

**Taking the Initiative
to the High Street**
Community organisation
buys old bank

SEE PAGE 5



**Harris tests out the
Old Town's
children's bowls**

SEE PAGE 15



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Town's infrastructure issues highlighted at meeting

Caroline Street, Holmwood, Drove Road and other problems were addressed at recent debate with Cllr Male and Council officials

A series of ongoing road and infrastructure issues across Langholm were brought to the attention of council officials following a meeting with them at the Buccleuch Centre last week.

Councillor Male highlighted several urgent concerns, including the need for "no entry" markings and white lines at the junction of Caroline Street and Henry Street to be repainted now the one-way system is in operation.

He also sought an update on repairs to the damaged section of Caroline Street opposite the park. Officers advised that further investigative work is required before costs can be finalised, with the project currently expected to be considered as part of the 2027 capital programme.

Drove Road

Concerns remain over a hole in the wall on Drove Road, with ownership still to be established despite earlier enquiries.

There was some positive progress reported on drainage, with 108 drains already cleared using newly deployed equipment. Teams are expected to return within six weeks to complete the work after being diverted to

other road issues.

A request for a safety mirror at the end of George Street was also discussed, though the council confirmed it does not normally install mirrors. A meeting with residents will be arranged to explore alternatives.

Calls were made for white lines to be refreshed throughout the town, while concerns were raised about heavy goods vehicles parking near the sawmill bridge at the Kilngreen and causing damage to both the bridge and surrounding area.

Holmwood

The retaining wall on the B709 north of Holmwood remains under observation, with further checks requested and the possible use of traffic lights to be considered.

Meanwhile, hopes are growing that a long-running issue over providing a larger hole for the town's Christmas tree will soon be resolved.

Councillor Male also confirmed he is due to meet BEAR Scotland next week to discuss wider pavement and road concerns in the town.



The shiny new No Entry sign at Moodla Point

Flooding: Progress reported but work still to do By Stephen Scofield

Flooding at Townfoot and Holmwood remains a key concern, although steps are being taken to improve the situation.

Following severe flooding in December, a community engagement session was held on February 4, 2026, with a follow-up meeting on May 25 to review progress and discuss next steps.

Residents, community representatives and senior council officials heard that work carried out so far includes site visits with affected households, gully clearance, flow assessments, renewal of trash screens, improved coordination between agencies and the development of a draft

community resilience plan.

While there was agreement that progress has been made, it was also acknowledged that much more remains to be done.

A further public meeting is planned for September, with a commitment to continue working towards long-term solutions to better protect the town from future flooding.



Holmwood Flooding

INSIDE



Stripped bare... almost!

At the end of last week we were contacted by a reader to tell us that the Council were in the process of removing the Kilngreen play park. Read all about it on page 3

Family Announcements

Deaths

LOHMANN, Rainer

At Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary on 9th May. Rainer aged 84 years. Devoted husband of Helen. A dearly loved Dad and Father-in-law, Adored Grandad, cherished Uncle and Brother-in-law and great friend to many. Funeral service will be held at Roucan Loch Crematorium on Thursday 4th June at 2pm. Friends respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only.

Thanks for Sympathy

ELLWOOD, Catriona (Ena)

Susan and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy they received following the sad loss of Ena. Thank you to all who attended the service and for the kind donations given in Ena's memory for Parkinson's UK - a generous total of £350. A special thank you to Morag Crossan for her comforting service, to the Eskdale Hotel for refreshments and to Nicholson's Funeral Directors for their guidance help and support.

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Church Notices

**ESKDALE &
LIDDESDALE
PARISH**
linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish
Church

Welcome to worship
Sunday 31st May
Services led by
Rev Morag Crossan

LANGHOLM
9:30am

CANONBIE
11am

Contact us for transport
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Langholm service
Tel. 07989168299

Services led by
worship teams
NEWCASTLETON
10am

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



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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

Trailing Tommy



Langholm's Front Three become Mosstroopers

Langholm Cornet Tommy Hope sets off on his Common Riding journey. One of his first mounted outings was last Saturday on Hawick's mammoth Mosstroopers' Ride Out.

Accompanied by his RHM Ewan Patterson and LHM Bailey Donaldson, the Langholm Trio were very smart and did the town proud once more.



Above: Leaving Hawick for Mosspace following Hawick Cornet Jordan Nuttall:

Around 70 riders followed 2026 Hawick Cornet Jordan Nuttall on what is the biggest ride out of Hawick Common Riding, at almost 28 miles.

Cornet Tommy Hope told the E&L: "What a great way to kick start a busy summer with a ride to Mosspace and back.

"The weather was superb which topped off a good day all round joining the Mosstroopers"

We'll be trailing Tommy throughout his exploits this summer



Left: Langholm Front Three heading for the Mosstroopers Dinner and to officially become Mosstroopers: Photo R. McGee

Girl footballers score a 'tidy' goal

Recently, before the start of training, the Langholm girls swapped their football boots for bags and litter pickers as they carried out a litter pick to help keep our community clean and tidy.

The girls really appreciate the support we receive from both our local and wider community, so as a club we wanted to give something back. 4 large green bin bags were collected in 15 minutes

A huge well done to all the girls, parents and grandparents for getting involved and showing fantastic teamwork both on and off the pitch.



Playpark removed just in time for Bank Holiday!

Ty Pennington's creation 'not safe for purpose', but will it be replaced?

People in Langholm were shocked last week to see the Kilngreen play park equipment being dismantled and removed by Council employees. The park was created seventeen years ago in 2009 for a TV programme called 'Ty Pennington's Great British Adventure'. Ty, an American media personality, invited volunteers and companies to help makeover the Kilngreen in just seven days. As a result, the bandstand, which was recently dismantled, the all-abilities path on the Castleholm, the kiosk decking and the play equipment were installed. Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed at the time to take on the inspection and maintenance of the play equipment.

Councils in Scotland are legally responsible for the management, safety and maintenance of all play parks on Council owned land and although the Kilngreen is in fact common good land, it has been managed by them. Members of the public are encouraged to report issues or safety hazards pertaining to play equipment using the Dumfries and Galloway Council Fault Reporting Tool or by calling their customer service line. Was this done? We have asked the Council for comment but understand that the equipment was found to be dangerous and therefore had to be removed soon after the in-

spection took place.

Comments locally on social media about the removal of the play equipment said things like 'For goodness' sake they take things away from Langholm but give nothing back! We even had to fund the Buccleuch park ourselves.' 'That's a real shame, lots of kids play on it!!! Is there going to be a replacement put in place.... doubt it!' '?? Never heard about this. So everything TY Pennington came to do is now gone?? Was it unsafe?'

The same day Langholm Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council received an email from Dumfries and Galloway Council



ALL BUT GONE: We appear to be left with one swing, a picnic table and that controversial fence

stating that due to wood rot in posts that play equipment was being removed as it was not economical to repair. The email also said that there were no plans to replace it due to budget issues but if a community group would like to come forward with match funds to replace it the Council staff would be happy to meet a group to discuss it.

To see the equipment being

removed during the Summer period is disappointing for the young people of Langholm, for families and for visitors to the town.

The E&L Advertiser has approached the appropriate department of Dumfries and Galloway Council for more information on this but, as yet has had no response. We will update you on this next week.



Area Committee Grants

A report to Annandale and Eskdale Area Committee for the 27th May recommends allocation of the Area Committee discretionary grant budget to organisations in the area including an allocation to the Christmas lights group in Langholm of £8054 and £872 to the Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk community council and Langholm Alliance to support the Langholm Common Riding civic breakfast and civic reception. £1000 is recommended for each elected member to support capital awards at local level.

It was also recommended to allocate £5124 to support local athletes that would not otherwise receive any financial help in pursuit of their sport. Also to assist groups and individuals to reach their sporting goals through small financial awards.

Bridge Results

N/S - 1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, Nancy McLure & Anne Ferguson, 3 = Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford and Janet Ivison & Pat Watson. E/W - 1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Sandra Ritchie & Tom Stothart, 3, Louise Grierson & Christine Burton, 4, Lesley McCartney & Fiona Kay.

Umbrella Walk 2026 and the future of Langholm Rotary

The next date for this event will be Saturday 3rd October

By Mark Hallam

Including funding from six local Trusts, along with contributions and gift aid, the 2025 Umbrella Walk raised £41,291 for 38 participating local groups in 2025 a record total, bringing the event's overall fundraising to £432,000 since it was founded by the late Alastair Davies in 1998.

To aid forward planning, it has been proposed that future Umbrella Walks take place on the first Saturday in October. Many local groups rely on this event as a principal source of funding and could struggle to survive without it. Equally, the event itself depends heavily on Langholm Rotary, which is currently under threat and urgently needs new members. Of the current 12 Rotarians, none are under 60 and some are over 80. There are still no female members in Langholm Rotary, although neighbouring clubs

include several women, including presidents, and the current district governor is also female - helping to dispel the idea that Rotary is a 'gentlemen-only' organisation.

Langholm Rotary would welcome anyone, of any gender, who is or may be interested in joining. In particular, we encourage representatives from Umbrella Walk groups - especially those whose organisations may be at risk if Langholm Rotary, and therefore the Walk itself, were to cease.

On a personal note, I was initially unsure about joining four years ago, particularly due to concerns about the commitment. However, I was able to take my time, get to know the group and its work, and as a newcomer to Langholm found it an excellent way to become involved in the community. After three years, I even took on responsibility for the Umbrella Walk.

So, if you are interested in



Rugby Club Umbrella Walkers in 2025

Rotary - especially if you represent an Umbrella Walk group - please do get in touch.

You can speak to any of the 12 current members or contact President Peter Forsyth or Secretary Kenneth Pool at langholmrotaryclub@hotmail.com



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.buccleuch.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@buccleuch.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.

Letters to the Editor

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

Cricket memories prompted

Your current series profiling members of the Border League winning team of 1976 brings back memories of playing for Langholm during my teenage years before National Service, during the period 1954-59. In these days scores of more than about 120 were rare, with very soft wickets.

The Border League was dominated by Gala for many years but in 1957 we played them at Mossylee, scoring 175 for 5 wickets, then dismissing them for 36! Cue headlines in the Sunday Post. The Gala team retreated to the changing room, never to be seen again.

I opened the batting for Langholm in these days, with partners including Jim 'Teef' Telford and Tom Irving and other players included Eric Maxwell, Ted Lake, Robbie Wylie and 'Wild Bill' Rodgers who was a wonderful bowler but couldn't catch a cold!

Wonderful memories include discovering, when stopping at the Fox and Hounds in Denholm

on the way back from Kelso, that umpire Adam Beattie had been left behind. As the youngest member of the team, I was dispatched in one of the cars to retrieve him, finding him marching along the road about 3 miles from Kelso, with his usual beaming smile still on show.

I had a very nomadic working life and played cricket in Dumfries, Kelso, Libya and finally Zambia after starting on the Square Field, now the site of the Buccleuch Centre.

Jim Graham
Clydebank



Jim Graham

Help support RNIB

Here at The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), we're gearing up for our biggest volunteering opportunities of the year so far.

This June, we're asking people to take just an hour of their time to help make a vital difference for blind and partially sighted people in their local areas.

Reading and books are absolutely crucial to children with vision impairment and blind and partially sighted adults. Books in accessible formats like audio and large print help to open up a world of information and learning and open doors to the imagination which would otherwise remain hidden.

As RNIB's Library Services Manager, I am writing to encourage you to take part by visiting your local library between 1-14 June to check what books are available for blind and partially sighted readers.

It only takes a few minutes to ask the library staff and find out whether their library shelves include large print, braille or audiobooks.

We'd then love you to share what you find with us using our quick online form, or by calling

our Library Team.

This simple action will help RNIB build a far clearer picture of accessible library services across the UK and support our work to ensure everyone can enjoy reading in a format that works for them.

I would be grateful if readers who would like to take part could complete our quick form online at <https://tinyurl.com/7xh99ppz>, or if you are unable to do so online, contact our Library Team by calling 0303 123 9999.

For this opportunity RNIB is working alongside The Big Help Out – a UK-wide event which runs from 5-8 June and sees millions of volunteers turn out to help community causes.

The first two weeks of June also marks Hi-Vis Fortnight – an event organised by charities Share The Vision and RNIB; this celebrates library services for blind and partially sighted people and highlights the importance of books in accessible formats.

By taking just a little time to support us, you will be helping improve access to vital reading resources for blind and partially sighted people in communities right across the country. Thank you!

Lara Marshall
Library Services Manager,
RNIB

Cooking up a treat for Rotary

Young Chef Competition heats

Last week Langholm Academy's home economics department hosted the class heats of the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition with pupils preparing a dish of their choice.

The standard of cooking, creativity and presentation were outstanding. Class winners were Ronnie Holliday and Olly Johnston with Gracie Robertson, Holly Irving, Jack Hall and Lauren Davidson finishing as runners up. The school final takes place

this week with Roger Maxwell from the Langholm Rotary Club acting as judge alongside John Galloway of the Eskdale Hotel. The competition received sponsorship and funding from the Rotary Club and Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council. The school wants to say a huge thank you to Elaine Wallace for organising food orders, Mrs Cook for judging and Mrs Smart for supporting pupils throughout the competition.



Olly Johnstone (c) with
Lauren Davidson and Jack Hall



Ronnie Holliday (c) with
Gracie Robertson and Holly Irving

A brae-top viewpoint

Iona Quip on countryside traditions of fly and feathers

For many years the Buccleuch Estate gamekeeper John Conacher, of Meikleholm Cottage who had previously worked as a rabbit catcher, had the thankless job of keeping drunken poachers away frae Becks Burn.

The gamekeeper himself, was aye kent to have a tidy wee sideline in selling pheasant and game bird feathers, where they would be turned intae fishing flies for anglers lang before such things arrived in neat wee packets fae the tackle shops. In those days, feathers were valuable things, though noo and again acquired by methods best no spoken ower loudly in polite company. Thankfully, times have changed.

These days, all materials are properly shop-bought frae local businesses such as Affordable Angler in the High Street, run by Jimmy and Amanda, who are supporting the launch o' the Toon's new fly-tying group, Langholm's Fly-fishing Club. The group welcomes a' ages and abilities tae learn the traditional craft in far mair peaceful surroundings, wi' nae need for midnight

raids on the estate or folk legging it through the woods wi' a gamekeeper close behind.

Ken McKillop, leading the group says he hopes tae keep alive an auld countryside skill while bringing folk thegither for a blether, a cup o' tea, and the odd fishing story that grows taller wi' every telling. The only hunting likely these days is for misplaced specs or whoever's wandered aff wi' the good scissors.

It seems the Muckle Toon's connection between feathers and fishing is still very much alive and well, though the pheasants will nae doot be sleeping a wee bit easier these days. Mind ye, wi' the shooting season no far awa', the local birds will likely already be keeping low in the gardens of Holmwood, doing their best tae bide oot o' sight until the danger passes.

After two hundred years, it seems some countryside traditions never really change

Members of the
Langholm Fly-fishing Club
enjoy their weekly meetings



Langholm Initiative banks on new move to the High Street

Community organisation will be much more accessible to public

The Langholm Initiative has announced that it has purchased the former Bank of Scotland building on Langholm High Street. We posed a number of questions to the organisation to find out more about their plans. The former bank has been empty since it closed just over a year ago.

Why is the Langholm Initiative purchasing the Bank of Scotland?

We are only buying the ground floor of the building – the other two floors are in private ownership. We will move our staff into the offices there as we would like to be more centrally situated in Langholm. We're hoping to move the information hub into that building from the Kiosk at the Kilngreen as

soon as is practical. We hope that in future more people will pop in and find out about the work of the Langholm Initiative and the Taras Valley Nature Reserve and have better access to information about Langholm and Eskdale in general.

When will you be moving in there?

We hope to move over there as soon as possible but there is some work to be done in the building first.

Will you need all the space on the ground floor of the building?

Once we've moved into the building, we'll assess the situation to see if there's an opportunity to rent out offices but at the moment, we think we will use all of the space.



What will happen to your existing office space on Glenesk Road?

The current space we're in belongs to another company and we have been renting it for many years. It makes sense for us to own our own

premises and have a presence on the High Street. It's up to our current landlords to decide what to do with it.

What will happen to the Kiosk at the Kilngreen?

We still have to make a de-

cision on that. The information hub will remain in that building for the time being but if a local organisation or business would be interested in making use of the property in the future, they should let us know.

Winter homes for toads

The natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) can only be found at a handful of locations in Scotland, all on the Solway coast, and is now Scotland's rarest amphibian. Numbers have declined sharply in recent years, largely due to habitat loss from sea level rise, coastal erosion, agricultural intensification, urban expansion and commercial forestry.

To help address this, Scottish Water, NatureScot, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC), and Hoddum and Kinmount Estates have worked together to build hibernacula—specialist structures that provide safe winter shelter. The project has been funded by Species on the Edge, an endangered species conservation programme supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with construction carried out by Ground Control.

Each hibernaculum is created by digging pits and filling them with large rocks, with sand packed into the gaps. As the only UK amphibian able to burrow, the natterjack can use the resulting network of cavities and crevices, with varying microclimates, to shelter and regulate body temperature during winter. The design draws on features such as dry-stone walls and dust baths, which have largely disappeared due to modern intensification of farming.

MP gives partial welcome to postponement of fuel duty hike

An announcement by the UK Government that the 5p rise in fuel duty planned for September has now been postponed has been given a partial welcome by Dumfriesshire MP David Mundell, who believes it will help give some respite to hard-pressed local motorists.

Mr Mundell has repeatedly called on the Government to take steps to drive down pump prices and has regularly raised the issue in Parliament and lobbied Ministers, stressing the disproportionate impact rising fuel costs have on people living and working in rural and more remote communities.

David Mundell MP said:

"It's welcome news that the fuel duty increase that the Government had planned for September has now been postponed and that the freeze in duty will continue for the rest of the year. Knowing just how vital it is in rural areas like ours to keep fuel costs down as much as possible, halting the planned 5p duty hike is something I have repeatedly called on the Government to do, so it is good that they have finally arrived



DAVID MUNDELL MP: "Drive down pump prices!"

at this decision themselves.

"Welcome as these moves are, however, it would have been much better if the Prime Minister and Chancellor had listened a long time ago to fuel duty campaigners and those of us who have been calling for action to keep fuel costs down, rather than be forced into this belated u-turn."



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Craig Hoy MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for South Scotland region



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Farming on the Border



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



25 years of AgriScot

Scotland's premier agricultural event celebrates its quarter-century this year and is marking the milestone with a significant change.

This year, for the first time, AgriScot will open its seminar programme to applications from any individual, business, organisation or charity.

Organisers say this will reflect the extraordinary diversity of people, ideas and innovation shaping farming today.

The NFUS and Scottish Government debate will remain the centrepiece of the programme, but all other seminar spots will be awarded through a competitive application process, with a limited number of places on offer.

Agri-Scot Chairman Gilmour Lawrie, says this is shaping up to be a very special year for the event.

"Twenty-five years is a significant milestone, and we wanted to mark it in a way that truly reflects where agriculture is today,"

he said.

"Opening up our seminar programme feels like the right way to do that, bringing in new perspectives, new voices and new ideas that will inspire and challenge our audience."

Speakers

AgriScot is looking for engaging speakers with strong narratives, personal journeys or credible data; good use of visuals rather than text-heavy slides; and sessions that pair vision with evidence, research or trials.

Topics should be timely, relevant and accessible to a broad agricultural audience, with sessions that inspire, provide practical insight or support the future innovation of the industry considered most favourably.

Agri-Scot will be held at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh on November 18th but applications have to be submitted by the end of June. They can be made online.

Farmers' red letter day as red diesel duty dropped

Government has temporarily reduced duty to 6.48p

The Government's announcement of additional support for red diesel users has been welcomed by NFU Scotland. The move will see a temporary reduction in duty rates from 10.18p per litre to 6.48p, which is the lowest rate in twenty years. It starts on June 15th and lasts for the rest of the year.

Farmers throughout Scotland are facing significant pressure from rising fuel, fertiliser and energy costs, all of which directly affect the cost of producing food.

NFU Scotland President Andrew Connon says it's a welcome recognition of the pressures facing the agricultural industry.

"NFU Scotland raised this issue directly with the Prime Minister earlier this year in a letter as part of wider concerns around global instability, rising input costs and the risks these pose to domestic food production and food security," he said.



Andrew Connon, NFU Scotland President

"We are pleased that Government has listened and acted on one of our key asks.

"While this measure will provide valuable short-term support, further action is still needed to address ongoing volatility in fertiliser and energy markets to ensure Scottish agriculture can continue producing high-quality

food sustainably and competitively."

NFU Scotland will continue engaging with the UK Government and industry partners on a wider package of measures needed to strengthen resilience within Scottish agriculture and protect domestic food production.

This includes measures to sup-

port fertiliser availability and affordability and a review of the proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in relation to fertiliser costs. The union is also calling for short-term financial resilience support to help farm businesses manage input cost volatility.

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Sheep health survey by Quality Meat Scotland

A new survey has been launched to find out about sheep health issues.

It's being run by Quality Meat Scotland, which wants farmers, crofters and producers in the sheep sector to submit issues they would like to see being researched. By doing so they can highlight practical, relevant challenges and opportunities that can support flock health, farm resilience and the long-term success of the sector.

QMS say they're keen to hear from as many voices as possible to build a clear picture of where research can make the greatest difference.

QMS Genetics Specialist Emma McGowan says it's an important opportunity for farmers and producers to help shape the future direction of sheep health research in Scotland.

"We want to make sure our work is focused on the areas that will deliver the greatest value to the sector, and that starts by listening to the people with first-hand experience of the challenges and priorities on farm," she said.

"I would encourage everyone involved in sheep production to take a few minutes to share their views and help guide the research that will support the sector in the years ahead."

QMS is encouraging all those involved in the sheep sector to take part in the survey and help inform a research agenda that reflects industry priorities, supports continuous improvement and strengthens the future of Scotland's sheep industry.

The Sheep Health Survey can be accessed through the QMS website and will be open for six months.



Producers invited to submit issues they would like to see researched

Photo by Rick Barrett on Unsplash

An unknown connection between Langholm and Wick

Telford's portrait by a Langholm artist hangs in Wick Town Hall

A connection between Langholm and Wick was made recently when I met up with Jenny Bruce from Caithness. Jenny is both a historian and artist. Unbeknown to most of us, a portrait of Thomas Telford hangs in Wick Town Hall which was painted by Langholm artist Matthew Beattie.

The artwork was produced in 1881, 47 years after the death of Thomas Telford and was probably copied from an engraving made by William Hodson in 1831 which was the frontispiece of the 'Atlas to the Life of Thomas Telford' which illustrated his professional works. The painting is remarkably similar to the original 1882 oil of Thomas Telford by Samuel Lane.

Jenny says, "This unknown artist from the Borders showed great skill in capturing the exact atmosphere and colours of the

original and it would be interesting to know if he had some access to view the original oil by Lane."

Hyslop

"The former Provost Cairns of Langholm said in a letter to Sir Alexander Gibb who wrote 'The Story of Telford' that the portrait is a copy in oils of a painting by Samuel Lane. The artist is a Matthew Hyslop, a local house painter and artist from Langholm who had died a few years ago.

"According to Cairns the painting was originally intended for the Langholm Library but owing to some dispute, it never got there. However, when the artist died one of Hyslop's sons offered it to Cairns' wife and she promptly bought it and when Cairns returned from a trip to London declared it to be 'too large for any house so it was cut down.



Thomas Telford by Matthew Hyslop hangs in Wick Town Hall

Even now framed it is 5ft 4inches inside the frame. Although only a copy we are proud to have it."

Jenny believes that when Provost Cairns and his wife died, the painting was auctioned off and was bought by James Cormack from Wick who later donated the painting to the Wick Town Council.

Thomas Telford gave Wick a unique history by designing the harbour and creating Pultneytown which led to Wick becoming the most important herring port in Europe during the nineteenth century. It's fascinating to know about the impact Telford had in the very north of Scotland and to know that a portrait once intended for Langholm now hangs proudly on display in Wick.

On speaking to Archie Hyslop of Elizabeth Street I understand the artist to be his great-grandfather.

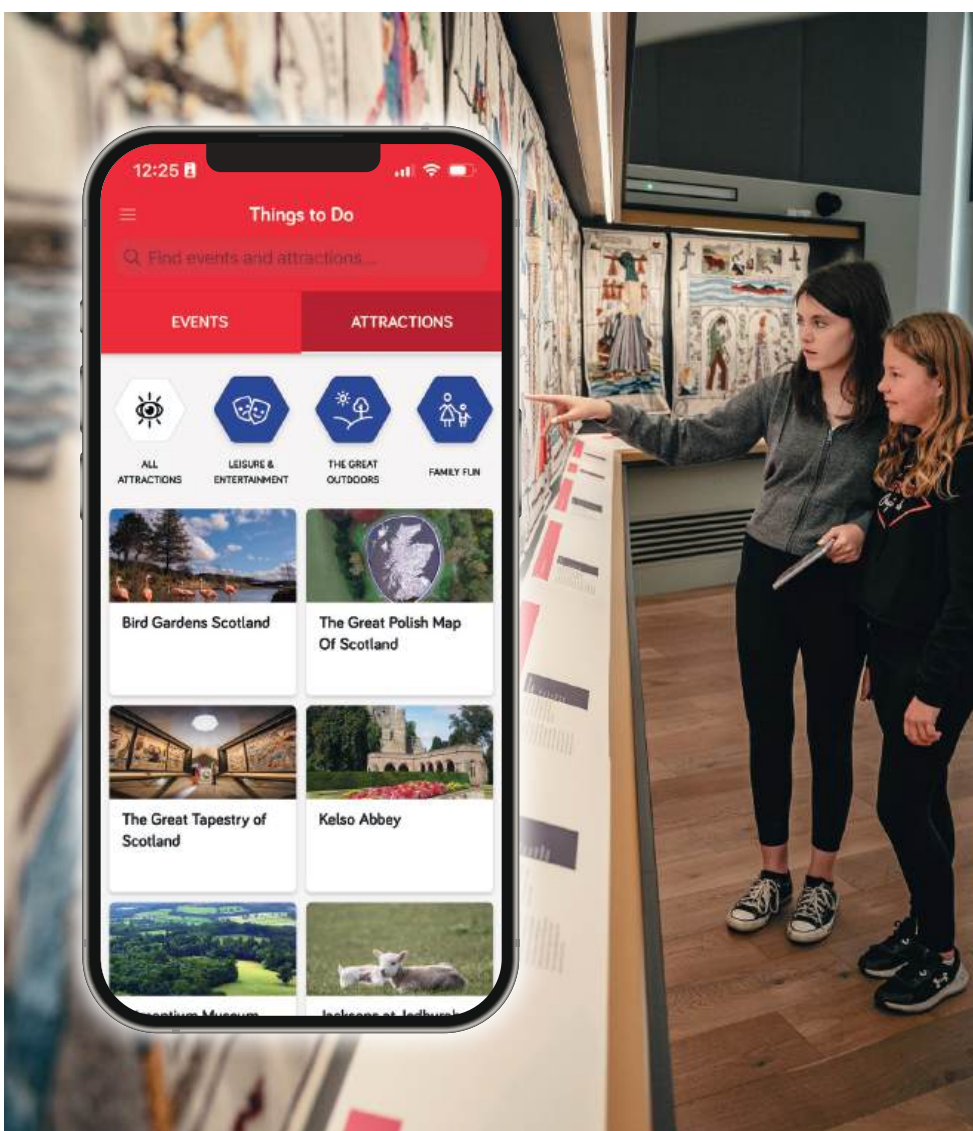
NEWS IN BRIEF

Edinburgh International Festival

Nicola Benedetti, Festival Director of Edinburgh International Festival says that this year's festival is an invitation to 'All Rise'.

This is a rallying cry to artists and audiences to stand with the festival in the belief that through artistic endeavour we will see each other more truthfully and more tolerantly. With 147 performances over 24 days the festival runs from 7th to 20th August and includes five world premieres and ten works commissioned by the International Festival. Marking the 250th anniversary of American independence, the 2026 programme examines the ideas and impact of the USA.

Experience themes of freedom, ingenuity, prejudice, and hypocrisy, alongside the creative achievements made possible by the friction and energy of America's cultural melting pot. The festival includes free workshops for singers and dementia friendly concerts.



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Keep your eyes peeled for these country style antiques

Desire It Interiors

If you ask me, which country-style antiques I think will increase in value over the next several years, here's what I'd probably tell you to keep your eyes peeled for as you trawl your local decorative fairs and favourite antique shops.

Stuart Bruce-Gormley



Primitive armoires and cabinets

I adore a distressed antique armoire; they are such value for money compared to built in mdf types. They are classic and timeless, and they tend to hold their value well. Often French or Northern European, they're also a beautiful way to add more storage to your space.

If you are lucky enough to buy an old farm cabinet with its original chippy milk paint, please don't even think about painting over it! Why? If it has lasted 100 years with its original paint, it means it missed the eighties craze of ruining everything by dropping it in the stripping tank. And therefore, it's a rarity and has actually risen in price and will continue to be highly sought after.



Oil on canvas portraits

These works of art, typically from the late 19th century and depicting the husband and wife in formal attire, have become a trend in many country homes, where buyers try to falsely project some lineage which I do find slightly amusing, but finding them in excellent condition is becoming very difficult, as for a long period of time became much less fashionable and were stuffed away in some dusty loft or damp cellar. Therefore, their value has risen significantly in recent years. If you're thinking of buying one of these portraits, you can be sure that in a few years they will be worth much more than they are today.

Stone sinks and troughs

Originally utilitarian, nobody other than the servants gave them a second look. Stone sinks and troughs are now being reimagined as dramatic vanities, outdoor planters or kitchen basins in country homes. The blend of stone and a rustic wood base create a layered, high-end look, highly copied by extremely expensive kitchen brands, but they just don't compare, in my humble opinion. I look for subtle chisel marks, mineral staining, and original edges as signs of authenticity. Spend a day walking around somewhere like Tetbury and you'll see what I mean.

Ultimately, it boils down to this. Buy what you like. Be an individual and remember that in a world of mass production and landfill, buying antiques is one of the greenest things that you can do. And chances are, once you've had your fill of an item, it has probably still got a resale value larger than its mass produced contemporary.



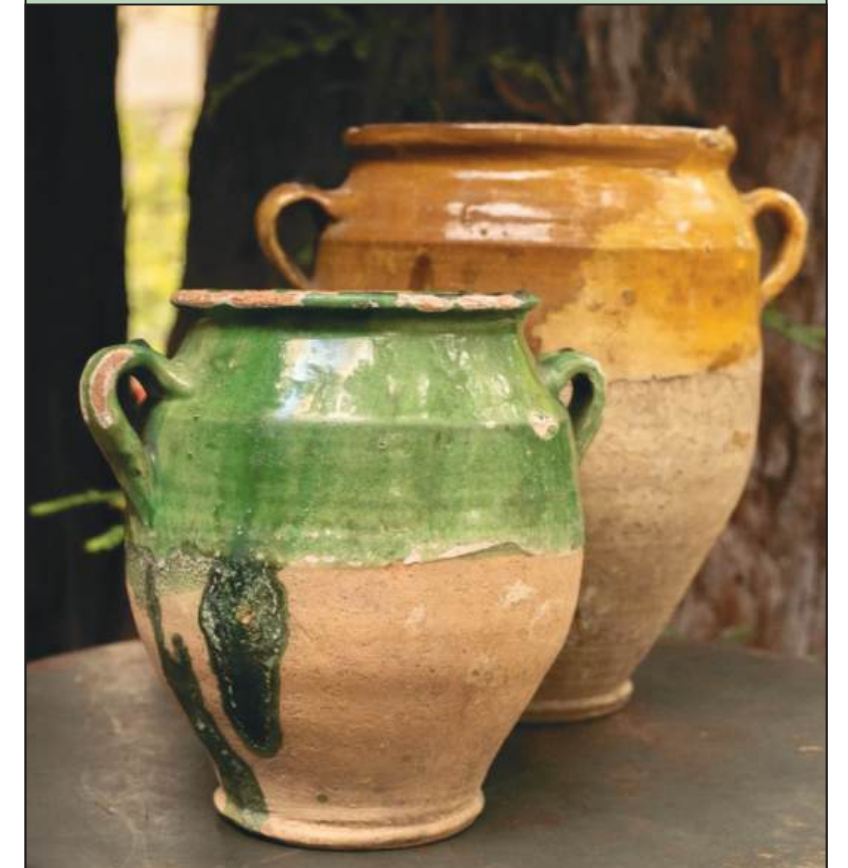
Rattan or bamboo accessories

One of the earliest materials used in the production of homewares and furniture across all levels of society and still in use in many production lines today. The texture of these pieces is a great way to bring a new element to a space. Screens, shelves, chairs and stools are a great way to incorporate the look – I love seeing the almost endless use of bamboo from oriental to mid-century Danish arrive in our shop, and I just recently sold a vintage bird cage in bamboo that was such a great styling piece, albeit it was missing a number of bars so wouldn't have kept anything safe. But what a planter it created.

Confit Pots

Not so easily found in the Borders I appreciate, but if you're heading over the Channel or visiting some of the bigger decorative fairs such as the Paxton House Antique fair which is on next from 3-5th July over in Berwick upon Tweed, then these are always the first thing to sell to ladies in the know for their country style homes. Originally, these pots were used in southern France to preserve duck or goose by cooking the meat in its own fat and sealing it in the pot.

The glazed top half prevented light and moisture, while the unglazed base was buried in the cool ground to keep things fresh before the refrigeration era. The yellow-glazed ones are getting harder to find in good condition, and the green ones? Nearly impossible.



...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

School classes reduction plans angers community

An announcement by Scottish Borders Council that it's planning to reduce the number of classes at Newcastleton Primary School from three to two has deeply angered the community.

The fact that the information came out on a school newsletter has further added fuel to the fire as no consultation had been carried out beforehand and no prior notice given.

The item in the newsletter stated that classes would be consolidated into P1-3 with 15 pupils and P4-7 with 21 pupils. The school has operated with composite classes for a number of years but not one covering as big an age spread as the P4-7.

It's not yet clear what this would mean for teaching and support staff, but it's feared their numbers would be cut in line with the reduction of classes.

Opponents to the plan say this would severely impact the quality of education given to pupils as teachers couldn't give each one the kind of individual attention they need and deserve.



Class numbers are under threat at Newcastleton Primary School

They also fear this move would give a bad impression of the village to anyone thinking of moving here. Families with children could look elsewhere if they felt educational opportunities for their children would be limited.

A public meeting was held in the village last week to inform parents and other interested villagers of the council's plans and to get their reactions to the news.

A petition is now in circulation both online and in paper form and meetings have been arranged with SBC Director of Education Lesley Munro. The

campaign has also been promised support by the village's councillors as well as local MSP Rachael Hamilton and MP John Lamont.

Newcastleton Primary School may be small but can boast that a Nobel Prizewinner received his early education there. Richard Henderson won the prestigious prize for Chemistry in 2017.

During a visit to the school in 2019 he said his time there had been 'his golden years' and said the secret of his success was definitely the grounding he was given at Newcastleton.

Disappointing response to survey about village's future



Villagers haven't taken the opportunity to express their views on how Newcastleton should develop in the future.

It had been hoped that they would take part in a survey which was set up as part of a consultation prior to an Initial Place Plan draft being drawn up with plans to cover the next ten to twenty years.

Place Plans first came into being as part of Scottish Government reforms to the planning system and became part of the Planning Scotland Act of 2019.

They are intended to give communities more influence over developments in their own areas with ideas and plans coming from within the com-

munities themselves and not imposed by external bodies.

Questionnaires were made available in Newcastleton and a special Open Day was staged at Buccleuch House to give local people the opportunity to ask questions and find out more.

The local Community Council say the event did not attract the numbers they had hoped for, even though it had been advertised beforehand.

The deadline for filling in the questionnaire has now passed but it's hoped there will still be other opportunities for villagers to have their say and a stall may be run at the Holm Show in August.

Biannual bliss of the Copshaw Craft Fayre

Copshaw Craft Fayres are always a highlight in the village calendar, popular with local people and guaranteed to bring visitors as well.

As always there was a rich variety of stalls with everything on offer from plants to home-baking, to beautiful artwork, jewellery and hand-turned wood.

This year's Fayre also featured a new book called *Abigail and the Black Wolf of Tarras*, written by goldsmith, sculptor and poet Kenneth Erik Moffat who runs the Johnnie Armstrong Gallery at Teviothead, and illustrated by artist Donna Cuthbert whose roots are deep in



Another successful Craft Fayre

Liddesdale.

The Fayre could not run without the loyal and hardworking crew of helpers and supporters who do everything from setting up stalls and collecting payment, to serv-

ing teas in the Supper Room and even tackling the mountains of washing up afterwards.

This year sadly the team wasn't quite complete. It has lost a very able and central figure

in Sandy Richardson who died after a short illness earlier this month.

She was always right at the heart of the Craft Fayre, helping to keep everything running smoothly. Her loss has been felt by all.



Abigail and the Black Wolf of Tarras

Car break-ins in Holm

Copshaw residents are being warned to be on their guard after a large number of cars and other vehicles were broken into over the weekend.

The break-ins happened in the early hours of Saturday morning, and it's known that items have been stolen.

Some residents may not yet be aware that they have been targeted.

Some of the incidents have been caught on CCTV and the footage will be handed to the police as part of their investigation.

If anyone has any more information about these incidents, they're asked to inform the police.

Villagers are being advised to make sure their cars and properties are locked and to keep an eye open for any suspicious activity.

Research to begin on broken heart syndrome

The first ever clinical trial of medication for the long-term management of the condition commonly known as broken heart syndrome is now under-way. The seven-year long study will involve scientists and clinicians from Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Leeds, Leicester, Belfast and almost 1,000 takotsubo patients from 40 hospitals across the country.

Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, sometimes called broken heart syndrome, affects more than 5,000 people in the UK each year and many more worldwide. It can be fatal with 1 in 10 people dying from the initial attack or

later from associated complications.

Often mistaken for a heart attack, a takotsubo attack is usually triggered by sudden emotional stress, such as the loss of a loved one, which is where the broken heart moniker comes from. However, unlike a heart attack, it is not caused by a blockage in the heart arteries but instead, a severe weakening of the heart muscle.

Takotsubo

The long-term risk of death or serious health problems after a takotsubo attack is similar to patients who have had a heart attack. In those who survive the first attack, patients live with a higher

risk of death, heart attacks, strokes and heart failure as well as higher risk of repeated takotsubo attacks.

There is currently no proven treatment for takotsubo, so the medication and care patients receive can vary. Professor Dana Dawson, who is leading the trial, explains: "Takotsubo syndrome affects thousands of people in the UK year on year – most of whom are women. The figures are stark in that one in ten will ultimately die from their condition. It is a growing problem and with ever improving clinical recognition the diagnosis rate has increased 5-fold in the past decade."

Anaphylaxis: worth knowing about

St John Ambulance shares advice on one of the scariest emergency situations you could find yourself in. With summer coming, it's an opportunity to spend more time outdoors with friends and family, but do you know if anyone has an allergy?

Would you know what to do if someone had a severe allergic reaction? If you have an allergy yourself, make sure you have antihistamines available and carry your auto-injector. An allergy is any abnormal reaction to an allergen or 'trigger' substance. Common allergens are plant

pollen, animal hair, dusts, moulds, bee stings and some foods. Common symptoms of mild allergy may include sneezing, runny nose and mild itchy rashes. Anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock is a severe allergic reaction that is a life-threatening medical emergency.

It can develop in just seconds after someone comes into contact with an allergen. It can affect the whole body, and if it's not treated quickly enough it could be fatal. If someone is having a severe allergic reaction, then they may carry medication to inject

themselves, a pre-filled injection device containing adrenaline which, when injected, can help reduce the body's allergic reaction. If they have one, help them to use it or do it yourself following the instructions. Pull off the safety cap and, push the tip firmly against the casualty's thigh until it clicks, releasing the medication (it can be delivered through clothing). Hold in place for ten seconds (follow the instructions on the device), then remove. Call 999 and tell the control you suspect anaphylaxis or a severe allergic reaction.



A team of people from Langholm are walking the Lairig Ghru next week in aid of the Beatson Cancer Charity along with David Jeffrey who received treatment at the Beatson centre last year.

Joining him on the walk are daughter Hannah, son Callum, Morag Pool, Shane Kenny and pipe band friends John Smith and Richard Henderson. The back up team consists of Hazel Jeffrey and Katrina Kenny. The Lairig Ghru is a mountain pass that climbs to an altitude of 845 metres crossing the central Cairngorms. David and the team will traverse it from East to West from Deeside to Speyside. The walkers will cover a distance of nineteen miles and



the walk could take between eight and ten hours. It's a long and remote walk and a challenge that David has had in his sights for a long time. The walkers will be hoping for a dry day at the very least as they cover exposed moorland. David has raised over £4000 to date and people can still donate at Just Giving where you can search for David Jeffrey.

Bike repair service survey

The Langholm Alliance is inviting cyclists to complete a survey about a potential mobile bike repair service. They are helping gather information for a potential business to gauge interest from people in the area.

The survey can be accessed via a link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3RP7J3H>

Plant and Craft Fair

Ewes Hall will hold a plant and craft fair on Sunday 31st May from 1pm – 3pm. Tea and scones will be on offer, and everyone is welcome to go along. The hall is about six miles north of Langholm and situated on the A7.

Church Fête date

Langholm Parish Church Fête is always a favourite event in the local calendar. This year it's to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 21st June and if anyone would like to donate items for the stalls they should get in touch with one of the organisers.

Shakespeare at the Hub

Eskdalemuir Expressive Arts is showing the film Hamnet at Eskdalemuir Hub on Friday 29th May at 7pm - £7 for adults and concessions are £5. The café bar will be open for snacks and refreshments. All welcome to go along.

Caravan park full for CR 2026

Ewes water caravan and camping park at Milntown is now fully booked for this year's Common Riding. Those staying on an electric pitch have been contacted with their dates and prices. Payment before arrival would be appreciated unless a prior arrangement has been made. Those booked onto grass pitches will be contacted soon.

'Only Child' review

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

'Only Child' with Gregor Fisher and Greg McHugh issued its second series recently on BBC Scotland. These half-hour comedy programmes depict a father and son who live in Forres. Fisher is McHugh's widowed father (Ken) in the series and Richard (Greg McHugh) has come back to live with him after his acting career dries up.

At 39 he's most unhappy about that and is ever hoping that his agent is going to find him a new acting part. There are bits of every programme that are very relatable and genuinely funny. Gregor's use of his mobile phone, for example, shows the challenges that older people can have with technology and the frustrations the young have with us that struggle.

The first series was a hit with people and there's no doubt that this one will be too. Other



Gregor Fisher and Greg McHugh

Photo: BBC

characters in the series are perhaps over exaggerated but nevertheless amusing. Richard, who believe it or not has the surname Pritchard, finds his father frustrating at times but is also fond of him. At times he seeks counselling from him which can also be amusing. If you would like something light to watch, take a look at 'Only Child' it might cheer you up. Gregor and Greg are a very good partnership although my only concern is that half an hour was just too short for each episode.

Nurses are struggling

A challenging mix of a failure to fill the gaps in the nursing workforce and increasing patient need are leaving staff struggling to keep people safe, as a quarter say registered nurse numbers are so far below what is required that there is now a high risk of harm on shift.

The findings are from the Royal College of Nursing's (RCN) latest 'Last Shift' survey, which asked more than 1,400 nursing staff working in the NHS and independent health and social care in Scotland about their experiences on their most recent shift.

In Scotland, over eight in ten (82%) say that clinical complexity has increased over the last two years alone, while less than one in ten (8%) say staffing was at the right level for all of a patient's needs to be met. More than three quarters (76%) say the situation of limited time



and resources is now forcing them to regularly need to make difficult decisions about prioritising care.

Nursing staff across the country report the demands of care increasing, while registered nurse staffing continues to fall short of the level required to provide safe and effective care. They say adults, children and those with mental ill health are all presenting with more clinical complexity which is placing unsustainable pressure on staff. RCN Scotland Executive Director, Colin Poolman, is calling on the new Scottish government

to prioritise new and sustained investment to grow the nursing workforce to a level that meets the needs of an ageing, more sick population.

A quarter of nursing staff said registered nurse staffing levels on their last shift were well below what was needed, with care significantly compromised and a high risk of harm to patients and staff.

Colin Poolman concluded: "The new Scottish government must prioritise investment which acknowledges and values the vital contribution of nursing to the health of the nation."



Looking back...

Lang Syne in Eskdale...

...David J. Beattie: The Building of Gilnockie Bridge

An improvement of outstanding importance was the construction, about the year 1793, of Gilnockie Bridge which crosses the Esk at a point half a mile below Hollows Tower where the river sweeps round the head of a rocky gorge.

The construction of a bridge across the river at this place opened up a communication of great utility to the country besides shortening by several miles the road to Byreburn colliery which in itself was a consideration in those days of horse-drawn vehicles.

Today its picturesque and romantic situation is an outstanding feature in the neighbourhood. The bridge and the construction of the new road, which were carried out by the Duke at his own expense, diverted the main traffic from the high and more difficult road and also shortened the distance between Langholm and Carlisle.

At the approach of Gilnockie Bridge on the Canonbie end, traces of ruined ramparts of a Border fortress may be seen. In the opinion of those who have made a careful study of the district, this was the site of Gilnockie Tower, the stronghold of the famous freebooter, Johnie Armstrong.

Hollows Tower, a few hundred yards further up the Esk, is often confused with Gilnockie Tower, probably because no stone of the latter has been left standing on an-

other and that Hollows is still a conspicuous object seen from the highway.

In some measure, no doubt, Sir Walter Scott is responsible for this unfortunate mistake, for in his “Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border” he tells us that “Johnie Armstrong’s place of residence (now a roofless tower) was at Hollows, a few miles from Langholm, where its ruins still serve to adorn a scene which, in natural beauty, has few equals in Scotland.”

Andrew Lang, in his “Highways and Byways of the Border” questions whether Sir Walter ever visited Gilnockie. If he had done so it could scarcely have escaped the notice of the great novelist that another Castle once stood less than half a mile from Hollows Tower and that towards the end of the 18th century the stones of the Castle were utilised in the building of Gilnockie Bridge.

Some years ago I again examined the site and, after a careful analysis of what history and tradition has placed on record, I do not hesitate to accept the view that this was the site of Gilnockie’s stronghold.

This decision has been strengthened by a somewhat protracted correspondence in the press which I unwittingly started by an article of mine on the subject, written some years ago.

It brought to light much authentic information and especially an old



The original Gilnockie Bridge was erected in 1793

and almost forgotten map which clearly indicated the position of Gilnockie Tower at the Canonbie end of the bridge, at a point where the river twines into a rocky gorge where it would be impossible to ford.

The position is magnificent and in those days would be impregnable.

On three sides the rocky banks rise almost perpendicularly out of the water to a height of almost 60 feet and it is impossible to imagine a site more suited for a freebooter’s stronghold.

A projecting spur of rock at the

narrowest part of the river seems to have given birth to the traditional story that a drawbridge crossed the Esk at this point, but there is little else to support such a theory.

Hollows Tower, as may be seen from the run further up the river, is a good example of the old Border Keep but it is too small to have given sufficient accommodation for the following of so noted a Border chief as Gilnockie. Besides, the position is not one of exceptional strength, nor has it anything like the natural protection of its neighbour.

The present Canonbie Bridge far-

ther down the river, was built some years earlier than the one at Gilnockie.

Its predecessor dates from about the year 1745 and was probably the first stone bridge to span the Esk from where it empties into the Solway Firth to this particular stretch of the river.

Previous to that time parishioners on the west side of the Esk had no access to the Church on the east side except by wading, riding on horseback when the river was fordable, or passing over by boat. The crossing was not always effected without accident.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 21st May 2026



CONTACT NUMBERS:

John Walton	07880 527 066
Daniel Lynn	07584 200 489
Nick Woodmass	07442 246 063
Sam Hogg	07584 207323
Norman Douglas	07786 366 833
Helen Rickard	07741 313 029

C&D Auction Marts had forward an entry of 10,067 sheep comprising of 201 spring lambs, 5,102 hogs and 4,406 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 21st May 2026.

NEW SEASON SPRING LAMBS

An increased entry of 201 spring lambs met a fast-selling trade with more firms actively looking for lambs.
Top price per head of £228 for Suffolk lambs from A Hambleton, Merkland, Thornhill.
Top per kilo of 532p for Texel lambs shown by C Saunders, Mansfield Cottage, Rigg.
Overall average 458.2p (SQQ 479.6p)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Suffolk £228 Merkland, £221, £214 North Cowshaw, £214 Burnside & Low Northsceugh, £212 High Croft House.
Hampshire £223 Barnhill Mews.
Zwartble £220, £204 Holmea.
Texel £217, £216 Zetland, £213 Guardsmill, £212 Low Northsceugh, £209 Shandford.
Charollais £216 Hundalee House.
Beltex £214 Slealandsburn.
Dutch Spotted £207 Snab.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel 532p Mansfield Cottage, 524p, 507p Burnside, 500p Zetland, 485p Kilnhill.
Suffolk 507p Shandford, 490p High Croft House, 482p Grindon Hill, 481p High Croft House, 476p Low Northsceugh.
Charollais 490p, 483p Hundalee House.
Dutch Spotted 470p Snab.
Beltex 465p Slealandsburn.

PRIME HOGGS

Another good entry of 5,102 prime hogs forward took a lift in trade again as buyers

looked for Quarhani hogs with well fleshed hogs in huge demand.
Top price of £275 for Beltex hogs from Easter Balgillo and a top per kilo of 513p per kilo for Beltex from Z. Rennie, Muirfold.
Overall Average 419.8ppk (SQQ 432.3p)

Principal prices (Per head)

Beltex- £275, £266, £261, £258, £240
Easter Balgillo, £240 Hallhill
Texel- £272, £270, £268, £258 St Johns Kirk, £256 East Raffles
Suffolk x- £270, £258 Lough House, £250 Galleywray, £248 Hillview, £242 Hallees
Bleu Du Main- £252 Brawliemuir
Hill Cheviot- £240 Cross Rigg, £217 Easter Balgillo, £216 Tosson Glebe, £214 Ireshope Plains, £213 Tosson Glebe
Dutch Spotted- £236 North Field
North Country Cheviot- £234 High Green Hill, £232 Cairness, £222 South Bogbain, £218 Cairness, £217 St Johns Kirk.
Mule- £232 Hillview, £212 Mount Farm, £210 Finniness, £209 West Newlands, £204 Cross Rigg.
Leicester- £232, £220 Cairness, £214 Campmill, £212 Mains.
Charollais- £227 Hundalee
Dorset- £220 Hallrule, £171, £170 Trefrank
Blackface- £215 Cairness, £210 Heathery Hall, £207 Cairness, £202 Toft House, £200 Broomhills.
Zwartbles- £214 Evertown
Cheviot Mule- £212 Evertown, £209 Cairness, £202 Preston Tilery, £201 Cross Rigg and Cairness, £200 Evertown
Half-bred- £200 Langdyke
Jacob- £193 Ireshope Plains
Valais Blacknose- £184 Achaurale Mains
Herdwick- £182 Preston Tilery, £178 Moss House, £168 Westernhopeburn, £165 Ireshope Plains.

Swaledale- £182 Morley Hill, £169 Nunsleugh, £167 Pasture House, £164 Newbiggin
Kendal Rough- £165 Dairy Barn Farm
Hampshire - £162 Cassington
Shetland- £155 Fairmuir
Easy Care - £146 Easter Denhead, £137 Burnside.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex- 513p Muirfold, 510.3p Broomhills, 490p East Raffles, 486.4p Broomhills, 467p Moss House
Texel- 480p High Priorscales, 474p, 473.3p East Raffles, 468.3p Hallees, 466p East Raffles, 465.7p Newtonhill
Cheviot- 480p Tosson Glebe, 470p Mallsgate Hall, 466.7p Crossleugh, 459p Tosson Glebe
Blackface- 462.5p Moss House & Heathery Hall, 450p Taylor Drive & Ireshope Plains, 447.5p Dairy Barn
North Country Cheviot- 454.8p St Johns Kirk, 389p South Bogbain, 377p High Green Hill, 368p St Johns Kirk
Suffolk x- 453p Hallees, 447.7p Syke Head, 447.5p Moss House & St Johns Kirk, 436.4p Broomhills, 431.9p Cross Rigg
Herdwick- 445.9p Ireshope Plains, 424p Moss House, 420p Westernhopeburn
Dutch Spotted- 445.2p Newtonhill
Mule- 438.5p Syke Head, 436p St Johns Kirk, 435p Westbold, 431.7p Newtonhill, 425p Cross Rigg
Cheviot Mule- 437p Cross Rigg, 433p Cassington, 431.8p Cross Rigg, 420.8p Preston Tilery
Hampshire- 426p Cassington
Badgerface- 420.7p Ireshope Plains
Jacob- 419.6p Ireshope Plains
Charollais- 418.9p Wasdale
Easy Care- 416p, 402.9p Burnside, 396.4p Denhead

Swaledale- 412p Nunsleugh, 407.3p Pasture House, 377.8p Westernhopeburn
Dorset- 407.1p, 395.3p Trefrank
Bleu Du Main- 387.7p Brawliemuir
Half Bred- 384.6p Langdyke
Border Leicester- 375p Campmill, 346.5p Newbiggin Farm, 330p Campmill, 321.2p Mains
Valais Blacknose- 368p Achaurale
Blue Faced Leicester- 378.4p Westernhopeburn
Shetland- 375p Preston Tilery
Zwartble- 375.4p Evertown
Kendal Rough- 351.1p Dairy Barn

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A similar show of 4,406 cast ewes and rams forward
Texel ewes sold to a top of £400 from Marygate Farms.
Blackfaces peaked at £180 from Beckfoot with Cheviot ewes selling to £178 from FW & J Armstrong, Netherhirst, Longtown.
Rams topped at £315 for a Suffolk from Chaseside Farms.

Heavy ewes

Texel £400, £350 Marygate, £335 Drumreach, £330 Marygate, £310 Tercrosset, £300 Dinnaans.
Blue Leicester £260 Stooprigg, £240 Morley Hill, £225 Beckfoot.
Suffolk £260 Tercrosset, £235 Beckfoot, £230 Burnside & Wood Farm, £225 Chaseside, £222 Beckfoot, £220 North Hermitage St, Nether Birnie & Milton of Gollanfield.
Charollais £255 Beckfoot, £230 Shandford, £228 Chaseside, £220 Beckfoot.
Beltex £250 Townhead of Culloch, £248 Tercrosset, £242 Lairdlaugh, £232 Scobshaugh.
Mule £228 Marygate, £220 Braes of Enzie,

£210 Margate, £202 Old Irvine, £200 Grindon Hill.
Cheviot Mule £220 Tullochallum, £215 Marygate, £210 Preston Tilery, £202 Scobshaugh, £200 Gyrate Smyre.
Blue Texel £205 Ashton.
North Country Cheviot £204 Buchtrig, £200 Nookclose, £195 Preston Tilery, £194 Beckfoot, £192 Cut Thorn.
Bleu du Maine £200 Scobshaugh.

Light ewes

Blackface £180 Beckfoot, £172 Kirkland of Longcastle, £170 Coreside, £165 Crossleugh, £164 Todsykehead & Grindon Hill.
Cheviot £178 Netherhirst, £174 Buchtrig, £168 Tomich, £165 North Shortleugh, £164 Buccleuch Mill, £160 Falnash.
Easycare £172 Castle Farm, £168 Nookclose, £165 Castle Farm, £158 Burnside.
Swaledale £162 Mount, £144 West Newlands, £142 Mount, £140 Milescoth.
Herdwick £140 North Moorhouse, £116 Reathwaite.
Kerry Hill £135 Morwood.
Shetland £128 Hallhill, £118 Drumreach, £110 Hallhill.
Jacob £128 Cadgillhead, £120 Hillside.

Rams

Suffolk £315 Chaseside, £295 Beckfoot, £280 Achaurale Mains.
Bleu du Maine £305 Chaseside.
Texel £300 Westernhopeburn & Wod Farm, £292 Hallhill, £285 Chaseside & Mains, **Bluefaced Leicester** £280, £205, £195 Stooprigg.
Beltex £275 Easter Balgillo & Woodhead, £245, £235, £225 Easter Balgillo.
Hampshire £260 Hartbush.
Easycare £225 Castle Farm.
Dorset £220 Achaurale Mains.

Charollais £210 Old Irvine, £205 Langdyke Cottage.
Border Leicester £208 Nook Close.
North Country Cheviot £200 St Johns Kirk, £175 Beckfoot & Lower Westerdale, £170 High Priorscales.
Zwartble £200 Hartbush.
Jacob £198 Snab.
Blackface £160 Beckfoot, £152 Glen House, £140 Lock Farm.
Cheviot £145 Stooprigg, £135 North Field, £130 Scableugh.
Swaledale £140 Morley Hill, £135 High Priorscales.

Averages:

Lambs

Light to —p (—p)
Standard to 532.0p (475.7p)
Medium to 507.0p (480.1p)
Heavy to 465.0p (428.7p)
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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 1st June 2026

Mon	Quilters Group Mending Monday Arts & Crafts Club Pt 1 - S6	10-1 1-3 3-15 - 4	Creation Mill, DG13 oES Creation Mill, DG13 oES The Buccleuch Centre
Tues	Canonbie In Stitches After School Club	2-4 4-5:30	Village Hall, DG14 oUX Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Wed	Welcome Wednesday Kirkpatrick Fleming In Stitches	10-3 10-12	Creation Mill, DG13 oES Victoria Hall, DG11 3AU
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches Cancer Research Coffee Morning	1-4 From 10am	Creation Mill, DG13 oES
Sat	Modern Weaving Workshop	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 oES

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Fri 29th	Johnny Lee Mowbray is ELATED CANCELLED	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 30th	Eskape Active Travel Road User Awareness + 19 mile group ride	Eskdalemuir Hub 10.30am
Sun 31st	Plant and Craft Fair Tea & Scones	Ewes Hall 1 - 3pm
	Legends of the 60s	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

Tue 2nd	The Simon and Garfunkel Story	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sun 7th	Nature Connections Intro to Wildlife Recording	Eskdalemuir Hub 10am - 1pm
Thurs 11th	Firelight Trio (D&G Arts Festival)	Eskdalemuir Hub 7.30pm
Mon 15th	Dementia catch up	Langholm Day Centre 1.30pm - 3.30pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2621 answers next week

1 What is the name of the Square in front of the Palace of Westminster?

2 On which river does the Scottish town of Dumfries stand?

3 Where is the National Library of Wales located?

4 Where in Britain are huge sarsen stones used to form five trilithons?

5 Which is the oldest public school in England?

6 What did William the Conqueror designate his own private hunting park in 1079?

7 In which city is the Heriot-Watt University?

8 On which line is the longest tunnel on the London Underground system?

9 Which warship, built in 1765, is still officially in commission with the Royal Navy?

10 Which are the two Archbishopsrics of England?

11 As what is the Battle of Senlac Hill better known?

12 In which coastal town can you find Europe's largest man-made marina?

13 Which Worcestershire Vale is famed for its fruit growing?

14 Who is Princess Margaret's son?

15 How do you spell the English town that is pronounced "Toaster"?

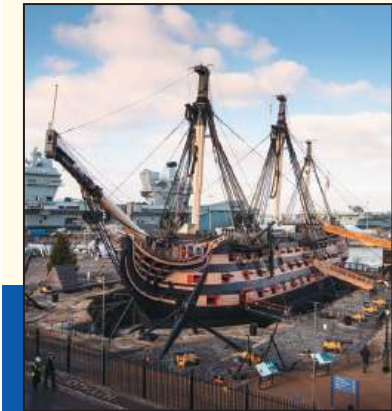
16 Which is the oldest verifiable type of cheese in Britain?

17 On London's South Bank there is a museum relating to the history of cinema and television called MOMI. What does MOMI stand for?

18 In which year did Margaret Thatcher become leader of the Conservative Party?

19 What began to generate significant new revenue in London in 2003?

20 Which army regiment was formed by merging of the Royal Horse Guards and the Royal Dragoons?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2620

1 Vatican City

2 Thorium

3 Ulaanbaatar

4 Buzz Aldrin

5 Salvador Dalí

6 The Phantom of the Opera

7 Ethiopia

8 Burj Khalifa

9 Jonas Salk

10 Red Sea

11 Hyoid bone

12 HyperText Transfer Protocol

13 Battle of Hastings

14 Liver

15 Saturn (currently holds the record, surpassing Jupiter)

16 Wellington

17 Economic Sciences

18 Tungsten

19 Persian (Farsi)

20 Ferdinand Magellan

Crossword 2620

Across: 5 Focaccia, 7 Stir, 8 Objectionable, 9 Owned, 11 Credit, 13 U S A, 14 Violin, 15 Hedge, 17 Temperamental, 20 Cost, 21 Spritzer.

Down: 1 Farewell, 2 Acute, 3 Majorca, 4 Yielding, 6 Orb, 7 Sea, 10 White-hot, 12 Eternity, 13 Undress, 16 Smart, 18 Pet, 19 Ale.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2621 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

Across

6 Permit (5)

7 Move in haste (6)

8 Goad (4)

9 Period of greatest success (8)

10 Hang loosely (6)

12 Third Greek letter (5)

14 Homer, to Bart (3)

16 Sweet gourd (5)

17 Go to bed (6)

19 Cut noses off for noblewoman (8)

21 West African republic bordering Ghana (4)

22 Wasn't level (6)

23 Frosting (5)

Down

1 Combat aircraft (8)

2 Make indistinct (4)

3 Paired (7)

4 Take away (8)

5 Stepped (4)

7 Hit the mall (4)

11 Adults, to the young (5-3)

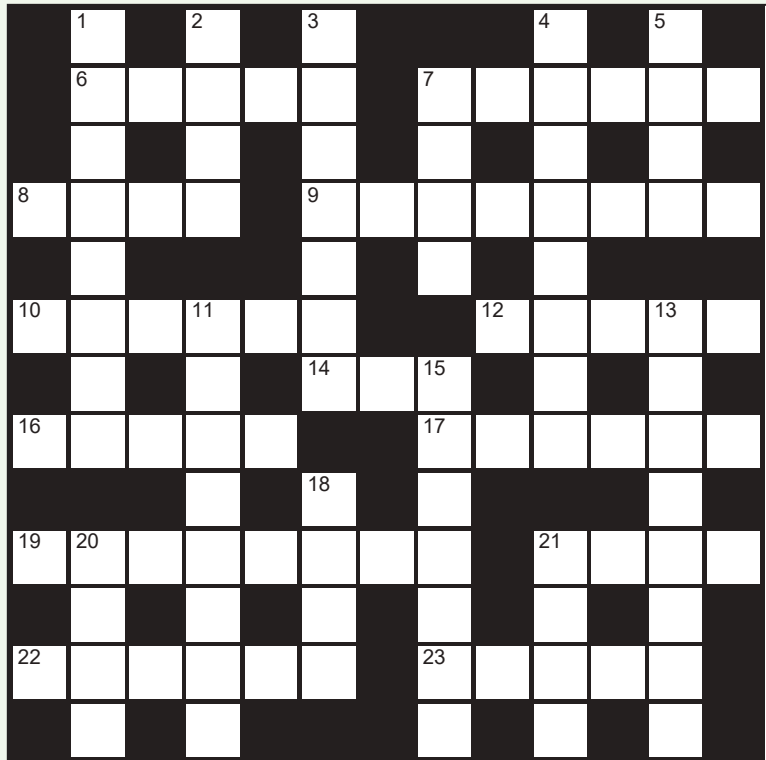
13 Wrong gamer got debt (8)

15 Severe (7)

18 Variety of knot (4)

20 Overly smooth (4)

21 Group of three (4)



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May 2026

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- **Sat 30th May** (74 High St)
Wild Goat Conservation Trust – Fundraiser
- **Thu 4th - Fri 5th June** (74 High St)
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Old(er) and younger love the bowling

Bowling

Louise Keeney and Katrina Macleod came first in the Langholm old town bowling club's ladies' pairs competition at the weekend. The runners up were Nancy McLure and Ann Wilkinson. The club would like to thank Lauren for running the competition and all the members who came down to support the players.

The club has now received new bowls for the younger children. Bowls Buddies are fantastic to help younger kids develop and enjoy the sport. The club would highly recommend these. Bowls is for all ages right down to primary school



Louise Keeney and Katrina Macleod

age and people are invited to bring children to the club on a Friday afternoon at 4pm to give bowls a try.



5-year old Harris Pool 'Giving Bowls a Try'

Matilda selected for Scotland

Matilda Brockley was selected for the Scottish team for a Jumps Pathway in Bedford International games on 25 May. Matilda is an under 20-year-old triple jumper from Langholm who trains in the United States where she is at university. Being selected for Scotland comes after years of dedication to training and hard work.



Matilda jumping in a former competition

Langholm Youth Rugby's end of season awards

Rugby

aLangholm Youth Rugby recently held their end of season awards event. This had been another encouraging season with nearly 100 kids registered in our youth section. Niall Cubbon was once again our compere for the day and he gave a recap of the season and a massive thanks to all of our sponsors for their support throughout the year.

Our coaches said a few words and thanked all of our parents and carers for their support, there had been some very wet and miserable training sessions as well as festivals and for the kids to continue to turn up these days speaks volumes. All Primary 1, 2 and 3 teams were awarded certificates for their effort and we had our very own Milntown the lion to present these. P4 joint most improved went to Euan Mitchell and Penny Cubbon, coach's player went to Sebastian Pieterse and the player's player went to Alex Hope.

P5/6 players player was awarded to Rory Laing, P5 most improved to Jake Howe and P6 most improved to Finlay Yarrow. P7 also had a joint most improved with Stuart Millar and Grace Bell getting these awards. Cameron Jardine was voted player's player by his team mates and Murray Cubbon was awarded best overall mini player for the season.

After all the formalities the kids let their hair down with fun and games from G10 sports and soft play for the younger ones while the adults deserved a well earned refreshment before Kirkups fed us all in record time.



Langholm Youth Rugby players are all smiles at their awards night

The youth section is hoping to start an under 14 team next season so if any boys are interested please get in touch or watch out on social media for more information. All the coaches and volunteers work very hard throughout the year to make days like these possible. We are losing some of these parents from our steering group so we are looking for new helpers so if you'd like to help out in any way please get in touch.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Martins Tyre & Auto services, Grange Quarry & Concrete Products, Tillhill forestry, James Jones & Sons Ltd, Kirkups Butchers, Xcel project, S&D Smith Timber Haulage, D A Oliver Painter & Decorator, Simon Richardson, Cochranes Nurseries, Telford's Coaches, WM Armstrong, Hendersons Travel, Sarah Laing's Country Catering, adMN business solutions and The Retreat with Vickie.



The younger ones too are well-chuffed with their awards



Time for some fun

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

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

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

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

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

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Births
Birthdays
Engagements
Graduations
Anniversaries
Passing your Driving Test
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Beautiful day for Flapping at Langholm

LHRA delighted to get this season's party started

Flapping

Sunday 24th May was a beautiful day for the flapping on the Castleholm organised by the Langholm Horse Racing Association. The Association would like to thank everyone who came to the event.

After having to cancel our first meeting in April due to the wet weather conditions, we were blessed with a perfect day. The sun shone, the track was perfect, and 23 horses went to the post, some from Ireland and Wales, which battled it out in some great racing with tense finishes. For the children, there were two cycle races, sweetie hunt, bubbles and glitter tattoos done by Sarah Armstrong. Also the first 60 children through the gate accompanied by an adult received a free ice cream, which was welcome in the heat of the day. Afterwards the crowd stayed on to listen to the live music, enjoy time with family and friends, and had a feast with food provided by the Eskdale Branch of the Pony Club. A great day was had by all.

Special thanks go to the hard-working committee, and to owners who have the daily task all year round of looking after their horses and bringing them out in peak condition to give such wonderful entertainment. Also, our sponsors who support us each year. Our next event will be on Saturday 1st August when we will be rounding off the Common Riding weekend with another family day and live music, so put the date in your diary – not to be missed!



Wee Red wins the 1 1/2 Handicap for Red Tin Racing a local syndicate:
Photo by Mel Horne Photography

Racing results

Race 1 1 1/4 miles 6 runners: 1st Highfield Glen ridden by Lewis Hislop, 2nd Stardust ridden by S Smith, 3rd Nobody's Kimmy ridden by Billy Roberts

Race 2 6 furlongs 6 runners: 1st Jim ridden by Billy Roberts, 2nd Sub Zero ridden by Alasdair Clark, 3rd Days Like These ridden by Lewis Hislop

Race 3 1 1/2 miles 4 runners: 1st Wee Red ridden by Billy Roberts, 2nd Panic Attack ridden by Sean Huggan, 3rd Rough Journey ridden by Jackie Mulvihill

Race 4 1 Mile – 7 runners: Dead heat for first place: 1st Daydream Believer ridden by Connor Wood, 1st Old News ridden by Lewis Hislop, 3rd El Philio ridden by Harris Nichol

Prizes donated by Eskdale Saddlery went to the "best turned out" in each race. These were: Stardust, Arkinholm, Wee Red and Frank The Flapper.

The infant bike race:- 1st Willow White, 2nd Harris Pool, 3rd Robin White
The juniors bike race:- 1st Jack Irving, 2nd Sophie, 3rd Brodie

Kelso final meeting success for The Kemble Brewery

Horseracing



The Kemble Brewery leads the way home past packed Ladies Day stands

By Gordon Brown

THE KEMBLE BREWERY was a game all-the-way winner of the feature race on Kelso's final meeting of the spring. Ridden by Tom Bellamy, he stormed home five and a half lengths clear of Wise Eagle in the Elliot Henderson Group Handicap Hurdle.

"He's a horse that has really got his act together and things have just clicked for him," reported Mat Nicholls, winning joint-trainer alongside Kim Bailey. "There could be something decent for him in the summer as his confidence is sky-high."

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore struck with Killybegs Jet Lady in the Komatsu Forest Novices' Handicap Chase under Alan Doyle.

And there was another Scottish winner when Ewan Whillans trained Scots Poet took the Borders Growers & Distillers Handicap Hurdle for Conor O'Farrell.

"He's been a smashing horse and has given us a lot of fun," Whillans reported afterwards. "He will keep on the go for the time being as he likes other courses such as Perth."

For more information contact Gordon Brown on 07850 258063 for Scottish Racing.

End of season league descent for Legion

Football

Despite Langholm Legion's win against Tweeddale last week, the result on Saturday between Greenlaw and Hawick Utd didn't go in their favour and sadly confirmed their fate, with the season ending in relegation to the B division.

The club has been in the B division previously and bounced back strongly and the team has full confidence that it can do the same again. Players are asked to keep an eye on the page for updates on pre-season training starting as it won't be long before the hard work starts

again. Legion wants to say thank you to The Douglas Hotel for their sponsorship and hospitality. And to everyone who has supported the club throughout this season, it has been very much appreciated.

Thank you to the players for their efforts and particularly to those who help run the club whose commitment has been unwavering all season.



Ettrick Forest success for New Town bowlers

Bowling

On Saturday Paul Warwick, Carolle Warwick and Luke Tolson won the open triples tournament held at Ettrick Forest bowling club at Selkirk. This was the second year of the memorial cup being played in memory of Tam McColm and it is also the second year the three of them have won it. Well done for retaining the trophy.

They beat Ian Borthwick, Colin McKinnon and Russel Carson of Selkirk in the semi-final and went on to beat George Beagley, David Cassidy and Clark Young in the final. The McColm family presented the prizes.

Alan Warwick (Wag) made it through to the Scottish senior singles area semi-final on Sunday at Peebles after he beat Gala and Selkirk earlier on in the week. He played Ged Smith of Wilton



in the semi-final but unfortunately came up just short with a score of 21-18. This was a valiant effort and great achievement to get to this stage in this Bowls Scotland competition.

Well done to all - the new town have had another successful weekend on the green.

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