

**School Concert and
Prizegiving**
Kids receive awards for
2025/26

PAGES 8 & 9



**Academy Sports
Day dodges the
lightning storm**



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Langholm lads shine among the Souters o' Selkirk



Photo by Margaret Hudson

LATEST:

Financial pressure on Council caused by IJB overspend

Dumfries and Galloway Council has confirmed its final revenue budget position for 2025/26, following consideration by the Enabling and Customer Services Committee today (Tuesday 16 June). The final outturn report shows that spending on services directly managed by the council was contained within the budgets available, with a small underspend of £1.649 million, equivalent to 0.45% of the agreed budget, returned by these services at the end of the financial year.

The report also confirms that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) experienced significant financial pressures within delegated health and social care services during 2025/26, resulting in a year-end overspend of £9.497 million. In line with the agreed integration arrangements, the IJB approached the council for financial support to address that position.

Overall, the report highlights that, despite continued pressures and challenges in a difficult financial environment, the council was able to achieve a combination of in-year corporate variances and the release of reserves to manage the IJB overspend and support the council's wider financial resilience going forward.

As part of the report, members agreed that the Council should provide a non-recoverable contribution of £9.497 million to address the IJB overspend, funded through a combination of in-year corporate variances and the release of reserves. Members also agreed the reallocation of funds held to support corporate financial management in order to provide additional support for budget pressures and ongoing financial resilience.

Councillor Male is very concerned about the position that the Council finds itself in over this and he says that although we can give this money to the IJB this year it is very concerning for future years.

Family Announcements

Deaths

SMITH, Kevin (Middlemass Butchers)

Peacefully on the 11th June at DGRI, surrounded by his loving family, Kevin aged 58 years. A devoted husband of Liz, much loved son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and a great friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Roucan Loch Crematorium on Thursday 25th June at 1:00pm. Friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only, donations if so desired will be divided between Diabetes UK and The British Heart Foundation.

All enquires to Nicholson's Funeral Directors.

Thanks for Sympathy

LITTLE, Anthony (Tony)

Ally, Helen and family thank everyone for the kind messages, cards and support following the sad loss of Tony.

Your shared memories have been a great comfort. Special thanks go to the staff of Ward B2 at DGRI for their dedicated care, and to Rev. Morag Crossan for a comforting service. Thank you also to everyone who donated to Dementia UK in Tony's memory. Thanks are extended to the Eskdale Hotel for the refreshments, and to the Douglas Hotel for welcoming everyone to celebrate Tony's life. Finally, thank you to Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors for their excellent care and guidance.

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Church Notices

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linked with
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Welcome to worship Sunday 21st June

Services led by
Worship Teams
LIDDESDALE
9.30am

CANONBIE
11am

Services led by
Sunday Club
Prize Giving
LANGHOLM
10am

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

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

Play Care and Creation Mill make crafting fun

Langholm Playcare has had Susie from Creation Mill leading a variety of creative craft activities with the early learning group. Using a range of material and textures it has been a fantastic learning experience for the children who have learning the art of weaving. They also created two beautiful butterflies by painting cardboard shapes and decorating them with colourful tissue paper.

Pom-poms were then made by carefully wrapping bright wool around cardboard circles and then cutting the wool. Susie used these to construct a caterpillar which the children were excited to see. The children also had the opportunity to learn some sewing and weaving skills. Using plastic needles threaded with wool they worked with a weaving frame creating some lovely patterns. All of these activities were excellent for developing fine motor skills, hand eye co-ordination, concentration and perseverance.

The final activity involved creating beautiful prints using paint on tinfoil. They explored using different mark making techniques using resources such as cotton buds and sponges. Throughout all the activities the children have been incredibly creative, working both independently and co-operatively with their peers. They showed excellent problem solving skills and enthusiasm while learning new techniques and developing their confidence.



Irvine House development to reach D&G Planning committee next week.

The application for change of use to the land at Irvine House three miles to the south of Langholm goes to Dumfries and Galloway Council's planning committee on 24th June.

The proposal is to incorporate 137 lodges, alter and change the lodge to form staff accommodation, housekeeping and maintenance areas, form a raised terrace area and change the use of the dwelling house to form a welcome centre, guest accommodation with associated areas including guest areas, office and shop. The pro-

posal also indicates that a laundry store will be erected, that there will be landscaping, internal roads and parking areas created and that there will be alterations to existing vehicular access onto the U2A public road. There will also be sewage treatment plants installed along with pumping stations and associated works.

The committee must consider this as a major development as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) regulations 2009. There are no objections to

the proposal from the Langholm, Ewes and Westerkirk Community Council or from Nature Scot, SEPA or Scotland Water. There are no objections to the proposal from the Council roads team although there are conditions. The Council archaeologist has no objections subject to conditions securing a scheme of archaeological investigation and no objections from the Council's flood risk management team. Two neutral comments were received, neither objecting to nor supporting the planning application from the



Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and from a local resident. The full report is available on the Council website.

D&G Council rejects tourist levy

Councillors voted last week to halt work on a visitor levy for Dumfries and Galloway. As reported in last week's E&L Advertiser the public consultation demonstrated that those who took part were not in favour of introducing a levy. No further work will be done on this by the Council.

Margaret Pool of the Langholm Initiative who helps co-ordinate the visitor information kiosk said

"I must admit I was mightily relieved that D&G Council voted to throw out the proposal to impose a visitor levy. In this part of Scotland we still have a long way to go to persuade visitors that we have as rich a history, and as beautiful scenery, as the Highlands. Let our tourist organisations, such as the South of Scotland Destination Alliance, get that message. We need to encourage potential visitors rather than burden/de-incentivise them with an extra tax."

Fiona Campbell, Chief Ex-



Ewes Water Log Cabins would have been subject to the levy

ecutive of the Association of Scotland's Self Caterers (ASSC), said

"The ASSC is delighted that Dumfries and Galloway Council has decided to vote down plans to introduce a potential visitor levy in the region. This is a victory for common sense and just reward for our concerted efforts to prevent yet another untest-

ed tax on tourists and locals trying to sustain and grow their businesses. We can only hope that other regions of Scotland follow suit and reject this misleading 'tourist tax' and help us keep Scotland as both a welcoming destination and a place where businesses can flourish without the burden of additional and unnecessary red tape."

Any embryo archaeologists?

Burnswark is calling your name



Further excavation is to be carried out at Burnswark Hill

An opportunity has arisen for people to observe or participate in an archaeology field-work programme between 22nd June and 4th July when further excavation is to be carried out at Burnswark Hill near Ecclefechan. Previous investigations have suggested the Romans laid siege to the iron age inhabitants who lived in the fort on top of this hill.

Andrew Nicholson, county archaeologist for Dumfries and Galloway Council, will be on site in the south Roman camp and Dr James O'Driscoll of Glasgow University will be investigating native settlement on

the summit. Professor Stuart Campbell, Manchester University and the Trimontium Trust, based in Melrose, will also be undertaking geophysics and surveys.

People should note that it is a remote site and a hilltop location and so they should be dressed appropriately and for all weathers. Part days are possible and observers are also welcome.

The Trimontium Trust offers a virtual reality experience of the attack on Burnswark at their museum in Melrose. Anyone interested in being involved in the archaeology work should contact info@trimontium.co.uk

Primary Colour Run this Friday

Langholm's Primary School Parent Partnership Group are bringing a burst of colour to the Castleholm on Friday (19th) as they host Langholm's first ever Colour Run. Entries have now closed but spectators are welcome to watch as pupils, families and staff get showered in vibrant colours as they go round the Castleholm. They are raising vital funds for new learning resources and school activities that will benefit all pupils at Langholm Primary School. The Cricket Club will be hosting a family BBQ at the Pavilion. The event starts at 4pm. Photos to follow next week.

Bridge Results

1, Brenda & George Bullamore, 2, Ann Smart & Barbara Addison, 3, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 4, Nancy McLure & Tom Stothart, 5, Alison Mullock & Jim Muir, 6, Sandra Ritchie & Scott Muir.

Langholm cellist returns home for summer concerts

Langholm cellist Will Archibald will return to the region this summer for performances in Carlisle and Dumfries before beginning his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London in September. The 18-year-old, who is currently completing his A Levels at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, has enjoyed a busy final year at the specialist music school, where he is Principal Cello of the Symphony Orchestra and studies with Tim Smedley.

Will's first appearance will be on Saturday, June 27, when he makes his debut with the City of Carlisle Orchestra at St John's Church, London Road, Carlisle. Beginning at 7.30pm, the concert will feature Dvořák's celebrated Cello Concerto, with Will appearing as soloist, alongside Bruch's Symphony No. 1.

He will then return to Scotland on Saturday, July 11, when he

performs in the Absolute Classics Festival at Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries. The 10am Emerging Artists Recital will see him joined by other Young Artists and acclaimed pianist Simon Callaghan. Will's contributions include the opening movements of Shostakovich's Sonata in D minor and César Franck's Sonata in A major.

Originally from Langholm, Will began learning the cello at the age of six and, under the expert guidance of Alex McQuiston, has taken part in masterclasses with distinguished musicians including Paul Watkins, Raphael Wallfisch and Karine Georgian.

Throughout his musical journey, Will has benefited from the generous support of a number of local organisations and Patrons, including The Stevenson Trust, Arthur Bell Trust, Bowman Little Trust, Stoneypath Trust, The Ainslie Charitable Trust, Walter



MAESTRO: Will Archibald

Higgs Charitable Trust, BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust and the Holywood Trust, whose assistance has helped him take advantage of educational and performance opportunities both at home and abroad.

The two concerts offer audiences on both sides of the Border the

chance to hear the young musician before he departs for London at the end of the summer. Tickets for the Carlisle concert are available from the Tourist Information Centre at Carlisle's Old Town Hall and are priced at £10 in advance or £12 on the door, with free admission for under 18s.

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'Game on' for Commonwealth Games 2026



commonwealth
games

GLASGOW 2026

Children, young people and families can enjoy free activities, sport and live screenings of Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games events at the Game On Live Site this summer. Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park will be transformed for 11 days to allow families and fans to gather to watch the Games on giant screens, while getting the chance to try a diverse range of physical activities – inspired by the Summer of Sport. The games begin on 23 July and finish on 2 August.

The Game On Live Site, which is backed by £1 million from Scottish Government's Summer of Sport programme and supported by funding from

Commonwealth Sport, will be open from 23 July to 2 August, with over 12 hours of daily coverage of the Games shown on three large screens.

Glasgow 2026 Chair, George Black CBE said: "As we welcome athletes and visitors from across the Commonwealth to Glasgow, the Live Site is the perfect way for everyone to soak up the atmosphere of the Games. It's free, it's family-friendly and it's right at the heart of the city in Kelvingrove Park. Whether you come to try a new sport or simply cheer on the action on the big screens, this is your chance to get involved and be part of an unforgettable summer of sport."

Non-compliant toys removed from sale



Trading standards officers in the Scottish Borders removed over 150 non-compliant toys from sale in a shop within the region. The illegal toys were counterfeit products designed to imitate genuine items made by legitimate businesses, including the NeeDoh brand.

They were also reported to lack labels displaying the name and address of a UK supplier. The products, that often look like food, such as jelly cubes, pizza slices, butter blocks or steamed buns, cause choking or ingestion hazards to small children. Reports have been received nationally of similar toys containing high levels of Volatile Organic Compounds, including benzene, a toxic and carcinogenic chemical.

Customers and businesses purchasing toys are urged to: check packaging carefully to find a UKCA or CE mark, make sure the product bears the name and address of a UK-based importer manufacturer, check if warnings and usage instructions are present.

If any of the above is missing, it is likely that the toy hasn't been subject to the required safety testing. Other warning signs include: a strong or unusual smell, an extremely low price, being sold without any packaging, no "do not eat" warnings for items that look like food. The advice is to buy from reputable retailers and avoid unfamiliar online vendors or third-party sellers on online marketplace listings.

Meningitis jabs for S6 pupils

Important vaccination on offer

The Scottish Government has announced that thousands of young people in Scotland are to be offered free vaccination against meningococcal B disease (MenB) ahead of the 2026-27 academic year. Meningococcal disease, which can include meningitis and/or septicaemia, is life-threatening and can result in life-changing disabilities including amputations, hearing loss, and brain damage. It is fatal in around 10% of cases.

The transition to university or college – particularly into shared accommodation – is one of the highest-risk periods for the disease, as close contact with large numbers of new people increases the risk of it spreading. The programme will start in July 2026 and two doses are essential for full protection.

It is open to young people born between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009, and any others who were in S6 during the 2025-26 academic year, regardless of future education plans; undergraduate university entrants under the age of 25 who are starting for the first time in the academic year 2026-27, including international students and college entrants under 25 starting for the first time in the academic year 2026-27 while living away from home in shared student accommoda-

tion, including international students. Further updates will provide more detail on how eligible people can take up the offer.

The Scottish Government has been working with Public Health Scotland, NHS Immunisation Services, universities, colleges and student representative bodies to support delivery of the programme. Individuals must be aged under 25 on 31 December 2026 and only need to meet one of the criteria to be eligible for vaccination. Where possible, both doses should be completed before starting at university or college. The MenB vaccine is already offered to infants, and the Men-ACWY vaccine to adolescents and young adults, free on the NHS. This programme aligns with similar approaches being developed across the UK's four nations



Joan Cubbon, Marjorie Pringle, Grace Brown and Lorraine Morton

Ewes SWI members enjoyed a meal at The Cross Keys Hotel at Denholm.

President Tessa Lumley thanked Maureen Brown for keeping a tally of

competition winners over the session and presented the winners with prizes as follows: 1, Marjorie Pringle, 2, Lorraine Morton, 3, Joan Cubbon, and most entries, Grace Brown.

Canonbie SWI's last meeting was held in May. The AGM was held followed by a game.

President Nicola Donald gave the President's Report, she will be stepping down as President.

Dorothy Watson gave the Treasurer's report and a new committee has been elected. Catherine Lithgow had arranged a hilarious game of pass the parcel.

The competitions were: **Homemade Confectionery:** 1st Kirsteen Davies, 2nd Sue Atwood;

Flower: 1st Dorothy Watson, 2nd Kirsteen Davies.

The overall points competition winner was 1st Catherine Lithgow, 2nd Diane Hope. We look forward to



Catherine Lithgow

welcoming everyone back in September.

Any 'Hope' of fixing the hospital gardens

Councillor Male is receiving a lot of complaints from residents that live around Thomas Hope Hospital about the weed encroachment from the Thomas Hope Hospital Gardens. Seeds from bushes and from grass that is over 2 feet tall are a real threat and urgent action is needed. The complainant says:

"I believe it is the policy of the Health Board to not maintain their grounds this year.

However, in the case of the Thomas Hope Hospital, which was a beautiful Garden, it is a disgrace that it has been allowed to get into its present state. If DGHB does not want to upkeep the garden, could allowing local people turn it into allotments be considered? There are local contractors that could quickly tidy up the garden if DGHB are prepared to cover the cost."



D&G plans for delivery of affordable housing updated

Areas with housing pressures, including Langholm, will be targeted

Elected members of Dumfries and Galloway Council approved plans to guide the delivery of affordable housing across Dumfries and Galloway, helping to support communities, tackle housing need and drive economic growth.

At its meeting on 9 June, the council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee agreed the latest Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), which sets out how housing investment will be prioritised across the region over the coming years.

The SHIP is a key document for the council, identifying projects that can attract funding from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP), while supporting the priorities set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2025–30. A central element of the updated plan is continued support

for community-led housing, with members agreeing to include a number of locally driven projects that can now be progressed through the Rural and Islands Housing Fund.

These schemes aim to bring empty or underused buildings back into use and deliver new social rented homes tailored to local needs. This approach is particularly important for rural communities, where access to suitable and affordable housing plays a key role in retaining residents, supporting families and sustaining local services.

The report confirms that Dumfries and Galloway is expected to receive more than £94 million through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme over the next four years, with the potential to unlock more than £170 million of total investment when combined with partner funding. The development of the plan has



Langholm is targeted on work list as SHIP addresses housing pressures in specific areas

been informed by extensive engagement with partners including housing providers, community organisations and public sector services. This collaborative approach will continue as the plan is finalised and submitted to the

Scottish Government.

The update also highlights ongoing work to better understand the links between housing, health and inequality, helping to ensure future housing delivery supports improved outcomes for residents.

Alongside this, targeted work is continuing to address housing pressures in specific areas, including in Langholm, where partnership activity is focused on identifying solutions that meet local demand.

Chapelcross technology campus

Public consultation events were taking place this week in Annan and Crecia about proposals for a Chapelcross technology campus. This proposed development will combine digital infrastructure, clean energy and future skills on the site. It's hoped that new jobs will be created.

NHS holiday advice

As people in Scotland gear up for holidays and warmer weather, NHS 24 is urging people to take a few simple steps to stay well and avoid summer health mishaps. Launching the latest phase of its seasonal health campaign, NHS 24 is reminding the public to remember the three P's: Pack, Plan, Protect – to help prevent avoidable issues and ensure they can enjoy the months ahead. Pack – Don't forget your repeat prescription medicines when travelling away from home, even if you're only away for a night or two. Plan – Keep remedies at home to deal with common issues like bites and stings, sunburn, or hay fever. Protect – Stay safe in spells of hot weather by seeking shade, wearing sun protection, and keeping an eye on vulnerable people such as young children, older adults, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Pupils excel in Geography and Philanthropy studies



GEOGRAPHY BUFFS: Rory I, Leo P, and Knowledge K

Three Langholm Academy pupils, Leo P, Knowledge K and Rory I, had an excellent day on Wednesday when they travelled to Dollar Academy for the Geography Challenge national final.

After winning their regional heat against Galashiels the team made the journey up to Dollar, where they were one of 10 teams from the across the country who were tested on a range of geographical topics, which included rural geography terms and European Airports.

The team gave a good account of themselves, with the scores being very close, but unfortunately the team didn't progress from the heat to the final four. Well done on an excellent effort.



PHILANTHROPISTS: S1 pupils present John Innes of the Xcel Project with a cheque for £3,000

Last week, Langholm Academy S1s presented their Youth and Philanthropy Initiative work to a panel of judges and guests from the local community.

Pupils learned about social issues through the project and were empowered to make a difference in their community with a prize of £3,000 going to a local organisation.

The winning group was delighted to award £3,000 to the Xcel Project, to support outdoor learning and their gaming room. Congratulations to all involved.

Contact John Lamont MP

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Farming on the Border



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Farming with Gilly Fraser

Cattle registration anxiety addressed

A new service is being offered to farmers and crofters who are anxious about their cattle registrations.

The six-month trial period being launched by the agricultural charity RSABI will aim to encourage farmers who may find themselves struggling with any aspect of cattle registrations to seek help and advice at as early a stage as possible, before things start to spiral into greater difficulties.

RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren says there can be many reasons why people struggle with keeping registrations up to date.

"Unexpected challenges in farming and family life can mean paperwork can sometimes start to slip and, whether due to bereavement, accident, injury or health conditions, important administration like cattle registrations can start to fall behind when life gets really tough," she said.

"The problem is that when something goes wrong with one part of the farm or family life,

there can be a domino effect which impacts the whole business. And if calf registrations fall behind it can be surprisingly hard to catch up and things can start to snowball.

"Sometimes the person responsible for this area of the business is ashamed or embarrassed and keeps things to themselves while becoming very anxious that things may start to get out of hand."

The service is being launched on a six-month trial basis and will allow farmers and crofters to request confidential advice and guidance from an independent cattle registration specialist, by calling the charity's 24-hour helpline – 0808 1234 555 – or emailing helpline@rsabi.org.uk.



Mackie's main man receives OBE in King's Honours

There can be few names better known in the ice cream world than Mackies – and now as the Aberdeenshire-based company celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Boss has been awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Maitland Mackie has received the honour for services to farming, business innovation and sustainability.

Maitland – better known to all as Mac – took over the family business from his father in 1998 and was responsible for overseeing the transition from dairy farm and milk business to ice cream empire.

Last year it produced more than 15 million tubs of ice cream, helping to sustain its boast as being the fastest growing ice cream brand in the UK for four years in a row.

Mac also spearheaded the company's commitment to



Maitland Mackie OBE

sustainability, and it now renewably produces more than twice as much energy as it uses, through wind turbines and solar farm.

He has also installed packaging production facilities on site to reduce transport miles and introduced a low-carbon refrigeration system.

He says the honour is a tremendous privilege.

"It reflects the efforts of many people over many years. What the business and farm have achieved has only been possible because of the dedication of our customers, colleagues and family, who have supported us throughout the journey,"

he said.

"We have always believed in building a business for the long term, producing quality products, supporting our community and taking responsibility for the environment around us. I am proud of what has been achieved and excited about what comes next."

Results are in for the Big Farmland Bird Count

The results of the 2026 Big Farmland Bird Count are in – and they make interesting reading.

The survey has been run annually by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) since 2014 and encourages farmers and land managers to record bird species and numbers.

It also aims to make people more aware of the role they play in helping birds.

This year's figures show that farms which provide supplementary feeding for wild birds are supporting higher numbers of many farmland bird species whose breeding populations are declining nationally.

More than 1,200 submissions were made from across the UK, with a total of 275,024 birds counted over 292,828 hectares of farmland.

In total, 69,222 red-listed birds were counted including 34 different species, with the most abundant of those being starling (25,306), lapwing (19,198), and fieldfare (15,816).

GWCT's Jayna Connelly says the data shows that many farmland species that are declining nationally as breeders, can be found in large winter numbers on farmland.

"Red listed farmland specialists such as starling, lapwing and linnet continue to feature strongly in the counts, despite severe long-term declines shown by BTO data.



Big Farmland Bird Count 2026

"This suggests that well managed farmland, with supplementary feeding and improved habitat features, helps provide important winter refuge and food when it is scarce elsewhere.

NFU Vice-president Robyn Munt says it's really encouraging to see farmers and growers continuing to take part in the Big Farmland Bird Count.

"From providing supplementary feeding to maintaining hedgerows, land managers across the country are playing a vital role in supporting farmland wildlife," he said.

More carbon in Scotland

It looks as though there's considerably more carbon stored in soil in Scotland than previously believed.

In a joint research project, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) along with Quality Meat Scotland, has carried out one of the most detailed assessments of carbon stocks across farmland in recent decades.

More than 53,000 soil cores have been collected across more than 5,000 fields from 178 farms, 35 of them in Scotland.

Early findings show that around 95% of estimated carbon stocks on participating farms are held in soils, with the remainder stored in trees and hedges. And the level of carbon storage on participating Scottish farms looks to be higher than the other participating farms.

QMS Chief Executive, Sarah Millar says it's fantastic to have such promising data.

"This has highlighted the significant and unique role that Scotland's farmland plays in carbon storage, with more mixed farming and permanent grasslands and the importance of a comprehensive and complete evidence base to demonstrate this," she said.

"As the rest of the results continue to come through, we look forward to further understanding the strengths and opportunities of Scotland's natural climate, landscape and farming systems to support Scottish farmers in sustainable food



QMS Chief Executive, Sarah Millar says it's fantastic to have such promising data.

production for generations to come."

The next phase will focus on understanding the drivers behind differences in soil carbon stocks, including soil type, land use and management practices, and how this can inform future decision-making on farms.

Each farm business involved will also work with specialists to understand how their management can be improved to build environmental, and business resilience.

Second round of Prostate testing brings total to 230

More public awareness and sessions like this help tackle the issue

The Langholm Alliance has successfully delivered its second Prostate Cancer Blood Testing event at Langholm Rugby Club, providing 150 men with free PSA blood tests.

Building on the success of the first event in 2025, which saw 80 men attend, The Langholm Alliance secured additional funding to expand the initiative. As a result, 150 appointments were made available this year, all of which were fully booked by men from Langholm and surrounding areas. Across both events, a total of 230 men have now accessed free PSA testing, underlining both the demand for accessible health services in rural communities and the importance of early detection and awareness of prostate cancer.

The Langholm Alliance expressed sincere thanks to The Graham Fulford Charitable

Trust, whose experienced team travelled to Langholm to deliver the testing programme. Their professionalism and expertise were key to the smooth running of the event.

Gratitude was also extended to Ewe Hill 16 (DECBG), whose funding made the expanded programme possible. Their support enabled the number of free tests to increase significantly, allowing many more local men to access this potentially life-saving service.

Special recognition was given to local phlebotomist Morag McGill for her invaluable contribution throughout the day, ensuring participants felt welcomed, reassured and well cared for.

Prostate Buddies were again present to provide essential information and support, speaking with attendees and their partners about prostate health. They emphasised that



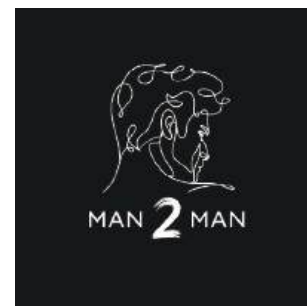
ANOTHER SUCCESS: Staff from Graham Fulford Trust, Morag McGill and Prostate Buddies

a raised PSA level does not automatically indicate prostate cancer, helping to ease concerns and encourage open discussion.

Langholm Alliance Trustees also supported the event by assisting with registration, welcoming attendees and ensuring everything ran efficiently.

A spokesperson said the

Alliance was "delighted" with the response, noting that the increase from 80 to 150 tests reflected strong demand and the value of bringing services directly into the community. The Alliance remains committed to supporting local wellbeing and aims to continue delivering similar health initiatives in the future.



Walking to Eskape

Eskape Active Travel walkers stretched their legs with a walk out to Greensykes bothy at the weekend.

Meeting at Jamestown in the Glendinning valley they set off north on a lovely day and enjoyed a look around inside this bothy which is managed by the Mountain Bothies Association. The group, which is currently co-ordinated by Al Green at Eskdalemuir Hub, offers walks and bike runs on E bikes – if preferred – with trained bike and walk leaders.

Look out for their social media posts under Eskape Active Travel.



Xcel's June Activities

Langholm's Xcel Project has published its' June activities timetable including Breakfast Clubs, Xcel Outdoors, Youth Club and Boardroom.

You can access this on Xcel's Facebook Page.

Britain's favourite butterfly named

The nation has spoken and crowned the Peacock Britain's Favourite Butterfly in a landmark poll. Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation has today revealed that the colourful Peacock has beaten off fierce competition from a colourful cast of species to take the top spot as Britain's Favourite Butterfly.

Topping the first-ever vote to find the nation's champion, the garden favourite beat 59 other butterflies to claim the highly coveted title, in a vote that saw over 20,000 votes cast across the UK between 15 May - 7 June. The top five was a rainbow of colour, with the Orange-tip coming a close second, Red Admiral third, Holly Blue in fourth, and the bright yellow Brimstone coming in fifth. But ultimately, the stunning Peacock, with its eye-catching and instantly recognisable beauty, stole the nation's hearts.

The result comes at a critical moment for the UK's butterflies. In 2024 Butterfly Conservation declared a butterfly emergency



And the winner is:
The Peacock

after numbers recorded during its Big Butterfly Count fell to their lowest ever. Now the charity is calling on everyone, everywhere to take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count between Friday 17 July - Sunday 9 August to help conservationists get an updated picture of how Britain's most common butterflies are faring. This is the world's largest butterfly survey, and this year it carries greater urgency than ever. Conservationists are hoping that

a surge in public participation in 2026 will both improve the data picture and help galvanise support for butterfly-friendly habitats across the UK.

This year's Big Butterfly Count takes place from Friday 17 July - Sunday 9 August. Simply download the free app, spend 15 minutes in any sunny spot and record the number and types of butterflies spotted.

To find out more visit www.bigbutterflycount.org

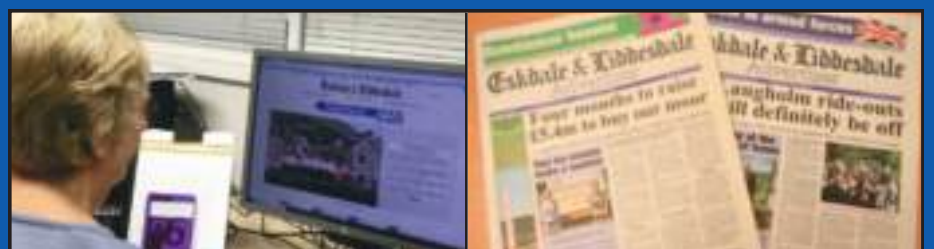
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Primary School Awards Day with Cornet Tommy Hope

A great occasion with special awards from Hawick's 1514 Club and Common Riding songs to boot!

Langholm Primary School welcomed Langholm's Front Three, Stuart Ingles (1514 Club President) and Ellie Hotson as compere to their annual concert and prize-giving last week.

The occasion is an important event in the school calendar that celebrates achievement, effort, and community spirit. It provides pupils with recognition for their hard work across the academic year, boosting confidence and encouraging a positive attitude toward learning.

By highlighting not only academic success but also qualities such as school values, resilience, sportsmanship and teamwork, the ceremony reinforces the values the school aims to nurture in every child.

The event also brings together families, staff, and the wider community, strengthening connections and shared pride in the school's pupils. For younger students, seeing others recognised can be motivating, inspiring them to set personal goals. For those receiving awards, it marks a memorable milestone that acknowledges their dedication.



Alfie - 1514 Overall Winner with Stuart Ingles, 1514 President



Anna - 1514 Highly Commended



Cameron and Murray Football Players of the Year with Cornet Tommy Hope



Danny - Consistently showing our school values - P4



Maya - P5 Mathematician of the Year



Sarah - Glenzier Buddy Award



Ella - Leadership and Collaboration



Ellie - Sports Leader



Evie - Writer of the year



Evie and Serge - Runners of the Year 2026



Mia - Jackie Borthwick Memorial Trophy for Endeavour



Layla - Consistently demonstrating our school values



Langholm Primary School held their annual prizegiving in Langholm Parish Church



Grace and Ben - Contributions to rugby



Lila - Consistently demonstrating our school values - P5



Katy - Consistently demonstrating our school values - P3



Lila - Consistently demonstrating our school values - P5



Mirren - Consistently demonstrating our school values - P2

...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

If at first you don't succeed...

Resilient campaigners seek second petition

The first bid to get protected status for the wild goats on the moors between Newcastleton and Langholm may have fallen at the Scottish Government stage, despite being backed by a 22,000-signature petition, the biggest of its kind ever presented to MSPs, but the goats' supporters are far from ready to quit.

The petition attracted a lot of support on the parliamentary committee but was ultimately rejected because government agency NatureScot said the goats were non-native and therefore not eligible for protected status.

Now though the Newcastleton-based Wild Goat Conservation Trust is working on a new petition which seeks to introduce legislation creating a statutory closed season for shooting wild goats alongside a targeted licensing system for "high-impact culling".

WGCT Chair David Braithwaite says the sustainable management of deer in Scotland is well framed and con-



DETERMINED: Members of the Wild Goat Conservation Group on their last visit to the Scottish Parliament

sidered, respecting the need for closed seasons during breeding periods. Wild goats however can currently be culled at any time of year.

"There is little wonder that of the nearly 200 herds that existed in Scotland around 1900, there are only just over 40 left today," he said.

"The Scots quite rightly love their wild goats, as do visitors to Scotland. We acknowledge that some goat populations provide land managers with certain

challenges but equally they can contribute to a healthy ecology.

"It is now time that these poor and historically persecuted animals are recognised as requiring the welfare standards that are granted to deer. This simply represents a fair deal, and we are certain that there is a groundswell of public opinion supporting this view."

A consultation is now open on the WGCT website until June 30th.

Copshaw's 'Big Help Out'

Launched in 2023 to mark the coronation of King Charles, the official Big Help Out was held this year between June 7th and 9th, with volunteers all over the country turning out to do their bit to help their local communities.

Copshaw has never been one to worry unduly about a date, so its contribution to Big Help

Out took place on the 16th.

Armed with a variety of trusty gardening tools, villagers concentrated their efforts on Douglas Square, determined to give the area a spruce-up in time for the Common Riding, the Music Festival and the arrival of Summer visitors.

Their efforts were amply rewarded with lunch at Buccleuch House.



Copshaw residents hard at work weeding and cleaning up



School fight is far from over

Parents in Newcastleton say their fight is far from over after Scottish Borders Council confirmed that one of the current teachers at the village Primary School is to be redeployed to Hawick and classes are to be reduced from three to two next session.

Parents first learned of Scottish Borders Council's decision to restructure the classes in a school newsletter which announced that classes would be consolidated into P1-3 (15 pupils) and P4-7 (21 pupils).

SBC say this is due to falling pupil numbers at the school, but parents say the decision was made with no consultation and that the changes will severely impact the quality of education for their children.

SBC has also confirmed it's looking at reducing the number of Pupil Support Assistants (PSA) hours.

The school currently has 61 PSA hours, allocated on a basis of the children's needs. This may be reduced by seven hours but that's still to be finalised.



Innov8 members win prestigious award

Congratulations to the members of Innov8 Newcastleton Youth Project, who have won a prestigious award.

The team led by Michelle Briggs, were presented with the Community Inspiration Award at the YouthBorders LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advocate and Develop) Awards held at Langlee Community Centre.

The awards celebrate young people, youth workers, and volunteers across the Scottish Borders who make outstanding contributions to their communities.

The Community Inspiration Award specifically honours individuals or groups who have gone above and beyond to make a profound, positive difference within their local Scottish Borders community.

Innov8 member Aiden Stewart was presented with the LEAD Group Award for the part he played in planning and organ-

ising the event. He was also given a Saltire Award for completing 50 hours of volunteering.

Innov8 say Aiden's commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to give back to the community are inspiring, and that they're incredibly proud of everything he has achieved.

Team Leader Michelle Briggs says the success is all down to the Innov8 members.

"Everything we do is shaped by the young people we work with. Their ideas, enthusiasm, and willingness to get involved continue to inspire positive change within Newcastleton.

"A huge thank you to our staff team, supporters, partners, families, and everyone who helps make our youth work possible."

TOP: A group shot of the artists

BOTTOM: Aiden Stewart



Trailing Tommy to Selkirk



Tommy returning to Selkirk at The Toll



Cornet Hope with Ellie Hotson, his girlfriend

Photos: Fiona Patterson



Cornet Hope with RHM Ewan Patterson and LHM Bailey Donaldson

1966: A good year for the Cornets?

To celebrate Ex-Cornet Ronnie Hudson's Diamond Jubilee, a few of his friends arranged a surprise party for him held at Barbank, last Sunday.

Ronnie and his wife Margaret had had a busy weekend already with Selkirk Common Riding on Friday and the Ex-Cornets Barbecue on Saturday and thought that they were bringing the weekend to a sedate close with an afternoon tea at Barbank with a small number of pals. That's what they thought!

On arriving at Barbank, they rang the bell and were gobsmacked when it was answered by 1966 Lauder Cornet and long-time friend David White and Selkirk Ex-Standard Bearer Peter Scott. The penny was starting to drop when the sitting-room door was opened to a loud cheer with around twenty friends waiting to greet them. Hudson fell silent...a rare occasion!

Among the hoards, Billy Young had managed to gather all the surviving 1966 Borders principals namely: Eric Hislop, Selkirk, Isaac Ford, Coldstream, Tom Fairley, Kelso, David White, Lauder along with Ronnie. This made for a great afternoon of reminiscing, laughing and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The E&L wishes all the best to Ronnie for the Common Riding.



CONTEMPORARIES: Ronnie Hudson, Isaac Ford, David White, Eric Hislop and Tom Fairley (seated)



The group with their lassies



...and the band played!



SIC A CLECKING! A host of Border principals gather to celebrate Ronnie's Diamond Year



CONVIVIAL: A great afternoon in great company.



Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie on the Historic Border Line

Following the winding trail of the river which had its birth among the Eskdale hills and which we have long since come to regard as ours, we will take the liberty of crossing the Border still keeping within sound of the Esk's gurgling waters.

Stretching between the river at Longtown and the firth, lies Solway Moss, a name of evil repute to the Scot; for here on 24th November 1542, was fought one of the most unfortunate of all Border battles.

The conflict, such as it was, took place between Arthuret and the Solway Moss.

The Scots, a strong raiding army, but sadly disorganized owing to a state of mutiny against the newly-appointed leader, Oliver Sinclair, a favourite of the King, were at dawn on the 24th toiling through the Debatable Land when they were attacked by a small English force who skillfully drew them into a hopeless trap where there was no room to deploy. Hardly any show of resistance was made. Men who would fight to the last drop of blood for a leader to their liking, could hardly be persuaded to swing a sword for the King's new favourite.

Charging down on the Scottish right flank, the English threw them into hopeless confusion and from that minute all was over. Panic seized the Scots; many were driven

into the swamp and perished there miserably; many were drowned in the river and 1200 men, including a large percentage of nobles were captured. Among the fallen were Eskdale men who had joined the Scottish Army on its fateful march to the Border.

When the news was brought to James V, who was then at Caerlaverock, he was prostrate with grief. The King never recovered from the shock of the defeat and died of a broken heart shortly afterwards aged only 30 years, leaving the crown to his infant, Mary, and his distressed kingdom to the evils of another regency.

We will turn from this melancholy picture and while in the neighbourhood, take a look into the old burial ground of Arthuret within whose walls the bones of many a Border reiver have long since crumbled to dust.

Knights of Malta

An ancient cross with pierced shaft erected near the centre of the Churchyard is a conspicuous object. There is little about it to suggest either when it was put up or to whom. Of this cross Hutchinson says (1749) "In the form and figure of the cross of the Knights of Malta and it is probable it was erected to one of that Order".

It would appear that at some time the head of the cross had been knocked off, probably during one of



Archie Armstrong - jester to King James VI (I)

the many Border affrays and at a later date the parts were gathered together and refixed with iron cramps.

It was within the precincts of Arthuret Churchyard that Archie Armstrong, Court jester to James

VI, was buried but it is not known where his grave is.

There are many good stories told about this quaint Border worthy. It is said that Archie like his notorious brethren, turned his attention,

before donning the fool's cap, to the then fashionable pursuit of free-booting. This, however, did not turn out quite so lucrative a business as "playing the fool" It appears that Archie, while at the unlawful game of sheep-stealing, was suddenly surprised by the Warden's men. He took to his heels and managed to evade his pursuers for a time which enabled him to reach his home at Langholm.

Dropping the stolen sheep into the child's cradle and tucking it tightly in, Archie sat himself down and when the Warden's men arrived he appeared to be carrying out the very humble household duty of rocking the baby to sleep.

However, a search was made, the stolen sheep found and poor Archie was promptly hied away to Jedburgh where King James was then holding Court. The outcome was that for the criminal offence of staling a sheep the death sentence was passed upon him.

On hearing the sentence Archie is said to have expressed a wish to read the Bible through before he suffered the penalty of his misdeeds. This the King readily granted whereupon Archie exclaimed: "The de'il tak' me gin I read a word o't as lang as my een are open". The King was greatly struck by the original wit of the youth before him and took him at once into his service as Court jester.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 11th 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 4,624 sheep comprising of 1,056 prime lambs, 1,835 hogs and 1,733 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 11th June 2026.

PRIME LAMBS

A slightly smaller show of 1,056 Spring lambs was forward. Well-bred and properly finished lambs, especially heavies were still in big demand, however some leaner lambs were presented forward which proved difficult to cash. Please ensure lambs are well finished to receive premium prices. Many more well finished spring lambs are wanted and keenly sought after for Longtown weekly sales. Top price per head of £270 for Suffolk lambs shown by J Muir & Son, Cleughbrae, Dumfries. Top per kilo of 500p for Texel lambs from CJ Roots, Kilnford Croft, Dumfries. Overall average 446.6p (SQQ 447.5p)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Suffolk £270 Cleughbrae, £262 Kilnford Croft, £259 Milnholm, £244 Kilnford Croft.
Texel £260 Kimmeter Green, £258, £252 Cleughbrae, £250, £246 The Land.
Dutch Spotted £257 Dian House, £230 Park House.
Blue Texel £256 Park House, £244, £222 Dian House.
Charollais £256, £242 Newtonhill.
Dorset £222, £205 Rest Cottage.
Oxford £214 Guards.
Herdwick £204 Trades Court.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel 500p Kilnford Croft, 496p Cleughbrae, 492p The Land, 488p Kilnford Croft, 487p Park House, 485p Cleughbrae.
Suffolk 485p, 480p, 478p Kilnford Croft, 478p Whins, 465p Kilnford Croft & Newtonhill.
Blue Texel 482p Dian House, 465p Park House, 460p Dian House.
Dutch Spotted 467p Dian House, 460p Park House.
Charollais 445p, 441p Newtonhill.
Hampshire 444p, 441p Steel Hall.
Oxford 437p Guards.
Herdwick 434p Trades Court.
Dorset 427p Rest Cottage, 426p Kennels Cottage.
PRIME HOGGS
A larger entry of 1,835 prime hogs forward to an increased ring of purchasers. Lean hogs sold to realisation with all classes meeting some resistance. Heavy hogs were the trade of the day and continue to be wanted for next week's sale. Please do not hesitate to contact your auctioneers for all further enquiries. Top price of £254 for Texel hogs from J R Johnson, Broomhouse Farm with top per kilo of 454.9p for Beltex's from W D Stephen & Co, Hill View Cottage. Overall average 348.8p (SQQ 351.2p)

Principal prices (Per head)
Texel £254, £250 Broomhouse Farm, £240 Shawhill, £234 Broomhouse Farm & Hill View
Beltex £249, £232 Hill View, £220 Newton

Cottages
Cheviot Mule £248 Barnglies, £242 Burnside, £218 Evertoen Farm & West Stobswood
Suffolk £240 Newtonhill, £235 Springhill, £234 Bogrie, £232 Broomhouse Farm, Lilleybrook & Newtonhill
Cheviot £235, £225 Auquhirie, £210 Upper Hindhope & Halliday Hill
Mule £235 Barnglies, £208 Newtonhill, £204 Broomhills
Charollais £232 Galleywreay
Dorset £215 Newtonhill
Dutch Spotted £200 Newton Hill, £180 Pendicle
North Country Cheviot £194 Aimster
Zwartbles £190 South Bogbain
Easycare £190 Villa View
Blue Faced Leicester £190 Romesbeoch
Blackface £178 Drumreach, £176 Chapel Farm, £174 Newtonhill, £172 South Bogbain
Kendal Rough £175 Broomhills
Jacob £160 Pasture House
Herdwick £151 Pendicle, £150 Mossview
Swaledale £136 Broadmea

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex 454.9p, 445p Hill View Cottage, 440p Pasture House
Texel 450p Hards Cottage, 434p Newtonhill, 433.3p Hill View Cottage, 420p Syke Head, 413.6p Broomhills
Cheviot 420p Halliday Hill, 411p St Johns Kirk, 395.7p Drumreach, 395p St Johns Kirk & Mallsgate Hall
Suffolk 407p Newtonhill, 400p South Ric-

calton, 393.2p Lilleybrook, 387p Kirkwoodmains & Lilleybrook, 386p South Bogbain
Cheviot Mule 400p Springhill, 393.7p Barnglies, 372.3p Burnside, 351.9p Springhill, 345.7p Syke Head
Charollais 400p Galleywreay
Blackface 397.1p Heathery Hall, 378.7p Drumreach, 374p Chapel Farm, 373.7p St Johns Kirk, 372p Heathery Hall
Herdwick 392.2p Pendicle
Dutch Spotted 383p Pendicle, 377.4p Newtonhill
Mule 377.5p Pendicle, 367.2p Barnglies, 364.9p Newtonhill, 364p Broomhills
North Country Cheviot 378p Pendicle
Easycare 367.3p Villa View
Zwartbles 351.9p South Bogbain
Kendal Rough 350p Broomhills
Blue Faced Leicester 324.6 Romesbeoch
Swaledale 320p Pasture House
Jacob 302.9p Heathery Hall
Dorset £286.7p Newtonhill

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A smaller entry of 1,733 Cast ewes and rams were forward to the same ring of competitive purchasers. All classes of ewes still sold to high rates of return apart from over fat ewes which saw some resistance. Ewes continue to look well sold and producers are urged to keep on top of them and sell when the trade is there. Texel ewes sold to a top of £315 from J Eliot, Roxburgh Mains, Kels
Cheviot ewes selling to £182 from M & E Drummond, Cassington, Maybole with

Blackfaces selling to £168 from T Magnay, Galleywreay, Penrith. Rams topped at £300 for a Bluefaced Leicester from R & S Graham, Evertown, Canonbie.

Heavy ewes

Texel £315 Roxburgh Mains, £300 Drumreach, £290 Fineview, £285 Roxburgh Mains, £275 Nelson Hill, £270 Beckfoot, Hillhead, Waltonwoodhead & Fineview.
Beltex £245 Hill View Cottage, £230 Lowfield House, £200 Gallowberry.
Suffolk £242 Wood Farm, £238 Park House, £230 Wood Farm, £215 Thornton, Howgillside & Romavale.
Dutch Spotted £232 Roxburgh Mains.
Blue Texel £218 Beckfoot, £210 Gallowberry, £198 Mill Cottage.
Hampshire £212 Chapelhills.
Zwartbles £208 Wormerlaw, £190 Drumreach.
Charollais £208 Beckfoot.
Cheviot Mule £196 Thornton, £192 Wood Farm, £188 Riverside & Downfield.
Mule £194 Thornton, £190 Drumreach, £185 Aldery Terrace, £178 Waltonwoodhead & Marygate, £176 Culquhasen.
North Country Cheviot £190 Aimster, £188 Fineview, £180 Aimster & West Millhills.
Half-bred £190 West Millhills.

Light ewes

Cheviot £182 Cassington, £180 Drumreach, £175 Supplebank, £172 Burnfoot Hill & Downfield, £170 Marygate & Buchtrig.

Blackface £168 Galleywreay, £165 Drumreach, £155 Galleywreay & Upper Hindhope, £150 Galleywreay.
Easycare £160, £145 Peithyll.
Kerry Hill £140 Marygate.
Swaledale £140 Spoutbank, £130 Aldery Terrace.
Herdwick £126 Bridge End, £122 Pendicle.

Rams

Bluefaced Leicester £300 Evertown.
Texel £290 Beckfoot, £270 Roxburgh Mains, £245 Auquhirie.
Suffolk £240 Beechfield, £265 Barnglies, £235 Howgillside.
Zwartbles £250 Evertown.
Easycare £215 Sharpitaw.
Hampshire £195 Chapelhills.
Cheviot £182 Marygate.

Averages:

Lambs

Light to 407.0p (398.6p)
Standard to 411.0p (440.1p)
Medium to 500.0p (448.9p)
Heavy to 496.0p (446.3p)

Hoggs

Light to 368.8p (273.3p)
Standard to 411.0p (347.9p)
Medium to 440.0p (354.2p)
Heavy to 454.9p (358.9p)

Ewes

Light to £182.00 (£133.50)
Heavy to £315.00 (£183.06)
Rams to £300.00 (£207.98)

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 22nd June 2026

	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Mon	Mending Monday	1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Arts & Crafts Club P1 - 56	3.15 - 4	The Buccleuch Centre
Tues	After School Club	4-5.30	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

18th Jun to 30th Jul	Art Exhibition Carsethorne Painters with Bella Green	Eskdalemuir Hub 10am - 4pm daily
Thu 18th	Eskdale Gardening Club Trip to Keswick	Leave Canonbie Public Hall 9.30am
Sun 21st	Parish of Eskdale & Liddesdale Church Fete	Langholm Parish Church 2pm
Tues 23rd	Canonbie Community Enterprise AGM	Canonbie Public Hall 7pm
Wed 24th	Craig Revel Horwood 'Revelations' Tour	Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sun 28th	Cream Teas	The Benty Hall 2pm - 4.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Wed 1st	Last day of school term	D&G Schools
Sat 4th	Langholm Producers' Market	The Buccleuch Centre 9am - 1pm

The E&L
General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2625 answers next week

- 1

What is the BSI?
- 2

What is Dobwalls in Cornwall?
- 3

Which restored railway line runs between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster?
- 4

What completes the following:
Hicking
- 5

Twice a day a modest tidal bore comes up the river upon which Bridgwater in Somerset stands. What is the river?
- 6

Which resort's sandy beaches are sheltered by Flamborough Head?
- 7

What is the name of Wiltshire's motor-racing circuit?
- 8

The 'Old Vic' in which city is England's oldest theatre?
- 9

What name is given to the regio which forms the boundary between England and Scotland?
- 10

Which Staffordshire town is noted for its brewing industry?
- 11

Which British airline is designated by the code BD?
- 12

Who owns the Howletts and Port Lympne zoo parks in Kent?
- 13

Which English city has a Lion Yard shopping centre?
- 14

Of which museum is Duxford Airfield a branch?
- 15

What percentage of constituency vote is required by a political party in a General Election if it is not to lose its deposit?
- 16

On which racecourse is the St Leger run?
- 17

In which county is Twycross Zoo?
- 18

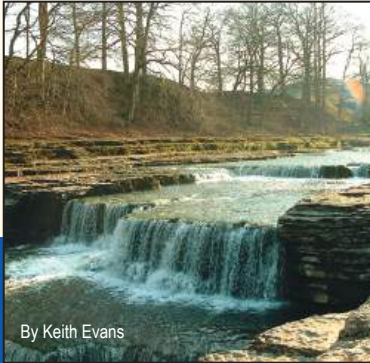
On which famous and historical landmark would you find Smeaton's Tower, a red-and-white striped lighthouse?
- 19

What completes the following:
Aysgarth
- 20

Which two rivers form the northern and southern limits of the Welsh border with England?



by CC Racing



By Keith Evans

Crossword & Quiz
Solutions from
last week

Quiz 2624

- 1

Leeds
- 2

Liberty
- 3

March and (early) November
- 4

South
- 5

Isle of Skye
- 6

November 11th
- 7

Trafalgar Square
- 8

Albion
- 9

Cheltenham
- 10

Surrey
- 11

Pottery
- 12

Martello Towers
- 13

Salford
- 14

River Witham
- 15

Hertsmenceux Castle, East Sussex
- 16

Bristol
- 17

Tourist Trophy
- 18

Sir Christopher Wren
- 19

Stirling Castle
- 20

Coniston Water

Crossword 2624

Across: 7 Immediately, 8 Reverent, 9 Eyed, 10 Aswan, 11 Daytime, 14 Address, 16 Spasm, 19 Chef, 21 Cemetery, 22 Tonsillitis.

Down: 1 Diseased, 2 Amoeba, 3 Edged, 4 Last man, 5 Newest, 6 Hype, 12 Mistrust, 13 Psychic, 15 Refund, 17 Potato, 18 Smell, 20 Hats.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2624 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

Across

- 7

Move rapidly (4)
- 8

Get a degree (8)
- 9

Diamond (8)
- 10

Drops off (4)
- 11

Full of pep (5)
- 12

Cut down (7)
- 14

Earthquake rattles old satellite (7)
- 16

Pyramid place (5)
- 19

Diplomacy (4)
- 20

Vocalist (8)
- 21

Vigorous exercises (8)
- 22

Floor coverings (4)

Down

- 1

Force (6)
- 2

Making do (13)
- 3

Nimble (5)
- 4

Hedge (7)
- 5

Sunday before Lent (13)
- 6

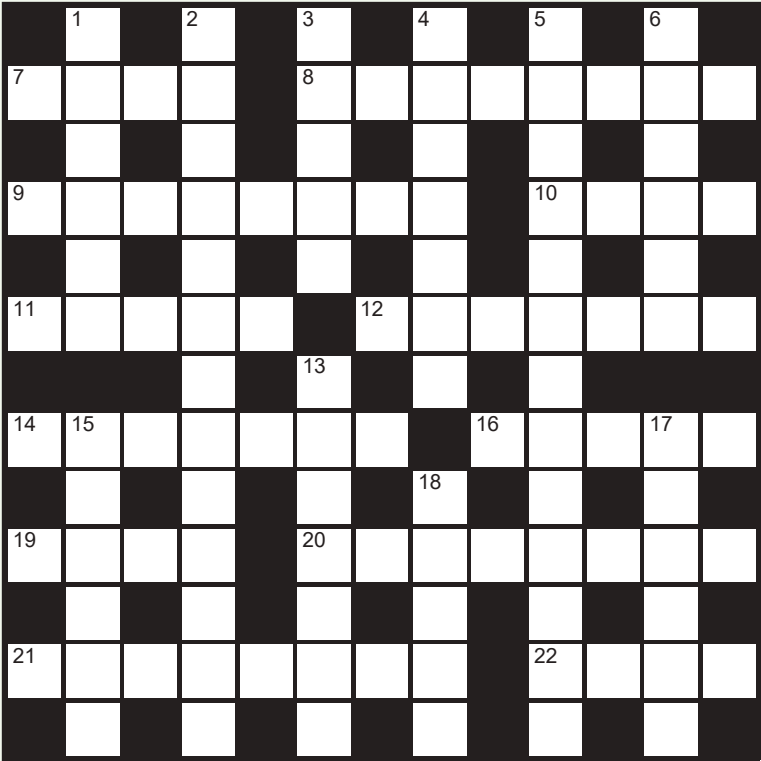
Heavy food (6)
- 13

Frigate, for one (7)
- 15

Ale men swilled paint (6)
- 17

Attractive (6)
- 18

Grind together (5)



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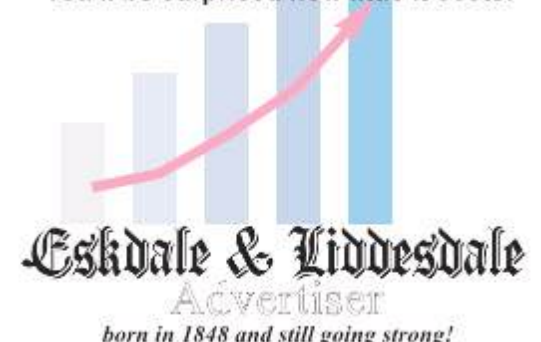
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So close for the Warwicks

Bowling

On Sunday Paul and Carolle Warwick battled their way through to the Borders area semi-final in the Bowls Scotland mixed pairs competition. They beat players from Wilton, Selkirk and Peebles along the way to secure a place in the semi-final. They played against Stow at Melrose, where they won with

a score of 21-8. The final was a much closer affair against another pair from Stow. Paul and Carolle were unfortunately beaten in an extra end in the final. They did the club proud and were only one game away from qualifying for the Scottish Championship finals in Ayrshire. Hard luck guys - onwards and upwards for next season.

Open American Triples held at Copshaw Holm



WINNERS: Jack Harkness Eddie Murray and Daniel Pool with Robert Robson

On Sunday, Newcastleton Bowling Club held their first open competition of the year. Open American triples sponsored by Robert Robson, Helen Jane Hedley, and Mollie's Bistro. Thank you to everyone that came to support us and to everyone who helped throughout the day. Winners were Jack Harkness Eddie Murray and Daniel Pool runners up were Robert Beattie Robbie Johnston and Keith Campbell, beaten semi-finalists were Jimmy Renwick, John Szkudro, and Davie Oliver and Drew Rutherford, Jamie Grierson and Danny Hetherington.



KIP: It was all too much for one young bowler!



Academy Sports Day dodges the storms

Competitive and fun with pupils showing real effort

School Sports

Langholm Academy Sports Day was held last Tuesday just prior to thunder and lightning in the early afternoon. The afternoon ended with an indoor tug of war with a teacher versus pupil finale. The school reports that there was excellent effort, behaviour and endeavour by pupils on the day.

- RESULTS:**
S1 Boys Sports Champion: Rudy Dirom;
S1 Girls Sports Champion: Jessica Cuthbert
S2 Boys Sports Champion: Darragh Hogg
S2 Girls Sports Champion: Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan
Junior Boys Sports Champion: Luke Rome
Junior Girls Sports Champion: Layna Pearson
Senior Boys Sports Champion: Riley Brannan
Senior Girls Sports Champion: Antonia Brockley
House Sports Champions: Esk



2026 Overall Sports Champions





Scottish Championships for Langholm girl stars

Aoiffion's Under 16 times faster than the Under 20s

Athletics

Four pupils from Langholm Academy travelled to Grangemouth on Friday and Saturday to compete at the Scottish Schools' National Athletics Championships. AVA BELL was competing in the Under 18 x100 metres which had 38 entries. Ava ran very well in the heats to progress to the semi final with a time of 13.05s and an unofficial personal best with a reading of a 2.7 tailwind. In her semi final Ava ran 13.27s with a legal tailwind however, that was not enough to make it to the final.

S4 pupil EVELYN BELL was competing in the Under 16 x 100 metres that included 65 pre-race entries. In the 5th heat Evelyn qualified for the semi final with a season's best time of 13.57 with another blustery 3.7 tailwind making it an unofficial personal best. Evelyn was then drawn in a very strong semi final unfortunately missing out on a place in the final with a time of 13.76s.

S2 AOIFFION MCVITTIE-BRANGAN was also competing in the Under 16 x 100 metres and qualified in first place in her heat with a time of 13.04s. Aoiffion then won her semi-final with a 2.8 tailwind and unofficial personal best of 12.27s. Aoiffion ran an excellent time of 12.18s to win the gold medal with a tailwind of 2.6 meaning another unofficial personal best.

Aoiffion's semi-final and final times were not only the fastest Under 16 times of the day but they were also faster than the girls under 18 x 100m and under 20 x 100m

WELCOME to LANGHOLM | FUTURE CHAMPIONS AWARDS



Aoiffion McVittie-Brangan (c)



Ava Bell (l) and Evelyn Bell

times. It was a new under 16 record. With a lesser wind her time would have broken the previous Scottish schools record and would be only 0.08 seconds outside of the Scottish under 15 x 100 metres.

S3 pupil MOLLIE PHILIPS was competing in the 300 metres. With no heat, just straight semi-finals, Mollie ran in the second semi final running a time of 47.52 seconds which was unfortunately not enough to make the final. However, it was a great effort considering she had just returned from a week of sickness.

All four pupils receive support through the 'Welcome to Langholm Future Champions' awards and were this week competing at the Dumfries and Galloway secondary schools' regional athletics championships.



Mollie Phillips

Legion appoints Ali as manager

Football

Langholm Legion FC is delighted to announce the appointment of Ali Little as their new Manager. Ali has been a part of the club for the past 16 years as a player and is someone who knows exactly what Langholm Legion means to the community. Everyone at the club would like to congratulate him on his appointment and wish him every success in his new role. Ali had this to say about his appointment;

"This is a proud moment for me. The club has been a massive part of my life and has given me so much over the years. I'm looking forward to the challenge ahead and helping take the club forward.

"With several senior players moving on, the club is actively looking to strengthen the squad. If you're looking for a new challenge and would like to be part of a great local club, we'd love to hear from you. Pre-season training will begin at the end of the month, so keep an eye on out for further announcements."

Following the club's AGM last month, we are also pleased to confirm the club committee for the upcoming season: Chairman: Iain Little, Secretary: Ali Little, Treasurer: Simon Dell, Match Secretary: Finley Dell



Ali Little, new Legion manager

A special thanks to Sarah Cutteridge who is stepping down from her Treasurer role which she has carried out for a number of years. All your hard work was greatly appreciated. We would like to thank everyone who continues to support and contribute to the running of the club, and we look forward to a successful season both on and off the pitch.

Five out of five for Langholm CC

Cricket

Langholm made it five out of five wins as they overcame Wetheral 2nds by 15 runs on Saturday. After posting 188 for 4 off their 40 overs Langholm looked to be cruising after reducing the home side to 127 for 8 but a blistering 35 from Wetheral No 10 Dan Johnson had Langholm sweating, fortunately the return of opening bowler Dave Steele finished the home side off with 2 wickets in 3 balls.

Put into bat Langholm made a solid start adding 20 for the 1st wicket through openers Chris Stewart and Gregor Park, Chris was the first to fall clean bowled

by Hogarth for 5. Tony Steele joined Gregor and they added 31 before Gregor was caught behind for 26. This brought Nicky P to join Steele. It was obvious the wicket was a bit to paced and difficult to score off but the pair added 106 off 21 overs. Nicky by this time suffering from a calf injury fell for 56 caught off Joe Craggs bowling. Dave Steele hit a quickfire 10 before he was bowled by Saiju Sunny with the score 184 in the last over. No more wickets fell as Langholm finished on 188 with Tony Steele unbeaten on 60.

Wetheral made a decent start adding 24 before Dave Steele had Joe Craggs caught behind



by Gregor Park standing up to the former fast bowler Dave. The other opener Bryan Garnett looked in good form, but the introduction of Scott Ritchie saw him fall clean bowled for 45 with the home side 69 for 2 in the 20th over. Fuller and Abbott added 20 before Ritchie

struck again with Gregor Park taking another great catch behind the stumps to dismiss Abbott for 15. This started a mini collapse as Wetheral lost their next three wickets for only 12 runs with Ritchie claiming all 3 to give him his first 5 for Langholm.

Hodgson and Sunny added 25 for the 7th wicket but a drop in the outfield resulted in Sunny being run out through a combination of Dave Steele, Chris Stewart and Gregor Park. Two balls later Stewart clean bowled Hodgson for 20 leaving Langholm in the box seat with Wetheral now on 127 for 8 in the 33rd over. Enter Dan Johnson who proceeded to

counterattack, ably supported by Oscar Lyon. The pair added 46 in less than 6 overs. With tensions growing, Skipper Bell turned to last week's hero Dave Steele who produced once again as he had Johnstone caught behind by Gregor Park for 35. Two balls later it was all over as Steele bowled Hogarth for 0 leaving Langholm to run out winners by 15 runs. The wicket takers for Langholm were Scott Ritchie 5 for 52, Dave Steel 3 for 24 and Chris Stewart 1 for 41.

The motto of this story is never relax, full throttle to the end until that 10th wicket is claimed. Next week Langholm are back on the Castleholm as they entertain Gamblesby.

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