

# Langholm's Aoiffion picked to run for SCOTLAND!



## Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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# Irvine House development gets full planning consent

## This is great news for Langholm and the surrounding area

The E&L reported last September that Buccleuch was aiming to create a holiday village at Irvine House to the south of Langholm and can now confirm that planning permission has been granted by the Council's Planning Committee. Once built this promises to create a considerable boost for tourism in Eskdale.

Buccleuch Estates has applied to Dumfries and Galloway Council to redevelop the 18th century estate, located just south of Langholm, into a large holiday complex featuring around 140 lodges alongside a refurbished main house.

Crucially, council planning officers have recommended that councillors approve the scheme, suggesting the project has cleared its biggest hurdle and is highly likely to proceed, subject to final conditions.

The proposals would see Irvine House restored and brought back into use as a visitor welcome centre with café and guest accommodation, while the surrounding estate would be developed into a lodge-style holiday village set within the landscape.

Now, given the green light, the development would bring a dramatic increase in visitor numbers to the area. Estimates suggest the site could generate up to 106,000 visitor nights per year and accommodate hundreds of guests at peak times.

Developers say the economic impact would be substantial. Around 36 permanent jobs are expected once the site is operational, alongside construction employment during the build phase.

Visitor spending linked to the development is projected to inject approximately £3.4 million annually into the local and regional economy.

### Major opportunity

For nearby Langholm, the likely approval will be seen as a major opportunity. With Irvine House just a short distance from the town, local businesses are expected to benefit directly from increased footfall, as visitors seek out places to eat, drink and shop during their stay.

The scale of the development also has the potential to strengthen Langholm's role as a hub for rural tourism. A steady flow of visitors could support existing attractions and encourage further investment, reinforcing the town's appeal as a base for exploring Eskdale's



Artists impression of the refurbished Irvine House

natural landscape.

Irvine House itself, currently unoccupied, the building would be restored and reused, preserving an important historic asset while giving it a sustainable long term purpose.

### Recommended

While concerns such as traffic, infrastructure and environmental impact will form part of the final planning considerations, the recommendation for approval indicates these issues are

deemed manageable within the proposal.

The final decision from councillors was approved unanimously and the work is due to start in 2027 with Buccleuch in discussion with an operator.

If work begins as planned the local tourism economy will be reshaped in the next few years bringing vital spend to Langholm. The development is likely to impact many businesses in Eskdale and we could see a real buzz about the town in the future.

**Ed Morris, Estate Director at Buccleuch's Borders Estate, said:** 'We are delighted that the holiday accommodation project, which will transform the Irvine House site, has been approved for planning. We have worked closely with the community to ensure

that this project also works for them. Once construction commences, the project will bring economic benefits to Langholm and the wider Dumfries and Galloway region.'



# Family Announcements

## Deaths

### COULTHARD, John

Suddenly at home on 14th June aged 82. Beloved husband of the late Joyce, loving Father, Grandfather and Friend to many. A funeral service will be held in Canonbie Parish Church on Thursday 2nd July at 12 noon. Refreshments thereafter will be served in the Cross Keys hotel. All friends and family respectfully invited.

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

### DUNN, Robert

Peacefully on 15th June aged 77. A graveside service will take place on Friday 3rd July in Langholm Cemetery at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired will go to Parkinsons UK. Refreshments following the service will be served in Langholm Social club. All friends and family respectfully invited.

Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors 07896 557941

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- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust

**Eskdale & Liddesdale**  
Advertiser

## Church Notices

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

Welcome to worship  
Sunday 28th June

Services led by  
**Rev Morag Crossan**

**LANGHOLM**  
9:30am

**CANONBIE 11am**

Contact us for transport  
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Both services will  
include the Stated  
Annual Meetings for  
both congregations.

There will be no service  
at Newcastleton.

**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

## Rev Morag is called to a new parish

### A new chapter in Ministry



**M**any of you will now be aware that I have accepted a Call to become the next Parish Minister of Monkton and Prestwick Trinity Church in Ayrshire.

Subject to the remaining Church of Scotland procedures being completed, I expect to leave Eskdale & Liddesdale linked with Canonbie later this summer. An exact date has not yet been confirmed, but it is likely to be in the weeks ahead and possibly after the Langholm common riding Kirking service.

While I am looking forward to this new chapter, it is also with a heavy heart that I prepare to leave communities that have become home.

I arrived in October 2020, in the midst of the Covid pandemic, and the years since have been some of the most significant and memorable of my ministry. Together we have faced challenges that none of us could have imagined. We have navigated change, adapted to new ways of being Church and worked through the significant changes brought about by the Presbytery Plan.

I have had the privilege of serving the congregations of Canonbie, Langholm, Newcastleton, Eskdalemuir, Ewes and Westerkirk and of being welcomed into the wider communities that make this part of the Borders such a special place.

When I think back over these years, it is not buildings or meetings that come first to mind. It is people.

I will remember the warmth of the welcome I received, the friendships that have been formed, the faithfulness of those who serve quietly behind the scenes and the generosity shown time and again in supporting the work of the Church.

I will remember baptisms, weddings and funerals. I will remember school assemblies, community events, holiday clubs, coffee mornings, soup lunches and countless conversations shared over a cup of coffee. I will remember standing alongside families in times of celebration and in times of grief.

I will remember the resilience and determination of our congregations as we embraced change and sought to discover what God was calling us to be in a new season.

Most of all, I will remember the people who have journeyed with me through these years and who have enriched my life and ministry in ways they may never fully realise.

Monkton and Prestwick Trinity is a congregation formed through the union of two churches and is entering an exciting new chapter in its own story. Having spent much of my ministry helping congregations navigate change, union and new beginnings, I believe this is where God is now calling me to serve.

Leaving is never easy, particularly when there are so many people and places that have become dear to me. Yet ministry is ultimately about following where God leads, trusting

that Christ is already at work preparing the way ahead.

Many people have asked what happens next for the parish.

The congregations will continue their ministry and witness. The Church of Scotland will appoint an Interim Moderator who will work alongside Kirk Sessions and congregations during the vacancy. Arrangements will be made for worship, pastoral care and the ongoing work of the Church while the process of seeking a new minister begins.

Although there will be change, the mission of the Church remains the same: to worship God, to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to serve our communities with faith, hope and love.

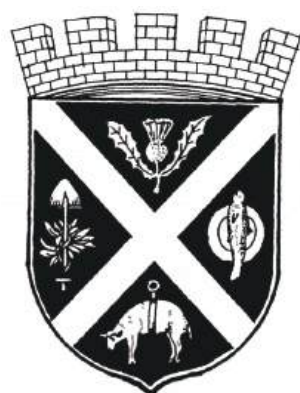
As I look back, I do so with immense gratitude. It has been a privilege to serve among you. Thank you for the kindness, encouragement, support and friendship that have been shown to me over the years.

As I look forward, I do so trusting in God's promise that he is always doing a new thing and that his faithfulness continues from generation to generation.

Please be assured of my prayers for the congregations and communities of Eskdale & Liddesdale and Canonbie in the months and years ahead.

**Rev Morag Crossan**  
Minister of  
Eskdale & Liddesdale  
linked with Canonbie United

## Trailing Tommy



Cornet Tommy Hope with  
Callum Henderson arriving  
in Morebattle on Sunday's rideout  
Photo: Neil Henderson



# Public concern over Buccleuch's Hall Burn solar farm plans

Impact on property values, noise pollution and traffic are the main worries

Buccleuch held exhibitions last week in Canonbie about a proposed solar farm and battery storage facility on two sites in the area. The Hall Burn renewable energy scheme proposal by Buccleuch has submitted a scoping report to the Energy Consents Unit in April. June sees public information days which were held last week and between June and November the project design will be refined and an environmental impact assessment completed. This Buccleuch say will lead to the submission of a planning application in 2027. The development would cover approximately 1000 acres.

The public exhibition showed photo montage mockups of what the sites would look like if the scheme goes ahead with consultation boards on show but no handouts available to the public. Staff suggested to those attending that sheep could still be grazed alongside solar panels which would be raised and the whole area would be fenced. The larger of the two sites is just off the Solwaybank road while the other site is on the Scottish side of Scots Dike just west of Glenzierfoot and the Fauldie farms.

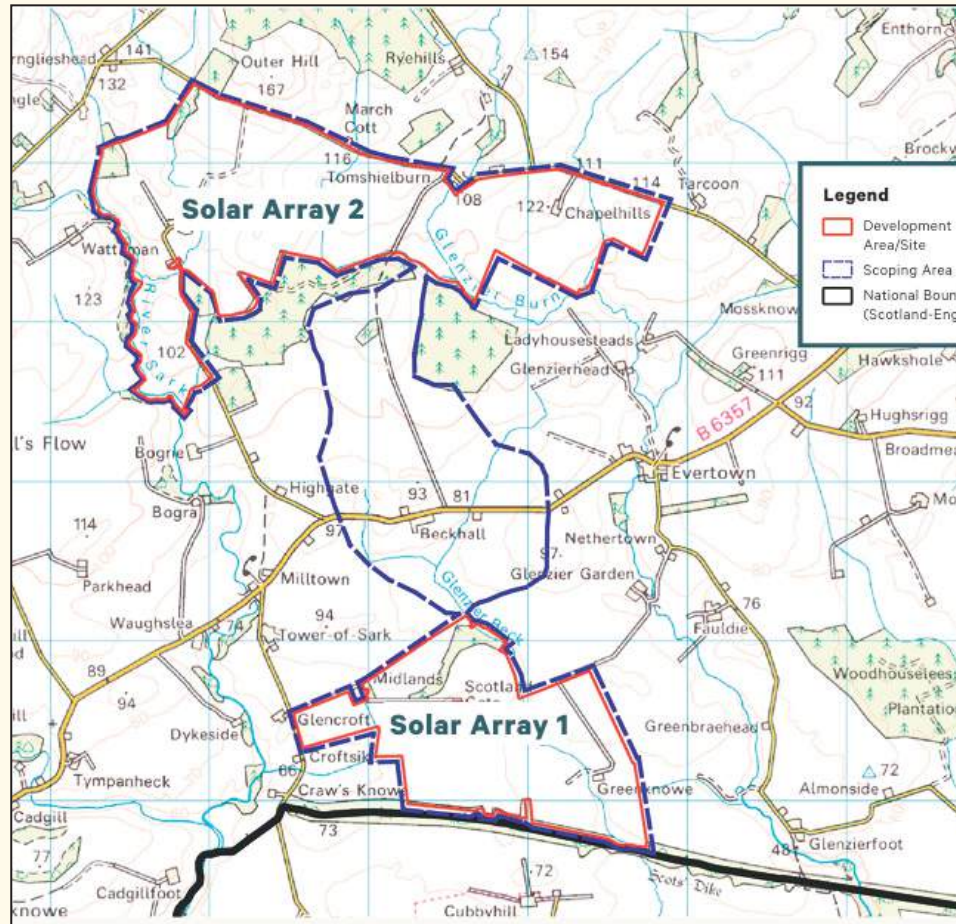
Alan Wilson, Renewable Energy Director at Buccleuch, said: 'Across the two recent public information days for the Hall Burn Renewable Energy Scheme, our team held almost one hundred conversations with members of the local community.

'These sessions, together with our meeting with Canonbie and District Community Council and individual discussions with neighbouring residents, have provided valuable insight and constructive feedback. We have engaged at this early stage as it is important that local views are heard, questions are answered directly so that the project take into account community priorities. The feedback received will directly inform our review of the project design. Over the

coming months, we will hold further one-to-one meetings with neighbouring residents and respond to the specific questions raised. We expect to discuss a revised plan with the community towards the end of the year.

'The project will follow a careful and robust process, including a voluntary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Section 36 planning submission. If approved, construction would take place in the early 2030s. We recognise that the proposals represent a change for the area, and we are committed to open, constructive engagement throughout the process. We will continue to attend community council meetings, speak directly with local residents and ensure community feedback helps shape the next stage of the project.'

Canonbie and District Community Council has sent a submission to Buccleuch about the proposals. Members have real concerns and reservations about the plans. Some local residents who have chosen to live rurally, voiced concerns about the impact the creation of these solar farms would have on them, their views and their properties, including on the value of their houses. One said asked if an electricity substation would also have to be built nearby which would require additional land in the area.



One person who visited the exhibition said she understands that solar farms and substations create a 'hum' so would have an additional impact on local residents. Production of energy locally is unlikely to have any reduction in householders' electricity bills as this has never happened with local wind farms. Access to the sites for building and maintenance is likely to be along the B and minor roads in the area.

## Employment

One local resident believes there will be no local financial benefit or employment opportunities from the development and no local companies will benefit from the manufacture of solar panels or batteries. The person understands that there will be a nine metre high fence around the solar array with security cameras monitored from somewhere else. This resident is also concerned about loss of agricultural land. The same resident says that Buccleuch has stated that letters were delivered to houses within 1.6km of the proposed development but many people were totally unaware of this proposal. There were also concerns about the presence of big batteries in the area.

We know from submissions during the public enquiry for the proposed Faw Side windfarm that Scotland already produces more electricity than it consumes. It is not clear how the energy created from this development would feed into the national grid or if additional infrastructure would be required, such as pylons to get the power to somewhere else. South of Scotland Enterprise is aiming to create a data centre on the former nuclear site at Chapelcross there to support artificial intelligence and digital services as well as energy infrastructure and provide reliable low carbon power. Perhaps the energy generated from Canonbie solar farm will support that development as data centres are known to consume large amounts of energy.

If anyone has any comments on the proposals and would like to send them to us we'd be happy to publish them subject to editorial approval

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## LEWCC Meeting Postponed

The Community Council has postponed its scheduled meeting of 06 July due to several councillors being unavailable. The Community Council will now meet on Thursday 06 August at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, where members will also consider the latest windfarm funding applications.

## Common Riding Windows

The annual LCR Window Dressing Competition will be judged on Monday 27 July. The Cornet's mother, Marion Hope, will lead the judging, supported by members of the Community Council.

## Bridge Results

1, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 2, Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford, 3, Louise Grierson & Lorraine Morton, 4, Lesley McCartney & Tom Stothart, 5 = Nancy McLure & Alison Mullock and George & Brenda Bullamore.



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**If anyone has any comments on the proposals and would like to send them to us we'd be happy to publish them subject to editorial approval**

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# The Eskdale Experience Exhibition



## Common Riding memories in the Old Post Office

**T**he Eskdale Experience heritage group has been set up formally and is planning a Langholm Common Riding exhibition starting on Saturday 18th July for number of weeks. The exhibition will cover all aspects of the Common Riding using information boards, photos, Common Riding programmes, ties and other bits and pieces.

The group is looking for any Common Riding artefacts that could be added to the exhibition. If you have any material and would be prepared to loan these for inclusion, please get in touch.

These items would be kept safe and secure at all times during the exhibition. Please contact Kenneth Pool email [kpmuckleton@aol.com](mailto:kpmuckleton@aol.com) or phone 07943062026 with details of any item(s) you would be willing to loan. All items loaned will be credited to the lender on a panel beside the artefact. Please note no photos, programmes or ties are required at this time. Please also contact Kenneth Pool if you would like some information about volunteering to help

staff the exhibition.

Billy Young Chair of the Heritage group said "We're really looking forward to the exhibition - it's been exciting delving into the history of the Common Riding, and we hope that a lot of people will come along to this free exhibition. It'll be held in the old post office and open daily 10am – 4pm except on the Common Riding Day as everyone will be very busy. We hope that this will be the first of a series of exhibitions covering local themes and our ultimate aim is to have a permanent heritage and genealogy centre in Langholm. We're very grateful to the Stevenson Trust, individuals and other local funds for their support."



A rejuvenated picture of the Banna Carrier in 1899

## Make music with the 'Wee Tooners'

Langholm Town Band recently launched 'Wee Tooners', a brand-new community music programme designed to help people discover the joy of making music in a fun, welcoming and supportive environment.

Open to all ages and abilities, Wee Tooners will provide opportunities to learn musical instruments and percussion, develop musical skills, make new friends and become part of a thriving musical community.

While there is a particular focus on inspiring and supporting the next generation of musicians, the programme welcomes anyone interested in learning an instrument – whether they are picking one up for the first time, returning after many years away, or looking for a new musical challenge. Participants will benefit from tuition, group sessions, performance opportunities and a clear pathway into Langholm Town Band.

Founded in 1815, Langholm Town Band is Scotland's oldest continuous brass band and



has been at the heart of community life for over 210 years. Wee Tooners represents an exciting investment in the future of music-making in the Muckle Toon, ensuring that this rich musical tradition continues for generations to come.

The programme is currently in its initial launch phase, with Langholm Town Band inviting expressions of interest from families and individuals across the community. Feedback from those interested will help shape the programme and determine the most suitable session times. For more information or to register your interest Email: [weetooners@gmail.com](mailto:weetooners@gmail.com) or phone 07771 818587 and follow Wee Tooners on social media for updates.

## Hospital Gardens

**Councillor Male asked the NHS about the gardens at the Thomas Hope Hospital in Langholm and received the following response from the Estates Manager**

"Thank you for raising these concerns regarding the condition of the grounds at Thomas Hope Hospital. The Board can appreciate the impact that the current level of overgrowth is having on neighbouring residents, particularly in relation to weed encroachment and seed spread. At present, due to the need to take the difficult decision to prioritise all available spend on clinical areas, there is no allocated budget within the Health Board for routine grounds maintenance across the region. The Board's financial position has impli-

cations for activity in areas where there is no direct impact on patient care, limiting the immediate actions we are able to take.

"The Estates department is, however, reviewing the concerns you have raised and exploring what options may be feasible within these constraints. This involves addressing the responsibility for risk around anyone undertaking work on site, the potential for limited remedial work, and what alternative models of maintenance or community involvement could be safely supported. I hope this provides assurance that we are actively considering the issues raised and will work toward identifying a workable solution for the grounds at Thomas Hope Hospital."

## Creation Mill comes Highly Commended

**Creation Mill made a successful debut at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh last week. Over the four-day event, the team introduced the organisation to a new audience and forged many inspiring connections. A highlight of the show was meeting MSP Lorna Slater, a passionate advocate for Scottish wool and a campaigner for a national Wool Strategy. Emma Duncan was featured on Lorna's social media discussing how Creation Mill reuses and repurposes waste wool into felted gardening products and accessories. With the current resurgence of British wool, we believe it is the ideal time for the Scottish Government to prioritise a dedicated Wool Strategy focused on sustainability and zero-waste, locally made products.**

In addition to this, the stand was awarded Highly Commended for a Tradedstand by the Royal Highland Show, which for a first year there, created a real buzz with the team. Emma is delighted



with the event's success and extends her sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to prepare for the show.

Emma Duncan and Alana Grey on Creation Mill's RHS stand

## Common Riding Gazebos

The members of Langholm Common Riding will be selling gazebo pitches for the perimeter of the Cricket Club on Sunday the 5th of July from 12pm in the Crown coffee bar.

The pitches are £20 each and will be sold on a first-come basis. They will only be available to purchase during this time. Gazebo pitches not included in the sale will be subject to an optional donation on the Common Riding Day. The Members would like to thank patrons for their cooperation

## Flowers at Kirk Andrews

The friends of Kirkandrews Church just over the border will hold an exhibition of wild flowers on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August from 11am to 5pm. There's to be a pop up tea room serving delicious home bakes.

# Transport Hub STILL nowt like finished



The Transport hub that is being built at the Kilngreen continues to cause concern and we asked the Council if it would be completed before the Common Riding. A council spokesperson said:

“Work is continuing at the Langholm transport hub, although there have been some unforeseen delays to the wider programme delivering nine

multi-modal transport hubs across Dumfries and Galloway. We are bringing in additional resources to maintain progress across all sites, with practical completion currently scheduled for summer 2026. We recognise the importance of Langholm’s Common Riding and other local events. We have provided the contractor with details of key dates and asked that these are

prioritised, including looking at how site compounds can be safely reduced where possible.

“However, it is not possible to confirm at this stage whether works at Langholm will be fully completed in advance of the Common Riding, and all activity must be carried out in line with strict health and safety requirements.”

## NatureScot General Licences

Last week Nature Scot launched a consultation on their General Licences.

“We want to hear your views to help shape these licences in 2027 and the future. NatureScot is responsible for 16 General Licences that allow people to carry out certain actions affecting birds or mammals that would otherwise be illegal, without the need for an individual licence. As the last formal assessment of these licences took place in 2019, we feel the time is now right for a review. The consultation is now live and we’re urging all stakeholders to take this opportunity to express their thoughts for the future.”

This consultation will run from 16th June until 31st August 2026. In addition, Nature Scot will be starting to take a broader and longer-term look at the wider principles of Licensing, including General Licences, Class Licences and other approaches to ensure individuals and organisations have efficient and effective tools to enable



lawful and legitimate activity, whilst ensuring appropriate species protection in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The organisation anticipates that discussions and meetings will continue through 2027 and beyond, with further consultation planned in future. It is interested in working with individuals and groups who use their General Licences, as well as others who have an interest in our approach to licensing

## Tackling Poverty Funding

The 2026/27 Annandale & Eskdale Tackling Poverty and Inequality Fund is now open and groups and organisations can apply for up to £7,500 to support work in the following areas:

Digital Connectivity, Prevention of Domestic Abuse, Energy/Fuel, Food Insecurity, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Child Poverty, Transport, Upskilling/Employability, Increasing Dignity and Self-Esteem, supporting independent living to vulnerable/pre-vulnerable clients to help them to stay within their own homes

The application form can be found on the Council website at area committee funding Annandale and Eskdale. The important date to remember is: deadline to apply – 30 July 2026 at midday. Decisions will be made by September 2026.

## Tour of Britain

Earlston in the Scottish Borders will host the start and finish of the final stage of the 2026 Lloyds Tour of Britain Men on Sunday 6 September 2026. The Scottish Borders has a tradition of hosting iconic Tour stages.

# Probus hear about Dunkirk evacuations

The word Dunkirk has become imprinted in our national psyche synonymous with a glorious withdrawal. Not all British soldiers were so lucky as those evacuated from Dunkirk. George Whillans gave a talk at Langholm Probus Club on the fate of the 51st Highland Division in June 1940.

Churchill had been keen to keep the French Army fighting the Germans at the beginning of WW2 so he sent the 51st Division to support them although they would be under French command. The division was made up mainly from Highland regiments with some from the Borders. Their task was to plug gaps in The Maginot Line in eastern France. It was thought that the Germans would attack from the east as The Ardennes region of Belgium would be a significant barrier. They were however, outwitted by Rommel,



Evacuated British Troops  
Dunkirk 1940

supported by overwhelming air power, who came through The Ardennes. Forced to retreat, they tried to defend a line along The Somme but were spread too thinly and so their only hope was to get to the coast and be taken off by the Royal Navy.

Between Le Havre and Dieppe, they tried to create a defensive line and some 4500 were evacuated but about 10000 were trapped in St Valery-en-Caux a

village overlooked by high chalk cliffs from where Rommel bombarded them. On 12th June General Fortune realised that their position was hopeless and to save his men he surrendered and they were taken as prisoners of war. They were force-marched to camps in Poland where they spent the rest of the war, General Fortune becoming a spokesman for rights of POWs.

During the liberation of Europe after D-Day in 1944 a reconstituted 51st marched on the same route to Poland. General Fortune had suffered a stroke in the camp but stayed on until they were liberated. However, conditions in the camp had taken a toll on his health and he died in 1949. He is buried in a cemetery near Kirkcudbright, and a memorial of Balmoral granite has been erected in St. Valery which is now twinned with Inverness

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# Farming on the Border



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## RHS Success

A two-shear ram bred by Newcastleton farmer David Braithwaite has been named Hebridean Breed Champion at the Royal Highland Show.

Skipwith Crogganmore was sold as a shearling at Lanark last year, where he was highest priced ram on the day.

He was bought by Leanne Minto, who teaches Agriculture at the Borders College, and she also bought one of David's gimmers at the same sale to help establish their own Alewater flock of Hebrideans at their farm near Melrose.

The gimmer she bought – Skipwith Camomile was the top priced female at Lanark, first in the Ewe class and Reserve Champion Female overall.

Dave says he was really delighted to see the sheep he bred achieving such excellent results at the Royal Highland.

"The quality has to be there otherwise I don't take the sheep to the Lanark sale as it is the

most important breed society sale in Scotland.

"It was excellent that Mr and Mrs Minto took the Royal Highland Show by 'storm'. Keeping the condition and getting the show preparation right is an art in itself and their achievement was richly deserved.

"Having never shown at the Royal Highland myself it's great to see my stock do so well there."



Skipwith Crogganmore

## Duke of Roxburghe opens ScotSheep 2026

Strength, consistency and commercial focus apparent

NSA Scotsheep 2026 has been hailed a great success after drawing a bumper attendance from across Scotland, northern England and even further afield.

The event at Wedderlie Farm in Berwickshire was officially opened by the Duke of Roxburghe who used his speech to recognise the importance of the sheep sector to Scotland and the value of NSA Scotsheep event as a major industry gathering.

There were more than 200 trade stands, including animal health companies, feed suppliers, machinery manufacturers, fencing contractors, financial services, breed societies and rural organisations. Exhibitors reported strong engagement and excellent opportunities for discussion, networking and business development.

Farm tours offered visitors an excellent opportunity to see the farming system up-close and feedback was extremely positive,



with praise for the outstanding quality of stock on display.

Visitors commented on the strength, consistency and commercial focus of both the sheep enterprise and Aberdeen Angus herd.

Competitions were held throughout the day for everything from Best Breed to Best Next Generation Shepherd, Stock Judging, Shearing and

Fencing.

Harrison & Hetherington won the prize for best Outdoor Trade Stand.

A further highlight of the day came with the presentation of the Silver Salver Award to Carol McLaren, RSABI in recognition of her outstanding contribution to agriculture and service to the wider industry.

Organisers say NSA Scotsheep brought together the sheep industry in an engaging one-day event, combining technical learning, practical demonstrations, trade and competition. The strong attendance, extensive trade presence and high-quality livestock displays contributed to a highly successful and well-received day.

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## Aldi extends pork contract with D&G firm

Supermarket giant Aldi has announced a three-year extension to selling Scottish pork through its partnership with the Dumfries and Galloway-based Brown Food Group.

Aldi Scotland's Buying Director Alan Leslie says this reflects the supermarket's long-term commitment to supporting Scotland's pig producers and delivering high-quality Scottish pork to customers.

"We've built a strong and trusted relationship with Browns over the years, and this renewed agreement gives us confidence in the consistency, standards and provenance that the team continues to provide," he said.

"We remain committed to investing in local supply chains and ensuring our customers can

continue to access premium, locally sourced pork products for years to come."

Browns Food Group CEO Wayne Godfrey says the company is very proud of its ongoing pork supply into Aldi Scotland.

### Time to prosper

"With Aldi's renewed long-term commitment and the roll out of the new Prime Scottish Pork logo across the market, this is the time for Prime Scottish Pork to prosper, with increased consumer recognition and continued loyalty to product quality and provenance," he said.

"Aldi's new long-term agreement is now reinforcing their steadfast commitment to the Scottish Pork industry."

NFUS President Andrew Cannon also warmly welcomed



Renewal of contract coincides with QMS' new logo launch

the commitment.

"This is exactly the kind of positive outcome NFUS Scotland has been pressing for through our ongoing retailer engagement work, securing stronger commitments to Scottish sourcing and giving confidence to pro-

ducers at a time of significant pressure for the pig sector," he said.

"It is encouraging to see constructive engagement from a major retailer translate into tangible support for Scotland's pork industry."

# Planned Iron Age reenactment in Eskdalemuir

Eskdalemuir Community Hub is taking forward a new project. Called the Dol Isca project it has been set up to bring to life the rich ancient history of the Eskdale valley. A reenactment weekend is planned for the 8th and 9th August when the project team will be portraying what life may have been like as part of the Selgovae tribe who inhabited this region during the iron age. Admission will be free of charge.

There has been human activity here since the end of the last ice age, but there is a distinct concentration of sites dating from the late bronze age, through the iron age and into Romano-Britain. Eskdale would have been a hive of activity with two large hillforts containing between 25-35 roundhouses each, and a vast number of smaller settlements in the surrounding area.

On the weekend in August people will get the opportunity to see and talk with reenactors



who will be demonstrating ancient crafting techniques such as leather working and nettle weaving, find out what kind of jewellery and clothes people wore and how they were made, what people ate and how they cooked it, the types of musical instruments that were around and how they sound.

There is going to be a fantastic line up with Hamish Lamley of Pictavia Leather, Rona Dalgleish of Wasted Remains, Nicholas Konradson, Cloaked

in Time, and Dr John Reid from Trimontium Trust, as well as some of Eskdale's own fabulous residents. One of the project organisers said

"We hope to make this a fantastic family experience and there will also be opportunities to get involved too making pinch pots, painting with pigments and more, as well as the chance to explore some of these ancient sites for yourself with the relaunch of the prehistoric trail."

## 2026-28 D&G Procurement Strategy

**Dumfries and Galloway Council has agreed its Procurement Strategy for 2026 to 2028, setting out how procurement activity will be managed over the next two financial years.**

The strategy was approved by a Council committee and covers the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.

It sets out the council's procurement vision, priorities and planned activity for the next two years, in line with the requirements of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. The strategy also confirms that the committee will continue to receive annual procurement reports on progress and achievements against the commitments it contains.

Dumfries and Galloway Council currently spends around £320 million per year on goods, services and works. The new strategy sets out how that spending power will be used to support value for money, local economic benefit and wider council priorities. The strategy is built

around five key areas of focus: Leadership, governance and compliance; Value for money and financial sustainability; Sustainable procurement and contributions towards net zero; Community wealth building and local economic growth and community benefits and social value.

Together, these priorities are intended to ensure procurement activity continues to support the council's wider objectives, including strengthening local supply chains, supporting fair work practices, contributing to net zero ambitions and creating opportunities for local businesses, SMEs, microbusinesses, social enterprises and communities.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pension age to change

The Department for Work and Pensions is currently reviewing the state pension age in the UK which is set to rise from 66 to 67 between April 2026 and March 2028.

This change is part of a phased approach meaning that individuals born between 6 April 1960 and 5 March 1961 will reach their state pension age at 66 years and a specific number of months while those born after 6 March 1961 will have a state pension age of 67.

The review aims to ensure the UK's pension system remains sustainable as people live longer and healthier lives.

### Rifle range proposed

A planning application to use agricultural land at Over Cask, Eskdalemuir to form a rifle range, accommodation building and create hard standing has been submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council's planning team.



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# USA, New Zealand and Ecuador visit Gilnockie



Teviotdale Steel Bonnets



Reivers' fare



OWNER: Colin Armstrong and Katherin Paola Santos

Words and photos by Mairi Telford Jammeh

**G**ilnockie Tower held an extravaganza over the weekend with visitors from the USA and New Zealand as well as from closer to home all enjoying the day. I was out for a cycle ride on the Saturday and popped in to see what was happening. I was delighted to see all the stalls outside the tower as it was all very colourful and brought the place to life. I myself have Armstrong ancestors so it's always fascinating to hear more about my family heritage.

The Teviotdale Steel Bonnets were there to tell Reiver tales and had displays of the kind of food border reivers ate, medical equipment from past years and armaments. They also fired off muskets in a noisy demonstration in their traditional Reiver attire.

As well as stalls from local craftspeople plying their wares, there was whisky tasting on offer with a new Gilnockie Tower Borderland Watch malt from Annandale Distillery. On one of the floors in the tower 'Border Wars' were taking place – a Border Reivers skirmish game from Flags of War. There were also refreshments available on site.

Award winning author Margaret Skea was there in person selling her historical fiction. Although she lives in the lovely Scottish Borders, she grew up in Ulster at the height of the 'Troubles'. Her Munro series of books focuses on the violent clan warfare in 16th century Scotland.

Author Kenneth Erik Moffat from Teviothead, accompanied by his daughter, had his latest publication 'The Outlaw Johnnie Armstrong and the Sword of Redemption' for sale.

The weather was fine for the event over the two days, and the organisers must have been delighted with how everything went. It's lovely to see a local historic building being used in this way.



Ann Smith Art



Author, Kenneth Erik Moffat



Annandale Distillery



Author Margaret Skea



A Reiver's welcome to Gilnockie Tower



Flags of War with Border Wars' game

# Church Fête Accompli!

Beautiful day brings the crowds to the kirk's annual fundraiser

Jackie Henderson, joint Session Clerk writes:

A heartfelt thank you to both Langholm Pipe Band and Langholm Town Band for braving the heat on Sunday and providing excellent entertainment throughout the afternoon at our Annual Church Fête.

We would also like to thank our wonderful team of volunteers who worked so hard on the stalls and serving the cream teas.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along to support us. We are delighted to share that the event raised over £3,000.

### Prize Winners

#### Raffle

- 1st – Margaret Scott
- 2nd – Deryn Waitt
- 3rd – Rowan Phillips
- 4th – Liz Young
- 5th – Ellen Male

#### Lucky Squares

- 1st – David Jeffrey
- 2nd – Poppy Bell
- 3rd – Mac Hotson

Sunday Club

Guess the number of sweets – Penni Cubbon

Guess the name of the doll – Kate Turk



...and the bands played!



Carly Blaikie and Aileen at the Sunday Club stall



John Graham and Sandra Ritchie man the plant stall



Tempting Tombola



All kinds of everything for sale



And, of course, a bouncy castle

# ...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

## Tub Nichol proves his worth

Stolen Pureous Bunkumus recovered again

**C**opshaw's newest Tub proved himself well up to the task when faced with one of the toughest assignments of his reign.

Every year at the Ride Oot Bye, the Tub has to lead his faithful followers along the riverbank in the time-honoured 100 soldier march (kept in step by Gary Cuthbert) before showing a fleet set of feet in order to pursue the marauder who has dared to steal the precious Pureous Bunkumus flag.

Tub Nichol II carried out his duties with ease before decamping to the Spanner Face Bar (manned by the one and only Jim Rowan) for well-deserved refreshments.

Later that evening the Tub's song was given its debut public performance in The Trap, performed by a duet of former Tubs – Harvey Turnbull and Josh's Dad Ian Nichol.

It all bodes well for another epic Copshaw Common Riding on Saturday July 4th – so get your bikes ready and come join the fun.



TOP: The 100 Soldiers March  
BOTTOM: Tub Nichol with the rescued Pureous Bunkumus.

## Delayed ducks didn't dally!

**B**etter late than never – the greatly anticipated Copshaw Duck Race had to be put on hold for 24 hours because lots of rain during the preceding week had made the river's level rise too much for safety.

However, all went well the following day, and the race was held under beautiful blue skies in very warm sunshine.

Hundreds of yellow rubber ducks took to the waters of the Lidd and sailed sedately down the river towards the Holm Brig, stewarded by volunteers who gamely waded through the waves alongside them.

Money raised will go to Newcastleton School Partnership.

The organisers have thanked the village fire service and Rock UK for helping out and supplying equipment.

They also thanked all the local businesses who sold the ducks beforehand and all the volunteers who helped recover the ducks – many of which made a bid for freedom after crossing the finishing line and carried on sailing down the river. 96% were captured, the rest are probably still heading for the Solway Firth.



**VILLAGE HALL  
SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**11AM CHILDREN'S SINGING**  
12 YEARS AND UNDER

**11.30 BORDER BALLADS**

**12.30 INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITION**  
1 SET OF CONTRASTING TRADITIONAL TUNES  
ON ANY INSTRUMENT (10 MINUTES MAX)

**1.15PM TRADITIONAL SINGING**  
MIXED (MEN AND WOMEN TOGETHER)

**MUSIC** ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE,  
DEPENDANT ON THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES.

**★ ENTRY FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FROM 10.15AM IN VILLAGE HALL**

## Newcastleton Music Festival

**F**ans of Newcastleton Music Festival have welcomed the announcement that a number of competitions will be run after all.

Competitions have been a prime feature of previous music festivals in the village, but it had been feared it wouldn't be possible to hold them this year.

After a long and distinguished history in the village, the Festival had been in danger of folding due to the lack of local organisers. However, a group of villagers stepped forward to form a new committee and save the much-loved event.

They initially planned to hold a more stripped-down version of the Festival for this year at least, with only

the Piping competition and the Chorus Cup for best amateur singer, now renamed as the Mike Ward Cup in memory of a much-loved Festival regular who died earlier this year.

However, thanks to assistance from some of the former committee members and long-term supporters of the Festival, there will now also be classes for Children's Singing, Border Ballads, Instrumental and Traditional Singing all held on the Saturday.

The new committee is keen to ensure there's something for all ages to enjoy and they're really looking forward to welcoming everyone for what promises to be a fantastic weekend.



Photos from last year's Newcastleton Music Festival

# Initiative's Spring litter-pick success

By Margaret Pool

This year's official litter pick was concluded with the Eco Group from Langholm Primary cleaning up the Galaside woods – well done to all those involved. The were rewarded for their efforts with a sweet treat of cake and biscuits before returning to class.

We would also like to acknowledge the girls' football team who undertook a pre-match clean up around the pitch prior to one of their recent games. Am I alone in thinking this should be part of the regular school ground maintenance schedule?

As ever we are grateful to the Langholm Rotary team for undertaking their regular litter gathering along the roadside verges from Lands End to Skippers bridge and beyond, and from the Kilngreen and Rugby Club to the High Mill Brig.

Of course there are a band of stalwarts, the unsung heroes, who collect all year round to whom the community owes a great debt of gratitude. Their work extends to remoter parts - the moorland road to Newcastleton, the Holmwood to Potholm road end and the dump points at traffic lights. As well as the individual who can be regularly seen collecting on the Canonbie by-pass verges – areas that all benefit from their attention.

A prime example of thoughtless disposal of an unwanted item was the bike pushed into the hedge at the former Ford mill site. All it needed was a new chain and a minor adjustment to the brakes. The owner was obviously not prepared to pay for this, or the cost of disposing it. Rescued, it has gone to Newstart at Annan. Hopefully, once repaired, it will give many years of pleasure and service.



The kids did a great job filling their green sacks around the area  
They also found a bike...is it yours?



## *The Laverock Rhymers*

### The Tartan Army

There's a couple of pipers, some men in kilts  
Under a tree a young lad wilts  
From the blistering heat and the humid air  
In the no mans land between hope and despair

It was a game which we could have won  
But remember, we're here to have fun  
So Caledonia and Scots Wahae  
We'll take the fight to another day

Let's get another round of beers  
See if we can find that pub called Cheers  
Where nobody will know your name  
I bet they will before we gan hame

Then we'll head south on the road to Miami  
For some more drink and maybe a rammy  
No! We'll make friends with the boys from Brazil  
As the kings of football we wish them no ill

They know how to party, we talk a good game  
"A man's a man" for we're all the same  
We'll swap shirts, we'll drink a caprinha  
And we'll try not to mention Argentina

With a point from Brazil we'd be cock a hoop  
History made, we'd be out of the group  
The show would go on, could we keep it up  
Probably not but that's the World

And when we're back home drinking Irn Bru  
Looking to the next time for the boys in blue  
With unbridled support, people think we're all barmy  
But we're proud to be members of The Tartan Army

## 'Class' visitors at the Highland Show

Langholm Academy pupils had lots of fun at the annual Ingliston event



Things looking a bit 'Wurzel-ish' for the boys at Ingliston...



...while the girls rock a 'Country Fashion' vibe!



Looking back...

# Lang Syne in Eskdale

## ...David J. Beattie on endless Border warfare

The fact that Archie Armstrong is buried at Arthuret has led many writers to assume that he originally belonged to the English side of the Border. This is not so. Archie was a son of Ritchie Armstrong and hailed from Langholm, his home being at Stubholm, an eminence overlooking the meeting of the Esk and Wauchope rivers – a place which one could imagine would be admirably suited for a family of so far-famed a clan.

The name of Stubholm is still given to the present house, which no doubt is built on or near the site of the homestead in which Archie Armstrong, the King’s jester, was born.

Langholm being situated on the outer fringe of the notorious Debatable Land, the road through the stragglings town formed one of the main arteries between England and Scotland.

Hence, with the coming and going of raiding mosstroopers from both sides of the Border, the dalesmen had lost the habit of honest industry; their only means of subsistence had come to be “lifting” from their neighbours.

The Baronies of Canonbie and Morton on the Scottish side and Kirkandrews on the English side, had remained since the days of Bruce neutral ground between the two kingdoms and had come to be known as the Debatable Land.

This tract of country was

bounded on the West by the river Sark, on the East by the Esk and Liddel, on the North by Tarras Moss (extending behind Whita Hill almost to the head of Tarrasburn) and to the South by the estuary of the Esk. It measured about 10 miles from North to South and three and a half from East to West at its widest part.

### Warfare

This district was conveniently situated for the resort of lawless men of both nations; in fact it as peopled by men who, originally of good families in Dumfriesshire, had become demoralized by the incessant Border warfare into nothing better than bandits. It can easily be imagined that an honest living could hardly be made in Eskdale, Ewesdale, Wauchopedale and Liddesdale, in times when, without warning, the growing crops or stackyards might be destroyed in a single night and the whole livestock of an estate be driven over the English Border.

Hence the people of these dales and of the Debatable Land, though not naturally worse than their fellow countrymen, had been driven by force of circumstances into a mode of life which made their existence incompatible with the peace of the land.

The Debatable Land had been a bone of contention between the two nations for many generations, and it was not until 1552 that a di-



The Current Stubholm House, built on the site of Archie Armstrong's family's homestead

Photo courtesy of Langholm Archive

vision of territory was finally decided on by England and Scotland, the Scots getting the larger portion. It was hoped that this settlement would end the incessant Border warfare but that was not so.

The Scots Dyke, as it has since been called, was constructed by cutting two parallel ditches, the material thus excavated being thrown into the intervening space, forming an earthen mound, varying in height from three to six feet.

This interesting Border Line, leisurely meandering through the sheltering trees of a thickly wooded plantation, survived the ravages of past centuries; but the greater part

of the east end of it unceremoniously disappeared 30 years or so ago with the felling of trees and subsequent destructive operators of hauling the timber. On the Langholm to Carlisle road nearby the old Toll Bar, a signpost indicates the place where the Border Line between England and Scotland crosses the highway on its journey down the grassy slope towards the Esk.

### Kinmont Willie

During the period when Border Reiving was most rampant, little or no provision had been made for detaining prisoners in custody; jails

being few and far between. But imprisonment had other inconveniences; prisoners had to be provided for when under lock and key, and it was generally found to be more advantageous to leave those who had broken the laws to “fend” for themselves until such times as they were wanted.

As offences against the law were numerous and frequent, it was ordained that a “Day of Truce” should be held every month when the wardens of the Marches opposite each other should meet for the adjustment of their respective claims and the punishment of evildoers.

# C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

## Thursday, 18th June 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 5,094 sheep comprising of 1,496 prime lambs, 1,582 hogs and 2,016 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

### PRIME LAMBS

An increased show of 1,496 Lambs forward to the same ring of competitive purchasers ensuring all classes of well finished lambs received prices comparable to recent high rates of return. Heavy lambs still commanding a premium being well short of purchaser demand. Top price per head of £263 for Texel lambs shown by AJ Watret, Pendicle, Ruthwell.

Top per kilo of 512p for Charollais lambs from J & E Walby, East House, Newcastle. Overall average 442.5p (SQQ 442.6p)

### Principal Prices (Per Head)

**Texel** £263 Pendicle, £258 Corneyside & Langdyke Cottage, £256 West Cocklaw & Pendicle, £250 Newtonhill. **Charollais** £262 Pendicle. **Suffolk** £248 Corner Cottage, £247 West Cocklaw, £242 Corneyside, £240 Pendicle. **Dorset** £234 Kimmeter Green **Blue Texel** £232 Edendales. **Beltex** £206 Kilnford Croft.

**Blue du Maine** £203 Briery Square.

### Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

**Charollais** 512p East House, 464p Tinnishall. **Texel** 500p East House, 487p, 483p Pendicle, 483p Corneyside & East House, 480p Thornthwaite Close. **Beltex** 490p Kilnford Croft, 450p Woodhouse. **Suffolk** 472p The Land, 470p Pendicle, 466p West Cocklaw, 465p Buttercup, 461p Guardsmill. **Blue Texel** 446p Edendales. **Dorset** 442p Kimmeter Green. **Blue du Maine** 441p Briery Sqaure. **Dutch Spotted** 439p Briery Square.

### PRIME HOGGS

A similar entry of 1,582 prime hogs forward to an increased ring of purchasers. Heavy hogs in big demand whilst all other classes saw some resistance. Lean hogs sold to realisation. Top price of £250 for Texel hogs from G & CE Edminson, Middle Farm, Carlisle with top per kilo of 484p for Beltex from Newtonhill. Overall average 328.9p (SQQ 327.2p)

### Principal prices (Per head)

**Texel** £250, £245 Middle Farm, £245 Newtonhill, Kinninghall, Auchengool

Cottage & Black House, £240 Middle Farm & Black House. **Suffolk** £244 Kinninghall, £242 Lenaig, £235 Kinninghall, £230 Newtonhill. **Beltex** £242, £202 Newtonhill, £200 South Bogbain. **Dutch Spotted** £235 Kinninghall. **Cheviot** £235 Mainside. **North Country Cheviot** £228, £216 Northway. **Mule** £222 Hyndfordwell, £220 Cottage, £218 South Bogbain. **Romney** £202 Fell House. **Blackface** £181 South Bogbain. **Herdwick** £144 Black House, £141 Pasture House.

### Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

**Beltex** 484p Newtonhill. **Texel** 444p Newtonhill, 423p Kinninghall, 407p Broomhills, 406p Braes of Enzie, 400p Cottage. **Suffolk** 418p Kinninghall, 385p Braes of Enzie, 373p South Bogbain. **North Country Cheviot** 407p Northway. **Mule** 376p Hyndfordwell, 361p Newtonhill, 355p Braes of Enzie, 350p Corrow. **Cheviot** 373p Crosscleugh, 369p Stable House, 354p Blackcleugh. **Blackface** 373p Cottage, 369p, 362p Black House.

**Romney** 369p Sykehead. **Dutch Spotted** 361p Kinninghall. **Cheviot Mule** 357p Northway, 340p Northway. **Herdwick** 347p Pasture House. **Oxford** 333p Black House. **Easycare** 316p Newtonhill & Nether Ardroscaide. **Charollais** 313p Logie Dumro, 303p Old Station Court. **Swaledale** 305p Westernhopeburn.

### CAST EWES AND RAMS

A larger entry of 2,016 cast ewes and rams were forward All classes of ewes sold to increased rates being way short of purchaser demand, being £10-£12 in front of other centres. Numbers of cast ewes and rams especially are keenly sought after on a weekly basis. Texel ewes sold to a top of £340 and £335 from D & T Bradley Farmer, Wester Parkgate, Dumfries. Light ewes selling to £185 for Lleyms from D & L Steen, Coxhill, Moffat. Rams topped at £315 for a Texel from G Ritchie, Blackrigg Bungalow, Rockcliffe.

### Heavy ewes

**Texel** £340, £335 Wester Parkgate, £320 Newtonhill, £315 Beckfoot, £305 Wester Parkgate & Wellpark.

**Beltex** £275, £250 Tercrosset. **Charollais** £240 Beckfoot, £238 Hundalee House. **Suffolk** £234 Wester Parkgate, £225 Starforth Lodge, £222, £218 The Land. **Bluefaced Leicester** £222 Ghyll Brae, £208 Newtonhill, £198 Laverockbank. **Blue du Maine** £222 South Bogbain. **Mule** £205 Staffler, £200 Wester Parkgate, £196 Beckhall, £188 Braes of Enzie, £185 Staffler. **North Country Cheviot** £200 Braes of Enzie, £195 Slealands, £192 Blackside. **Blue Texel** £200 Edendales. **Cheviot Mule** £190, £185, £180 Ormiston, £185, £180 Wood Farm.

### Light ewes

**Lleyn** £185, £172 Coxhill. **Cheviot** £170 Braes of Enzie, £168 Milsington & Supplebank, £164 Crosscleugh, £162 Milsington, £160 Kilnford Croft. **Jacob** £160 Caverswood Cottage. **Blackface** £158 Davdell, £152 Sout Bogbain, £148 Kilwhipnash, £146 Peela Hill, £144 Newtonhill, Ronachan & Lenaig. **Herdwick** £152 Blackcleugh. **Swaledale** £146, £130 Marygate. **Hebridean** £140 Lanrigg.

**Shetland** £124 Bankhead of Tinwald.

### Rams

**Texel** £315 Blackrigg Bungalow, £280 South Bogbain. **Blue Texel** £260 Balure. **Suffolk** £245 Starforth Lodge, £230 Wester Oathlaw. **Bluefaced Leicester** £235 Killipol, £215 Sheepriggs. **Cheviot** £230 Yethouse Fields. **Charollais** £200 White Hurworth. **North Country Cheviot** £188, £175 Balure. **Blackface** £165 Carnasserie.

### Averages:

#### Lambs

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Light to      | 406.0p (406.2p) |
| Standard to   | 512.0p (448.5p) |
| Medium to     | 500.0p (441.7p) |
| Heavy to      | 479.0p (447.2p) |
| Overweight to | 487.0p (410.1p) |

#### Hoggs

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Light to    | 406.0p (289.0p) |
| Standard to | 384.0p (329.5p) |
| Medium to   | 385.0p (321.9p) |
| Heavy to    | 484.0p (330.5p) |

#### Ewes

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| Light to | £185.00 (£127.95) |
| Heavy to | £340.00 (£180.34) |
| Rams to  | £315.00 (£185.73) |

LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK  
W/C 29th June 2026

|      |                              |        |                         |
|------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Mon  | Quilters Group               | 10-1   | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |
|      | Mending Monday               | 1-3    | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |
| Tues | After School Club            | 4-5.30 | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |
|      | Langholm Evening In Stitches | 6-8    | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |
| Wed  | Welcome Wednesday            | 10-3   | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |
| Fri  | Langholm weekly In Stitches  | 1-4    | Creation Mill, DG13 oES |

Scrap Store is open  
Monday - Saturday 10-3

Booking required, please visit  
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

# CREAM TEAS

at  
THE BENTY HALL

28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

2PM to 4:30PM

£6  
FOR CREAM  
SCONE & CAKE

Langholm Rugby Football Club

# AGM

Friday 26th June

7.30pm | Milntown

All members welcome

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

|          |            |                                |
|----------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Sun 28th | Cream Teas | The Benty Hall<br>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<br>9am - 1pm |
| Wed 15th | Hard of Hearing Group      | Langholm Day Centre<br>1pm - 3pm  |
| Sat 18th | Benty Rideout              | Departs Kilngreen<br>1.30pm       |

The E&L  
General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2626 answers next week

- 1

Between London and which other two capital cities does Eurostar regularly run?
- 2

Which canal in England's north-west was Britain's first man-made waterway of note?
- 3

Which carnivorous mammal, the last natural predator of full-grown deer, died out in Britain some 250 years ago?
- 4

Which is the main cereal crop to be grown in Britain?
- 5

Which London underground line runs from Edgware to Morden?
- 6

At which English stately home is the Emperor Fountain located?
- 7

Which two cities are linked by the M8 motorway?
- 8

Who composed "A Foggy Day in London Town"?
- 9

Of which county is Portland Bill the southernmost tip?
- 10

How many species of snake are indigenous to Britain?
- 11

In which English county are the towns of Crewkerne, Chard and Somerton?
- 12

In which county would you find Bewl Bridge Reservoir?
- 13

Which London street is home to the Admiralty and also the Ministry of Defence?
- 14

How many towering rocks make up the Needles?
- 15

What can be found at Cherhill, Alton Barnes and Hackpen?
- 16

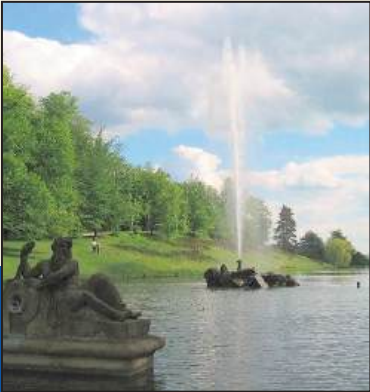
Which tunnel under the River Thames lies immediately upstream of the Thames Barrier?
- 17

Puffin Island gets its name from the puffin colonies that breed there. Off which other larger island is it located?
- 18

In which county are the towns of Petersfield, Waterlooville and Alton?
- 19

On which river does the town of Carmarthen stand?
- 20

Who was known as the "Demon Barber of Fleet Street"?



NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2626 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across
- 1

Obstacle (4)
- 4

If you're on the Stump here, you've got a good view (6)
- 8

Buffoons (6)
- 9

Small purple plum (6)
- 10

Obliterate his model, reconstructed (8)
- 11

Central part (4)
- 12

Runs into (5)
- 13

Foe (5)
- 17

Vomit (4)
- 19

Free from evil spirits (8)
- 20

Dusky? (6)
- 21

Line on a weather map (4)
- 22

Of inferior quality (6)
- 23

Ultimate (4)

- Down
- 2

Aw! Hustles Owen about in Australia (3,5,5)
- 3

Idle talk (6)
- 4

Enlightened one, literally (6)
- 5

Only half knocked out? (4-9)
- 6

Scent (5)
- 7

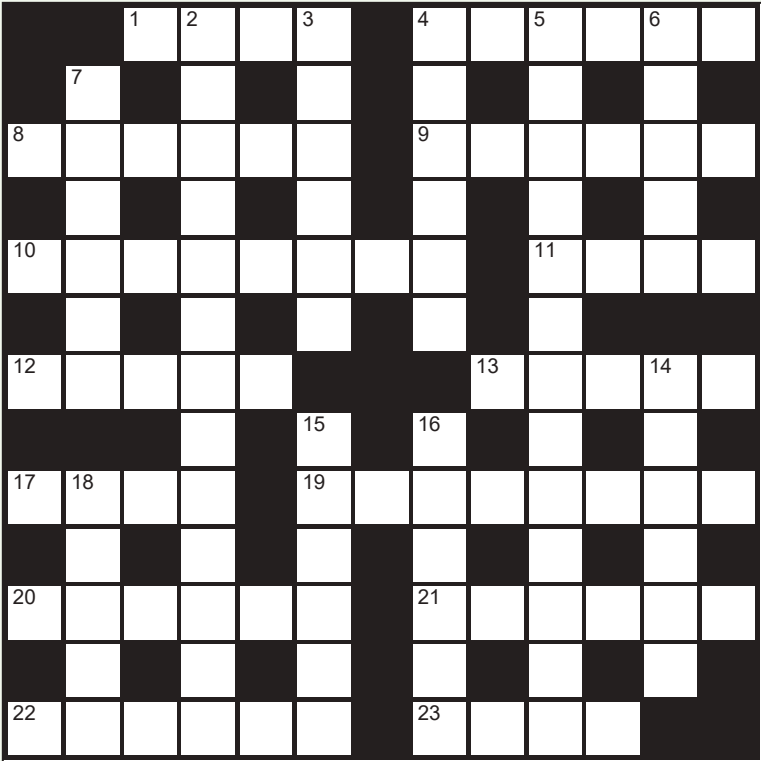
Swindle (6)
- 14

Lose (6)
- 15

Well-bred people (6)
- 16

Kind of climber (6)
- 18

Rate of expenditure of energy (5)



Crossword & Quiz  
Solutions from  
last week

Quiz 2625

- 1

British Standards Institute
- 2

Theme park
- 3

Severn Valley Railway
- 4

Broad
- 5

River Parrett
- 6

Bridlington
- 7

Castle Combe
- 8

Bristol
- 9

The Borders
- 10

Burton-upon-Trent
- 11

British Midland (BMI)
- 12

John Aspinall
- 13

Cambridge
- 14

Imperial War Museum
- 15

5%
- 16

Doncaster
- 17

Leicestershire
- 18

Plymouth Hoe
- 19

Falls
- 20

River Dee and River Wye

Crossword 2625

Across: 7 Zoom, 8 Graduate, 9 Sparkler, 10 Nods, 11 Alive, 12 Reduced, 14 Telstar, 16 Egypt, 19 Tact, 20 Songster, 21 Aerobics, 22 Mats.

Down: 1 Compel, 2 Improvisation, 3 Agile, 4 Barrier, 5 Quinquagesima, 6 Stodge, 13 Warship, 15 Enamel, 17 Pretty, 18 Gnash.

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### PLANNING

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at [www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning](http://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning). Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to [Planning@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@dumgal.gov.uk) or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 09/07/2026 (Type A).  
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended  
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)  
Ref No/Type Address/Proposal  
22/2115/FUL (A) Over Cassock, Eskdalemuir, Langholm - Use of agricultural land to form rifle range, erection of accommodation building, formation of hard standing and associated works

Dumfries and Galloway 

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David McVittie and Bernie Armstrong

■ **Sat 9th - Sat 11th July** (74 High St)

Dovecote Designs, Samantha Edwards

■ **Fri 24th - Sat 25th July** (74 High St)

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# Langholm Colour Run

## Colour Run

The Colour Run organised by Langholm Primary School's Parent Partnership Group last Friday was a vibrant success and brought pupils, families, and staff together in a colourful burst of energy and community spirit. Laughter rang out round the Castleholm as participants tackled obstacles, were showered in brightly coloured powder and were sprinkled by the

Langholm Fire crew.

The colourful event raised a fabulous £1,742 for Langholm Primary School funds. The Parent Partnership Group would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who sponsored, donated raffle prizes, to the volunteers and organisations who helped run the event and to everybody who took part, it was a whole lot of colourful fun!



# 50 pairs play in Scott's Memorial

## Bowling

By Luke Tolson  
The Scott Morrison Memorial Open Pairs 2026 was played on Saturday on both the old and new town bowling greens. A great entry of 50 pairs took part with a total prize fund of £1,100.

The winners were - Colin Spalding and Ryan Turnbull (Hawick) and runners up were David Pool and Alan Warwick of Langholm New. Well done to the winners who played well all day and hard luck to the runners up - you have the best record for Langholm bowlers in this tournament - you just came up short today.

The beaten semi-finalists were - Malky Davis and Raymond Campbell from Beechgrove and Moffat and Andy Nelson and Gavin Lynch of Easttriggs/Gretna.

The beaten quarter finalists were - Robert and Max Phillips (Langholm Old); Ian Earsman and Duncan Johnstone. (Langholm New) David Oliver and Jimmy Renwick (Ancrum) and Simon and Aimee Spalding (Hawick).

The bowling club would like to say a big thanks to the sponsors of the tournament - Tommy and Diane Morrison. It was a great atmosphere all day and thanks to Melvyn Brown and Louise Keeney for presenting the prizes. Also, thanks to Luke for fluting the finalists onto the green. A big thanks to everyone including the two clubs who made the competition a great success.



GREAT DAY'S BOWLING: Alan Warwick, David Pool, Diane Morrison, Louise Keeney, Melvyn Brown, Ryan Turnbull, Colin Spalding, Tommy Morrison



And the sunshine made a great day even better!

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

**HAPPY 60TH! GEORGE**  
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It's a BOY!  
**JENKINS**  
Kaye and Stephen are proud to announce the arrival of their first child  
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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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# LANGHOLM'S AOIFFION IS TO RUN FOR SCOTLAND

## Athletics

By Calum Graham  
**BRING ON BELFAST** | Not only is she supporting Scotland in the World Cup, Langholm Academy athlete, Aoiffion McVittie Brangan is also celebrating her own selection for the Scottish Schools Athletics Team that will face England, Ireland and Wales in Belfast in July.

Following a fantastic week of competition, Aoiffion who had her 14th birthday just three months ago, received the news today that she has been selected to compete for the Under 17 Scottish Schools team.

A week past Friday at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships she won the U16 100m in a time of 12.18s, which not only won the U16 event but was quicker than the fastest U18 and U20 girls times on the day. This time would also have been a new Scottish schools record had it not been for the change in age groups from Under 15 to Under 16 this year.

She followed this up last Tuesday with a hand timed 100m of 11.90s in the S2 girls 100m at the Dumfries and Galloway secondary schools regional athletics



**PRIDE OF LANGHOLM:** Aoiffion McVittie Brangan will run for the Scottish Schools Athletics Team in Belfast

championships. This time was the first time a female in any year group had ran under 12 seconds in the championships that spans back several decades.

She also set a time of 25.3 seconds in the new 200m event and broke the regional record for the S2 girls long jump by 38cm with a jump of 5.10m. She was then moved up to the senior girls relay team where they won the race and beat the girls senior relay record by 3.3 seconds with a time of 51.5 seconds.

To finish off a fantastic week, Aoiffion ran a new official personal best on Sunday of 12.26s into a head wind at the Scottish Youth Development League Meeting in Grangemouth. This extended her lead at the top of the Scottish U16 Rankings and she is now ranked the 16th fastest female in Scotland across all age groups.

Aoiffion is grateful for the support she has received from the "Welcome to Langholm" Future Champions Awards, The Holywood Trust, the Chloe &

Liam Together Forever Trust and Amber Anning this year. She has also had offers of support from The Arthur Bell of Langholm Trust and local neighbours and businesses. She is grateful to the school for their support with extra training time leading up to the Scottish Schools Championships.

She will now turn her focus to this Sunday when she joins her Edinburgh Athletic Club relay team colleagues in Kilmarnock for the Scottish Athletics Relay Championships

# Your rugby diary for 26/27

## Rugby

### FIXTURES 26/27

LANGHOLM RFC

|           |                            |          |                         |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 8th Aug   | Hawick Linden 7's          | 9th Jan  | TBC                     |
| 15th Aug  | Hawick Quins AWAY          | 16th Jan | Portobello HOME         |
| 22nd Aug  | Selkirk A HOME             | 23rd Jan | Livingston AWAY         |
| 29th Aug  | Wigton HOME                | 30th Jan | Ross High HOME          |
| 5th Sept  | Murrayfield Wanderers HOME | 6th Feb  | (Scot v Italy)          |
| 12th Sept | North Berwick AWAY         | 13th Feb | (Scot v Wales)          |
| 19th Sept | Shield Bye / Friendly      | 20th Feb | France v Scot (Sun 21s) |
| 26th Sept | Portobello AWAY            | 27th Feb | Shield                  |
| 3rd Oct   | Livingston HOME            | 6th Mar  | (Scot v Ire - Fri 5th)  |
| 10th Oct  | Standby                    | 13th Mar | (Eng v Scot)            |
| 17th Oct  | Ross High AWAY             | 20th Mar | Corstorphine AWAY       |
| 24th Oct  | Corstorphine HOME          | 27th Mar | Dunbar AWAY             |
| 31st Oct  | 2nd Round Shield           |          |                         |
| 7th Nov   | (Scot v NZ)                |          |                         |
| 14th Nov  | Dunbar HOME                |          |                         |
| 21st Nov  | (Scot v Japan)             |          |                         |
| 28th Nov  | 3rd Round Shield           |          |                         |
| 5th Dec   | Murrayfield Wanderers AWAY |          |                         |
| 12th Dec  | North Berwick HOME         |          |                         |
| 19th Dec  | TBC                        |          |                         |

# Gamblesby win makes it six out of six

## Cricket

**L**angholm completely overwhelmed Gamblesby on Saturday bowling them out for 56 with Graham Park taking 5 for 9 including his 600-1st team wicket. In reply Langholm showed no nerves as they passed the visitors' total for the loss of two wickets in the 11th over.

Batting first, Gamblesby never looked like they were going to post a competitive total. After a few near misses in the field the first wicket fell when John Bell took a good catch off Steel's bowling to dismiss Coleman for 1 in the 7th over with the score on 6. Steele struck again clean bowling Benson for 4 to leave Gamblesby 12 for 2. Next over a Chris Stewart catch saw the end of J Forrester for 8 as the visitors were in deep trouble at 14 for 3. Dobinson and D Forrester mounted a re-

covery as they put on 21 for the 4th wicket before Dobinson fell for 17 with Jake Park taking the catch off Dave Steele. Graham Park was now in the attack and he bowled Ben Weatherstone for 0 then, in the same over, had Rachel Benson caught at short cover by Chris Stewart his 600th wicket for the 1st team.

### Clean bowled

This left Gamblesby on 39 for 6. Park then clean bowled Richard Benson with the score on 46. D Forrester and Hodgson edged the score passed 50 but with the total on 55 Park bowled Forrester then in his next over he claimed his 5th wicket by bowling Hodgson for 6 leaving Gamblesby all out for 56. The bowling figures for Langholm were Graham Park 5 for 9, Dave Steele 3 for 18 and Andrew Paisley 1 for 16, Jake Park was unfortunate not to take a wicket in his four spell.



Although the wicket was slow the Gamblesby batsman seemed to think it was going to do all sorts and they never looked comfortable.

Langholm made a positive start to their reply with Graham Park and Chris Stewart adding 29 before Stewart fell caught and bowled for 11 in the 6th over. Park now joined by Hughie Donaldson took the score to 53 before Park was caught at point for 32. Next ball Scott Norman crashed a 4 to win the game in the 11th over.

Langholm's sixth win on the bounce keeps them 2nd in the league with two games in hand over Patterdale. More astounding is that there has not been a game cancelled due to the weather considering the awful summer we are having. Thanks to Johnstone Roofing for sponsoring the match. Next week sees Langholm travel to Scotby.

# E&L SPORT

