

**Post Office
celebrates its first
year trading**

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**Legends of
Langholm Cricket
Club - Tony Reid**

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Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Tradition continues with Hope at the helm

Thomas Hope is elected to carry Langholm's Burgh Standard for 2026



Above: Friends and family celebrate as Thomas David Hope is elected as Langholm Cornet for 2026

Right: Cornet Elect Tommy Hope with RHM Ewan Patterson and RHM Bailey Donaldson



It is truly the start of Langholm's favourite season when the town's young women are dressed up and the young men are suited and booted, ready to enjoy a night out for Election Night.

2026 was no exception. Any stranger approaching the Buccleuch Centre would have wondered what was happening as a healthy crowd gathered to welcome Langholm Pipe Band and Langholm Town Band, who marched their musical way to the meeting.

Whether they were there to

cast their vote, enjoy the music, or attend the Common Riding Annual Public Meeting, the atmosphere was electric, with everyone welcoming the start of the new Common Riding season in the Muckle Toon. The meeting was well attended, and the audience was delighted to hear that the Common Riding is in a sound financial position and that the Trustees and Members are all set for another successful year.

For a full report on the meeting, photos, and well-wishes, see pages 7-11.

Family Announcements

Deaths

ELLWOOD, Catriona (Ena).

Peacefully on the 28th of April at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Ena aged 97 years. A devoted wife of the late Jock Ellwood, much loved mum of Alastair, Mairead and Susan, adored grandma of Jamie and Bora, cherished mother-in-law, auntie and friend to many. A graveside service will be held at Ewes Cemetery on Monday 18th of May at 1:00pm. Friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be for Parkinson's UK.

All enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

HENDERSON, James (Jim)

Peacefully at home on the 3rd May in the presence of his family, Jim aged 94 years. A devoted husband of Yvonne, a dearly loved dad, father-in-law, adored grandad and great-grandad, cherished brother, brother-in-law, uncle and a wonderful friend to many. A committal service will be held at Carlisle Crematorium on Wednesday 20th May at 12:20pm, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Canonbie Parish Church at 2:00pm. Friends are respectfully invited to attend both services. Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be for Jim's Chosen Christian Charities.

All enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

ZEMLA, Eva

Who passed away aged 78 on 4th May 2026. Beloved wife of the late Frank Zemla, much loved mum to Michael and Laura, sister to Anna & Adam, mother-in-law to Margaret and a loving and devoted Nana to Ellie and Ryan. Her memory will live on in our hearts, and she will be profoundly missed by everyone who loved her. At Eva's request there will be no funeral service but a Hooley to celebrate her life which will be organised in due course

Acknowledgements

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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 17th May
JOINT SERVICE at
Langholm
10am

No services at
Canonbie and
Newcastleton

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

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

share the news
of any...

- engagements
- marriages
- births
- christenings
- birthdays
- anniversaries
- congratulations

Thank-yous

THOMAS HOPE



I would just like to thank everyone for the kind message and support leading up to and since Friday night, it really has meant a lot to us all.

It has been a very surreal few days. I would also like to wish everyone a fantastic summer and Common Riding.

TOM HENDERSON



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tommy on his election as Langholm Cornet for 2026.

Thank you to everyone who voted for me and for all the good wishes and kind words received.

I'd like to wish Tommy and his family all the very best for the summer ahead.

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

Eskdale Pony Club holds Top Dog Show

Eskdale Branch of the Pony Club held a dog show at the weekend at the Castleholm, Langholm raising £750 for pony club funds. Results were as follows:

- Class 1 Prettiest Bitch:** Raven and Thea; Inka and Brooke; Dot and Anna and Luna and Lynne.
Class 2 Most Handsome boy: Odie and Iona, Cruz and Thea, Henry and Lexie, Scout and Mel.
Class 3 Waggiest Tail: Riley and Emily, Rory and Emily, Sassy and Lynsey and Molly and Hamish.
Class 4 Working Dog: Tally and Ella, Holly and Gillian, Annie and Katie, Kiera and Stuart.
Class 5 Scruffiest Dog: Cooper and Jessica, Jack and Imogen, Annie and Katie and Nelly and Freya.
Class 6 Best veteran: Kaih and Kim, Juniper and Leo, Tan and Zoe, Olly and Freya.
Class 7 Under 10 Handler: Raven and Thea, Bella and Eres, Henry and Lexie, Molly and Sally.
Class 7b Under 16 Handler: Juniper and Leo, Inka and Brooke, Tally and Ella, Bailey and Coen.
Class 8 Gun Dog: Holly and Gillian, Lenny and Andrew, Crystal and Caroline, Cruz and Thea.
Class 9 Cutest Puppy: Ollie and Lauren, Meg and Isla, Cooper and Jessica, Misty and Chloe.
Class 10 Dog most like owner: Inka and Eleanor, Blue and Alice; Molly and Sally, Poppy and Quinn.
Class 11 Sweetest eyes: Lenny and Clair, Didi and Julie, Ollie and Lauren, Blue and Alice.
Class 12 Judge's favourite: Scout and Ella, Henry and Lexie, TBC, Chalkey and Ivy.



CHAMP: Talli with owner Ella Cooper



FUN FOR ALL: Great fun at the Castleholm



ALL KINDS OF EVERYTHING: attended the Eskdale Pony Club Dog Show

Overall Champion: Ella Cooper and Talli. **Reserve Champion:** Gillian and Holly. The Pony Club said thanks to Michelle Briggs for

leading the event and Kirsty Duncan for the impossible job of judging the classes.

Constituency Conservatives keep their seats

Following last Thursday's Scottish Parliamentary election, the South of Scotland will be represented at Holyrood by three constituency Conservative MSPs, three Reform MSPs, two Scottish Labour MSPs, one Scottish Greens MSP and one Scottish Liberal Democrat MSPs.

In the west Finlay Carson, Conservative party has been elected to represent Galloway and West Dumfries returning to the Scottish parliament. Craig Hoy another Conservative will represent Dumfriesshire with the SNP's Stephen Thompson in second place. Craig replaces former MSP Oliver Mundell. Rachael Hamilton held onto her seat for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire for the Conservatives.

The regional MSPs are Senga Beresford, Jamie Langan and David Kirkwood for Reform, Laura Moodie for Scottish Greens, Carol Ann Mochan and Joe Fagan for Scottish Labour and Duncan Dunlop for the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The voter turnout in the far west was 51.9%, in Dumfriesshire 51.7% and 55% in Midlothian South Tweeddale and Lauderdale.



Above: Craig Hoy is congratulated on his re-election by David Mundell Rachael Hamilton was also re-elected for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwick



Mental Health awareness week

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week (11-17 May) and NHS 24 is encouraging people across Scotland to take simple actions to support their mental health – and to know where to turn if they, or someone they care about, needs urgent help. This year's national theme, "Take Action", focuses on the small but meaningful steps that can make a difference. Whether that's looking after your own wellbeing, checking in on someone else, or understanding how to access the right mental health support when it's needed.

Lauren Kennedy, Lead Nurse for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities at NHS 24, said people should not wait until they reach crisis point before seeking help. "Taking action can be as simple as doing something that helps you cope, chatting with a loved one, or knowing where to turn if your mental health feels overwhelming," she said.

As part of the week, NHS 24 is supporting the Mental Health Foundation's call to action by encouraging people to consider one action for themselves, one for someone else, and one action

for all of us.

Lauren continues:

"Taking care of your mental health can start with just one action for yourself, like stepping outside for fresh air or practicing a calming technique when you're feeling anxious. One action for someone else might be checking in on a friend or listening without judgement if they want to talk. And one action for all of us is knowing where to get urgent help. Support is available day and night, so no one must face things alone. Reaching out for help is a positive action and something that should be done as soon as support is needed."

NHS 24 provides a range of mental health services, from digital wellbeing resources to telephone support for people who need urgent help. These services are free and available to anyone living in Scotland. For information check out NHS Inform and search for mental health services at NHS 24.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Run for fun in the Colour Run

Langholm Parent Partnership is organizing a colour run which will start and finish at the cricket club on Friday 19th June.

A colour run is a fun event where people walk or run through points while being showered in safe coloured powder. Children and adults are welcome to sign up using a link:

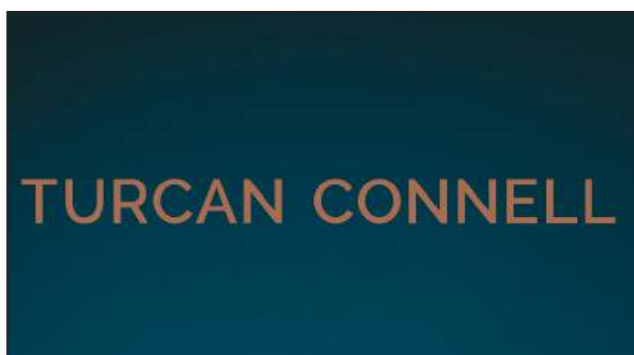
<https://form.jotform.com/261072717823356>

Bridge Results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 3, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir.

E/W - 1, Doreen Taylor & Lesley McCartney, 2, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 3, Janet Ivison & Pat Watson.

Charity Lawyers to hold trustee training day



Charity Lawyers Turcan Connell are holding a charity trustee day in Langholm on 27th May at the Buccleuch Centre from 11am – 7pm. The sessions will offer training for trustees and members of community organisations with insights into how to strengthen leadership, governance and strategic oversight.

Expert speakers from the Scottish Charity regulator (OSCR) & the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organizations (SCVO) will delve into topics of interest and the Development Trust As-

sociation Scotland (DTAS) will host an opportunity to listen to community groups discussing their experiences in delivering community projects and the day will round up with an insightful discussion on the role of philanthropy in our area.

The day has been designed for attendees to pick and mix between the sessions they would like to attend. For more information and to register your interest please contact either Ann or Sharon on ann@ashleybank.co.uk or sharon@ashleybank.co.uk

Tarras Valley's great oaks



The Bangor University team with one of Langholm's very old oak trees

The team at Tarras Valley hosted the Forestry Masters course students from Bangor University for their 5th annual visit last week. The students had been on a Scotland study tour to see lots of different woodland and forestry sites from private, public, charity and community landowners to see the diversity of management across the sector.

The group had a walk up through Hallpath and onwards to see the ancient woodlands at Longwood, lots of the stu-

dents hadn't seen woodlands like this before with so many ancient oaks, many said this was the highlight of their study tour. The woodlands are in all their spring glory with hundreds of new Oak and Rowan saplings peeping up through the ground after the birch thinning and bright carpets of bluebells.

Jenny Barlow, Reserve Manager said 'It's always great to be able to share the magic of Longwood with people who visit, seeing the awe when people see the ancient oak trees never gets old'.

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£17k worth of prizes for the Bitesize Bookworm

TGJones has launched a nationwide competition for UK primary schoolchildren and primary schools, with a total prize value of over £17,000 up for grabs.

The 'Bitesize Bookworms' competition supports the National Year of Reading 2026, the biggest campaign in a generation designed to inspire everyone to discover a passion for reading and embed it into our everyday lives. A Department for Education initiative supported by the National Literacy Trust, the National Year of Reading is delivered with the support of major sponsors and partners, including TG Jones. Primary school children across the country will be asked to share what they love about their favourite book – in 25 words or less.

Each winner will receive a

£200 TGJones Gift Card, plus £4,000 of books and stationery for their school, while runners-up will win a £50 TGJones Gift Card and £500 of equipment for their school. All entrants will be in with a chance of winning the huge prize, with three winners and nine runners up to be selected by an expert panel of literary judges, including primary school teacher turned rapper MC Grammar, Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan.

Competition entries will be split across three primary school age groups, with one winner and three runners-up from each group. Primary 1-3 Scotland; Primary 4-5 Scotland; Primary 6-7 Scotland. School children who want to share why they love their favourite books can enter via page on the <https://www.tgjonesonline.co.uk> website which remains open until 23:59 on Friday 5th June.



With You in Scotland Up for Award

WithYou in Scotland - which provides drug and alcohol support in Dumfries and Galloway - has been named as a finalist for the SCVO's Scottish Charity of the Year for its dedicated work supporting people facing challenges with drugs and alcohol.

Last year, staff in 13 community-based services across the country helped 14,000 people. Referrals rose 21% year-on-year, and teams held more than 63,000 appointments, up 17%. WithYou's online webchat, available 364 days a year, connected with a record 1,987 people seeking support, up 28% year-on-year.

The human impact of that work was summed up by one father in Dundee, whose words were later cited in the opening address at the National Drugs Mission Conference in Edinburgh in March as an example of what Scotland's drug and alcohol sector delivers.

He said: "Without WithYou and others, I wouldn't be sitting here. I would be dead. Every single person in here saved my life. My kids wouldn't have a dad if it wasn't for the support I received." Louise Stewart, Scotland Director at WithYou, said the award nomination recognised work that changed lives across Scot-

land.

Almost everyone in Scotland has been touched by drug and alcohol harm. Figures published in September offered a moment of cautious optimism, with drug deaths in 2024 at their lowest level since 2017 and alcohol deaths at a five-year low.

During that period, the charity launched WithYou Anywhere in Highland - the UK's first fully virtual drug and alcohol service - bringing recovery support to people in Scotland's most remote communities. They also helped shape policy, playing a key role in developing Scotland's Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use and the Standards for Young People Accessing Treatment or Support for Alcohol or Drugs. And as synthetic opioids entered Scotland's drug supply, they expanded drug-checking and naloxone provision to keep people safe.

Winners will be announced on 11 June 2026 in a celebratory awards ceremony hosted by broadcaster Sally Magnusson at the Radisson Blu in Glasgow.



Mary Street Vandalism

Residents unhappy

A Mary Street resident came in to the office to report vandalism to the E&L this week. Plant tubs were tipped out and one thrown down the banking on Friday probably during the middle of the night. Bricks around the trees where plants are put in were thrown down the river bank too. Residents are saddened when their hard work to create a nice environment for everyone is destroyed as they take great pride in making the street look nice and tidy for all.



Plant pots were toppled and thrown down the riverbank on Langholm's Mary Street last Friday night



Favourite Butterfly

From Friday 15 May - Sunday 7 June, people across the country are being asked to choose the butterfly they love most, whether that be a familiar garden visitor like the Red Admiral, Orange-tip or Holly Blue, or an elusive rarity like the aristocratic Duke of Burgundy or the mighty Purple Emperor.

With a plethora of species to choose from, Butterfly Conservation has today launched a dedicated website with fun facts about every single species, where people can cast their vote and even take a fun 'what's your butterfly personality?' quiz to choose their champion.

The charity hopes to encourage children and adults to marvel at butterflies this summer, reconnect with nature and celebrate the diver-

sity and importance of the UK's most iconic insects. But these incredible insects are in trouble. 80% of species have declined in the last 50 years due to habitat loss, land use change, and climate breakdown.

However, all is not lost. Recent scientific evidence proves that, as well as benefiting our wellbeing, as little as 15 minutes watching butterflies can increase people's feelings of being connected to nature, which has a direct correlation with how motivated they are to protect it. The vote to find Britain's Favourite Butterfly will take place from Friday 15 May - Sunday 7 June, and the result will be announced later in June.

Vote for your favourite at britainsfavouritebutterfly.co.uk



D&G Heat Project

Although we're hopefully moving into Summer now with warmer weather on the way, the D&G Handyvan's HEAT project run in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service offers small energy saving measures for households.

Homeowners and private tenants across the region who are over 60 or people who have a disability/health condition can access free energy saving devices for the home.

These include radiator reflective panels, thermal curtain liners (2 windows), LED bulbs (maximum 5), letterbox brushes and chimney draught excluders to help you keep your home warm.

If this would assist you or someone you know please call 08000 699 173 to discuss how they could be of use.



Post Office celebrates a successful first year's trading

Community really happy about the return of an essential service

Langholm Post Office returned to the High Street one year ago this week with owner Elizabeth Wilson holding an opening ceremony with newly elected Cornet Ewan Patterson and Semi Jubilee Cornet Steven Hotson cutting the ribbon.

One year on the E&L Advertiser spoke to Elizabeth who said that the customers were triple what the Post Office had estimated them to be. The estimates were probably based on the experience of the Scotby team who ran a part-time post office service from the library prior to that.

The forecast was for 200 – 250 customers a week but we are getting almost 800 ransactions a week. She said it's been amazing and her great team who all help each other, can't be thanked enough for what they have done. There are

challenges every day in the post office as they come across things they haven't had to do before but they just work through those. Elizabeth said:

Cashline

"We are the cashline of Langholm and people still often need cash for transactions locally. We collect and deliver mail, people can pay road and council tax here, pay electricity bills or put money on pre-payment keys. We collect parcels for Royal Mail, and DPD and from 19th May for Amazon who will deliver and collect to us. Also, from June people will be able to buy Euros from us if they're going on holiday. We tried to get Inpost lockers here but that has unfortunately been refused.

"We are increasing the goods we sell in the paper shop and now offer morning rolls from Express Bakery, fruit and



Owner Elizabeth Wilson (c) with Dougie Beattie and Gillian Elliot, just two of the Post Office staff members

vegetables from Patersons and venison amongst other things and people can pre-order goods from us. We employ six people as well as Kelvin and I to deliver the service and are pleased that

it continues to develop. Most of them have done the Post Office training.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to all the customers for all the support they have given us

and for their patience when the computers crash which has happened. People have been highly appreciative of having the Post Office back in Langholm and we're happy to be of service."

Kirk Wynd Closure

Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council has received a traffic order for the temporary road closure of the Kirk Wynd. The request has come from Scottish Water to facilitate lead piping renewal works. There will be a traffic diversion in place and the closure will take place from 3rd June at 8am until 6pm on 7th June. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Hub Manager moves on

The Development Manager at Eskdalemuir Hub, Lara Porter, is moving on to a new job in the Scottish Borders this week after spending five years developing the old school and community hub into a hive of activity. The Hub held a send off for Lara on Sunday afternoon making a presentation and having tea and cake for everyone. All at the Hub will miss her greatly and the Chair of the Upper Eskdale Development Group wished her all the best with her new job.

Salmon catch at its lowest since 1952

The Chief Statistician has released figures for all of Scotland showing that total salmon catch by all methods in 2025 was the lowest, and total sea trout catch the second lowest, since records began in 1952. Reported rod catch of salmon (28,020) is the lowest since records began, and 68% of the previous five-year average. Catches have decreased from a high of 111,405 in 2010 and the 2025 reports are consistent with a general pattern of decline in numbers of wild salmon returning to Scotland. Reported rod days effort for salmon for 2025 (192,859) decreased by 5% when compared to 2024 (203,199).

In 2025, release rates of salmon captured by rod were the highest on record. Of spring salmon captured by rod, 99% were released; 98% of all rod-caught salmon were released. The net and coble fishery reported the lowest retained catch, and the fixed engine fishery the sixth lowest since records began.

Fish reported as being of farmed origin represented 1.6%



The Sea Trout catch was also at its lowest since records began

of the total catch. Total reported rod catch of sea trout (13,025) is the lowest since records began. Sea trout catches have fluctuated around a general trend of decline since the 1960s. In 2025, release rates of sea trout were 92%. This is the second highest percentage since records began. The net and coble fishery reported the third lowest retained catch, and the fixed engine fishery the fifth lowest, since records began.

The Salmon and Sea Trout

Fishery Statistics publication for 2025 is based on data collected and collated by Scottish Government's Marine Directorate. The time series began in 1952. Catch and release data were first recorded in 1994. The publication provides a summary of rod and net catch and effort, for the 2025 fishing season. It is based on returns from proprietors, occupiers or agents of salmon and sea trout fisheries throughout Scotland.

A two-meeting report from Westerkirk SWI

On Tuesday 7th April Westerkirk SWI met in the Benty Hall. The speaker for the evening was Kate Elliot from Newcastleton.

She brought with her several walking sticks she has made and some of the materials she uses such as antlers, horn including Highland cow horn and sheep horns. Kate learnt stick making from her grandad by watching him from a very young age. She talked us through the stages of making and shaping the sticks. Many laughs were had along the way. Kate and her husband Robert show and hold demonstrations at the Highland Show each year and have been worthy winners on numerous occasions.

Kate's friend Sheila Murray makes little trinkets from the bits of horn that are left over from the stick making process. Many were on show and members made a few purchases. Kate has watched Sheila working and described the process as being very fiddly and definitely not something she could do. The brooches were very intricate



and we were in awe at how beautifully made they all were. Beverley Eyre thanked Kate for a wonderfully informative and humorous evening. After tea some business was discussed and schedules for the group mini show in November were distributed. Competition winners: Dundee cake: Lib McNeil; Girdle scones: Lib McNeil; 3 flowers: 1st Beverly Eyre, 2nd Lib McNeil. The raffle was drawn and the evening brought to a close.

The May meeting of Westerkirk SWI was a business meeting and AGM. Vice president Ann Hislop presided in the president's absence. Mim Wright was welcomed and hopefully

she thought we were OK and will join us next session. Team tests were further discussed also the Benty Ride out which is on the 18th July. Competition points cup won by Lib McNeil. 2nd (sheild): Hazel Johnstone and 3rd equal (silver spoon) Kay Kinstrey, Ila Jackson, Diana Stewart and Beverley Eyre.

The office Bearers for 2026/27 are President: Diana Stewart, Vice president: Ann Hislop, Secretary: Lib McNeil, Speaker Secretary: Hazel Johnstone, Points Secretary: Kay Kinstrey. All other members were invited to sit on committee. Competition winners: Fadge: 1st Lib McNeil, 2nd Maureen Sandilands. A June meal will be organised.

Farming on the Border



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



Farming with Gilly Fraser

EnviroBeef at Barnbackle Farm

Barnbackle Farm in Lochfoot, Dumfries is today playing host to a special EnviroBeef event as part of its Monitor Farm commitments.

With a focus on better sustainability, visitors will be finding out that small changes can deliver big results for both farms and the environment.

It's highlighting how the traits farmers already prioritise – fertility, health, growth, and longevity – improve productivity and profitability and reduce environmental impact.

Quality Meat Scotland genetics specialist Dr Emma McGowan whose work includes projects that help the sector accomplish its goals for efficiency, profitability, and sustainability is one of the main speakers. She also has experience at farm and research level.

She says the discussion will include a variety of environmental topics.

"We will be discussing the environmental benefit of improved fertility, growth rates, and longevity and the cumulative



effect of marginal gains," she said.

Barnbackle Farm is a 202ha operation running 150 mostly Sim-Luings suckler cows, 20 store cattle and 700 ewes run by Richard and Hayley Currie along with Richard's parents Andrew and Janice. Richard also has a small herd of pedigree Charolais.

Monitor Farm regional adviser Iona Smith says it's a great opportunity to exchange ideas. "This on-farm event will show how the traits you already select for are the same ones driving sustainability. No new system, just a fresh perspective. It will be great to discuss this with a practical focus on the herd at Barnbackle."

D&G farm worker takes on Doddie challenge

A Dumfriesshire farm worker and his partner are to embark on one of the UK's toughest long-distance hikes next month to raise funds for the My Name's Doddie Foundation through the RSABI charity.

Collin Dodds, who works at Chapelton Farm near Castle Douglas, and his partner Kate Little, reckon the hike from Fort William to Cape Wrath will take up to 16 days.

The unmarked Cape Wrath Trail will see them navigate some of the most remote and rugged terrain in the Highlands, tackling river crossings, unpredictable weather and wild landscapes.

Collin's farming career began in the Cheviot hills, before he moved to Chapelton where's he's remained for the past 27 years.

He's no stranger to fundraising - in 2016, he raised just



Collin Dodds

under £5,000 for RSABI through a 24-hour sponsored 'ploughathon'.

Collin says the charity is very important to him.

"RSABI is a charity that is

very close to my heart. The work the team has done over the years for people of all ages across the industry has made an extremely positive impact and it is important that the work continues", he said.

"I'm so thankful to my partner, Kate, who encourages me to do these out of the box things that not only put us in a better place but encourages us to be stronger and face whatever comes around.

"Whilst it will be a challenge, I'm excited to set off to Cape Wrath and encourage those in the industry and beyond to support me where possible."

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE
FOUNDATION**

SRUC's International Centre for Animal Welfare

Scotland's rural college is about to launch an International Centre for Animal Welfare, Science and Education.

The SRUC is already recognised for its expertise in animal behaviour and welfare, and this new move extends established global partnerships still further.

It will focus on regions across Asia, Africa and South America, collaborating with veterinary schools, agricultural universities and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), to support science-based teaching with animal welfare the primary focus.

SRUC Professor of Animal Behaviour Cathy Dwyer says there's a clear need for the centre.

"By working in genuine partnership with educators and researchers around the world, this centre will help build the skills, confidence and evidence base needed to improve animal welfare in ways that are locally relevant and sustainable," she said.

SRUC already has more than a decade of successful international collaboration and an active global programme of work under its belt. This includes supporting a new animal welfare research centre in India, as well as keynote contributions at major veterinary congresses in the Caribbean and in China.

SRUC's Head of Veterinary Medicine and



Biosciences, Professor Caroline Argo, says the centre will lead the way.

"This is a flagship vehicle for the advancement and support of animal welfare, both at home and internationally," she said.

"Using established expertise and networks, the Centre provides a fulcrum for the dissemination of education and skills, greatly empowering and energising positive change across the sector."

SRUC has also launched a new MSc in International Animal Welfare (Distance Learning) - an innovative programme designed to prepare graduates to tackle complex welfare challenges on a global scale.

H&H promotion for Anna

Roweltown farmer's daughter Anna McGregor has been promoted to the post of Assistant Pedigree Manager at Harrison & Hetherington.

The company says this reflects the strength of its homegrown talent and ongoing commitment to the pedigree sector.

H&H M.D. Robin Anderson says the promotion will come as no surprise to anyone who has worked with Anna.

"Over the last decade she has become one of the most respected people in her field," he said.

"Her commitment, work ethic and determination to deliver to the highest standard have earned her the trust of vendors and breed societies alike.

"Anna has also been instrumental in developing one of the largest online livestock sales portfolios across the UK and Ireland, and this new role gives her the opportunity to build on that success while continuing to strengthen our service offering."



Anna McGregor

Anna says she looks forward to developing her role further.

"I love my job, no two days are ever the same. What stays consistent is our focus as a team to maximise the potential of every animal we sell on behalf of our customers," she said.

"The variety, the people and the relationships we build make

it incredibly rewarding. I am looking forward to developing pedigree sales further, both at Borderway and online, and continuing to deliver the highest level of service."

Anna still plays a big part on the family farm near Longtown, regularly returning home to assist at busy periods such as lambing.

The year comes round again!

with Thomas Hope as our worthy new Cornet for 2026

Report and Photos by
Katherine Latimer

The election of Langholm Cornet was held on Friday the 8th of May. The results of the vote were preceded by the public meeting, during which the trustees of the Common Riding gave a report of the year.

Chairman ex-Cornet Kevan Hotson began the meeting by paying tribute to retired Secretary, Kenneth Hill. His tenure as secretary began in 2010, succeeding his father Dick Hill, who held the role from 1971, making their combined service a staggering 54 years. The diligent and dedicated service is a remarkable feat.

Cornet Ewan Patterson was then congratulated on the excellent job he did in 2025, with trustees and members agreeing that he carried out his duties in an exemplary manner. The Right-hand and Left-hand Men, Bailey Donaldson and Christopher Tait were also lauded for the way they supported the Cornet. Sponsors, landowners, bands and all those who help and support the Common Riding and its members were thanked for their incredible efforts year on year.

Tributes

Secretary Ross Mabon then gave his report. Tributes were paid to Diamond Jubilee Cornet Ronnie Hudson, and Jubilee and Semi-Jubilee Cornet John Murray, marking twenty-five years since the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak, at which only the 'front drei' took to the hill.

Ross then paid his own tribute to Kenneth Hill and thanked him for his guidance in succeeding to the role. He noted that three new Common Riding members joined through the year; ex-Cornets Steven Ellwood, Darren Irving, and Andrew Johnstone, and noted the resignation

of ex-Cornet Malcolm Devlin, adding that the current members sit at 35.

The main areas of discussion through the year were that the Highland Dancers were unable to attend last year due to issues and restrictions with access to the Castleholm. It is hoped that they will return this year.

The Common Riding colours were also discussed at length throughout the year, with the frequency of Navy Blue seemingly increasing, and the potential to introduce a secondary colour. However, it was noted that no adjustments had been agreed upon, though members would continue to discuss this as the years progress. Last year also marked the final year that Robbie Trussler and his team at Drove Weaving would coordinate the design, order and delivery of the Common Riding tie. Robbie and all who helped were thanked for their efforts over the years.

Change of venue

The final point of discussion was that of the Simmers Fair Night Dance, which has run at a financial loss for a few successive years. Alternative options were discussed, with the final decision being to move the dance this year to Langholm Social Club, along with changing the music to a mix of Scottish Country Dancing and disco.

Treasurer Joyce Bell then made her financial report. Last year was described as a steady year, with the surplus remaining at a similar level to the previous two years, raising no particular areas of concern.

Bar sales showed the most growth last year, with a 17% increase on the year before. Donations and sponsorships were also up by 4%. The Castleholm entrance income was down slightly, however this was offset by sales of Gazebo Pitches around the racetrack.



SMILING: Cornet Thomas Hope with his Right-hand Man Ewan Patterson and Left-hand Man Bailey Donaldson ready for their duties

Thanks were paid to Joyce Ireland and Becky for their roles as cashiers on the Common Riding Day, with Joyce noting how efficiently and accurately they work.

The result of the election of Cornet was then announced. Tom Henderson secured 401 votes, and Thomas Hope secured 592. There was a great cheer and the Right and Left took off at great speed. Luckily, they didn't have far to run this year.

When the meeting was opened to the floor, Colin Irving raised the issue of the bar being low on whisky by the later stages of the Common Riding afternoon. The committee agreed that this was something that could be easily rectified.

Colin Irving then proposed a vote of thanks to the Common Riding Committee and Trustees.

That being all, the meeting was drawn to a close.

All staff, volunteers and members at
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Thomas Hope
on his election to Langholm Cornet
for 2026



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Tommy is Langholm's man for 2026



Langholm
Common Riding
2026



LIKELY LADS: The Cornet's friends, old and young, gather for a photo



SUPPORT: Cornet Tommy Hope with girlfriend Ellie Hotson



FAMILY: Tommy with father David and brother Harry



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FULL HOUSE: The Cornet's friends and family photographed after Friday evenings result

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Everyone at the E & L Advertiser & the board of Muckle Toon Media would like to congratulate
Thomas Hope
on his election as Langholm Cornet for 2026 and wish him all the best for his year in office.

Tommy leads the way

First duty of newly-elected Cornet: Lead the Young Riders to the monument

Newly elected Cornet Thomas Hope led a gaggle of Young Riders up the Kirk Wynd on Sunday the 10th of May for their annual sponsored walk.

Thomas was flanked by Right- and Left-Hand Men Ewan Patterson and Bailey Donaldson.

The enthusiastic youngsters raised over £1300 for the Young Riders.

The route took the group up the Kirk Wynd and along the Burny Braes before following the road up to the monument. As per Common Riding tradition, the group circled the monument three times before heading back for the town down the face of Whita via Whita Well.

The youngsters were treated to an ice cream from Pelosi's van on their arrival back in the Market Place.



KEEN: Some of the Young Riders pictured with the Front Three before their hike



THREE MEN AND A HILL: Tommy, Ewan and Bailey lead the Young Riders to the Monument

Chloe at
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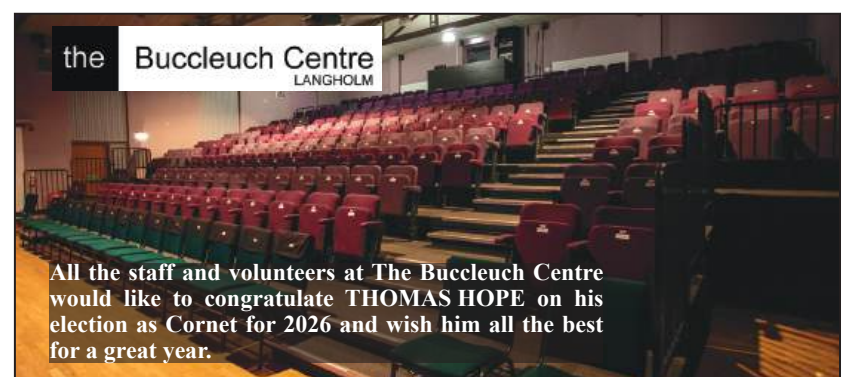
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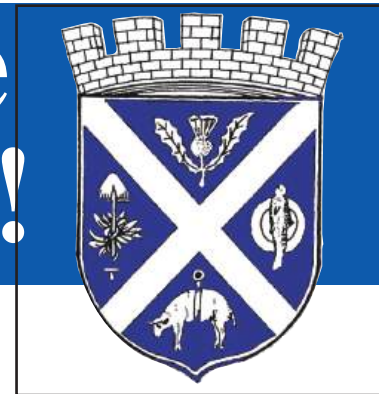
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on his election as Langholm Cornet for 2026
and wish him all the best



All the staff and volunteers at The Buccleuch Centre
would like to congratulate THOMAS HOPE on his
election as Cornet for 2026 and wish him all the best
for a great year.

...and it ends with a dance all the best Tommy!



The committee, staff and members
of

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congratulate

Cornet Hope

on his election as
Cornet for 2026

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Langholm Common Riding 2026

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The Langholm Initiative



Congratulations to
Thomas Hope

on his election as Cornet from all
at

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*Congratulations
to
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Hope
on his election as
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Newcastleton photographer captures the light fantastic

By Gilly Fraser

Colin Hamilton first saw what he describes as “the full splendour of the night sky” several years ago when he was camping in the Namib desert. Two years ago he moved to Saughtree Station just outside Newcastleton and the dark skies above Liddesdale have allowed him to really explore the night sky.

To capture his stunning photographs, he invested in a new generation of Smart Telescope which he says are compact and easy to set up. He also uses a standard DSLR.

“The easiest object to photograph is the moon,” he says. “For this I use a standard DSLR on a tripod with a 600mm lens. Early evening as it is getting dark is the best time as later the moon can be too bright to capture detail. A partial moon gives a greater amount of contrast with the shadows.

“The milky way core is a great night sky object, best seen between April to October. Using a wide-angle lens (I use an 11mm with a wide aperture (F2.8) and a 15 second exposure) can produce some great results. I use Adobe Lightroom for post processing on highlights, shadows and exposure.

“The same kit is used for the Aurora but probably extend the exposure time to 30 seconds.

“Meteors are difficult - a

quick flash and they are gone. I use the same setup (10 second exposure) but set an interval timer to get an image every 11 seconds. Recently I took over 800 images and only three contained meteors.

The technique for Star Trails is similar to the Meteors. The general principle is that the North or Polar star does not move whilst all the other stars move around it. Using the same setup, 10 second exposures every 11 seconds on a wide-angle lens at F2.8, tripod mounted focussed on or near the North Star, capture as many images as your battery will allow. These are then stacked in post processing, and this will generate the trailing in the image. I use software (again free to download) called starstax.

“For Deep Sky Objects I use my telescope. I find my target using the go to function on the App and leave it for as long as possible. It takes an image every 10 seconds. The more images the better the resolution. I was able to stack 3,300 images taken across 2 nights (M81 Bodes Galaxy).

“You can use the inbuilt stacking option, but I get much better results by saving each subframe and stacking using a free to download application called Siril.

“It is amazing that we can capture such stunning images for objects so far away - M42 Orion Nebula and M81 Bodes Galaxy are over 12 million Light Years away while M51 Whirlpool is 31, yes 31 million Light Years away!”



Some of Colin's dark sky photography



Colin Hamilton – in front of the lens for once.

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LOCAL NOTICEBOARD

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 18th May 2026

Mon	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches	2-4	Village Hall, DG14 oUX
	After School Club	4-5:30	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
	Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-12	Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat-Mon	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY OPEN WEEKEND		
	- Makers Market		
	- Mill tours	10-4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
	- Farm tours		
	- Sublimation printing workshop		
	- Cyanotype workshop		

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Annual General Meeting



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WHAT'S ON IN MAY		
Sat 16th	Paul Young Songs And Stories	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Thurs 21st	Sand, Silt, Fling Fiona Soe Paing music DG Arts Festival	Eskdalemuir Hub 7.30pm
Fri 22nd	The Music of John Denver	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 23rd	Open Mic Evening Showcase	Eskdalemuir Hub 6pm food 7pm music
Sat - Mon 23rd - 25th	Spring Fling Open Studios Event	Various studios in the region
Sun 24th	Barbeque & Background Music	Eskdalemuir ESMP Hall from 2pm
Wed 27th	Langholm Charity Trustee Day	The Buccleuch Centre 11am - 7pm
Fri 29th	Johnny Lee Memphis is Elvis	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sun 31st	Legends of the 60s	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm

The E&L
General Knowledge Quiz

- No. 2619 answers next week
- 1

In 1890, the first electric advertising sign was erected in Piccadilly Circus. Which food product was it advertising?

2

What is the main species of fish to go through the port of Grimsby?

3

Of which charitable organization is the Chief Barker the president?

4

In Scotland, what name is given to a judge in court of law?

5

Who compiled the first English dictionary?

6

For what type of berry is Lancashire the main commercial growing centre in Britain?

7

The SAS is Britain's elite military force but for what do the letters SAS stand?

8

The ghost of which of Henry VIII's wives is said to haunt Hampton Court Palace?

9

Which famous piece of stirring music was composed by James Thomson?

10

Opened in 1683 in Oxford, what was the first museum in Britain?
- 11

Bekonscot in Beaconsfield is the oldest what in the world?

12

Which town is home to the longest seaside pier in the world?

13

Which river does Warwick Castle overlook?

14

Which district of London gets its name from a medieval hunting call?

15

Who landed at Pegwell Bay in AD597 to bring Christianity to Britain?

16

Which house in Kent has the greatest number of rooms of any house in Britain?

17

Which city was built around the confluence of the River Cherwell and River Thames?

18

Did London's Tower Bridge come into operation in 1874, 1884 or 1904?

19

Which is Britain's busiest passenger port?

20

What are Pinewood and Shepperton?



NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2619 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across
- 6

Free from bias (4)
- 7

Bondage (7)
- 8

8th US President (3,5)
- 9

Exultation (4)
- 10

Auctions (5)
- 11

Testimonial (7)
- 13

Temporary possession (7)
- 15

Construct (5)
- 17

Positions (4)
- 19

Boreal (8)
- 20

School day came out of order (7)
- 21

Stable staples (4)
- Down
- 1

Computerized fact file (8)
- 2

Uncertain (13)
- 3

Flag (6)
- 4

Vicinity (13)
- 5

Yorkshireman (4)
- 7

Ride the waves (4)
- 11

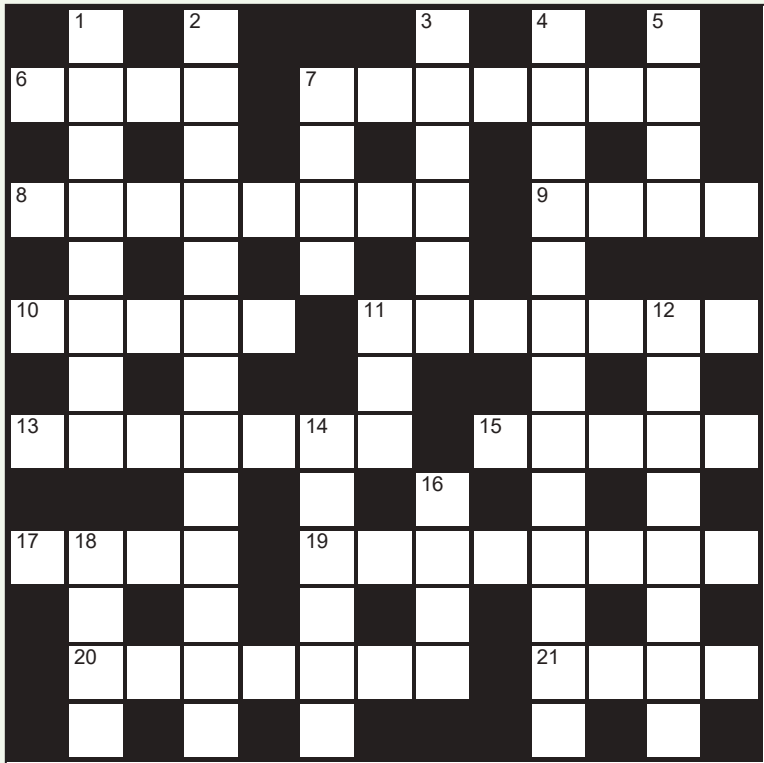
Plaything (3)
- 12

Assorted letters relate to permit (8)
- 14

Curved outward (6)
- 16

Zane or Lady Jane (4)
- 18

Egg-shaped (4)



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Excellent show by Under 14s at Moffat

School Rugby

The under 14 school rugby team had two competitive fixtures last week against Moffat and St Joseph's. Langholm beat Moffat 40-10 with excellent performances and tries from Luke, Jayk, Jack, Aaron, Rudy and Evan. St Joseph's beat Langholm 22-10.

The Langholm lads showed real character to make it a competitive game with tries from Rudy and Luke. A total of 18 players took to the field and all in all it was a fantastic squad effort. The Langholm team grew into the games and improved throughout showing great determination and teamwork. Thanks to Moffat for hosting and a special thanks to Katie Hislop for going along to coach the boys.



The Langholm Academy Under 14s showed an excellent squad effort

Busy time with league matches for Legion

Football

Langholm Legion had a busy last few days of border amateur league action to fulfil two fixtures.

Earlston Rhymers 6 Langholm Legion -3

Saturday 2nd saw the boys travel to Earlston, a match which could have seen us go level on points with our opponents... however it wasn't to be. On a warm day Earlston started on top and remained dominant for most of the first half. Racking up 4 unanswered goals within half an hour. A frustrating start no doubt, but on the stroke of half time Danny Hotson pulled one back after nodding in a Dan Winter delivery.

In the second half the legion performed much better, scoring through Callum Summerbee and Greig Cartner. With Earlston reduced to 10 men we kept pushing but it wasn't to be for the legion men.

Gala Fairydean Rovers 0 Langholm Legion 2

Onto Wednesday night when Legion were back on the road, this time to Netherdale to take on Gala Fairydean Rovers who are having a strong season in 3rd position. A contrast of styles were on show as Gala looked to play patient football and enjoyed large spells of possession throughout proceedings. However, it was Langholm who were more clinical.

The lads dug in well to keep



Gala Fairydean Rovers' ground at Netherdale, Galashiels

the energetic Gala side at bay and hit on the counter in the first half through Greig Cartner who pounced on a through ball to slot home for the legion (0-1). We went into the break ahead and came out in spirited fashion in the second half - the defence and Danny Hotson as GK combining well to nullify attacks. A calm finish by Craig Cuthbert in the second half was enough to claim an important 3 points after later discovering Hawick United took the win vs Earlston Rhymers on the same night (0-2).

Langholm Legion 1 Kelso -2

On Saturday last, Legion faced Kelso in the semi-final of the Waddell Cup, aiming to reach another cup final. In under a minute, they found themselves 1 nil down after a long ball wasn't cleared and broke to the Kelso CF who managed to find the back of our net. Not the start

we spoke about or had intended on having.

After 20 mins they were right back in it after Callum Summerbee got on the end of a Robert Maclean through ball and powered his way through the Kelso defence, finishing under the Kelso keeper to get us back level. On the 30-minute mark Finley Dell forced a good save from the Kelso keeper from a Craig Cuthbert freekick. Right on the stroke of half time the away side regained the lead after being awarded a free kick on the edge of our box and poor marking led to a goal at the back post.

Determined to get back in the game after half time that boys battled for everything, Craig Cuthbert hit the post from a free kick on the edge of the area. Corey Park had a shot that appeared to be over the line that wasn't given and despite the away side going down to 10 men with 10 minutes to go and Legion throwing everything but the

kitchen sink forward they couldn't get the equaliser they needed and the game ended 2-1 Kelso.

Hugely disappointing for everyone especially given the battling spirit that was there for all to see. Thank you to all who came along to cheer the boys on in the drizzly Scottish weather, to Alec Laidlaw for officiating and The Douglas Hotel for the after-match hospitality.

Next week Legion face Tweeddale in the final league game of the Season. They may still have a play off to come depending on other results.



Robert 'Jinky' Grieve Open

Bowling

Langholm New Town Bowling Club had their first open tournament on Saturday. The Robert 'Jinky' Grieve Open Singles competition was played with 46 entries. Thanks to the Grieve family for their generous sponsorship of the competition.

The worthy winner today

was our very own Alan Warwick (Wag). Well done Wag very well deserved you played excellent the whole day. Hard luck to Stevie Barker of Langholm Old who also played well throughout the day. Beaten semi-finalists were Alistair Elliot (Newcastleton), Ryan Turnbull (Hawick). Beaten quarter finalists were Paul Warwick (Langholm New); Paul Mitchell (Langholm

New); Kath Fletcher (Coldstream), Duncan Ritchie (Langholm Old).

Thanks to Janie and her helpers for doing the kitchen and to Chris for cutting the green. Also, to everyone else who helped run the tournament, sold raffle tickets and did the bar it is much appreciated. Avril Grieve presented the prizes and President David Pool made the vote of thanks.



Stevie Barker, Old Town, David Pool, New Town, Avril Grieve, and winner Alan (Wag) Warwick

Handy away win in Lake District match

Braithwaite bowled out for 138 by Langholm eleven

Cricket

Langholm travelled to the Lake District on Saturday to face Braithwaite looking to come back from their first game defeat. Batting first they put on 200 with fifties for Nicky Piszczykiewicz and Tony Steele before bowling out Braithwaite for 138 for a 62-run win.

After losing the toss and being put into bat, Langholm made a slow start facing tight bowling from father and son Lee and Joshua Zaninetti. Both openers fell in consecutive overs Chris Stewart bowled by Lee followed by Gregor Park given lbw to Joshua with the score on just 9. Skipper John Bell and Nicky Piszczykiewicz would steady the ship with the Langtooner accelerating the score, getting the side to 44 before Bell was bowled by spinner Johnstone in the 13th over. Tony Steele joined Piszczykiewicz and the free scoring continued getting to 95 when Nick was caught on the boundary scoring 53 off Jack Bailey. This started a flurry of



Langholm faced Braithwaite away last weekend

wickets with Langholm losing Dave Steele and Scott Norman for ducks. But with Steele still at the crease, ably assisted by Andrew Paisley the pair put on a partnership of 86 taking the score to 181 before Steele was stumped for a brilliant 75. The tail took the score to a very respectable 200 all out, with Paisley scoring 17, Danny Tait 0, Ryan Johnstone 5 and Jay Gordon 3 not out.

Langholm's bowlers got off to a great start with vice-captain Johnstone bowling opener Sams in the second over. Johnstone

and Paisley kept Braithwaite in check early and with the score on 24 Paisley bowled Jackson. With the next, over Johnstone got the other opener Myles bowled for 15. Braithwaite would steadily build from here getting to 87 before Dave Steele got a deserved wicket, with Carter falling to a brilliant catch from Scott Norman in the slips. Steele would get his second wicket two overs later removing Joshua Zaninetti who popped one up for Johnstone to catch. The home side continued to battle getting to the

35th over with the score on 126 Langholm finally removed Dintinger for 65 caught by Dave Steele off the bowling of Paisley. Tony Steele would pick up the next three wickets, first Johnstone caught by Norman for 16, then Little bowled for 5 and then trapping Pepper LBW for a duck. Paisley would wrap up the innings bowling Bailey for 1 with Braithwaite finishing on 138. This week sees Langholm's first home game of the season with Braithwaite making the return leg on Saturday.

Legends of Langholm Cricket Club

Cricket Memories

Throughout the summer Langholm Cricket Club is celebrating the legends behind Langholm Cricket Club's 1976 Border League-winning side. This week the club remembers Tony Reid.

Tony made 372 appearances for Langholm, scoring 1867 runs and taking an incredible 896 wickets. A key figure in the 1976 title-winning campaign, he was one of the club's main bowlers, regularly delivering marathon spells alongside Billy Smith. Fittingly, it was Tony who claimed the final wicket to secure the Border League title away to St Boswells, with the catch taken by Andy Ritchie.

After his playing career ended in 2003, Tony's commitment to the club never stopped. He went on to serve as chairman and president, while also umpiring for many years. In recognition of his outstanding dedication and service, he was awarded life membership at the club.

Even in later years, Tony remained a familiar face around the Castleholm, always supporting Langholm with the same passion he showed on the field. Fiercely competitive but always playing with a smile, Tony was respected and admired by teammates, opponents, and supporters alike. Tony sadly passed away in 2022, but his legacy and memories will always live on at the Castleholm.

TONY REID



1976 50th ANNIVERSARY

GAMES	RUNS	WICKETS
372	1867	896

LANGHOLM CC
★ BORDER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1976 ★

Hughie is Young Player OTY

Rugby

At a dinner at Hawick Rugby Club on 2nd May, Hughie Donaldson was awarded Young Player of the Year. The Club was full for the annual awards night with players, partners, committee, volunteers and supporters to celebrate the end-of-season.

Hughie has played 4 seasons for Hawick now and the first two seasons he mainly played for Hawick 2nds on a Friday night and Langholm on a Saturday gaining valuable experience at senior level and growing

in confidence. In the last two years he's played every game for Hawick and every 7s tie. Hughie said

"I feel this past year I've really matured and I was lucky enough to captain Hawick against Gala in the border league as well as the sevens team at a few tournaments as well. This year I was honoured to be awarded young player of the year and to receive the award from the forwards coach Scott McLeod was amazing because I owe so much to him as he has helped me develop my game to a level I didn't think I had. I also gained my 50th cap for Hawick this season against



Hughie Donaldson is presented with the cup at Hawick RFC from Scott McLeod

Watsonians at Myreside which we narrowly lost 31-26. Also I was part of the team that competed in the league and cup double in 2022-23 season playing in the Scottish cup final at Murrayfield. I was lucky

enough to be part of the South squad for the invitational game against Gala as well." Congratulations to Hughie – we think he is destined for great things with his rugby and wish him all the best for his future sporting career.

Bowling Lookback

25 years ago



President of Langholm New Town Bowling Club, Paul Mitchell, presents an engraved life member's cup to Bobby Fenton for all his work for the club over the years.

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