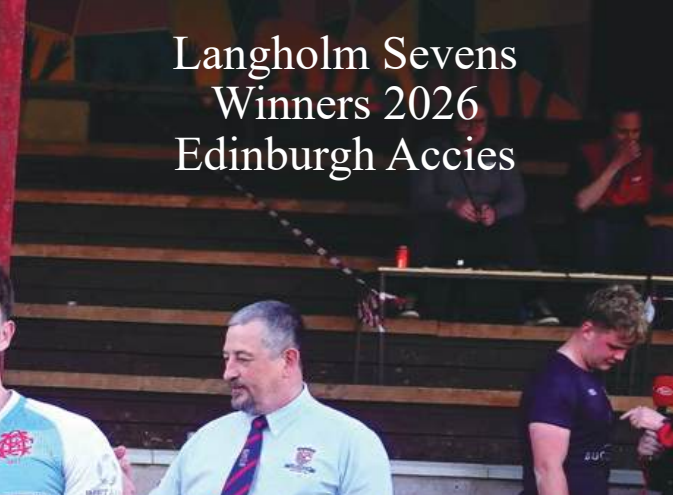
Langholm's first outing in Pool D was against Watsonians and it was an exciting tie with Watsonians taking an early 14-0 lead before Langholm battled back to even the scores 21 all. 2 quick tries from the Edinburgh team won the game by 31-21. On their second Pool D tie against a fresh Selkirk squad, the hot afternoon conditions took their toll on the Milntown men and they went down 52-0 against the eventual finalists.

In the semi finals Melrose went out to Edinburgh Accies 7-26, with Selkirk defeating Kelso 28-12 in the second semi. The final was a closely fought affair with both Accies and Selkirk trading tries before Accies came out on top by 24 points to 21.

Before the presentation of the Scott Cup to Edinburgh Accies, the Archie Smith Memorial Trophy for the player of the tournament was presented to Accies Gavin Welsh by Billy Smith.

The runners up medals were presented to Selkirk by club President Davy Patterson. This was the first win for Accies at the Langholm Sevens since 1929 and they were delighted to receive the trophy and medals from the President.

It was a great day, the rugby was good, the large crowd were in party mood and this generated a great atmosphere at Milntown. All in all it was an excellent day for the Langholm club.
By Kenneth Pool



...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Heritage Centre's War Memorial research project

Their names were carved with pride and sorrow on the War Memorial erected in Newcastleton's Douglas Square after World War One. 58 local men who answered the call to serve their country and never came back.

It was supposed to be the war that ended all wars, but ten more names were added to the Memorial after World War Two and a further two from following conflicts.

Every November the village remembers its fallen with a special Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial.

But how much do we really know about the men whose names are carved into the granite? And is there a danger their stories could be forgotten?

Not if Liddesdale Heritage Centre can help it. The Centre has launched a new project to research and write about all the men named on the War Memorial to ensure their stories are part of the village forever.

So now the hunt is on for information, and The Heritage Committee would love to hear from anyone with any connections to any of the men.

Earlier this year the Commonwealth Graves Commission installed a new headstone in Castleton Cemetery to mark the grave of Private Andrew Murray Davidson who had been a Ploughman until he enlisted with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in 1915.

There are three other Commission graves



in the cemetery – all of Kings Own Scottish Borderers soldiers.

James Knox died in 1941 aged 21. James Stevenson Proudfoot died in November 1940 aged 20 and Robert William Harkness died in 1944 aged 26.

If you have any information about any of the men on the Memorial, please get in touch with the Heritage Centre and help to add a few more chapters to Liddesdale's rich and vibrant history.

Gardening awards for Holm Primary

The green-fingered skills of pupils and teachers at Newcastleton Primary School have seen them successfully gain levels 3 and 4 of the Royal Horticultural Society Gardening Awards.

The Society runs its free five-level awards scheme to help school pupils gain the benefits that gardening to bring as well as helping to support the environment and improving wellbeing.

The levels all look at different aspects of gardening and awards certificates, gardening books and free seeds when the levels have been achieved.

To achieve Level 3, the school had to show that pupils could both grow and name a range of plants. They also had to keep the plants healthy and to show they're planet-friendly gardeners.

Level 4 focused on gardening for wildlife and using gardening to support the curriculum. It also encouraged pupils to inspire others beyond their school by sharing plants and seeds.

Led by Mrs Irving, the children achieved all these goals with ease and can now look forward to even



Hard at work in the school garden

more exciting gardening projects, because the award also included £150 in garden centre vouchers.

They can also look forward to Level 5 which involves gardening with the local community, so it's hoped parents and friends of the school will also volunteer to play their part.

Youth Beatz Festival

Youth Beatz Festival is back for another year, and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Youth Beatz takes place over a 10-day period, with the Youth Beatz Fringe taking place across every Ward area of Dumfries and Galloway in the lead up to the two main event days on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June at Park Farm, Dumfries.

The main event days will be attended by 20,000 people per day, and Youth Beatz 2026 will continue to deliver a wide range of fun activities, musical performances from local and emerging young talent from across Dumfries and Galloway, as well as welcoming the Example, The Vamps, Hypaton, Levi Heron and Caity Baser

As well as featuring well-known UK acts, Youth Beatz Festival is proud to have local performers taking their place on the Main Stage programme



for this year's event, with a wide range of acts from across Dumfries and Galloway.

The Toon will continue to expand for 2026, with the hard-hitting interactive drama production gearing up for another year as one of the festival's biggest features. The Toon is designed and delivered by local young people from across Dumfries and Galloway and provides young people attending Youth Beatz with informative and accurate information and advice

when dealing with issues that commonly affect their lives. The Youth Work Area will also be back for this year's festival and will contain some old favourites such as creative activities, a youth information zone, chill out areas and the opportunity to win meet and greet tickets to see your favourite acts through exciting competitions.

As well as the Main Stage, Youth Beatz 2026 will have a stage that will focus on up-and-coming young performers from

across Dumfries and Galloway. The Up Yer Airts Stage, delivered in partnership with Arts DG, will showcase the talents of young people from across our region on both event days.

Tickets for this year's festival were made available on the launch night, and all 40,000 tickets have been allocated in record time. Further information on this year's festival can be found on the official Youth Beatz website –

www.youthbeatz.co.uk

Writers Wanted!

To make the E & L a truly community and local paper we're looking for people willing to write on a wide range of subjects such as nostalgia ▪ sport ▪ farming forestry ▪ cookery or whatever else is your area of expertise!

Please get in touch if you are interested in contributing by emailing us on: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk or by phoning the office on 013873 80012

Need for river restoration highlighted in Riverwoods

Robin Farquharson reviews thought provoking film and talk

Noble, wild Atlantic salmon – which not only provide a delicious source of protein, but which is a fish that conjures deeply atavistic feelings of national pride – used to proliferate in the rivers of D&G, the Borders and the central belt. They now face extinction. It is sobering to contemplate: how has been allowed to happen? And what should be done?

Salmon – and the lack of them – are one of the topics at the forefront of environmentalists' minds at TVNR, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, created by Langholm Initiative four years ago. Attendees at a recent evening event at the Buccleuch Centre heard from a panel of experts drawn together by Langholm Initiative's staff.

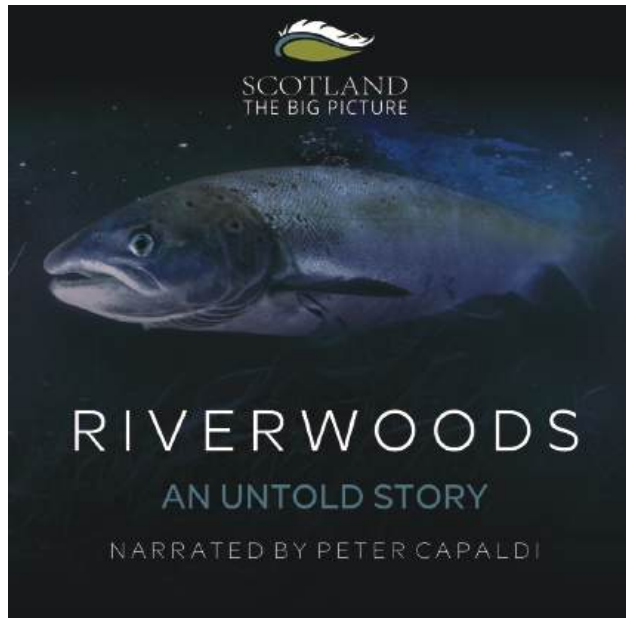
The panel comprised: Ben Townsend (Tweed Forum), Jamie Ribbens (Galloways Fisheries Trust) and Rosie McGuigan (Scottish Wildlife Trust). The evening was chaired by Jenny Barlow, reserve manager, TVNR.

ager, TVNR.

Each of the three visitors to Langholm that evening is currently intensively engaged in helping to devise a plan for river restoration on the Tarras and - subject to funding which may come through by the end of this year - carry out necessary restoration work.

"We received the funding at the end of 2025 to start an 11-month research study - to see what, in an ideal world, can be practically achieved, to bring back an environment here in the Tarras Valley where invertebrates can prosper. Fish of all kinds can feed on good supplies of invertebrates, in waters which cooled by new leafy growth along the banks of the river," said Jenny Barlow.

That leafy growth even at an early stage brings positivity: thirty years on and the leafy growth from saplings become trees which shade the river and its pools; forty and fifty years on, branches allowed to fall and populate the riverbanks become a refuge for water life of all



types.

"It's amazing how quickly riparian habitats improve," commented Tweed Forum's Ben Townsend. "The Langholm Initiative's TVNR owns land from the source of the river – in the north - to about a mile before

the confluence with the Esk, further south," explained Jenny. "We have an opportunity to make a really good contribution to better wildlife health."

Panellists agreed that full, unencumbered ownership by Langholm Initiative of its 10,000

acres puts TVNR in a strong position to achieve funding from a variety of sources - from governments grants through to charities to private money.

"When restoration projects on a large scale involve an array of partnerships they can fail, because one or more partnerships change their mind, and pull out," commented Jamie Ribbens.

The cornerstone of the evening at the Buccleuch Centre was Riverwoods, a film produced by a team at Scotland: The Big Picture; it features Scots actor Peter Capaldi as narrator.

Scotland's current paucity of appropriate woods was central to the film's theme – a theme that drew comments from attendees concerned that Scotland's Forestry Commission's permission to grant comprehensive planting of Sitka spruce ran counter to the film's message to plant hardwoods.

That Langholm Initiative /TVNR ran the beautiful film was deeply appreciated by attendees.

Rotary quiz finalists

Two teams of Langholm primary 7 pupils took part in the Rotary quiz regional finals last week. The team that included Murray, Cieran, Ella and Martha were runners up on the day and will now go on to the national finals. They were all given rosettes. The Rotary primary school quiz competition is organised and promoted by Rotary GB&I, Scotland South. In Langholm Roger Maxwell as the youth convener of Langholm Rotary Club was involved in the organisation of the local quiz.

The District Final will be held in a central location on Saturday 30th May 2026,

Good luck to the team and a big well done from the E&L



Fine Arts Society exhibits at Hub

The Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society launches a May exhibition at Eskdalemuir Old School Hub and Café from this Saturday 2nd May. Chair of the Society, Paul O'Keeffe, says:

"We're delighted to be exhibiting with Eskdalemuir Hub again, following our debut there with our recent mid-winter exhibition. Happily, that was well received. This time, our artists have focused on spring and summer themes and tones. From the Bosphorous to Ben Lomond, the Med to the merses of Scotland. And they have used a range of media: oil, acrylic, mixed media, watercolour, playful hall-marked Scottish silver, and repurposed slate."

Eleven artists are exhibiting over twenty pieces of work in the Hub's Exhibition Hall. They are: Gulseven Atay Coles; Alex Buchanan; Mary Carberry; Graham Cooke; Ruth Hanson; Roger Lever; Barry Mitchell; Martin Sutton; Moira Weatherup; Shirley Weatherup and Kathleen Woods. All the artists works are for sale. The exhibition runs until 3pm, Sunday 31st May.

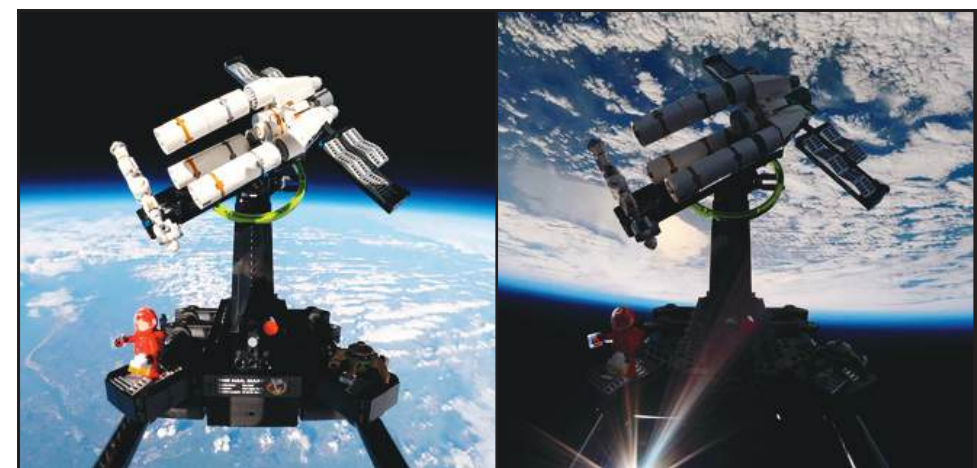
Eskdalemuir Hub is open seven days a week. The café and bar serves lunch and light snacks and is open Monday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Hot food is served until 2.45pm. To check opening times of the Exhibition Hall and the Café please visit the Hub's website at

<https://www.eskdalemuir.com/>

Dumfries and Galloway Fine Arts Society is a voluntary member organization and is entirely self-funded.



Lego launch reaches earth's stratosphere!



The British company, Sent into Space, sent the LEGO rocket, a replica model from the latest Ryan Gosling film – Project Hail Mary, up into the stratosphere – and back again, earning the Guinness World Records title for the highest altitude launch and retrieval of a LEGO® set. Guinness World Records are still trying to work out how the LEGO mini-figure of Ryan Gosling managed to stay-put for the journey too.

The LEGO set was lifted by bespoke stratospheric balloons to a height of 34,988 metres (114,790 feet)! At that height, you are above 99.5% of the Earth's atmosphere, the curvature of the planet is visible to the naked eye, and the sky above is the deep black of space.

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie "His is a story of abject perfidy"

< Continued from last week

On the hillside at Craighaugh may be seen an unpretentious inscribed stone of rectangular form. It marks the spot where the shepherd lad, Andrew Hislop, suffered martyrdom at the hands of the cruel Laird of Westerhall during the period remembered in Scotland as "the killing time".

In those perilous days, it would appear that news of what was taking place in the fight for religious liberty in other parts of Scotland was not long in finding its way into the secluded valley of the Esk. When it did, the energy of the Borderers displayed itself in the extreme form of their opposition to the cruel terms of government. Hence the Eskdale people became as resolute in the covenanting as they hitherto had been in their reiving days. The mountain and moorland fastnesses of the mosstroopers became the haunts of the persecuted ministers and hill-folk.

The story of Andrew Hislop has been told and re-told down through the generations since that fateful 12th day of May in the year of grace 1685, when they brought the youthful martyr to the place where he now lies buried.

One of the hunted Covenanters, overcome by sickness through long exposure on the hills, found

shelter in the humble cottage of a poor widow, where he soon afterwards died and under the cover of darkness was buried in a lonely grave.

The corpse was discovered by the Laird of Westerhall and he immediately sought out the widow (suspected of complicity) and pulled down her poor dwelling, leaving her and the younger children to wander in the fields. Her son, Andrew, who was still a lad, was dragged before Claverhouse, whose dragoons happened to be marching through that district.

Claverhouse, it is said, was just then strangely lenient, probably because of his inhuman treatment of John Brown, the Priesthill carrier, whom he had shot dead in cold blood ten days before.

Westerhall, on the other hand, was eager to prove his loyalty to the promoters of the nefarious work and the guns were ordered to be loaded.

Andrew was allowed some time for prayer, and he retired to a farm outhouse, but Sir James Johnstone, becoming impatient at the delay, asked Claverhouse to "go and hear if he had done". Returning, Claverhouse remarked that he had left off praying and begun preaching.

Cunning government

Dr Brown then relates how Sir James ordered a Highland captain to shoot Hislop, but instead of



The Martyr's Tomb at Craighaugh, Eskdalemuir

Photo courtesy of Langholm Archive

obeying this command from a civilian – albeit one of the lairds, upon whom the cunning Government had imposed the duty of clearing each his own lands of the Covenanters – he drew himself away declaring that he would fight Claverhouse first.

"The latter thereupon ordered three of his own men to shoot Hislop, who was ordered to draw his bonnet over his face before they fired. This he disdained to do, declaring that he had done nothing to be ashamed of and could look them all in the face. Then, holding up his Bible, he charged them to answer at the great day for what

they had done, and what they were about to do, when they should be judged by the Book."

Dr Brown does not expressly mention it, but tradition affirms that, on the soldiers hesitating to fire, the Laird of Westerhall pointed his own pistol at the brave lad and in a swift moment Andrew Hislop breathed his last on the grassy slope of Craighaugh.

The name of the notorious James Johnstone of the Covenanting persecution will ever remain an indelible blot in the history of that Eskdale family. His is a story of abject perfidy. Once an ardent adherent of the covenant, he renounced

the faith of his fathers and turned persecutor for the promise of the reward of knighthood. His callous brutality, which shocked even the hardened soldiers of Claverhouse, in the cold-blooded shooting of Andrew Hislop, the young Covenanter, is written in letters of fire on the everlasting hills of Eskdale.

The uppermost side of the old style "trough" tombstone is wholly covered by writing peculiar in its quaint clipping of words, and in one or two cases, equally quaint spelling. That simple stone in the hillside has, since that far-off day, remained a silent witness of a cruel and callous murder.

Looking back...

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 23rd 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 7,236 sheep comprising of 42 lambs, 4,298 hogs and 2,768 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 23rd April

PRIME NEW SEASON SPRING LAMBS

A Small offering of first draw spring lambs forward with trade very buoyant and numbers short of requirements.

Top price per head of £236 for a pair of Suffolk lambs from Martindale, The Land

Top per kilo at 497p/kg for a pen of 16 Suffolks from Mather, Shandford.

Overall average 438.02ppk (SQQ 484.93ppk)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Suffolk - £236 The Land, £219 Beechgrove, £216 The Land, £210 Beechgrove

Blue Texel - £218 Wallacetown

Dutch Spotted - £200 Low Ranachan

Zwartble - £200 & £190 Wallacetown

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Suffolk - 497p Shandford, 419p Beechgrove

Blue Texel - 495.5p Wallacetown

Dutch Spotted - 486.8p Low Ranachan

Zwartble - 434.8p Wallacetown

PRIME HOGGS

A very very mixed show of hogs forward. In-spect well finished hogs sold to huge returns whilst under finished, or hogs with impairments sold to realisation. Hogs that requires further finishing are easier sold on at Longtown on a Tuesday through the store market.

Heavy hogs sold well with plenty of pens of better bred hogs making £210-£220. Topping price per head at £238 for one Suffolk hogg from J Lamb, Ingleston.

Exports and small hogs in big demand topping per kilo at 527.3ppk for one Beltex hogg from T Magnoy, Galleywreay.

Many more smalls and exports wanted on a weekly basis for an ocean of customers that require supplies on a weekly basis.

Overall average 398.24ppk (SQQ 412.77ppk)
Principal prices (Per head)

Suffolk- £238 Ingleston, £228 Millantae, £220 South Bogbain & West Newlands, £218 West Newlands, £217 Whitelumbs

Beltex- £232 Galleywreay, £228 Comlongun Mains, £224 Drumcairn & Upper Auquhadale, £222 Baldovie, £216 Drumcairn

North Country Cheviot- £232 Tister, £214 Carruthers, £210 South Bogbain, £204 Newtonhill & Achscrabster, £191 West Newlands

Texel- £226 Tercrosset, £224 The Land, £222 Balmaglester, Byreburnside & Greengatehouse, £220 South Bogbain

Cheviot- £224 Stable House, £202 South Bogbain, £197 Creca Belty, £195 South Bogbain, £193 Creca Belty, £192 Plumpe & Whitelumbs

Zwartble- £212 Coxhill

Mule- £207, £205 West Newlands, £202 Culdoach, £200 9 Woodside, £195 Culdoach

Dutch Spotted - £206 Coxhill, £194 Whitesyke, £192 Coxhill

Blackface- £200 Pendicle, £196 South Bogbain, £189 Chesterhall Parks, £184 Dyke Farm, £182 Culdoach

Charollais- £200 Galleywreay

Bleu De Main- £194 Westernhopeburn

Cheviot Mule- £191 Bamglies, £184 Baurch, £179 Blackcleugh, £178 Pendicle, £168 Fala Hill

Badgerface- £188 Syke head

Easy Care- £177 Syke Head, £167 Stouslie, £166.50, £164 High Trehwitt

Romney- £172 Tetcott

Swaledale- £170 Morley Hill, £169 Westernhopeburn

Border Leicester- £160 Ingleston

Kendal Rough- £164 Broomhills

Herdwick- £156 Gorthleck Mains, £155 East House, £154 Kirranrae, £152 High Priorscales

Shetland- £132 Stable House, £126 Basco Dyke

Hebridean- £116 Ettleton Farm

Hampshire- £112 Syke Head

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex- 527.3p Galleywreay, 525p Corstane, 497.7p Corneyside, 493.3p Baldovie, 486.5p Balmaglester, 485p Comlongun

Texel- £458p, 457.1p Byreburnside, 454.8p Blackcleugh, 452.5p Glendoe Estate, 452p Balmaglester, 450p Byreburnside & Broomhills, 448.6p Aultgrishan

Cheviot- 452p Glendoe Estate, 439p Balmaglester, 436.8p West Scales, 436p Becks, 435.5p Aultgrishan, 435p Balmaglester, 434.2p Melvaig

Suffolk- 451.3p Tomich, 438.5p Aucharua, 435p Newtonhill, 433p Westernhopeburn, 429p Coiliamy, 425.6p Fala Hill, 425p Westernhopeburn

Dutch Spotted- 431p Whitesyke, 406.5p Pendicle

Blackface- 430p, 424p Syke Head, 416.7p Westernhopeburn, 415.8p Syke Head, 415.6p Clyth Mains, 415p Westernhopeburn, 414.3p Dyke Farm

Bleu De Main- £421.7p Westernhopeburn

Cheviot Mule- 420p Crosslee, 414p Pendicle, 406.8p Baurch, 391p Fala Hill

Mule- 409p Tomich, 402.5p Pendicle, 402.4p Blackcleugh, 401.1p Pendicle, 397.1p Stell Green

Herdwick- 397p East House

Swaledale- 393p Westernhopeburn, 368.4p Morley Hill, 362.5p Newbiggin

Charollais- 392.p Galleywreay

Border Leicester- 327p Ingleston

North Country Cheviot- 367p Newlands, 352p, 346p Achscrabster, 341.2p Tister, 339.7p Carruthers, 318.8p Newtonhill

Badgerface- 417.8p Syke Head

Kendal Rough- 326.9p Tetcott

Shetland- 357p Stable House, 300p Basco Dyke

Hampshire- 350p Syke Head

Hebridean- 277.8p Ettleton

Easycare- 416p High Trehwitt, 405.3p Ardovie, 400p High Trehwitt

Romney- 400p Tetcott

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A similar show of cast ewes and rams were forward to an increased ring of purchasers which ensured all classes where dealer on the week being way short of purchaser requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact your auctioneers for all further enquiries and when best to market your stock for maximum returns.

Light weight ewes proved to be the call of the day with numerous pens of blackface ewes seeing between £155-£165 topping at £180 for a penful of hefty Northumberland bred ewes consigned by M/s Chalrton, Whiteside farm, Haltwhistle. Not far behind was a penful of 23 scotch bred blackface ewes consigned by M/s Cartner, Blackwoodridgehouse, Lockerbie realising £174. Cheviot ewes followed suit topping at £182 for a pen of 7 Consigned by M/s Ferrie, Douglas Square, newcastleton.

Texel ewes were forward in greater numbers with an outstanding ewe topping the sale at £400 consigned by M/s Paterson, Veltigar, Tankerness. This run of 32 exceptional ewes averaged a staggering £331.52.

Suffolk ewes sold to a big trade topping at £280 for a single pure-bred ewe consigned from Ms Martindale, The Land, Lockerbie. Pen after pen traded between £225-£235.

Mule ewes were back in fashion topping at £225 for a fine pair of scotch mules consigned by M/s Spence, Corriellaw, Lockerbie. Strongest mules regularly traded at £185-£195 with several pens breaching £200.

Rams sold to recent high rates of return being unrivalled. Topping the sale was a monster of a texel bred ram consigned by M/s Halliday, Crawthart, Lockerbie realising £335. Plenty of heavy tups breaching £250

Many More ewes and rams are required and requested by purchaser demand in the run up to the Qurbani festival. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our auctioneers and fields personal which will be pleased only to please to take your calls to market your stock for maximum returns.

Heavy ewes

Texel - £400 & £365 Veltigar, £345 Roadside, £335 Beckfoot, £330 & £325 Veltigar, £320 Greenwood, £315 Veltigar

Beltex - £300 Riverside, £255 Milton of Gollanfield, £225 Tercrosset, £220 Torrax, £220 Riverside, £220 West Stobs

Suffolk - £280 The Land, £266 Maulcastle, £265 Beckfoot £252 & £240 Beechgrove, £238 Roadside, £238 Beckfoot, £235 Ingleston, £235 The Land

Charollais - £235 Larel, £228 Roadside, £212 & £210 Beckfoot

Blue Leicester - £225 Beckfoot, £198 Morebattle Tofts

Cross - £225 North Corriellaw, £220 Shankston, £205 Woodhouse, £202 & £200 Fala Hill, £200 Coxhill, £200 Dunn

Cheviot Mule - £222 Corstane, £208 Torkirra, £208 Wisleydown

North Country Cheviot - £208 Northway, £200 The Ha

Blue Texel - £200 Low Ranachan, £200 Whitelumbs, £194 Drumreach

Continental - £200 (x2) Beckfoot

Dutch Spotted - £195 Tercrosset, £184 Beckfoot

Dorset - £192 Beckfoot

Border Leicester - £190 Ingleston

Romney - £188 & £180 Wisleydown Hotel, £175 Maidencots, £175 High Crubasdale

Lley - £165 Coxhill

Light ewes

Cheviot - £182 Douglas Square, £180 Nirvana, £172 Ingleston, £170 Veltigar, £170

Springwells

Blackface - £180 Whiteside, £174 Blackwoodridgehouse, £170 Gibblaston

Kerryhill - £172 Gillenbie

Dartmoor - £158 Litharge

Easycare - £158 Ardovie House

Herdwick - £155 Gorthleck Mains, £150 Comlongun Mains

Swaledale - £155 Broomhills, £145 Orthwaite Hall

Rams

Texel - £335 Crawthart, £288 Beckfoot, £260 Torkirra

Suffolk - £305 Thuster Mains, £300 Green-side, £255 Cambeckhill, £228 West Stobs

Charollais - £295 Milton of Gollanfield

Blue Leicester - £252 Wydon Eals, £230 Spoutbank

Cheviot - £245 Drumcairn, £225 Tister

Dorset - £225 Beckfoot

Blue Texel - £212 Springwells

Cross - £194 Burnfoot

North Country Cheviot - £185 Carruthers, £165 Commonside, £165 Maidencots

Ryeland - £185 Woodside

Beltex - £180 Torkirra, £172 Torrax

Continental - £178 Torkirra

Blackface - £162 West Stobs, £160 Burnfoot

Swaledale - £160 Spoutbank, £150 Uldale

Averages:

Lambs

Standard to 497p (495.36p)

Medium to 486.5p (438.15p)

Heavy to 434.8p (404.26p)

Overweight to 393.3p (365.58p)

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 4th May 2026

Mon	Quilters Group Mending Monday	10-1 1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches After School Club	2-4 4-5:30	Village Hall, DG14 oUX Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-3 10-12	Creation Mill, DG13 oES Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Thurs	Embroidered Sweaters	6-8	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat	Fair Isle Hat - Session 3 Relaxed Trouser Workshops	10-1 10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES

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

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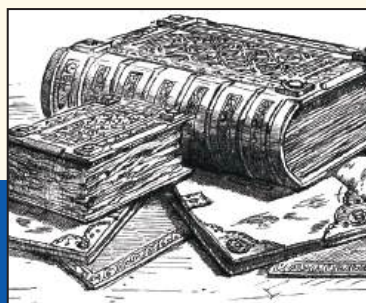
WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Sat 2nd	Langholm Producers Market	The Buccleuch Centre 9am - 1pm
Sat 2nd	Bake Sale fundraiser in support of the Beatson cancer centre	Langholm Pop-up Shop 9am
Sun 3rd	Langholm Old Town Bowling Club Open Day	Langholm Old Town Bowling Club 2pm
Sun 3rd	The Apex Singers	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Wed 6th	Games Night	Eskdalemuir ESMP Hall 7pm
Thurs 7th	Scottish Parliamentary Election	Polling stations 7am - 10pm
Fri 8th	Langholm Common Riding Public Meeting & Election of Cornet	The Buccleuch Centre Voting 6pm to 8pm Meeting 8pm
Sat 16th	Paul Young Songs And Stories	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sun 24th	Barbeque & Background Music	Eskdalemuir ESMP Hall from 2pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2617 answers next week

- Which district of West London has a world-famous annual carnival?
- Which English city is famed for lace-making?
- Where was Sir Francis Drake playing his game of bowls before he set out to destroy the Spanish Armada?
- In which county would you find Broadmoor Hospital?
- Which English county is sometimes known as Salop?
- On which river does the Devon town of Barnstaple stand?
- In which London street is the main branch of the famous Hamley's toy shop?
- The Embassy of which country can be found at 58 Knightsbridge, London?
- Which obscure spot in North Devon was made famous in a Charles Kingsley novel?
- Of which industry is St Austell in Cornwall the centre?
- Which is the deepest lake in England?
- Where would you find Carisbrooke Castle?
- Into which harbour do the River Piddle and River Frome flow?
- Which famous castle is located near Maidstone and stands beside the M20 motorway?
- Which English seaside resort's beach of tangled nets and working fishing boats is known as The Stade?
- In which city was the Domesday Book actually written?
- Which two English counties are prefixed with Greater?
- What is Britain's largest official nature reserve?
- Who was the leading naturalist who accompanied Captain Cook and who was also a leading figure in the development of Kew Gardens?
- On roadmaps, what colour are motorways?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2616

- Frank Bough and Selina Scott
- Viv Anderson
- Tax Exempt Special Savings Account
- The Pope
- Guardian Angels
- Barnum
- Admiral Beaufort (Beaufort Scale)
- Anne Nightingale
- Lockerbie
- Wembley Arena
- Guildford
- Cheltenham
- Cock-a-leekie
- Devon
- Douglas, Isle of Man
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Merry Hill
- Morecambe
- Birmingham
- Norwich

Crossword 2616

Across: 1 Abbas, 4 Sell-out, 8 Circa, 9 Bambino, 10 Spaniel, 11 Tenth, 12 Ran dry, 14 Adepts, 18 Motif, 20 Objects, 22 Opening, 23 Heave, 24 Yearned, 25 Diets.

Down: 1 Accuser, 2 Bargain, 3 Swami, 4 Subtle, 5 Limited, 6 Onion, 7 Tooth, 13 Ruffian, 15 Package, 16 Sisters, 17 Forged, 18 Moody, 19 Theta, 21 Jihad.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

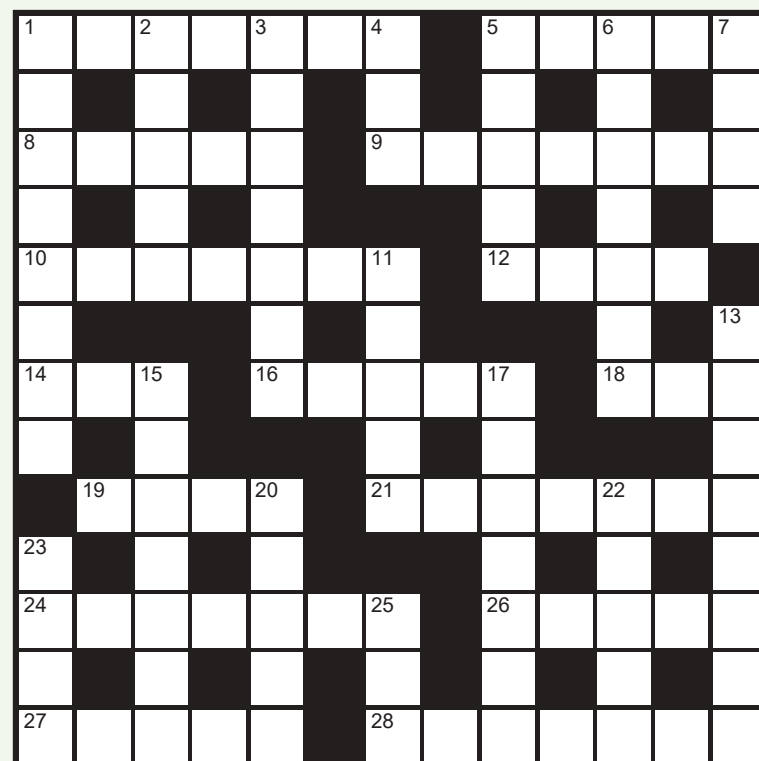
No. 2617 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

Across

- Spotted (7)
- La Scala cry (5)
- Basra native, perhaps (5)
- Type of pastry (7)
- Energetic (7)
- Bristles (4)
- Conclusion (3)
- Puzzling Tower of -- (5)
- Sticky substance (3)
- Froth (4)
- Dixie city (7)
- Marsh marigold (7)
- Boredom (5)
- Part of a cake mixed early (5)
- Family line (7)

Down

- Superficial (4-4)
- Small hard particle (5)
- Victory (7)
- Sawbones (3)
- Inception (5)
- Permanent (7)
- Hawaiian island (4)
- Cuban dance (5)
- Solitary juggler supports the King (8)
- Portal (7)
- Ailment (7)
- Grinder (5)
- Present time (5)
- Dieter's measure (4)
- Cushion (3)



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May 2026
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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
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Cricket Club celebrates jubilee of memorable year



1976 Border League champs

1976 remains one of the most memorable years in Langholm Cricket Club's 168 year history. Across the UK, a prolonged heat-wave brought record breaking temperatures and hosepipe bans, while the wider world marked major moments in sport and culture. Apple was founded, Rangers lifted the Scottish league title, Scotland won the Calcutta Cup with Langholm's Billy Steele in the side, and Björn Borg, Chris Evert, Johnny Miller and Ray Reardon dominated their respective sports.

Closer to home, John Murray was elected Cornet and Empery, ridden by Lester Piggott, won the Epsom Derby in Langholm's traditional green and white. Yet the defining local achievement of the year was still to come.

Against expectations, Langholm Cricket Club captured the Border League title — the oldest cricket league in Scotland, founded in 1895. Pre season favourites Gala, chasing a third consecutive championship, alongside Selkirk and Kelso, were widely tipped for success, while Langholm were largely overlooked.

Led by captain Gordon Johnstone, Langholm began steadily, with early wins over St Boswells and Melrose. Performances by Richard Watt, Billy Smith and others helped build confidence, while a gritty draw away to Gala hinted at the team's growing belief.

Momentum

Momentum followed with victories over Penicuik, Dumfries Lanark and Melrose again. Contributions came from all corners: Smith and Tony Reid with the ball, Peter Bart Smith, Ronnie Johnstone and Keith McCord with the bat, and Eric Maxwell's excellent wicket-keeping. Although defeat away to Selkirk proved their only loss, it served to galvanise the side.

By season's end, Langholm had ten wins, two draws and one defeat. The depth of the team was key, with Neil Grant, Eric Beattie, Billy Currie, Ivan Bell, John Hogg and Andy Ritchie all playing vital roles. Tony Reid later described them as "the greatest bunch of lads" he had ever known.

The decisive moment came



WINNING TEAM: The successful 1976 Border League winners

on 29 August 1976, away to St Boswells. Batting first, Langholm posted 142, with Steve Shore's half century proving crucial. What followed was a tense, dramatic finish. With St Boswells needing just two runs to win, Reid delivered a ball that was struck into the air — caught by Andy Ritchie. One catch sealed history.

Celebrations echoed through Langholm. A pipe band met the team on their return, locals filled the streets, and meals followed in the Buck and the Eskdale. The achievement became part of the town's folklore.

Nearly 50 years on, that triumph still stands alone. Later successes — the Border League Cup in 2007, promotions in the Eden Valley League, and near misses — have all been shaped by that legacy.

This summer, Langholm Cricket Club will honour the 50th anniversary of the 1976 title with special events and a celebratory dinner. More than a season, 1976 was the year Langholm made history — a legacy that continues to inspire players, supporters and the wider Muckle Toon community today.

Right: Dickie Watt and Eric Maxwell



SOME TIME LATER: John Hogg, Keith McCord, Eric Maxwell, Neil Grant, Andy Ritchie



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

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

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!

Great team spirit from P6 & P7 footballers



P6 and P7 boys (above) who represented Langholm Primary School, took part in the RJW sponsored football tournament last week.

They played against six other primary schools winning two games, drawing two and losing two. The boys showed great team spirit and sportsmanship throughout. Well done to them.

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Old Town bowlers' first of the season

Weather brings out the players for the first weekend

Bowling

Langholm old town bowling club got their season properly underway last Friday for a jumbles game with twenty-seven members involved.

The weather has helped get the bowling off to a sunny start. On Sunday 3rd May at 2pm the club is holding an open day for the youth bowling club – old and new members are welcome to go along.

The newly refurbished club house now offers members an excellent meeting place after games and for spectators.

If anyone is interested in joining the club for the first time the membership for new members for the first year is only £10. The youth/junior membership is only £5.

The Old Town club's members and guests take advantage of the sunshine with a jumbles competition



Valuable three points for Legion at Eyemouth

Football

On Saturday a squad of 12 players made the long travel across to Eyemouth in cracking conditions for a pivotal league encounter vs Eyemouth United. Points were crucial in the wrestle to remain in Border Amateur Division A.

The lads started in a determined spirit, with the midfield trio and back four working in unison to keep any threat at bay. At 25 minutes Danny Hotson in goal produced an excellent save down to his right to deny the Eyemouth striker from range. With Summerbee providing some clever touches up front we looked dangerous in spells but went into the break level (0-0).

A strong first half performance then continued into the second half as we began to play forward more confidently, using the large Eyemouth pitch to our advantage. It was this that led to the opening goal, when Summerbee pounced on a well cleared ball from defence - nodding calmly past the goalkeeper oncoming goalkeeper (0-1).

Not long after, a spell of legion possession led to fullback James Borthwick being played



into the box. A mistimed lunge from the Eyemouth defender brought James down in the box and a penalty was awarded. Craig Cuthbert finished calmly from the spot to put some daylight between us and the home side (0-2).

The boys maintained their combative nature to the very last whistle, exemplified by Ben Winter and Scott Collins each taking turn to block and clear off the line from a late flurry of corners. An outstanding result on the road which keeps our survival bid alive. We are back in league action again next weekend when we travel to Earlston Rhymers who sit 3 points ahead.

Shout out to Iain Little for stepping in for our laid up manager. Worthwhile giving up his Saturday for three pints on the road.

Personal best for Ava

Athletics

Ava Bell's outdoor athletic season is up and running. In late March she was at the SprintFastest invitation-only sprint competition at Grange-mouth.

The event is designed to showcase the fastest young athletes in Scotland. Bringing together the top sprinters from age groups U11 to U20. Conditions on the day were difficult, but she achieved a new (wind assisted) personal best (pb) in the 100m. Last weekend was the Glasgow Athletics Association Sprint Gala at Crownpoint stadium which offered a rare chance to run a competitive outdoor 60m. Ava achieved a category win in her heat, just outside her pb - a good start to the season.



Macy's marathon

Running

Macy Cropper of Langholm ran in the London Marathon last Sunday after having been in the ballot for the first time. Macy completed the run and said afterwards

"It was a warmer day than I was used to training in, so it made it a challenge, but it was the most amazing experience of my life.

"I am so grateful to the Muckle Toon Joggers, First Bite Run Club (and also Dan Winter), for all the support with the many training runs – it made the long runs that bit easier."



E&L SPORT

