

Photos of days long ago regenerated by AI

SEE PAGE 9



Mountain biking video shows area's potential

SEE PAGE 15



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Series 2 No. 8642

Established May 1848

Thursday May 21, 2026

www.eladvertiser.co.uk £1.00

New Solar and Battery Scheme proposed for Canonbie area

Hall Burn site earmarked for potential 300GWhrs project

Bucleuch Group is inviting local residents to a public exhibition to learn more about proposals for a new solar and battery energy system (BESS) project near Canonbie. The new project, known as Hall Burn Renewable Energy Scheme, forms part of The Bucleuch Group's wider land use strategy and will be capable of generating up to 300GWhrs of energy once operational.

Solar projects offer the opportunity to use energy generated when it is sunny, converting it to electricity, which can then be balanced by BESS, which are technological solutions that reserve electrical power in batteries for future consumption.

The public information day will be held at Evertown Hall on Monday 8th June 2026 and Canonbie Public Hall on Tuesday 16th June between 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Exhibition boards explaining more about the project will be on display and members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposal. Alan Wilson, Energy Director at The Bucleuch Group, said:

"The proposals for Hall Burn Renewable Energy Scheme are at an early stage,

and no planning application has been made. We are seeking to engage with the local community at the earliest opportunity to understand any thoughts and questions they may have on the scope of any future application. Having completed our internal land use strategy review in and around this area, we believe a renewable energy project within the chosen site may offer the best use of land from a sustainability perspective, when you balance the environmental, community and economic considerations.

Forty years

"The proposal would be for a scheme which would operate for a period of up to forty years, and our design would consider decommissioning, to ensure the land can revert back to agricultural use. The Bucleuch Group is committed to the environment. We will work with specialist consultants and local and national stakeholders to design the scheme for enhanced biodiversity and local wildlife."

Solar and BESS technology is being developed across the UK as a means of contributing to both the drive to net zero and increasing domestic energy security.



Map showing proposed sites for the renewables scheme near Evertown

INSIDE



Apple Blossom Time

Trees and shrubs are blossoming in gay profusion a favourite time for many. See Helen Knowles' column on page 11

Family Announcements

Deaths

RICHARDSON, Sandy

Sandy Richardson of Newcastleton, passed away peacefully at BGH after a short illness on Wednesday 6th May.

Beloved wife of the late Campbell Richardson, dearly loved mum of Carol and the late Martin. Sandy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service is to be held in Liddesdale Parish Church on Monday 25th May at 11.30am followed by interment into Castleton Cemetery.

All enquiries to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

Church Notices

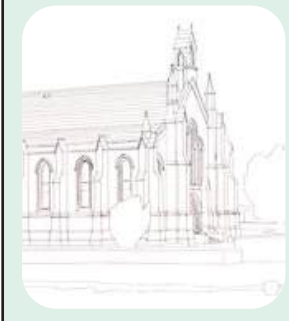
ESKDALE & LIDDESDALE PARISH
linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish Church

Welcome to worship
Sunday 24th May
Services led by
Rev Morag Crossan
NEWCASTLETON
9.30am

LANGHOLM
11am
Contact us for transport
to/from
Langholm service
Tel. 07989168299

Services led by
worship teams
CANONBIE
Messy Church
11am

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



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
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Castle Craigs Club welcomes new Cornet



Cornet Hope, Right-Hand Man Patterson and Left-Hand Man Donaldson with Club President Neil Fletcher and Vice-president Harry Hope last Friday

The Castle Craigs club held its annual general meeting in the Crown Hotel last Friday evening with thirty-five members in attendance. President Graeme Murray welcomed Cornet Hope to the meeting along with Right-Hand Man Patterson and Left-Hand Man Donaldson.

Graeme wished the Cornet all the best for the coming year and said that the club would be there to give him their full support. Secretary Kevan Grieve then read the minutes of the 2025 AGM and these

were adopted.

Following a report of the previous year's events from the president, Treasurer Kenneth Pool gave the financial report which was passed by the meeting. Re-election of office bearers then took place. These were as follows: President Neil Fletcher, Vice President Harry Hope, secretary Kevan Grieve and treasurer Kenneth Pool.

A new committee was elected and is made up as follows: R Hotson, G Murray, J Park, C Tait, H Donaldson, T Henderson,



A Beattie, J Ritchie, R Mabon, J Gordon, S Murray, C Forster, D Irving and B Wilson. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

In Memoriam



George Aitchison

Fondest memories of
Geordie who died 25/05/2018
also Mollie - 01/06/2006
and Rob - 26/07/1980

All sadly missed but never forgotten.
Ian, Robin, & Mary Aitchison

Funeral Services

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NEWCASTLETON
TD0 0DX
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Langholm & Newcastleton
PHONE: 07896 557 941
EMAIL: shaunturnbullfuneraldirectors@outlook.com

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33 High St, Annan
For a professional, compassionate
and caring service
24 hours a day Telephone
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Chapels of Rest
in Langholm, Annan & Longtown
Pre-paid Funeral Plans available

share the news
of any...

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

contact us on 013873 80012 | alan@eladvertiser.co.uk

Eskdale Hotel comes Highly Recommended



The Eskdale Hotel has been given a Highly Recommended as one of the BEST 3-star hotels in the South of Scotland at the Scottish Prestige Hotel awards.

This is a credit to the establishment's hardworking team who go above and beyond expectations on a daily basis as well as the guests who make it all worthwhile. The staff are extremely proud and delighted with the award and say they love showcasing the very best of South Scotland's hospitality.

John and team would like to thank everyone who voted for the hotel – it means the world to them.

THE 9TH ANNUAL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
INNIS & GUNN
BRAND AWARDS
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
We are proud to recognise this establishment as Highly Recommended in the Scottish Hotel Awards (Prestige) 2026
BEST 3* HOTEL
ESKDALE HOTEL (LANGHOLM)
DUXIANA

Fresh guidance targets aggressive behaviour in Community Councils

Safety of volunteers is paramount

Dumfries and Galloway Council has this week issued a document, 'Unacceptable Behaviours and Actions Policy', to all Community Councils in the region. Community Councils are being encouraged to adopt this policy at their next meeting. The implementation of this policy will be decided at Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council meeting on 01 June 2026.

D&G have confirmed that this guidance has been introduced in direct response to feedback from Community Councils, particularly from Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk. As the policy itself states, Community Councilors are volunteers, and we are entitled to be protected from aggressive and abusive conduct. This gives Community Councilors the unequivocal right to restrict an individual's access to Community Council meetings and communication where their behaviour warrants it.

This guidance applies only to the conduct of members of the public occurring in connection with Community Council (CC) business, including attendance at CC meetings, participation in CC activities, and communications directed to the CC or its members acting in their official capacity.

The document states, in part, as follows:

Unacceptable Behaviours and Actions: Guidance for Community Councils Scope of this Guidance

Nothing in this guidance restricts lawful criticism, political expression, or the raising of concerns on matters of public interest. Community Councils operate openly; however, in line with paragraph 9.5 of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, this openness is not unconditional and must be balanced with the need to ensure that CC business can be conducted ef-

fectively and respectfully.

The purpose of this guidance is to set clear expectations of behaviour so that Community Councilors - who serve voluntarily - are protected from aggressive, abusive or unreasonable conduct, and so that CC business can proceed in an orderly and respectful manner. It is a matter for each CC to deal with unacceptable behaviours appropriately and proportionately, but this guidance sets out Dumfries and Galloway Council's expectations and provides suggested parameters and considerations for how CCs may choose to respond to behaviours that they reasonably view as having an unacceptable effect on their business.

The full document will be able to be viewed on the Dumfries & Galloway Council website.



Lack of office bearers for Canonbie CC

At the recent AGM meeting of Canonbie Community Council (CC) in Gilnockie Hall, the current chair, Carol Midwood, retired from the position. After a full discussion no other member stepped forward to take up the position due to varying commitments although there are committee members willing to fill the roles of treasurer and secretary. The CC has to have a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to fulfil the remit of the organisation according to the scheme of establishment and so an EGM has to be called within 21 days.

If the Community Council cannot resolve the issue and find a chairperson then Canonbie and District will struggle with important issues such as the distribution of wind farm money, making recommendations on planning issues concerning the area to D&G Council, wind-farms, solar farms, housing issues, road repairs and working with local D&G Councilors. The date for the EGM is the 2nd of June in Canonbie Hall at 7.30pm



The CC has five vacant slots and it is vital that the Chairperson's position is resolved or the organisation will close and it could be several months before another attempt can be made. Many local organisations will suffer financially. Councillor Denis Male highlights the importance and hard work that Council members have put in voluntarily over the years and says it is absolutely detrimental to the area if it closes. It is vital that there is a good turnout from the community and from organisations which benefit from windfarm grants. Denis is urging people to attend the meeting on 2nd June.

Summer meals payments

Dumfries and Galloway Council will provide a single payment of £87.50 per child to help cover the cost of meals while schools are closed from Thursday 2 July 2026 to Wednesday 19 August 2026.

This is available to all eligible families registered for Free School Meals on financial grounds. The payment covers 35 weekdays across the school holidays at a rate of £2.50 per day. All eligible children who are already receiving Free School Meals, or who apply and are awarded Free School Meals by Monday 22 June, will be paid by Wednesday 1 July.

Payments will be made using the bank details the Council currently holds for families. If you apply for Free School Meals after Monday 22 June, but before the school term ends, the Council will arrange for your payment to be issued during the holidays but new applications received after Wednesday 1 July, will not be eligible for the Summer Holiday Food Payment.

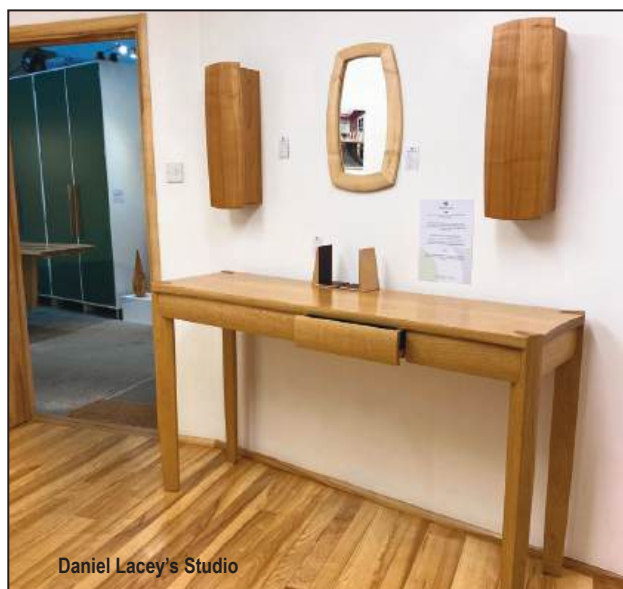
For more information about free school meals eligibility and how to apply, visit Dumfries and Galloway Council website and look for the Holiday food payments page.

Treat yourself to a Spring Fling



Spring Fling starts this Saturday. This annual open studio event takes place across the whole of Dumfries and Galloway and ends on Monday 25th May. In Eskdale studios are open in Eskdalemuir and Langholm. At the top end of the valley you can visit the studio of Liz McQueen, Shen Chokyi and Cathy van Hoppe, all within a short drive of each other. Liz is an abstract landscape painter and her studio is in her garden. Further down the road towards Langholm, Shen uses illuminated glass as her medium exploring magic, myth and mystery.

Across the valley at Castle O'er, Cathy van Hoppe's illustrated worlds of quiet enchantment, storytelling and imagination are beautifully painted in soft watercolours. Down in Langholm Daniel Lacey, shares his studio once again with Miles-Moore ceramics. Daniel makes fine furniture and accessories inspired by local landscapes.



Daniel Lacey said that as a commissioned business Spring Fling was for him - 'It's an important part of my annual business. One year I had 600 visitors but last year only 74.'

Miles Moore makes beautiful pottery pieces for everyday use and for display. The next nearest artist to Eskdale opening his

studio is Colin Blanchard print-maker who makes original linocuts and screen prints. Colin is based near Waterbeck.

For open studios further afield pick up a Spring Fling brochure or check out the website. 111 artist studios across Dumfries and Galloway will be open.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY: HALL BURN RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME

Proposed Hall Burn Renewable Energy Scheme, near Canonbie within Borders Estate.

A public consultation event will be held on Monday 8th June 2026 at Evertown Hall, Evertown, Canonbie, DG14 0TJ between 2:00pm and 8:00pm where you can view proposals, and the project team will be available to answer any questions. Consultation boards will also be available to view on our website (www.bucleuch.com) following the event.

Further information about the proposed development may be obtained at the above website, or if unable to view material online, by emailing, writing or contacting Buccleuch, 27 Silvermills Court, Henderson Place Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 5DG, +44 (0) 131 524 0910 (within office hours 9:00am to 5:00pm), info@bucleuch.com

There will be a second public information day on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at Canonbie Public Hall, Bowholm, Canonbie, DG14 0UX, between 2:00pm and 8:00pm

Please note that comments made at the event, or through the above, are to The Buccleuch Group as the Applicant and are not representations to the planning authority. There will be an opportunity to make representations to the planning authority when an application for planning permission is submitted.

Visit Scotland Connect 26

South of Scotland tourism businesses raised their profile through Scotland's flagship travel trade event VisitScotland Connect 2026, supported by Visit Glasgow. The region was represented by The South of Scotland Destination Alliance and tourism operators that met face-to-face with domestic and international travel buyers over two days of prearranged meetings at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). With more than half of all international visitors planning and booking all or part of their trip through tour operators, strong relationships with the travel trade are vital. It helps open access to Scotland's key markets, North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and the UK. The activity generated by VisitScotland Connect helps support 11,500 tourism related jobs across Dumfries & Galloway and Scottish Borders.

Bridge Results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & Anne Hislop, 2 = George & Brenda Bullamore and Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 4, Janet Ivison & Pat Watson. E/S - 1, Nancy McLure & Anne Ferguson, 2, Lesley McCartney & Doreen Taylor, 3 = Louise Grierson & Christine Burton and Lorraine Morton & Aileen Graham.

MP secures deadline delay on monitoring station

LOCAL councillors and other residents are to have a say in a review of planning restrictions surrounding a remote seismic monitoring station — the Eskdalemuir Array.

It follows the intervention of Dumfriesshire MP David Mundell, who was contacted by constituents concerned by the lack of consultation with local people.

With the deadline for feedback originally last Friday, Mr Mundell raised the issue with UK Minister of State for Energy Michael Shanks, who has extended the consultation period until June 12.

He also asked his officials to compile a background report clarifying the reasons why wind farm developments in surrounding areas could cause interference to the sophisticated monitoring equipment and sensors.

The Minister outlined a new approach being considered to safeguard the Eskdalemuir Array from interference resulting from any future on-shore wind farms in the wider area.

Mr Mundell said this week: "I thank the Minister for his prompt response. It is important local people have their views taken into consideration when it comes to any changes being considered involving the Array.

"This is a facility, like the separate and older Eskdalemuir Observatory near-by, which is of both local and international importance."

He praised the Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser for recently raising local awareness of the issue.

The Eskdalemuir Seismic Array, dating from the 1960s cold-war period, primarily monitors ground activity such as nuclear tests.

Managed by the UK Ministry of Defence



(MoD), the facility, close to a minor road, benefits from its isolation through limiting interference from seismic ground vibrations (SGVs).

Past research indicates that wind turbines closer to the Array disproportionately result in seismic interference with a single turbine at 10km causing as much as 5,500 turbines at 50km.

The MoD currently routinely objects to new wind farm projects within 10km, effectively creating an exclusion zone.

Proposed changes include extending the existing exclusion zone from 10km to 15km around the Array, within which no wind turbine developments would be permitted.

Meanwhile, the current Consultation Zone (up to 50km) would be re-designated as a Restricted Zone (15-50km radius) where new processes for assessing and managing seismic impacts would apply.

Another option being explored is safeguarding the Array by placing the sensors deep underground through the use of boreholes.

Eskdalemuir community councillors and other local residents can comment online at energygovuk.citizenspace.com/energy-development/eskdalemuir-seismic-array/

What is a flying tree



Tarras Valley Nature Reserve has quite a number of 'flying trees' in the south end of the valley. But what is a flying tree you might well ask. According to the Woodland Trust a flying tree is one which spends most, if not all of its life elevated from ground level by growing on the body of another tree.

Rowans are the most common type of flying trees presumably because their seeds are dispersed by birds after they've eaten the berries and these then sprout

and grow on the host tree. Alders, of which there are many in the southern part of the nature reserve, seem to be the most common type of host tree and this might be to do with the way alder wood decays and to do with specific species of fungi. If you're keen to see these trees Daniel Lacey will be taking people on a walk there from 6.30pm on Sunday 24th May. Anyone interested in joining him should please contact Daniel and meet him at his studio on the day. info@daniellacey.com

Scotland's Scott Hastings was a rugby superstar

We received the sad news of Scott Hastings' death at aged 61 this week. In a rugby playing town such as Langholm, Scott was a well-known figure particularly in his international role. Many Langholmites will have witnessed his playing both against Borders teams and at Murrayfield.

Scott grew up in Edinburgh and started his career in rugby with George Watson's College from where he progressed to senior rugby. He received his first cap in 1986 alongside brother Gavin and over his eleven-year career received a total of 65 caps. He is still the Scotland centre who has been awarded the most caps. He played a key role in Scotland's five nation grand slam in 1990 and also

represented the British and Irish Lions on two tours and played for the Barbarians.

President of Langholm Rugby Club Kenneth Pool said "The Club was saddened to hear of the death of Scott Hastings on Sunday. Scott was one of the great Scotland rugby players and provided many memorable moments during his distinguished career. Scott, along with brother Gavin played for Watsonians against Langholm at Milntown in a cup match back in the 1990s. The Langholm club's sincere condolences are expressed to Scott's family at this sad time."

Alan Friell who originates from Langholm said

"I had the pleasure of coaching Scott when he was a Scotland under 21 player



TOO YOUNG: Scott Hastings died at the age of only 61

Photo: SRU

at a Scotland coaching course held at Heriott Watt University near Edinburgh. It was obvious he was going to be a Scotland and British Lion in the not-too-distant future. He not only had the physical skills but the communication

skills so important to becoming a top international. He was a wonderful person and very popular within the rugby community. Latterly I enjoyed his rugby commentary on television which was very well received."

Mower power to the Benty



The local community at the Benty recently took delivery of a new ride on mower to help maintain the green spaces around the village.

Duties carried out for many years by Billy Johnstone and his trusty old Honda machine. Sadly the years have caught up with the old Honda and with the help of the Crossdykes Community Benefit Fund the Hall Committee was able to purchase a brand new replacement machine supplied by R C Dalgleish Ltd of Lockerbie. Consequently Billy, along with other local volunteers can continue to keep the Benty looking it's best for both residents and visitors.

Sophie's Saltire success



Sophie M with her well-deserved Saltire Award

An S2 pupil at Langholm Academy, Sophie M, was presented with her 200-hour Saltire award this week. These awards recognise and reward the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers.

Sophie has accumulated over 400 hours volunteering and is now approaching her 500-hour

milestone. As well as volunteering at Lads Lodge riding centre and Canonbie brownies, Sophie is a young sports leader at Langholm Academy. Young people between the ages of 11 and 25 years can sign up for a Saltire Account and start logging hours that they volunteer and be ready to apply for a certificate.

Glencart-home to award-winning alpacas



Hebbs Alpacas situated at Glencartholm, to the south of Langholm, had a successful day recently at a Scottish show. They took five animals to the two-day Scottish Alpaca championships which were held at Lanark at the end of April and owner Beverley Morgan was delighted to win the award at the show for the best Scottish breeder.

From the team of five alpacas she took along with her on the day, one was awarded champion, 3 became reserve champions and one got a first which she was very happy about. There

were approximately 140 alpacas competing at the show.

Beverley has been keeping alpacas now for fourteen years and says she loves them because of their calming nature, their inquisitive and quirky personalities.

Best genetics

She only recently registered her alpacas in Scotland which then allowed her to enter the show this year. She says the results affirm the work that she has been doing and it all helps to demonstrate that she is using the best genetics to breed her animals. Alpacas are herd animals

and the British alpaca society advises that they should be kept in groups of three or more. She sells alpacas across the whole of the UK.

Hebbs offers alpaca experiences and sells alpaca fibre and items made using that fibre. Glencartholm also has 'wigwams' for people to stay in at the farm and visitors often book to stay there so that they can have an alpaca experience. Beverly sees all of the visits as a good opportunity to educate people about the animals. She hopes that more local people will book to visit the alpacas.

D&G Arts Festival

Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival starts today with a wide range of events across the region from exhibitions, to plays, storytelling to music by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Arts and culture we are now told are good to help us live longer so have a look at what's on offer. There is a production of La Traviata by Opera Caledonia and a production about the true survival story of Titanic stoker Frederik Barrett in Annan Academy Theatre.

Two of the events will be staged at Eskdalemuir community hub. The festival is on until the 14th June and is supported by a wide range of bodies including Creative Scotland and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Business workshops

South of Scotland Enterprise is holding two free workshops for business owners. One on Wednesday 27th May in Selkirk. The second on Thursday 28th at 10am in Hawick which explores business ambitions. Booking is on the South of Scotland Enterprise website at 'Find Events'.

Weekend fun at Creation Mill

Creation Mill is hosting an open weekend from this Saturday featuring workshops, exhibitions, farm and mill tours, and much more. Open from 10am to 4pm, next door to Daniel Lacey's studio, people are invited to pop in and see what's happening. Refreshments are on offer, but visitors are encouraged to support local cafés and hotels for lunch and afternoon refreshments. Open days will be from Saturday and include Monday.

There are still spaces available on the Farm Tours experiences with a trip to Burnfoot Farm on the Saturday 23rd and to Hebbs Alpacas on Sunday 24th. Leaving from Creation Mill at 10am and returning for 12.30pm, you will enjoy a fully immersive experience learning about life on a working farm rearing sheep and alpacas and how the wool



and fleece is processed. You will have the chance to get up close to the animals and enjoy a relaxing and uplifting morning.

Mill Tour

There's a Mill Tour of Drove Weavers on Monday 25th with two slots - 10am

and 12 noon. To book a space on the tours, please log in to Creation Mill Website at <https://www.creation-mill.org/events/spring-bh-open-weekend>

You can also book for one of the workshops on the website or drop in to Creation Mill or give them a call.

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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🌐 johnlamont.org

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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

Farming on the Border



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



Farming with Gilly Fraser

Marines helping with mental health

More than one thousand Mental Health First Aiders are now working with Scotland's farming communities thanks to the agricultural charity RSABI - and a group of former Royal Marines.

The charity says this landmark marks a significant step forward in strengthening mental health awareness.

Trained first aiders are now embedded in rural communities throughout the country.

They include agricultural consultants and advisers, quality assurance assessors, auctioneers and agronomists – all individuals regularly working alongside farmers and crofters in their day-to-day roles.

They work to encourage more open conversations around mental health, helping to reduce stigma, improve understanding and equip people with the confidence to recognise when someone may be struggling and know how best to respond.

RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren, says initiatives like this are helping to drive positive change.

"We know that having the knowledge and confidence to be more open in talking about mental health and suicide will help to save lives and we have now developed a network of mental health first aiders who are playing a vital role to help keep people safe," she said.

"Our sincere thanks to former Royal Marines Ian Clark, Hugh Jones and Ross Wilson of IED Training Solutions who have worked incredibly hard and well to deliver this transformational and pioneering training to agricultural communities throughout Scotland.

The former Royal Marines also share their own personal mental health journeys as part of the course and feedback from attendees has been extremely encouraging, with more than 80% rating the training as "outstanding" and many describing the training as "invaluable and vital".



Sheep fleece market is showing signs of growth

After years of sheep fleece prices hitting rock bottom, the market is showing significant signs of improvement.

The National Sheep Association says farmers who in recent years haven't even bothered attempting to sell their fleeces should definitely send their clip in this year.

NSA Policy Manager Michael Priestley says farmers can expect to at least cover the cost of last year's shearing on core wool types.

"After several gloomy years of rock bottom prices the wool market has improved," he said.

"The message from British Wool is that those farmers who have left wool on the farm in previous years should send their clip in this time. Prices are 70% higher on the previous year and forecast to increase further next year.

"For example, a Welsh Mule type has gone from 44p/kg to



68p/kg for last year and is forecast to be around £1/kg next year, along with other Mules, Romneys, and Cheviots and

Cheviot crosses.

"Fundamental challenges around covid caused a backlog of wool when the transport and

hospitality sectors went on hold. This has been worked through, and British Wool's staff have been working hard to drive demand. As a result, more wool types are receiving a premium, traceable wool sales are up 10% to 15 brands, and there are 176 brands selling British wool rich products."

Meanwhile British Wool has launched a new Scottish Wool certification to guarantee that products are made from 100 per cent Scottish yarn. It's hoped this will help distinguish domestic wool from cheaper imports



Do you consume 200 eggs per year? Most do

Scottish consumers' appetite for eggs is on the increase with sales of free-range and organic reaching all-time highs in the country.

That tallies with UK findings which show that the average Brit now gets through more than two hundred eggs a year.

It seems younger people – typically between 25-34 – are particularly fond of eggs, possibly due to marketing campaigns promoting the natural health benefits of eggs and the fact that they're rich in protein.

Scotland currently accounts for around 10% to 12% of total UK egg production, producing over a billion eggs annually. And more than 70% of eggs on sale in major shops in Scotland are homegrown.

As a result, egg producers are feeling confident enough to expand their operations.

Over the past two years, the Aberdeenshire-based Duncan Farms has increased free range production by over 70%. The company has also invested more than £7 million in expanding its packing centre, doubling grading capacity and strengthening its ability to support future growth.

It's an astonishing turnaround for the sector which only a few years ago was suffering from egg shortages caused by producers giving up.

Avian flu also brought its own problems and meant producers having to take expensive



climate-controlled and biosecurity measures to keep their flocks safe from disease.

More changes could be ahead for the industry – at the moment around 17% of egg production in Scotland is done in so-called enriched colony cages – which were brought in to replace battery farms. The Scottish Government wants to phase them out completely by 2034.

Government must act to save Scotland's pigs

Scotland's pig sector could be at risk of collapse unless the Government steps in to take immediate and co-ordinated action.

That's the warning from NFU Scotland which says the pig sector is under severe and sustained pressure, with pig prices falling sharply in recent months.

This is partly due to EU market weakness as well as processing disruption, seasonal plant constraints and ongoing supply chain pressure.

Producers in Scotland are reporting that prices are as much as 15% below the UK Standard Pig Price (SPP) (180p/kg) for some loads, while production costs remain at approximately 188p/kg, meaning Scottish producers are getting well below cost of production.

As a result, many businesses are now operating at losses of £700-£1,000 per sow place, with a typical 500-sow unit potentially facing



annual losses in excess of £500,000 if things don't turn around.

Meanwhile Quality Meat Scotland has unveiled a rebrand which they hope will help the struggling sector.

Prime Scottish Pork will take its place alongside Scotch Beef and Scotch Lamb with a new logo and what the company calls "a refreshed visual identity."

QMS Director of Marketing Emma Heath says the rebrand is being done to give the Scottish

pork sector the strongest possible platform for the future.

"As one of the top three shopper motivations when buying red meat, alongside animal welfare and being quality assured, our research tells us that provenance matters deeply to Scottish shoppers, and this evolution allows us to tell the Scottish pork story more clearly, more confidently and more consistently alongside Scotch Beef and Scotch Lamb," she said.

Dedicated volunteer Avril leaves a rainbow of memories

OBITUARY: Avril Leonilda Olivia Bannatyne née Baird.

Avril was born on Saturday 20th April 1946 to Robert Baird and his wife Olivia - née Capaldi - in Lambhill, north Glasgow. Avril was always proud of both her Scottish and Italian roots.

She moved to Langholm in 2000, where Avril's brother Raymond lived, after she and her husband Andrew sold up in Elderslie with a view to purchasing some property in France. They never quite got there, getting waylaid in Langholm and buying the house on Arkinholm Terrace, intending to follow that up with something in France the following year. However, Andrew fell ill and died 11 weeks later leaving Avril in shock but also in a town where she knew only her brother, Raymond, and his family. Avril proceeded to become very involved in the Langholm community and credited the late Isobel Waite, her next door neighbour, with introducing her to people and involving her in activities in the town.

She was also very proud that she was a "Saturday's child" and spent her life living up to the reputation of working hard for a living. Her daughter Fiona says she has never met anyone with the same work ethic and drive. Throughout her life she was involved in a wide range of causes from teaching cooking

to new mothers, to delivering meals on wheels, fundraising for Macmillan and working with the Buccleuch centre. She was always strong, resilient and an immensely giving person.

Glasgow

Avril was the fourth child of Robert and Eva who had 3 sons already. They were running the Terminus Café in Lambhill, Glasgow, having previously run the café in Possilpark on the support of Eva's parents. The café 'empire' continued with the acquisition of the Embassy Café closely followed by The Olive Grove next door. A fourth son, Graeme, was added to the family and when Avril was five, they moved to Bardowie. Sister Nicki was born in 1953. The family then purchased Blane Valley Hotel and turned it into the Blane Valley Hotel.

Avril's mother Eva died from stomach cancer in 1960 leaving 14-year-old Avril to look after her younger sister. Avril was sporty and was awarded the Under 15 Junior Sports Champion. She then followed this up with a cameo in the Scottish Netball team, substituted on for her PE teacher in one international match.

In 1963 Avril took herself off to Switzerland in 1963 to work in a hotel in Neuchatel, owned

by a friend of her father. She returned to school for 6th year having been accepted for the Scottish Hotel School to start September 1964. In the first week there, she met Andrew and two years later they were engaged and the year after that they married, shortly after the death of Avril's father.

Andrew had taken a position with Charles Forte's airport catering arm at Leeds/Bradford airport shortly before the wedding so immediately after that they moved to Yorkshire. They made firm friends there and during that time Iain and Fiona were born. Trust House Forte - as it had by then become - decided that Andrew's future lay at Luton airport, so the family then moved to Houghton Regis.

Andrew was then relocated to Glasgow Airport in 1973 and the family moved to Elderslie where Avril and Andrew established themselves for 27 years. Avril undertook many career turns retiring from her position in a company as regional director. Andrew moved to another company in 1979 and took a redundancy package in 2000, effectively retired and they moved to Langholm.

Following Andrew's death Avril forged friendships across all aspects of Langholm life and spent a very happy 5 years

bouncing between visiting her daughter Fiona in New York and son Iain in Tokyo. She finally realised her dream of grandchildren in 2006 with the birth of Richard to Iain and Ayako and proved - as expected - to be an amazing grandmother.

Avril enjoyed travel and as well as becoming a trustee of the Buccleuch Centre, supported meals-on-wheels and Macmillan fundraising, and was a regular attendee at the Bridge Club, and the Eskdale Historical Society. Avril and Tony met in 2007 and what had been an early love of cruising developed into regular trips to many distant shores. Her son, Iain apparently missed her cooking so much he moved to Langholm in 2023 and kept her company for the year running up to her stroke in November 2024.

Joie de vivre

The stroke of course hit her exuberance, sociability and general 'joie de vivre' hard and her inability to regain movement in her left arm and leg was a constant frustration. However, her speech wasn't affected and as her daughter kindly pointed out, the muscles you use most are usually the first to recover.

After a brief hospital stay, Avril moved into Lydiafield Care Home in Annan on the 16th



EXUBERANT: Avril wholeheartedly embraced life in Langholm and made many friends who will miss her sunny outlook and positive personality

April 2025. Always good with dates, she decided to depart Lydiafield exactly one year later on 16th April 2026. However, for that year she lived absolutely every minute to the fullest, delivering the Reply from the Lassies at the Burns' Supper and standing as Residents' Representative as well as warmly welcoming the steady stream of

visitors, largely from Langholm.

Avril fell ill unexpectedly and died peacefully in Dumfries hospital in late April weeks ago. She will be sorely missed, and the family are extremely grateful for all of the many kind messages received from all her friends. Avril's funeral service was held in Westerkirk Church followed by interment at Langholm cemetery.

Ewes SWI has a 'Passion for Fashion'



Ewes SWI member, Leila Hallam, delighted members and friends with her presentation of A Passion For Fashion. She had always enjoyed sewing and after working for many years as a personal assistant, took redundancy in 2014 and started making vintage clothes.

She showed us beautiful coats, dressing gowns, jackets and dresses with styles from 1914 to the present day interspersed with humorous and interesting anecdotes about her customers. She highlighted the problems of sourcing different kinds of cloth and the importance of the cutting process.

Refreshments were served by Kate Elliot and the raffle was drawn with one lucky member winning an item of clothing hand made by Leila.

Leila judged the competitions as follows - Small Vase of Spring

Flowers - 1, Kate Elliot, 2, Joan Cubbon, 3, Nancy McLure. - Photo of Flower - 1, Kate Elliot, 2, Susan Shepherd, 3, Susie Grant.

Next was the AGM with the election of the committee and presentation of the accounts by Treasurer Anne Wood. Anne was warmly thanked for her work. The office bearers are President, Tessa Lumley, Vice President, Marjorie Pringle, Treasurer, Anne Wood and Secretary, Nancy McLure with Aileen Cavers, Joan Cubbon, Kate Elliot and Susie Grant making up the committee.

The evening was concluded with arrangements for a meal at Denholm in June, a discussion of business matters and a fun Identify the Member from baby or child photo.

Leila Hallam with some of her wonderful vintage creations



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

School's Ullswater trip another huge success

Up hill and down dale on Langholm Academy's S3's Outward Bound adventure

Last week a group of S3 pupils attended Outward Bound at Ullswater and the trip was once again sponsored the Stevenson Trust. The Outward-Bound Trust is a charity with one goal, which is to help young people grow through real adventure. This is what some of the pupils said about their experience.

"We really enjoyed our week in Ullswater. My favourite thing was cliff jumping. I went to the highest jump, and it was brilliant," said Ramsey Green. "I really enjoyed the gorge walking. We had to climb up the gorge, and it was physically tough as it was really slippery. I

found it challenging but a lot of fun" according to Luke Rome. Ronnie Holliday said "I really enjoyed the week in Ullswater. The gorge walking was definitely my highlight. We had to really focus on our teamworking and communication skills to make sure everyone managed it safely. It helped us bond as a group." Holly Irving said "I loved the rowing and camping expedition. Even though it was tough, we worked together and we didn't give up."

The Head Teacher from the Academy, Miss Mclean said: "Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time at Ullswater last week. They undertook phys-

ically and mentally tough challenges, testing their teamworking, resilience and communication skills. The group enjoyed activities such as camping, canoeing, gorge scrambling, hiking and cliff jumping and it was a delight to see them develop confidence and leadership skills as the week progressed. We would like to say a huge thank you to The Stevenson Trust, who fully funded this trip and have provided an amazing opportunity for our pupils once again. This trip always leaves our pupils with lasting memories and is a highlight of their time at Langholm Academy. It is greatly appreciated."



Interesting use of AI by Langholm historian

Stuart Tedham takes the archive and turns it into a colourful glimpse of the past

Stuart Tedham of Langholm has long had an interest in local history. He was given a copy of 'Through the Lens' when he was about 10 years of age and became fascinated by old photos of the town. Stuart is interested in the development of the Burgh of Langholm from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century and likes investigating Langholm Common Riding, the history of Langholm Academy and other aspects of the town.

His current project has been to use AI tools to digitally enhance some of the old black

and white photographs of people and places of Langholm. This is quite a time-consuming process as once the photos are enhanced the human touch is still required to ensure that they are made to look as true to life as possible. He hopes that with further technological improvements he might be able to do much more in the future.

Six years ago Stuart tried using software that existed then to colourise or digitally enhance photos without great success, but the new AI technology has really helped bring the photos to life. AI seems to come in for a lot of criticism and yet it has its uses and we think that you

will agree that Stuart's work gives us a really good glimpse of life 'lang syne'.

Stuart has used photos from the Langholm reference library and the Langholm archives but is aware that many more photos will exist in attics or boxes around the town. As well as enhancing publicly available photos Stuart is also doing work on private projects. In the future he thinks technology might be able to be used to create film and let us walk through old Langholm and see what it was like for our ancestors.

Langholm Parish Church Elders - 1880s



Miss Jane McKnight and friends - 1907



Construction of the NUP (Erskine) Kirk - 1897



Miss Jane McIldowie - 1884



Construction of the Thomas Hope Hospital - 1896



A Victorian family playing croquet - 1880s

...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Newcastleton mourns the loss of true Liddesdale lady

Sandy Richardson played a huge part in the life of Copshaw Holm

Tributes have been paid to a much-loved Copshaw resident who has died following a short illness.

Sandy Richardson played a huge role in village life, starting with a twelve-year spell of running the Grapes Hotel with her husband Campbell.

The couple became excellent Mine Hosts, turning the hotel into a thriving and hugely popular place for locals and visitors alike.

They also forged lifelong friendships, as former village Postmaster Jim Rowan explains.

"My wife Moira and I became friends with Sandy when she and Campbell arrived in the village in 1977 to take over the Grapes Hotel. We enjoyed walking all over the local area and the wider Borders.

"Around 1988, Sandy and Campbell left the village to take over a business in Hawick. We continued our friendship throughout their time in Hawick and enjoyed many holidays and walks in the North of Scotland together with another two couples.



HUGE ROLE IN VILLAGE LIFE: Sandy Richardson

"When Sandy returned to Newcastleton after her retirement she joined a local ladies committee affectionately known as the LLAGS and helped to raise thousands of pounds for local organisations and our Christmas Lights.

"She also joined the New-

castleton Village Hall Committee and was very much involved raising money for the hall fabric fund and always helped to run our Annual Craft Fayres.

"Sandy will be sadly missed by all who knew her and were involved with her in village life."

Sandy also played a key role in setting up another much-valued village institution, as Pauline Elliott explains.

LLAGS

"Sandy was an integral member of LLAGS and played a key role in helping to establish the Newcastleton First Responders group back in 2006.

"The first batch of recruits successfully completed their training in September of that year, marking the beginning of a service that has gone on to support the local community for many years.

"Sandy was heavily involved in fundraising efforts to support the group, helping to secure the resources needed to ensure its continuation and long-term success. Her dedication, commitment, and hard work were greatly appreciated by all involved.

"The First Responders group will remember Sandy fondly and will always value the contribution she made in enabling the group to remain active and effective within the community. "She will be hugely missed

by LLAGS and by the many other groups and individuals who benefited from her tireless efforts and support."

Sandy was also a faithful and much-valued member of the church community, as the Reverend Morag Crossan says.

"Over many years, Sandy served the church with dedication and commitment, including as a member of the Congregational Board. She was generous with both her time and support, particularly in the areas of fundraising and hospitality, where her enthusiasm, kindness, and willingness to help were greatly appreciated by many.

Sandy made a significant contribution to the life and fellowship of the congregation and will be remembered with gratitude and affection for all she gave to the church community. Her loss will be deeply felt, not only within the church, but throughout the wider community where she was so well known and loved by many.

The thoughts and prayers of the congregation are with her family and friends at this time."

Copshaw has a new Tub: Tub Nichol II

After a fierce and frantic round of electioneering over recent weeks, the village went to vote at Legends on Saturday.

After the polls closed, the votes were counted under the usual stringent conditions, before being independently verified and maybe even counted again just to be on the safe side.

Just to keep the suspense alive as long as possible for the two contenders and indeed all the villagers waiting on tenterhooks – the result wasn't announced till later that night.

It had been a close fought battle between Angela Lockerby and Josh Nichol, but all agreed it had been a fair and even courteous fight. In the end there could only

be one winner – and 2025 Tub Oli Downey passed both the baton and the Pureous Bunkumus flag to his worthy successor – Josh Nichol.

He will be officially known as Tub Nichol II, following in the illustrious footsteps of his father Ian who did a grand job in 2017 and still holds the esteemed position of the Music and Ceremony Maker-Upper.

Three cheers for Tub Nichol II – and here's to another great year of shenanigans.



Final fling for Tub Downey



Tub Downey with possible Tubs of the future at Newcastleton Primary

Oli Downey concluded his year in office as Copshaw Common Riding Tub with a very special public appearance.

He was invited to the village Primary School to officially open the new Trim Trail and equipment gifted by the Newcastleton School Partnership.

The British Legion, LLAGS and Copshaw Clatter had all donated towards the project and were all represented at the event. In her speech of thanks, Acting Headteacher Fiona Irvine said the pupils had selected the equipment themselves, making it even more special.

A job well done Tub Downey and an excellent way to round off your excellent year.

May blossom returns, delicately transforming countryside and garden

Helen Knowles reports on all the Spring blossom and the season of renewal

May is that magical month when after all those weeks of anticipation the garden finally bursts into life in a mass of fresh foliage and blossom and it's easy to understand why cherry blossom, or Sakura, is celebrated in Japan. It marks the arrival of spring; the season of renewal, optimism and new life. While it is fleeting and a reminder of the impermanence of beauty and life, it is a joy to behold.



Apple Blossom

No garden should be without a blossom tree and if space is limited one of my favourites is the Fuji cherry, *Prunus incisa* 'Kojino-mai'. This hardy little tree will eventually reach 2.5 meters tall but is very slow growing and ideal for containers. Pruning after flowering will keep it even more compact (it is often used for bonsai in Japan) and it produces a wonderful display year after year.

If you have a bit more space then you will be spoilt for choice as there are a huge number of ornamental cherry cultivars on the market with single or double flowers, white or pink blossom and some with bronze foliage, such as 'Chocolate Ice'.

The only downside to orna-

mental cherries is that while they are so eye-catching in the spring, all of that beautiful frothy blossom isn't productive. Fruiting cherries are great if you can give them the correct growing conditions but we're a bit on the cold side here so don't tend to get a crop unless it's an exceptionally warm year. Crab apples however never disappoint. They produce an abundance of blossom and are then laden with colourful fruits that can either be left as decoration

Bouquet' is another good one that is laden with single, pure white flowers in spring and tiny, glossy red jewel like fruit in the autumn.

This spring does seem to have been exceptionally good for blossom and we have last summers 'monsoon' conditions to thank for that as an abundance of moisture at the critical time ensured good flower bud formation, so while wet summer weather can cause havoc with your BBQ plans don't despair as there will be a 'Bloomin' good spring to look forward to.

If you're looking for gardening inspiration, or just a good day out, then there is plenty to do over the next few weeks; here's just a few suggestions:

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show begins on 18th May (Press Day) with the show open to the public from 19th to 23rd May.

Tinnisburn Plants Meconopsis Weekend - Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th May 10am-4pm. Visit the local National Collection of Meconopsis set in a 1-acre garden, stroll through the wildflower meadows and enjoy a tasty treat in the Old Byre Tearoom. For more details visit www.tinnisburn.co.uk

Scone Palace Garden Fair on Friday 29th & Saturday 30th May brings you some of the best nurseries and gardening workshops in addition to the vast and diverse gardens of Scone Palace.

www.scotlandsgardens.org for lots of fantastic places to visit right through the summer months and beyond and you'll be helping a range of fabulous charities too with your entry fee.



Sakura or Cherry Blossom



Malus 'Evereste'



Rhododendron 'Wee Bee'



Rhododendron on 'May Day'



Looking back...

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie: Canonbie Coal Boring

About the time that anti-mony was being raised and smelted at Glendinning, a mining undertaking of considerable importance to the locality was taking place some twelve miles further down the valley at Canonbie.

In 1792 borings for coal were made with such success that at a depth of 68 feet a seam was found two feet thick and at a depth of 146 feet another seam five feet eight inches thick.

Operations for raising coal, which were begun at Archerbeck and Byreburn, were soon in production, supplying this invaluable commodity for industrial and household purposes, not only along the Border country, but further afield.

The principal coal seam at Archerbeck, undertaken by one Lomax from the English side, was wrought by an open level. At Byreburn the introduction of a "water engine upon a new construction", the invention of William Keir, of Milnholm, was successfully employed in operation.

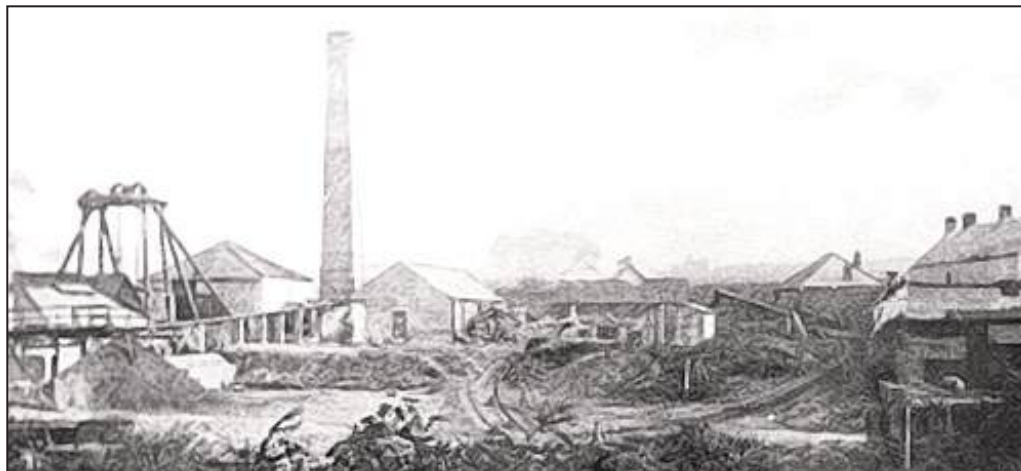
A description of the novel device shows the ingenuity of the inventor. "The apparatus is operated by means of a bucket of square form, suspended from the end of a lever, having a valve at the bottom in the centre which,

by machinery, is made to shut and pen in the instant of time the bucket should fill and empty itself. The other end of the lever is fixed to the pup, spear, or rod, and by the continued action of the bucket descending and ascending, filling and emptying the water it contains, which is of such a weight as to make the beam preponderate, the pumping is carried on and the coal pit cleared of the water collected below."

Mr Keir was director of works and improvements upon the Duke of Buccleuch's estates in Scotland. He also designed and carried out the beautiful structure of 103 feet span known as the Duchess' Bridge, thrown over the Esk on the west side of Langholm Lodge in 1796.

It was about the year 1770 that the whole of the coal mines and limestone quarries in the parish were let to Mr Lomax upon a long lease, one of the conditions being that a supply of coal equal to the demands of the country should be readily available at all times.

Lomax, to avoid the heavy expense of an engine, confined his operations to such places as were easy of access and could be wrought by means of an open level. Hence the quantity produced in this way was very



Canonbie Coal Mine at Rowanburn circa 1900

limited, and many in distant parts of the country, who had no other resource, were often reduced to considerable inconvenience and hardship.

Lessee

In these circumstances the Duke, although the lessee might have been compelled to implement the terms of the lease, entered into an agreement with him, by which His Grace was to be at liberty to set up a colliery in any situation that did not directly interfere with Mr Lomax's levels. Considerable sums of money were expended by the Duke in bringing those works into operation which at length afforded the public the prospect of an ample

supply of this very necessary commodity of life.

After the long period of nearly 150 years, during which time countless thousands of coal were drawn from the dark recesses of mother earth, the primitive horse-drawn vehicle of the early days at the pithead was superseded by motor and rail transport, and with other vast changes in the district, operations at the different pits in Canonbie ceased at the beginning of the present century.

In the closing years, the Canonbie coalfields at the Old Colliery and Blinkbonny produced approximately 18,000 tons annually and found employment for

over 100 men and boys.

The location and subsequent mining of coal in the parish brought about many rapid improvements.

The Rev John Russell, writing in 1790, states that about twenty years previously, wide stretches of farmland lying away from the line of the River Esk, were almost inaccessible excepting in very dry weather.

Soon after that period leading roads were constructed in the east and west sides of the parish and branch roads carried from these to almost every farm so that the various purposes of agriculture were, with comparative ease and comfort, fully served.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 14th May 2026

CONTACT NUMBERS:

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Daniel Lynn	07584 200 489
Nick Woodmass	07442 246 063
Sam Hogg	07584 207323
Norman Douglas	07786 366 833
Helen Rickard	07741 313 029



C&D Auction Marts had forward an entry of 10,067 sheep comprising of 117 spring lambs, 5,569 hogs and 4,381 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 14th May 2026.

NEW SEASON SPRING LAMBS

An increased entry of 117 spring lambs. An increased show of prime lambs forward, inspect lambs proved very good to sell. In the current climate the trade is very buoyant and all lams that are ready to go should be brought forward for sale for maximum returns.

Top price per head of £240 for Texel lambs from R Johnston, Kimmeter Green, Annan. Top per kilo of 476p for Texel lambs shown by JB Ackerley, Milton Mains, Bampton. Overall average 433.2p (SQQ 453.6p)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Texel £240 Kimmeter Green, £222 Wellbank Mains, £213 Edendales, £210 Bank-end of Tinwald.
Suffolk £230, £229, £220 The Land, £220 Balhall, £218 Beckfoot.
Hampshire £218 Beckfoot.
Dorset £218 Beckfoot.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel 476p Milton Mains, 472p Carran, 470p Broomhills, 468p Uras, 466p, 461p Milton Mains, 454p Broomhills.
Suffolk 446p Somerville, 441p Rigfoot, 435p, 432p North Cowshaw, 431p Rigfoot, Balhall & The Land.
Hampshire 423p Hartbush.
Dorset 404p Larel.

PRIME HOGGS

A larger entry of 5,569 prime hogs forward sold very well with all well fed hogs in big

demand. Lean under finished hogs proved more difficult to place.

All classes of well finished hogs were in big demand proving short of purchaser requirements.

Top price of 521p per kilo for Texel hogs from Glendoe Estate with top per head of £275 for Texels shown by Messrs Beard, Dormansteads, Roweltown. Overall Average 405.57ppk (SQQ 409.64p)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel £275 Dormansteads, £250 Errington Farm, £247 High Parson Bridge, £246 South Bogbain, £245 Beckfoot, £245 Errington Farm
Beltex £265 Errington Farm, £258, £246 Drumcain, £245, £244 & £242 Twizell Farm
Suffolk x - £260 Cairness, £250 Overton of Knaven, £248 Cairness, £242 South Bogbain

North Country Cheviot £246 Northway Cheviot- £238 Unthank, £225 Auchlin, £224 Potholm, £220 Unthank, £218 Broadmea, £216 Bloch
Cheviot Mule £232 Riverside, £230 Dyke Harm Mule- £225 Beckfoot, £222 Ireshope Plains, £210 Overton of Knaven, £205 Heathery Hall
Blackface £228 Shitlington Hall, £211 Dyke Farm & South Bogbain, £207 Mount Pleasant, £205 New Hall
Dutch Spotted £212 Overton of Knaven
Charollais £206 Hamilton
Zwartble £200 Syke Head
Dorset £193 Ireshope Plains, £188 Heathery Hall
Easy Care £190, £188 Twizell, £184 Harwood on Teviot, £181 Twizell
Border Leicester £190 Westernhopeburn
Badgerface £188 Old Irvine
Suffolk £186 Heathery Hall

Swaledale £182 Syke Head
Jacob £180 Syke Head
Herdwick £176 Rowhead Farm, £170 Gorthleck Mains, £162 Moss House
Kendal Rough £172 Broomhills
Woodland £170 Old Irvine, £161 The Heugh
Ryeland £144 Burnhouse
Shetland £134 Upper Rigg
Kerry Hill £116 Woodhill

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel 521p Glendoe Estate, 461.9p Beck Farm, 460.5p Dalmore, 458.3p Stewartfield, 451.1p Errington Farm, 451p Dalmagarry & Dalmore
Beltex 505.3p Cairness, 493.3p, 485p Drumcain, 482.1p Killocraw, 480p New Farm, 478.4p Twizell Farm
North Country Cheviot 498.1p Tormore
Cheviot Mule 464p Riverside, 407.8p Dyle Farm, 402p Priestthaugh, 400p Patties Hill
Cheviot 448.8p Plumpe, 445p, 441p Melvaig, 440p Balmaglester & Tormore, 439p Balmaglester, 432.5p Mallgate Hall
Suffolk X 447.6p Plumpe, 443.2p Overton of Knaven, 434p Trecomer, 433p Kirkwood Mains & Whitton
Dutch Spotted 440p Plumpe, 424p Overton of Knaven
Mule 438.5p Westernhopeburn, 435p Glen Stables, 428p Kildalloig, 419p Beck Farm, 418.2p Westernhopeburn, 416.7p The Craggs
Blackface 433.3p Dyke Farm, 431p, 429.3p Mount Pleasant
Herdwick 426p Moss House, 400p Copperthorns, 394.7p Moss House, 383p Rowhead
Easy Care 423.1p, 420.9p Twizell Farm, 416.7p Stewartfield
Border Leicester 422.2p Westernhopeburn

Charollais 422.5p Westernhopeburn
Badger Face 417.8p Plumpe
Suffolk 413.3p Heathery Hall
Dorset 410p Low Ranachan
Swaledale 410p Westernhopeburn, 390.7p Muirfield House, 363.6p Westernhopeburn, 363.2p Aultgirshan, 363p Westernhopeburn, 362p Syke Head
Woodland 403p Westernhopeburn, 383p The Heugh
Shetland 394.1p Upper Rigg
Kendal Rough 382p Broomhills
Jacob 375p Syke Head
Ryeland 327.3p Burnhouse
Kerry Hill 305.3p Woodhill
Zwartble 303p Syke Head

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A much larger show of 4,381 cast ewes and rams forward for the time of year sold to huge rates of return, especially the handy weight ewes. More required for next weeks sale as the festival draws nearer.

Texel ewes sold to a top of £365 from RL & AR Phillips, Fir Trees, Harrogate. Charollais sold to £300 from J Wales, Thackwood, Penrith. Blackfaces peaked at £190 from Evistones Farm, Rochester with Cheviot ewes selling to £188 from F Ross, Easter Aberchaldier, Inverness. Rams topped at £315 for a Texel from Beckfoot Farms.

Heavy ewes

Texel £365, £340, £320, £315 Fir Trees, £325 £308 Rowan Garth, £300 Torgomack & Wellbank Mains.
Charollais £300, £280, £270, £260 Thackwood, £265, £245 Fir Trees & Thackwood.
Beltex £270 Thackwood & Hillside, £230 Drumreach & High Stennies, £225 Kilnford Croft.

Blue Leicester £250 Nether Hills, £212 Arncliffe.
Suffolk £240 Fir Trees, £240 Beckfoot, £238 Fir Trees, £236 Evistones, £232 Beckfoot, £230 Rowan Garth, Killocraw & Crumhaughhill.
North Country Cheviot £238, £200 Dormansteads, £198 Longoe, £196 Beckfoot.
Blue Texel £235 Midtown, £220 Low Ranachan.
Mule £232 Nether Hills, £210 High Machriemore & Higher Lilleybrook, £209 Albyn, £206 Evistones.
Cheviot Mule £210 Wester Cottage & Barasford Green, £208 Errington, £204 Bute-land, £200 Heithat, Dalmore & High Stennies.
Zwartble £210 Evistones, £195 Raefield.
Lleyn £198 The Height.

Light ewes

Blackface £190 Evistones, £188 Buteland & Dalbhraddan, £186 Baraskomel & Min-sca, £185 Beckfoot & Shitlington Hall.
Cheviot £188 Easter Aberchaldier, £182 Galleywreay, Drumreach, Potholm & Ballinloan, £180 Hollows Mill, £180, £178 Drumreach, £178 Becks.
Lonk £182, £165 Lynnsfield.
Easycare £180 Beckfoot, £168 East Greenridge, £160 Stewartfield.
Gritstone £180 Achamore.
Swaledale £178 Evistones, £162 Whitton, £155 Evistones, £150 Linton Bank Head.
Herdwick £150 Bridge End, £142 Drumreach.
Shetland £140 Low Tifergus, £130 Dalmore.

Rams

Texel £315, £285 Beckfoot, £280 East Greenridge, £270 Flex.
Suffolk £305 Flex, £300 Galleywreay, £278 Raefield.

Beltex £280 Fir Trees.
Bluefaced Leicester £272 Dormansteads.
Border Leicester £272 Dormansteads.
Dutch Spotted £248 Dalbhraddan.
Dorset £242 Low Longlands.
North Country Cheviot £210 Whitton, £198 Elsdonburn.
Charollais £205 Beckfoot.
Easycare £200, £195 Twizell.
Cheviot £190 Sorbie & North House.
Blackface £150 Dalmagarry, Gibbblaston & Sorbie.

Averages:

Lambs	
Light to	—p (—p)
Standard to	476.0p (448.6p)
Medium to 4	72.0p (455.2p)
Heavy to	444.0p (423.7p)
Overweight to	401.0p (377.9p)

Hoggs

Overall Average	405.57ppk SQQ 409.64ppk
Light to	441.9p (365.8p)
Standard to	521.0p (398.7p)
Medium to	493.3p (416.5p)
Heavy to	485.0p (410.3p)

Ewes

Light to	£190.00 (£129.21)
Heavy to	£365.00 (£191.84)
Rams to	£315.00 (£206.19)



LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 25th May 2026

Mon	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY OPEN WEEKEND - Makers Market - Mill tours	10-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Tues	After School Club Langholm Evening In Stitches	4-5:30 6-8	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri & Sat	TANGLED Fibre Festival	10-5	Galashiels
Sat	Machine Embroidery Birds	10-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

FORGOTTEN FLEECE TALES
OPEN 10-3PM MON-SAT

Scrap Store is open
Monday - Saturday 10-3

Booking required, please visit
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

Langholm
Ex-Cornets Association

AGM

Friday 22nd May
8pm
Eskdale Hotel
Subs now due

Summer Craft Fayre
Newcastleton Village Hall
Friday 22nd to Monday 25th May
11am to 5pm daily
Tea Room open 11am - 4pm
Adults 50p accompanied Children FREE
Raffle on Monday

ANNUAL LITTER PICK
Saturday 23rd May until Saturday 6th June

Please help us to keep Langholm looking bonnie!!

Pickers and bags can be collected
from the Information Hub
at the Kilngreen Monday to Friday 10am-2pm
& Saturday 10.30am-1.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN MAY		
Fri 22nd	Quiz Night in aid of Gilnockie Hall	Gilnockie Hall 7pm
	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 i 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. 2620 answers next week

1. What is the smallest country in the world by land area?

2. Which chemical element is named after the Norse god of thunder?

3. What is the capital city of Mongolia?

4. Who was the second person to walk on the Moon?

5. Which artist painted The Persistence of Memory?

6. What is the longest-running Broadway musical of all time?

7. Which country was formerly known as Abyssinia?

8. What is the tallest structure in the world (as of recent records)?

9. Who developed the first successful polio vaccine?

10. Which sea separates Saudi Arabia from Africa?

11. What is the only bone in the human body not connected to another bone?

12. In computing, what does "HTTP" stand for?

13. Which battle in 1066 established William the Conqueror as King of England?

14. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?

15. Which planet has the most moons (currently recognised)?

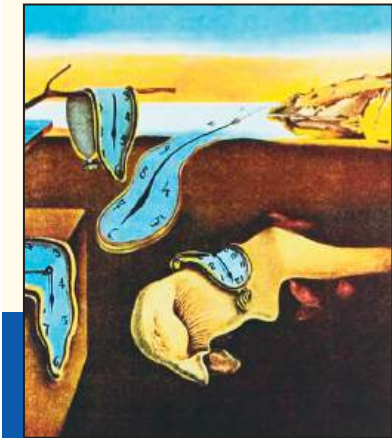
16. What is the capital of New Zealand?

17. Which Nobel Prize category was established last (in 1968)?

18. Which metal has the highest melting point?

19. What is the official language of Iran?

20. Which explorer was the first to circumnavigate the globe (expedition leader credited)?



Crossword & Quiz
Solutions from
last week

Quiz 2619

1 Bovril

2 Cod

3 Variety Club of Great Britain

4 Sheriff

5 Dr Samuel Johnson

6 Gooseberry

7 Special Air Service

8 Catherine Howard

9 Rule Britannia

10 Ashmolean Museum

11 Model village

12 Southend-on-Sea

13 River Avon

14 Soho

15 St Augustine

16 Knole House

17 Oxford

18 1894

19 Dover

20 Film studios

Crossword 2619

Across: 6 Fair, 7 Slavery, 8 Van Buren, 9 Glee, 10 Sales, 11 Tribute, 13 Tenancy, 15 Build, 17 Loci, 19 Northern, 20 Academy, 21 Oats.

Down: 1 Database, 2 Problematical, 3 Banner, 4 Neighbourhood, 5 Tyke, 7 Surf, 11 Toy, 12 Tolerate, 14 Convex, 16 Grey, 18 Oval.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2620 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across

5 Herbal Italian bread (8)

7 Agitate (4)

8 Offensive (13)

9 Possessed (5)

11 Direct hit is source of pride (6)

13 World's largest economy (1,1,1)

14 Fiddle (6)

15 Invest defensively (5)

17 Unpredictable (13)

20 Price paid (4)

21 Wine and soda water (8)
- Down

1 Leave-taking (8)

2 Finely honed (5)

3 Largest Balearic island (7)

4 Submissive (8)

6 Globe (3)

7 The Red or the Med (3)

10 Super-intense (5-3)

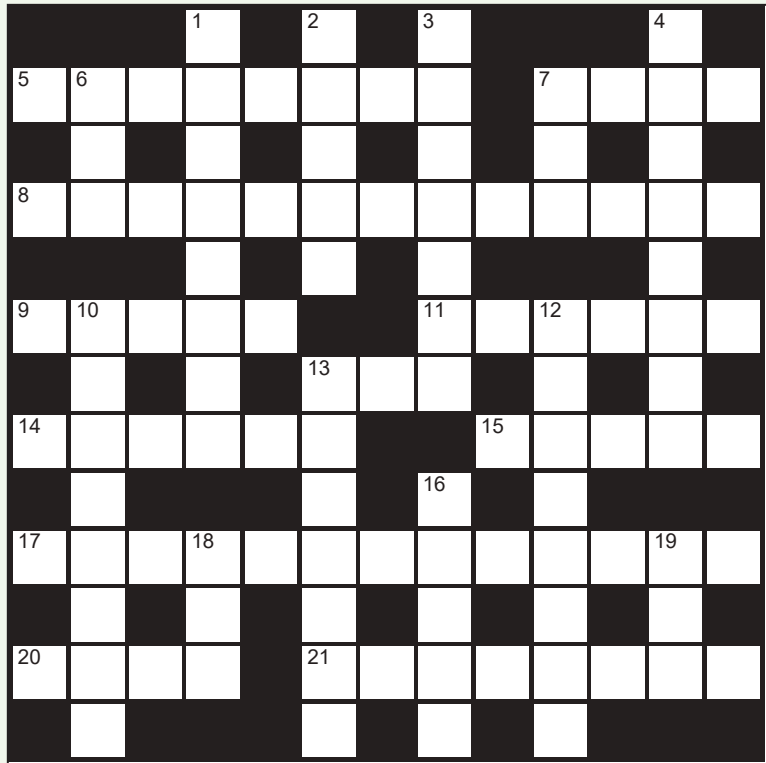
12 Tiny tree chopped up for ever (8)

13 Disrobe (7)

16 Like a brainiac (5)

18 Favourite (3)

19 Type of beer (3)



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E&L JOB SPOT

We're recruiting at Eskdalemuir Community Hub

Following a review of our staffing structure, we've decided to replace our previous Operations & Development Manager role with two new part-time positions:

◆ Operations Manager

24 hrs/week

£17.50/hr

◆ Finance & Development Coordinator

15 hrs/week £16.50/hr

(Hybrid working may be considered)

We believe this new structure will better support the growing work of the Hub and create a more sustainable staffing model for the future.

Both roles will work closely with our existing team, volunteers and trustees to help support community life in Eskdalemuir.

We welcome applicants with transferable skills and are happy to support training and development for the right candidates.

Applicants interested in either role or both roles are encouraged to get in touch.

For job descriptions and application details, please contact chair@eskdalemuir.com.

Application deadline: 31st May 2026 but note that we may interview and appoint before the closing date if suitable candidates apply early.

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POP UP SHOP

LANGHOLM POP-UP SHOP May 2026

■ Fri 29th May (74 High St)

Langholm Shotokan Karate Club – Fundraiser

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

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Aoiffion is Double Gold Medallist

Athletics



WINNING 200m TRIO: with Aoiffion in the centre

The District Championships are a significant event in the athletics calendar with the North and East Championships held in Aberdeen this year and the West in Championships in Kilmarnock.

14-year-old Aoiffion McVittie Brangan made the long journey to Aberdeen for the weekend where she would compete in the U16 Girls 100m and 200m.

On a weekend not made for PB's, on the Saturday Aoiffion won her 100m heat in a new unofficial PB of 12.31 seconds with a tail wind. She then came first with a new official PB of 12.69 seconds into a strong head wind to win the gold medal. On the Sunday, Aoiffion won her second gold medal of the weekend with a time of 26.05 seconds into another very strong head wind.

Evelyn Bell, aged 15 and Jessica Cuthbert, aged 13 both travelled to Kilmarnock on Saturday for the West District Championship's. Evelyn progressed through the heats of the U16 Girls 100m where she finished 8th in the final.

In the U14 Girls, Jessica competed in the 100m, 200m and High Jump in a new format from Scottish Athletics where they scored points based on performance which would lead to a gold, silver or bronze badges being awarded. Jessica ran 14.45 seconds in the 100m and 29.36 seconds in the 200m and, jumped 1.29m in the high jump to collect a gold badge for her points total.

All three athletes receive support through the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards.



Evelyn Bell



Jessica Cuthbert

WELCOME to LANGHOLM
FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Mountain biking tracks would attract visitors

Excellent video shows how it is a 'no-brainer'

Football

We recently reported in the E&L in relation to the transport hub being created in Langholm that The Stove Network has been working with the Xcel Project. The aim of the work was to showcase the talent, creativity and culture of Langholm's young mountain bikers through the Moving Stories project. The plan was to create a documentary style short film focusing on a group of local young mountain bikers, find out how and why they build their trails and explore with them what they want to happen in the future.

The group first got into trail building after watching videos on YouTube and the interest progressed from there. More young people joined the group and they now regularly ride together, enjoying the local trails as well as trails further afield. They thoroughly enjoyed being involved in creating the video and working with Rob Grew from Treun Media House. A lot of the young people now have their own social media channels which show off their mountain biking skills.

The video brilliantly showcases the huge opportunity for mountain biking there is in the area as well as exploring why the young people enjoy it so much. More and more young people are becoming interested in mountain biking and there are initial discussions happening between the mountain bikers, the Xcel Project and the Castleholm Community Trust that would establish a dedicated space for young mountain bikers in the short-term with a longer-term goal of securing a pump track for the town.

There has also been a video created that will be shared with landowners and the wider community with the hope of really pushing Langholm and the surrounding area as a destination for mountain biking.

The videos were created by Rob Grew from Treun Media House. Duncan Elliot of the Xcel Project said

"The Moving Stories project has been a great project to



Ross Hislop, Aaron Jardine and Owen Rose are seen here trying out some of the tracks around Langholm

be involved with. The group of young mountain bikers are enthusiastic and passionate about what they do and it feels like this is just the start of something really positive. There will be a lot more happening in terms of mountain biking and we can't wait to share that with everyone as we progress."

The link to the video is on the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser Facebook page.





Back to back wins over Braithwaite

plus another Langholm Cricket Club legend from '76

Cricket

Langholm made it back to back wins over Braithwaite in an easy but prolonged victory on Saturday. Setting the target of 187 with 8 batsmen in double figures the result never looked in doubt as Braithwaite seemed to settle on playing the overs out and finished on 122.

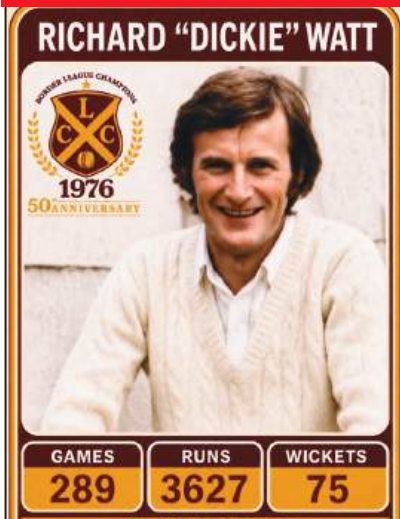
Langholm were put into bat and opened with the Park brothers for the first time. This didn't last long as Gregor had to depart the field with an injury with the score on 14. John Bell joined Graham as they two settled in adding 55 before a mix up saw the Langholm skipper Bell run out for 31. Park soon followed, stumped for 19 with the score now 71 for 2. Gregor Park returned, joining Nicky P and they added 35 before Park was out for 30 with the score on 106 for 3. The next four wickets went relatively quickly as Nicky P was trapped LBW for 12, then Dave Steele was caught and bowled soon followed by his brother Tony for 14. When Andrew Paisley was out for 5, Langholm found themselves on 132 for 7, not a disastrous score but better was expected. The tail wagged, led by Corey Park playing his first match of the year. He and Ryan Johnstone took the score to 150 before Ryan fell. Euan Coates joined Park and the score had reached 164 before Park fell for a career high of 30. Coates and

Scott Ritchie added 23 for the last wicket to get Langholm up to 187 with Ritchie scoring 11 and Coates not out on 13. Probably a par score on the wicket especially with the very slow over rate.

Braithwaite began cautiously against some good bowling from Ryan Johnstone, after a close shave when P Johnston was dropped at mid wicket when a similar shot saw him caught off Ryan by Nicky P for 5 with the score on 15. Ditingier joined Sams and these two seemed to have settled on playing for the draw or rain, which never got to more than a drizzle. The eventual breakthrough came in the 23rd over when Graham Park bowled Ditingier for 23, Scott Ritchie then clean bowled Hutton for 1 to leave the visitors 72 for 3 after 26 overs. Although the run rate increased slightly the Langholm total was never in danger as wickets also fell consistently. With the score on 95 Sams fell for 50 to Tony Steele and there went the slim chance Braithwaite had. They eventually finished the 40 overs at about 7:25pm 122 for 8. In the bowling for Langholm Ritchie had 2 for 9, Tony Steele 2 for 21, Johnstone 1 for 5, Coates 1 for 12 and Graham Park 1 for 26.

Braithwaite took nearly three hours to bowl their overs which is hardly a way to entice youngsters to the game. Langholm travels to Temple Sowerby for the first time for a senior game of cricket.

Cricket Memories



LANGHOLM cricket pays tribute to another legend this week. Richard 'Dickie' Watt played 289 matches for Langholm up until 1998 scoring 3627 runs and was known as a dependable batsman who gave everything for the team. The highlight of his career was the famous 1976 title winning season where he played a key role throughout. His highest score that year was 58, averaging 21. He was also an outstanding fielder, quick across the ground with a safe pair of hands. He sadly passed away in 2024 and for anyone who attended his funeral it was clear just how much cricket meant to him and his family.

Simon wins Borders Golf tournament

Golf



BGA President Robin Brydon pictured with 2026 BGA Champion Of Champions winner Simon Tweddle of Langholm Golf Club.

SIMON TWEDDLE of Langholm won the Borders Golfers' Association 'Champion of Champions' title at Selkirk golf club at the weekend with a level par round of 68 competing

against the best players in the Borders. Simon was presented with a trophy by Robin Brydon, President of the Association. Langholm golf club is very proud of his success.

Legion needs new manager

Football

After two great years managing the club, David Borthwick has made the decision to step down from the position of manager for personal reasons.

"It's been a real privilege to manage the club I played for and to work with this group of players for the past two seasons, I've learned a lot about them and even about myself along the way, but the time is right for me to hand over to someone who can take things forward. I will be forever grateful to so many people at the club for their support and making my time in charge so special.

"I want to be clear, this is a well run club. There's a strong leadership group who back the manager and make sure things work the way they should. You won't be on your own. On the pitch, there's a good squad with a nice mix of youth and experience. Last season we lifted the Forsyth Cup (photo below) and this year we reached the semi-final of the Waddell Cup, narrowly missing out on another final so there's real momentum there.

"The main responsibilities are straightforward, picking the team, taking training (once a week) and writing the match report. It's not a massive time commitment but it does need someone who is reliable, cares

about the club and wants to see it do well.

"If you've got a connection to Langholm Legion, whether you played for us, supported us, or just fancy being involved in something that matters to this town, we'd love to hear from you. Interested? Then get in touch through the club page or drop me a message directly. We'd like to appoint the new manager as soon as possible in readiness for next season."



Legion v Tweeddale

At the end of last week Langholm Legion faced Tweeddale at home aiming to secure 3 points in their final home match of the season.

After 20 mins of pressure the team finally took the lead when Alistair Little got on the end of a through ball from Callum Summerbee. They continued to push for a 2nd and Daniel Winter extended the lead with a great header from Robert Macleans pinpoint cross. 2-0 Langholm. The chances kept coming in the second half and it was Ali Little again. This time he gave the Tweeddale keeper the eyes and finished in the nearside bottom corner from the edge of the 18-yard box 3-0 Langholm.

Next Craig Cuthbert found Dan Winter's run, who calmly tucked his shot under the Tweeddale goal-keeper. 4-0 Langholm.

A 5th goal came right at the end when Callum S got his head on a Craig Cuthbert corner to fully secure the 3 points. The game ended 5-0 Langholm and the lads achieved what they set out to achieve to secure the playoff position, a thoroughly deserved win at home.

Big thanks to everyone who came to support including the Cornet and his right- and left-hand men and the Langholm Legion Ultras, to Scott Bowers for officiating and to the Douglas Hotel for the after-match hospitality.

E&L SPORT

