

**Trailing Tommy
on another full
weekend**

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



**Langholm Cricket
Club now joint
league leaders**

SEE PAGE 16



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Moffat Mountain Rescue set to work on Warblaw

Local walker with nasty knee injury brought to safety

By Mark Hallam

The vast majority of the Langholm Hills come under the coverage of Moffat Mountain Rescue Team (MRT). The team is a registered Scottish charity relying on the generosity of individuals and companies to maintain equipment and fund training.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd June, an experienced local walker had the misfortune to slip, twisting a knee and sustaining severe injury whilst descending, just below the radio mast on Warblaw Hill. On calling 999 Police swiftly started up a dialogue with members of Moffat MRT, one of whom was swiftly available to receive the situation, before summoning the rest of the team plus equipment, in 4WD Land Rover and VW Ambulance.

The crucial starting point had been provision of a 6 figure OS grid reference ('What 3 Words' is also a good option) of the injured walker's location plus any other useful information (such as general condition as well as nature of injury(s) - and presence of a good off-road track to within 100m).

Within 2 hours of the initial

call the Moffat team were on the hill-top assessing the casualty, offering pain relief and stabilising a very swollen knee, before moving by stretcher to the appropriate vehicle and starting journey down to main road, where it was agreed with Scottish Ambulance Service best option to then continue journey all the way to a hand-over at Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary's, Accident & Emergency Department.

Although a straightforward job by Moffat MRT standards, nevertheless everything from rapidity of response to skilled and gentle handling of the casualty, through and up to hand-over at most ideal NHS facility was all wholly commendable. For any who feel inspired to donate to such a worthy cause, there is provision to do so via website on www.moffatmrt.org.uk/donate-and-support/

Emergency Mountain Rescue services in Scotland (and all UK) are accessed by the simple act of phoning 999 and asking for Mountain Rescue, whose services are co-ordinated through Police Scotland. (Note that 2 minutes preparatory action can set mobile phone up for textual access in areas of weak signal, starting with texting



word 'register' to 999 or 112, then following several easy steps.)

Moffat MRT has an excellent website, which is well worth exploring for anyone participating in any activity, where there is risk of accidental injury or illness, in a remote setting.

Mark's photos show the Moffat Mountain Rescue Team in action bringing the injured walker down from Warblaw



INSIDE



**Double
GOLD
again for
Aoiffion!**

See Page 16

Family Announcements

Deaths

BELL, Keith

Suddenly but peacefully on 16th June 2026, Keith aged 79 years. Beloved father, brother and papa. Keith will be dearly missed by those who knew him. A private committal will be held.

All enquiries to Shaun Turnbull Funeral Directors.
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- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
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- Ewe Hill 16 Community Benefit Fund
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- Solwaybank Community Benefit Fund
- Stoneypath Trust
- The Stevenson Trust
- Walter Higgs Charitable Trust



Church Notices

ESKDALE &
LIDDESDALE
PARISH
linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish
Church

Welcome to worship
led by
Rev Morag Crossan
Sunday 5 July

CANONBIE
9.30am

LIDDESDALE
11am

Worship Group
led services: -

LANGHOLM
10am
WESTERKIRK
1:30pm

Contact us for
transport
to/from the
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

Social Media ban... thoughts from the school Headteacher and pupils respond to veto



Following the recent announcement of the forthcoming social media ban for young people under the age of sixteen we asked the headteacher, Ms Mclean of Langholm Academy what she thinks of it.

She said "I see first-hand the enormous potential that technology offers young people, but I also witness the increasing challenges that unrestricted social media use can bring. Too many children under 16 are being exposed to content that can negatively affect their mental health, self-esteem, sleep, concentration and relationships at a stage when they are still developing emotionally.

"I support the introduction of stronger safeguards, including raising the minimum age for social media

access, if it helps protect children from these harms. Parents and schools work incredibly hard to teach young people how to use technology responsibly, but we cannot do it alone. Social media companies also have a responsibility to create safer online environments. Any measures that give children more time to develop resilience, confidence and real-world social connections before entering these platforms deserve serious consideration.

Pupils at the school said "In my opinion I don't think that the social media ban for under 16s should happen as it is going to cause more consequences and trouble. I believe that social media should only be banned for under 14s as they are perhaps not mature enough

yet to cope with it." Lauren Davidson (S4)

"I don't think it will work at all. People always find ways round things!" Luke Rome (S4)

"I agree, there is always ways past things and it won't work in the long run." Aaron Jardine (S4)

"I personally do not think a social media ban for under 16s should become law. I believe this because the majority of teenagers use platforms such as snapchat and TikTok as an easy way to communicate with friends and family who don't live near them. However, I understand that the ban does have a potential pro - the younger generation should be brought up without only knowing social media as a way to live." Holly Irving (S4)

John Muir Awards

Congratulations to the P6 pupils at Canonbie Primary School and P7 pupils at Langholm Primary School on becoming Wild Place Guardians by successfully earning their John Muir Awards. This was facilitated by the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve Team. To achieve the award, the pupils completed over 25 hours outdoors discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing their experiences of a local wild place.

Throughout the programme they took part in a wide variety

of hands-on activities, including building bird boxes, creating wildflower seed bombs, conducting a mini bioblitz to record as many living species as possible through stream dipping and mini beast hunts, creating beautiful hapa zome nature art, learning to identify different bird calls, and exploring their wild place to identify the habitats it contains and the wildlife that calls it home.

The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity throughout the project while developing a greater ap-



preciation of the natural world and the importance of caring for it. They should all be incredibly proud of their achieve-

ment and their commitment to protecting and celebrating their local wild places.



Canonbie pupils: (l) Bird Guide and (r) Stream Dipping

Canonbie Community Enterprise has its eyes on further goals

Canonbie Community Enterprise held its AGM on 23rd June. The organisation is now set up as a community benefit society which offers the opportunity to work towards other community goals.

Some of these might be to add swings and shelter at the park and create a hard-wearing path. Other suggestions were to purchase a goal post and nets that are on wheels to move around the field and buy plants for the village sign posts as the council are cutting back on these. Other suggestions were to buy the hall and remove the showers as constant health checks on these are required and they are not used. Di Badham replied that the lease of the hall has just been extended for another ten years but after this period purchase is likely to be required. It is something to look at in the future.

Di Badham, as vice chair, thanked staff, volunteers, committee members, share-

holders and customers as without their support, time, commitment and encouragement none of what has been achieved would have been possible.

Refurbishment

The shop has introduced card payments, which has attracted more sales and the organisation has had to register for VAT. One of the biggest achievements has been the refurbishment and improvement of the shop, which required many hours of planning, organising and practical work. Just over £8000 has been spent on the refit for which a grant was received. New accounting systems have been introduced and better systems for stock control and financial management. The membership total now stands at 187 with nine new members joining in the last year.

New product lines have been introduced in the shop including meat from Elliots the butcher. Challenges in



the past year have included rising costs including administration costs and the ongoing need for volunteers. Having reviewed the newspaper delivery service it has been decided to discontinue it as the CCE are losing money. Staffing has also been tricky. Liz has been a constant and reliable postmistress but the part time role has

proved difficult to recruit for as it has to retain staff.

A small number of dedicated people contribute a tremendous amount of time and effort often behind the scenes. The organisation is incredibly grateful for that commitment.

Priorities are to continue to improve the customer experience, strengthen the fi-

nancial position, increase volunteer involvement and ensure that CCE remains a thriving and sustainable asset for the village.

All the retiring committee members were re-elected at the AGM. The post office and shop made a profit in the year 31 January 2026 of £11,840 after paying £3,300 corporation tax.

Chapelcross correction

In last week's story about the proposed solar farm at Hall Burn we stated that data centre plans at Chapelcross were being developed by the South of Scotland Enterprise. This was incorrect. While SOSE is supportive of the plans to develop Chapelcross, these plans are being taken forward by a company called CX Power, not SOSE. The land is owned by Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

D&G Life Awards deadline

There's less than a month left in which to make a nomination for a Dumfries and Galloway Life award. Annually D&G Life runs these awards and this is the 20th anniversary making this a special year. The closing date for nominations is 23d July and award categories include community and volunteering, food and hospitality, arts and culture, sports, business and entrepreneurship and education and legacy. Nominations must be made online and the winners will be announced on 6th November at a glittering ceremony.

Shared equity chance for first-time buyers

We reported on the First Homes Fund recently in the paper. The first phase of the shared-equity scheme, which offers first-time buyers a £10,000 contribution towards a deposit, is now open. Over the course of this Parliament it is expected around 50,000 households will benefit from the £500 million scheme.

The deposit contribution can be used to buy any property with a value of up to £300,000. Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

"We know how hard it is to get that first foot on the property ladder and the opening of this fund is a direct response to stories I have heard from so many people who are keen to buy their first home. The First Homes Fund is part of a broader programme of action, supported by a record £4.9 billion investment in affordable housing over the next



four years. We promised to act to make life easier for many and fairer for all and, through the First Homes Fund, we are delivering on that promise."

The First Homes Fund is a shared-equity scheme and opened for applications on 24 June 2026. A first-time buyer is anyone who does not own, or has not previously owned, a property in Scotland or anywhere else in the world.

The Scottish Government will have an equity share in

the property in the form of a security, although the homeowner will own and have full title to the property. There are no monthly payments to be made towards the Scottish Government and no interest will be charged. The Scottish Government's percentage equity share would normally be repaid when the home is sold or, a payment event is triggered in line with the terms of the shared equity agreement buyers enter in to.

Gilnockie leaflet event

Gilnockie Tower is holding a fashion event with Teviotdale Steel Bonnets and a leaflet day on Saturday 18th July 2026, from 10am.

The previous leaflet day event proved to be an opportunity for tourism businesses to connect, exchange information, and build valuable relationships, with attendees travelling from Carlisle right through to the Scottish Borders. The Tower would love to welcome people to this second gathering, where local tourism providers can come together to help promote the area and strengthen connections across the region.

The following are invited to go along - accommodation providers, tour guides and experience hosts, visitor attractions and heritage sites and tourism-related businesses and organisations. The event provides an informal and relaxed setting to exchange leaflets and

promotional materials, network with fellow tourism businesses, share ideas and opportunities, build partnerships and collaborations and help promote our region to a wider audience. Invitees are asked to bring their own leaflets, brochures, and promotional materials along for this networking opportunity.



Border Rail appointment

Councillor Denis Male was appointed to the Borders Railway Cross Party Working Group at a Dumfries and Galloway Council meeting last Friday. Council Leader Stephen Thompson was appointed his Depute. Denis said

"I am delighted to take up this appointment. There needs to be a full debate on where the route will be. If it follows the old Waverley route being pushed by Borders Council, then it will be detrimental to the residents of the lower Esk valley as the nearest stations will be Newcastleton and Longtown. I believe this would further reduce the bus journeys from Galashiels to Carlisle. I hope that we can present a good enough case through the working group for a station that can serve this area as well as the rest of the Borders area."

Letters to the Editor

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

Solar Farm concerns

Thank you for the article about plans for two solar farm (rather unfortunate name) and the related infrastructure. Your article does mention some of the concerns of one or two local residents. Concerns about property values, noise pollution and traffic.

Talking to many neighbours however the main concern is the adverse environmental impact. We wrote a letter of concern to the proposer in April. Sadly, no reply. During the exhibition we handed over a copy of the letter. So far, no response.

There is nationally genuine concern about more intensive farming ignoring the adverse impact on nature and wildlife; farming has many critical choices to make; solar panels may be short term cost effective and attract capital investment. Could the same investment be available for more positive active farming solutions?

It is great to hear the concern about the need for low-cost en-

ergy. The proposed area covers about 300 homes rather than the 20,000 homes proposed.

Say that by default the generated energy will be used to power an hyper polluting AI datacenter in the county; how would everyone then feel about the loss of our lifestyle and the region's biodiversity by the exceptional levels of environmental damage. As caretakers of this beautiful creation, it is good to take time and get a complete picture.

Daan van Belzen,
The Old Post Office,
Evertown

Unhappy with our coverage

I am writing in response to the article in the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser of 25 June 2026, entitled "USA, New Zealand and Ecuador visit Gilnockie".

Although the article is factually accurate, it does not fully explain why the event was held. It gives

the impression that this was simply a pleasant day out for visitors. It was certainly enjoyable, but it was also far more significant. Your reporter clearly attended the event on Saturday, but had she enquired with any member of Gilnockie Tower staff of the significance of the weekend she would have been informed of the background to the extravaganza and in particular to the event scheduled to follow on Sunday. A 'scoop' I think newspaper fellows call it – a historical event in the making and you missed the opportunity to record it.

On the first day, Gilnockie Tower hosted the biennial reunion and visit of the Armstrong Clan Association. Members travelled from all over the world for this event.

On the second day, history was made when staff at Gilnockie Tower welcomed the Armstrong Clan Hikoi of Scotland and Ireland. "Hikoi" is a Māori word meaning "journey". Fifteen representatives, all Māori's, travelled from the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand's North Island. They were either Armstrongs themselves or connected through family to the wider Armstrong clan.

The purpose of their visit was to reconnect with their Armstrong roots in Scotland and Ireland and learn of the culture of their ancestors.

On arrival, the visitors performed their sacred ritual, the Haka, connecting their spirit with Gilnockie Tower. Many readers will be familiar with the final act of the Haka, performed by the All Blacks before a match at Murrayfield. The performance at Gilnockie Tower was a far more moving, detailed, and an emotional experience. One that will remain in the memory of all those present. This was followed by the raising of the Māori flag on the tower's flagpole, marking the presence of these special guests.

The group then enjoyed a guided tour of Gilnockie Tower. Later in the day, they visited the stalls and watched the displays presented by the Steel Bonnets re-enactment group.

On Monday, they were given a tour of the Border Reiver Trail before leaving the area on Tuesday morning to continue their journey in Ireland.

Tom Jack
Senior Visitor Guide,
Gilnockie Tower

Rifle Range application

Comments have been invited by Dumfries and Galloway's planning team on an application to use agricultural land to form a rifle range, erect an accommodation block and form hard standing at Over Cassock farm in Eskdalemuir which is just off the B709. The applicant is a Mr Euart Glendinning.

Letters of support have been received from people who mostly do not appear to live in the area and objections from some people who live locally. The applicant appears to be a director of a company called Eskdale Experiences Ltd of which David Ian Moffat is named as the other director.

The Eskdalemuir Community Council is asking for the consultation to be extended and has submitted other comments.

"We feel that a 14-day consultation period just isn't enough for a major development that's been sitting in the system for three years and has now had significant changes made to it. We need proper time to review everything and consult with the community.

"Secondly, we're questioning why these changes are being treated as amendments to the existing application rather than requiring a completely new planning application. The changes seem substantial enough that



they should have gone through a fresh round of public consultation instead of just a short 14-day notice.

"Finally, because planning policy has changed significantly since the application was first submitted, we're saying the revised proposal needs to be assessed against the current NPF4 planning rules. At first glance, we don't think it meets those newer standards."

Written comments can be made by email to planning@dumgal.gov.uk by 9th July and all documents can be viewed on the Council's planning website.

Potholes of today lead to fascinating history talk

A chance conversation about pot-holes on the "Langtoon brig" led to Canonbie Probus Club being treated to a fascinating local history talk from club member Frank Wilson.

Frank began his talk by relating the difficulties caused by flood waters before most bridges were built when rivers had to be crossed by wading, on horseback, in a boat, or at local fords.

Two particular incidents were recalled. The first in 1696 when the boat used by villagers of Canonbie to cross the river to attend services in their church capsized with the loss of 28 lives, and the second when 9 black cattle, 3 horses, 1840 sheep, 45 dogs, 180 hares and three people were drowned in flood waters in Longtown when attempting to cross the river Esk.

In 1735 Dr Robert Graham became the minister of Kirkan-drews on Esk Church, and later also of Arthuret Church, and additionally he looked after the Netherby Estate for his cousin. He began a campaign for building a bridge across the Esk in Longtown. Permission for this was agreed at Carlisle Crown sessions in 1753 and funds of £400 were assigned for the build estimated to cost about £850. Building began in 1755 and was completed by 1756 with the parishes of Arthuret and Kirkan-drews required to maintain the bridge. A Turnpike Trust was established with toll bars, one of which, at the junction to Greta, was designed by the great engineer Thomas Telford.

Dr Graham became the owner of the Netherby Estate in 1757 when it was left to him by his



Longtown Bridge

cousin and between 1757 and 1760 he oversaw the building of Netherby Hall. He also built the Graham Arms Hotel and planned and developed the town of Longtown, as well as cam-

paigning to bring the railway to the town. Frank's talk then referenced the infamous robbery at Netherby Hall, which resulted in the hanging of three conspirators Rudge, Martin and Baker,

before returning to the story of the bridge. The 5-arch, 5-pillar sandstone bridge, 15 feet by 550 feet, was widened by Marshall's of Hawick in 1889 by 9 feet. The cost of this work was £2,289-2s-6d, under the budget of £2,500, and took 6 months to complete.

And the cause of the pot-holes? It seems that the troubles might have been caused by a pipe inserted in the bridge to allow the pumping of waste matter from the Auction Mart to the town's sewage system many years ago but this answer to the question may not be correct. Throughout the talk members were fully involved asking questions and contributing information to the excellent presentation. Frank was warmly thanked by all before the meeting closed.

Eskdale Foundation AGM

The Eskdale Foundation held its annual general meeting recently. It receives a percentage of all income generated by the charity shop and this is utilised by the organisation for public liability insurance, buildings insurance and maintenance. All 8 of its properties in Greenbank and the former police station were fully occupied during the financial year. Although in a healthy position financially note should be made of restricted funds which included funding towards the changing places toilet facility. This project is progressing and six contractors have been invited to submit tenders with five responding. Dumfries and Galloway Council is going through the necessary procedures.

At the AGM office bearers were appointed as follows: M Sanderson Chair, R E Tait Vice Chair, S Tait Treasurer and A Greybe Company Secretary. R Dickson was appointed as Director.

The expansion of renewable energy comes at a cost

Fuel Poverty: Hosting communities see little or no benefit

A report cited by Community Land Scotland states that onshore wind is a significant growth sector in Scotland, but renewable energy developments come at a cost with local communities hosting them seeing little or no benefit. Many people in rural and island areas also endure fuel poverty.

The report by the Centre for Local Economies puts paid to the idea that there isn't enough money from onshore wind to go around and shows that between 2019 and 2024 Scotland's onshore wind sector made approximately £5.6 billion in post-tax profits, with £4.1 billion (73%) of that estimated to have been paid in dividends to corporate shareholders. £729 million of that was paid directly to companies owned by private equity or based

in tax havens.

Another finding from the CLES report is that a major beneficiary of onshore wind-farms are private landowners. Landowner rental income over a five-year period was estimated to be in the £190 million to £380 million, with nearly 90% of this going directly to private companies, individuals, and trusts. These rental payments are equivalent to approximately 7% of onshore wind dividends.

A recent investigation by The Ferret, an online Scottish publication, looked at the amount of money that some landowners get from hosting windfarms on their land. The money earned by landowners 'dwarves' the community benefits on offer. They found that some wealthy landowners are earning millions in rent from wind farms and these are in turn subsidised



Onshore wind is a significant growth sector in Scotland

by the public's energy bills and that 'In one extreme case a landowner received £11 million in rental income from a wind project last year – 23 times more than was paid to the local community.'

One of the windfarms

investigated was Solwaybank near Langholm, which offers community benefits to organisations in our area. Around 6.7% of revenue generated by this windfarm is paid to landowners, while community benefit contri-

butions make up 0.58%.

The Ferret says that the rental income from wind-farms tends to be tied to overall revenue from it so that if the windfarm has a profitable year more money goes to the landowner. The Ferret's analysis 'traced the estates hosting onshore wind projects backed by the UK Government's Contracts for Difference subsidy scheme, which supports renewable electricity generation through levies on consumer energy bills.' Some of the wealthiest landowners in Scotland are earning millions of pounds from windfarms which, at a time when our bills are rocketing, seems hard to swallow. It should also be noted that not all windfarm companies offer community benefit funds although these are recommended by the Scottish Government.

Hawick Fire Station downgrade

Scottish Borders MP John Lamont and Borders MSP Rachael Hamilton have condemned the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service after it approved the downgrading of services at Hawick Fire Station.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board have approved the outcome of its Service Delivery Review and make final decisions on proposed changes to fire service provision across Scotland, including plans affecting Hawick Fire Station.

The decision means that Hawick Fire Station will be downgraded from a full-time, 24-hour service to a daytime-only operation.

Kilngreen Transport Hub

Council Denis Male has told Council officials that the Active Travel unit at the Kilngreen has to be finished by the first week in July. If not, they need to clear the site until after the Common Riding. Officers are meeting with the contractors in the next few days.

Gallovidian Gravel: New D&G Cycle Route

Cycling UK, the national cycling charity best known for its long-distance bikepacking routes including King Alfred's Way, the Rebellion Way and Traws Eryri, has just launched its first entirely Scottish route. Named Gallovidian Gravel, the route traverses Dumfries and Galloway in the south of Scotland, offering a sense of adventure, history, heritage and nature.

Working with adventure bike packers and route designers Guy Kesteven and Kieran Foster, Cycling UK has added a new route to its network showcasing the very best of UK cycle tourism. Beginning in Dumfries, Scotland's Queen of the south, the new circular multi-day route covers 330km of off-road riding in majestic and rugged landscapes. Taking in dark sky forest tracks, winding coastal back lanes, wild mountains and hidden lochs, it also introduces riders to charming towns, ancient abbeys and the area's fascinating history.

Cycling UK's multi-day routes are designed for long weekend



Cyclists will pass the giant axe head near Loch Dee

trips, and they're all accessible by train so riders can explore our countryside without the need for a car. While Gallovidian Gravel is ideal for competent cyclists, it's been designed in the shape of three smaller, intersecting loops, to provide shorter 'taster routes' options instead for people of all experience levels.

At 331km, the distance is the main challenge, but while it looks long and hilly – overall elevation of 4,002m – gradients are gentler to climb. It's genuine gravel riding and best suited to gravel bikes or hybrid and tough-tyred touring bikes, with only a couple of optional kilometres where an MTB might make more sense.

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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

Farming on the Border



In association with
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Farming with Gilly Fraser

No room for the INNS

Not enough is being done to protect Scotland's environment from the growing threat posed by invasive non-native species (INNS).

That's the conclusion of a report just published by Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) which finds that the current regulatory framework isn't strong enough to address the problem.

INNS are a leading cause of biodiversity loss globally, disrupting ecosystems, outcompeting native species and contributing to 60% of recorded global extinctions.

Examples of INNS currently present in Scotland include signal crayfish which can cause significant impacts on native flora and fauna through increased grazing and predation; American mink which can have devastating effects on native biodiversity, particularly ground nesting birds and water vole populations and Japanese knotweed which can smother native plants and damage

fragile habitats.

And more could be on the way. A 2023 Scottish Government study identified 30 invasive non-native species with a high risk of arriving, establishing and impacting biodiversity in Scotland within the next decade.

The ESS report says the current regulatory framework is ineffective, poorly understood and inconsistently applied. It says a more flexible and comprehensive range of tools is needed to support proportionate and effective INNS intervention, especially at scale, across multiple landholdings and for mobile species.

It recommends that the Scottish Government should update existing guidance to ensure the operation of INNS control provisions is clear, understood and can be applied effectively; bring forward proposals to strengthen and expand the range of regulatory tools for INNS management and ensure that data on INNS management is easily accessible.

"Stop talking and start delivering" for farmers

NFU Scotland used the platform of the Royal Highland Show to call on the Scottish Government to stop talking and start delivering on its agricultural policies.

The Union says expectations on the farming sector continue to rise, but farmers and crofters can't invest, plan or grow their businesses with confidence until there is greater certainty about how the future agricultural support framework will operate.

With the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act in place and key policy documents published, NFU Scotland said the foundations of future agricultural policy have largely been established.

Agricultural support currently represents less than one per cent of the Scottish Government's overall budget, despite farmers and crofters being expected to help deliver some of Scotland's biggest priorities, including food security, climate action, nature



Photo: NFU Scotland

John Davidson, Jonnie Hall, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs Gillian Martin MSP, Andrew Connon, First Minister John Swinney MSP, Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Islands Jim Fairlie MSP, Robert Neill and Duncan Macalister

restoration and thriving rural communities.

NFUS says that while the recent Scottish Budget provided short-term certainty, much of the core funding remains effectively flat-lined in cash terms and this represents a real-terms decline in support at a time when greater

investment is needed.

Official figures show 83 per cent of Scottish farms and crofts were profitable when direct support payments were included. Without those payments, profitability falls to just 50 per cent, underlining the importance of a well-funded and clearly imple-

mented support framework.

The Union wants the Scottish Government to publish a detailed implementation timetable before the end of the year; to increase multi-annual and ring-fenced support and provide adequate lead-in periods before new requirements are introduced.

Climate change could hugely affect your dram

Scotland's barley is feeling the effects of climate change and that in turn could have a huge impact on the country's Whisky industry.

That was the message from a panel discussion held at the Royal Highland.

Scotch Whisky Association CEO Mark Kent told the meeting that most cereals used to make Scotch whisky come from Scottish farms, but the long-established partnership is facing unprecedented challenges.

Tim George of the James Hutton Institute International Barley Hub, which is based in Invergowrie, agreed that significant risks face barley growers in the future, not least being the unpredictability of the weather.

He said now is the time to start working on solutions to future-proof systems because climate change is with us now.

On the plus side however, a new project has found that Scottish barley growers are demonstrating key strengths in regenerative agriculture.

In the first phase of the project led by Crisp Malt and specialist agricultural technology company Map of Ag, growers from the Aberlour Growers Group, Crisp Malt and associated merchants in Scotland completed detailed surveys covering soil health, biodiversity, water management and climate resilience.



Photo: Doug Brown on Pexels

Map of Ag Technical Manager Ben Hunt, said one of the key findings was the widespread use of long-term grass leys in Scottish rotations, often followed by barley crops, reflecting a strong foundation for regenerative progress.

"A lot of Scottish farms still integrate livestock and arable production, with rotations that include several years of grass before returning to barley," he said. "That delivers clear benefits for soil carbon, soil structure and long-term resilience compared with more intensive arable-only systems."

Happy cows, happy farm

How happy are your cows? Would you know if they were in a good or bad mood?

Scientists in Scotland have discovered that technology already in use in many herds could reveal their true state of mind.

A new study from the Digital Dairy Chain has revealed that ankle-mounted activity sensors commonly fitted for fertility and heat detection, can predict if farms are experiencing "good" or "challenged" welfare conditions.

SRUC researcher Holly Ferguson says that for years welfare assessment has focused mainly on identifying problems, but this goes further by identifying measurable signs of what a 'happy cow' actually looks like.

"The technology is already on many farms, so this could offer farmers a practical, low-labour way to better understand herd wellbeing, while also supporting assurance schemes and consumer confidence."

Traditionally, farm welfare checks focus on physical health and productivity measures such as lameness, disease or milk yield. But the team say good welfare is about more than avoiding poor conditions, it's about providing cows with an environment which allows them to express natural behaviours.

Holly added: "Animals can be healthy without necessarily experiencing positive emotional states. We wanted to explore whether technology already



SRUC researcher Holly Ferguson

Photo: Digital Dairy Chain

in use on farms could help identify signs of comfort, calmness and social harmony within dairy herds."

The researchers found that one of the strongest indicators of positive welfare was cows resting and moving together consistently. This is a known indicator of positive welfare, capturing the ability to express a "herd mentality", which is often more prominent at pasture.

‘Foragers Harvest’ wins scarf contest

Lots of entries for Creation Mill’s competition

Back in February this year, Creation Mill held a competition to design your own scarf and have it woven up at Drove Weavers and finished at Schofields in Selkirk. The brief was to design a scarf inspired by the natural surroundings of Langholm. Think nature, flora and fauna.

From the many wonderful entries, the judge, Lynn Elliott chose Donna Parker’s design, The Forager, as the outright winner. Donna said, "I have always had an interest in what nature provides on our doorstep, so I based the colours of the scarf on plants local to Langholm that can be used to eat, fertilise and clean with. The colours are the foragers harvest."

Donna was over the moon to see her design come to life on the loom at Drove Weavers.

You can now see the scarf in Creation Mill, available to purchase in the scrap store and shop.



Donna and the scarf-making process

Harrier Sorrel has travelled far and wide



Sorrel in the nest near Langholm

The Hawk and Owl Trust’s social media carried a story last week about a hen harrier born near Langholm and satellite tagged in 2016.

They say that Sorrel has spent nearly a decade showing just how remarkable, resilient and wide ranging these birds can be. From Langholm to another part of Dumfries and Galloway, Arran, the Cairngorms, Gellisdale and Kielder, her journeys have connected landscapes, conservationist, volunteers, raptor workers and local communities across Britain and Ireland. Sorrel’s latest brood has now

been ringed. Long term satellite tracking helps build a clearer picture of where these birds travel, the pressures they face, where breeding attempts succeed or fail and where protection is most needed. Sorrel has successfully fledged multiple broods, endured failed nesting attempts, travelled huge distances and returned year after year to raise young.

The Trust are proud to be part of Sorrel’s story and are grateful to everyone who has helped monitor and protect her over the years and thrilled that another generation of hen harriers is now taking its place in the skies.

Westerkirk Library AGM

Westerkirk Parish Library Trust held its annual general meeting on Wednesday 17th June. New office bearers were elected for the organisation. Paul Bonser is taking over as Chair with Joseph Lambert to become treasurer and Tanya Waller will act as secretary.

Mairi Telford Jammeh, former Chair and Anne Murray, who acted as secretary/treasurer for 26 years will remain on the committee. The library continues to open on Wednesday afternoons and on the evening of the first Monday of each month.

Judicial review over MOD changes

According to ‘Windpower Monthly’ Community Windpower which is now known as CWP Energy, has launched judicial review proceedings against the MOD over the restrictions that impacted on a proposal for a wind farm project. Scoop Hill wind farm project was to include sixty turbines up to 250m high near Moffat but it was refused consent by the Scottish Government following a public inquiry.

Neil takes on Rotary presidency



Rotarians Frankie Steele, Roger Maxwell, Paddy Sherman and Mark Hallam with new President, Neil Gass

Langholm Rotary Club has announced that Neil Gass will take over as Rotary President for the rotary year 2026/27.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances Peter Forsyth is unable to continue in his role as President for the coming year. Neil received the President’s Chain at the

handover meeting last Thursday evening in the Eskdale Hotel. The photo shows Neil along with Rotary convenors Frankie Steele, Roger Maxwell, Paddy Sherman and Mark Hallam. Mark will be organising the annual Rotary umbrella walk which will be held this year on Saturday 3rd October.



CASTLE CRAIGS CLUB



2026 Rideout Timetable

Saturday 18th July THE BENTY RIDEOUT 1:15pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilngreen 1:30pm - Depart Kilngreen 4:00pm - Arrive @ The Benty 6:00pm - Depart The Benty 8:00pm - Arrive @ The Kilngreen	Thursday 23rd July PEDEN'S VIEW RIDEOUT 6:30pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilngreen 6:45pm - Depart Kilngreen 7:15pm - Arrive @ Peden's View 7:45pm - Depart Peden's View 8:45pm - Arrive @ The Kilngreen
Sunday 19th July PONY RIDEOUT & FAMILY FUN DAY 11am - Pony Club Games on The Castleholm 1pm - Rideout leaves The Castleholm 2:15pm - Arrives @ The Castleholm 2:30pm - Family Fun Day	Saturday 25th July CASTLE CRAIGS RIDEOUT 12:30pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilngreen 12:55pm - Depart Kilngreen 1:00pm - The Kirkwynd 1:30pm - Arrive @ Castle Craigs 2:30pm - Arrive @ Cronksbank 3:30pm - Depart Cronksbank 4:30pm - Arrive @ Townfoot Toll Bar
Tuesday 21st July EWES VALLEY RIDEOUT 6:15pm - Pony Judging @ The Kilngreen 6:30pm - Depart Kilngreen 7:30pm - Arrive @ Hoghill 8:00pm - Depart Peden's View 9:00pm - Arrive @ The Kilngreen	PLEASE NOTE The Castle Craigs Club Committee reserve the right to refuse any person from participating in these events

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL THOSE PARTICIPATING IN CASTLE CRAIGS CLUB RIDEOUTS
Whilst every care has been taken by the Committee and relevant landowners in facilitating these events, the Committee and landowners will not be responsible for any injury to any person taking part in any way whatsoever in the event, nor will they be liable for any damage resulting from any acts or omissions of any participants or spectators.

Trailing Tommy to the Bowler Hat Do, Gala and the Street Party

Fri ~ BOWLER HAT DO

Sat ~ BRAW LADS GATHERING

Sun ~ CORNET'S STREET PARTY

A gaggle of Young Riders attended the Bowler Hat Do on Friday the 26th of June.

The youngsters were joined by a number of former Young Riders, as well as the Cornet, his Right- and Left-Hand men, Jubilee Cornet John Murray, and Diamond Jubilee Cornet Ronnie Hudson. The evening was chaired by former Young Rider, Jake Park.

Following a delicious meal by the Crazy Gang, the company was entertained by songs from Hughie Donaldson, while speeches were made by Ailidh Scott, Tom Henderson, Christopher Tait, Jess Robson, and Cornet Thomas Hope. Christopher Tait also Cried the Fair, which was met with cheers from the gathered attendees.

Presentations were made to Cornet Hope and Ex-Cornets John Murray and Ronnie Hudson by Millie Barker.

A grand night was had by all!



Young Rider, Millie Barker presents Cornet Tommy Hope with his Bowler Hat



...and Jubilee Cornet John Murray with a gift



...and also Diamond Jubilee Cornet Ronnie Hudson



Some of the Langholm Young Riders members enjoy the evening



KING OF THE ROAD: Tommy rides at Galashiels' Braw Lads Gathering



...and with his Right and Left



HAIL FELLOW, WELL MET: with Fair Crier Ray Elliot

It has become tradition in recent years for the Cornet's neighbours to throw a street party for their esteemed resident celebrity!

Living in William Street in Langholm, the organisation of Tommy Hope's shin-dig was in the capable hands of long-term residents Mag Latimer, Pauline and Roddy Innes and Amy Reid and they made a terrific job of it!

Without a suitable outside venue on William Street, the party took place at Langholm New Town Bowling Club and that proved to be the perfect spot for the on-gangings.

It has been customary at these events to invite friends and family of the Cornet along with the Jubilee Cornets for that year. So, this year, Diamond Jubilee Cornet Ronnie Hudson and Jubilee Cornet John Murray attended along with their wives Margaret and Linda.

The bands played, the dances were danced and presentations were made to the three Cornets and everyone admitted what a grand afternoon it had been with a splendid buffet and a few drinks to boot.



GOOD NEIGHBOURS: Pauleen, Mag, Roddy and Amy present Tommy with a portrait of the Derby Winner



MADE FOR IT: Tommy gets a go with the Pipe Band's big drum at the street party on Sunday afternoon



MISSED!: Tommy doesn't quite hit the spot at "Pin the Flag on the Cornet"



ONE, TWO, THREE, HOP: John and Linda show how the polka is done



THE OLD GUARD: Diamond Jubilee Cornet Ronnie Hudson and Margaret enjoy the afternoon with Jubilee Cornet John Murray and Linda



TALL DARK AND HANDSOME: Tommy and his henchmen all smiles at the Street Party

...Liddesdale Lineup...

By Gilly Fraser

Copshaw's Calvin makes a big splash

In his first year of taking up the sport, Copshaw teenager Calvin Longstaff has already made a big splash in the Sea Fishing world.

15-year-old Calvin has won two Junior sections in the three competitions he's taken part in so far.

Along with crewmates Charlie Blance and Rod Groom on the good ship Grumpy Mick, Calvin's first dip into the sport came at the end of May at the Clash Top event at Stranraer. He caught three fish but only one was the correct species.

In the sport, fish are caught, measured for length, photographed, and released back into the water. The longest three catches of each species determine the daily points, with the highest combined total across competition days winning.

His second attempt saw him return to Stranraer for the Mull of Galloway Sea Angling Festival where he caught eight fish with the biggest being 153cm long winning the competition by 2cm. That bagged him the junior title and a brand-new fishing rod.



Calvin with a whopping catch

Less than a week later the Grumpy Mick crew made the long trek down to Portsmouth for the Sea Angling Classic.

20 fish!

They only managed an hour out to sea on the first day due to an injured Skipper but made up for it in style the following day when Calvin caught no less than 20 fish.

His catch made up a total length of 1908cm to give him his second junior win in

in a row, and bagged him prizes of a reel, yeti box and a yeti mug.

So far he has caught four different species – namely Bullhusk, Tope, Bream and Smooth hounds but says he hopes to catch more varieties in the future along with winning more competitions aboard Grumpy Mick.

Participants in the Sea Angling Classic have to carry out a Beach Clean and the Grumpy Mick crew did theirs on the coastline at Drummore.

Copshaw turns yellow

Copshaw has been turned into a sea of yellow, festooned in yellow bunting fluttering from trees, buildings and every place possible to tie a bit of bunting to.

It's all thanks to the hard work of a dedicated group of more than 48 volunteers, including Copshaw Crafters, Innov8 Youth Club, helpers at Buccleuch House workshops and a small army of home worker bees.

The community initiative was led by Copshaw Clatter co-Editor Camille Juliff who decided the village should be looking at its brightest and most welcoming in time for

the Common Riding and the Music Festival.

It's been quite an operation, as Camille explains.

"We have used 125 x metres of yellow ripstop fabric and more than 800 metres of tape. It has taken hundreds of hours making over 4000 double sided waterproof flags. The fabric was funded by the Copshaw Common Riding Committee and the NDCC."

Camille's main wingman in the project was fellow villager Russ Miller, who alone spent more than forty hours machining tape on more than 300 metres of bunting.



Douglas Square is adorned in its yearly yellow

New classes for Holm Show

It's all systems go for the Holm Show – which this year reaches a very special landmark in its long history - its 130th birthday.

To celebrate this highly auspicious occasion, the committee have come up with quite a few new ideas.

In the photography section there's a brand-new class called 'Farming Gone Wrong' – a wry confession that things don't always go entirely to plan in the fields and barns of our beloved countryside.

In the Children's Baking Section there's a new class for Decorated Cupcake Animal – encouraging youngsters to let their imaginations run wild with cupcake critters.

Meanwhile the grown-ups can try their hand at putting together a tasty flask of soup – which is a new class in the adult Baking.

And there's a brand-new challenge designed to really test all comers. It's called Roll – Knock – Down and competitors will be required to – Roll a bale, Knock a nail and Down a pint. It's not just for adults – under 18's can have water or juice instead.



Sic a guddle up at the Holm



Pupils at Newcastleton Primary School made the most of the warm and sunny days last week and cooled off with a little paddle in the river.

It wasn't just for fun though – the children turned it into a learning experience with a spot of guddling to discover



just how many different creatures live in the river.

They captured lots of minnows, tadpoles, nymphs and even a catfish.

After a bit of examination, the tiny creatures were all returned safely to the river, free to continue on their way.

Holm artist's 'The Silent Cry'

The work of a Newcastleton-based sculptor has been chosen to feature in a prestigious exhibition in one of Kirkcudbright's premier art galleries. Entitled 'Silent Cry' the work by Christine Robson is on display in the Whitehouse Gallery, a contemporary art and craft space in the Galloway town which stages just a handful of exhibitions every year.

Kirkcudbright has been known as The Artists' Town since the late 19th century, becoming a much-loved creative community and home to artists such as The Glasgow Boys and Scottish Colourists who were drawn by the town's amazingly clear light and quirky buildings.

Since opening in 2004, the Whitehouse Gallery has earned an international reputation for exhibiting top class works.

Christine's work is in stoneware clay on a wooden base. She says she's "blown

away" to be included in this important exhibition which runs till August 29th.



The Silent Cry

Galloway Country Fair at Drumlanrig

A spectacular celebration of country life

A spectacular celebration of country life returns to Drumlanrig Castle and Country Estate this summer, on Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th August. Galloway Country Fair once again transforms the magnificent grounds of Drumlanrig into a vibrant showcase of rural pursuits, family entertainment, country sports, shopping, food and drink.

With a jam-packed programme of high-octane stunt displays and chariotting, to dog shows, cookery demos, and live music, this year's Fair is set to be the biggest and best yet, with exciting new attractions, shopping, family-friendly entertainment and evening entertainment.

Leading the Main Ring programme are the spectacular displays from OG Performance Horses, stepping back in time for a gladiator-inspired thrilling chariot action, bringing the spirit of the ancient games to life. Visitors can also enjoy thrilling demonstrations from Paul Hannam's Quad Bike Display Team, the ever-pop-



ular Falconry Display, and the highly entertaining Come Bye Sheepdog Display.

Saturday's event will be officially opened by the Buccleuch & Queensberry Pipe Band before the unmistakable sounds of Drums N Roses bring energy and excitement to the showground. On Sunday, the popular Dog Show returns, offering classes and competitions for canine companions of all shapes and sizes.

The marquee also features a wide range of artisan crafts and gifts from talented exhibitors including Tartan

Treasures, Bowbrook Studios, KGR Glass, Unique In Glass, Laura Walker Art, A View To Paint, Fascinatingly Different, This Ain't Texas Headwear, Horncraft & Martin England Photography, Temple Spa and dozens more independent businesses.

Dog lovers are particularly well catered for, with dedicated dog-friendly activities, specialist retailers and training equipment suppliers throughout the event. Visitors can also capture lasting memories with Refined & Rural Photography's professional gundog photo studio.

Academy gets new Head Pupil team



The new head pupil team for Langholm Academy has been announced for academic session 26/27. Following letters of application, interviews, presentations to fellow pupils and staff, Antonia Brockley and Ruari Dalglish were appointed as the head pupils. They'll be supported by depute heads Ava Bell and Riley Brannan. They are all pictured above with Head Teacher Ms McLean. Congratulations to them all.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE SCOTLAND

Langholm101
Newcastleton 101

COUNCILS

Dumfries and Galloway Council
.....030 3333 3000
.....www.dumgal.gov.uk
Fault reporting (potholes/street-lights etc).....0800 042 0188
Langholm Town Hall/Library
.....013873 80255
Dumfries and Galloway bus timetables
www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables
Scottish Borders Council .
0330 100 1800
out of hours 01896 752 111
Scottish Borders bus timetables
...www.scotborders.gov.uk

UTILITIES

Scottish Water
.....0800 0778 778
...www.scottishwater.co.uk
Scottish Power
.....105
...www.scottishpower.co.uk
Scottish Gas emergency ..
0800 111 999
National Rail enquiries
03457 484 950
.....www.nationalrail.co.uk
Floodline SEPA
.....03000 996 699
.....www.sepa.org.uk
BEAR Scotland (A7)
.....0800 0281414
.....www.bears Scot.com

POST OFFICES

Langholm 013873 52022
Newcastleton 013873 75361
Canonbie 013873 71348
Rowanburn 013873 71542

HOSPITALS

D&G Royal Infirmary
.....01387 246246
Cumberland Infirmary
.....01228 523444
Borders General Hospital
01896 826000
Thomas Hope Hospital
.....013873 80417

DOCTORS

Langholm013873 83100
Newcastleton013873 75100
Canonbie013873 71313
NHS24111

CHURCHES

Langholm, Eskdalemuir Ewes and Westerkirk Parish churches
Session Clerk -
Jackie Henderson/Aileen Cavers
07902 718985
Canonbie United Parish church
Session Clerk..013873 25255
Liddesdale Parish church

SCHOOLS

Langholm Primary
.....013873 80900
Langholm Academy
.....013873 80418
Newcastleton
.....013873 75240
Canonbie
.....013873 71336

CHEMISTS

Davidson Chemist, Langholm
.....013873 80220
Monday to Friday
8.45am -1pm; 2pm-5.30pm.
Saturday 8.45am-12.30pm.
Boots Pharmacy, Longtown
.....01228 792859
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm.
Saturday 9am-5pm.

Dragonflies



A Broad-bodied Chaser
by Martin England

The Lower Tarras ponds have been fast becoming a dragonfly hotspot with another species being recorded last week, an emperor dragonfly by our volunteer John Halliday, taking the total number of species being recorded on the ponds to 14 out of the 29 Scottish species. Amazing considering that these ponds were only created in December 2024. If you'd like to come and learn more about these beautiful and agile

hunters of the insect world, there will be a dragonfly walk and talk event at the lower Tarras ponds this Saturday morning from 10am-1pm being run by South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and Southern Uplands Partnership.

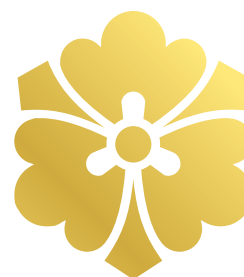
There will be minibus transport available from the Kilngreen Car Park, Langholm leaving at 9.45am, returning at 1pm. To book a space, please contact info@swseic.org.uk.

Know a Rural Champ?

A new Rural Champion Award has been launched to recognise individuals making a significant and lasting difference in rural communities across Scotland. The initiative, introduced by the Royal Countryside Fund in partnership with Scottish Land & Estates, forms part of the 2026 Helping it Happen Awards, now in their tenth year.

The awards programme highlights the people, businesses and community projects that are helping rural Scotland to thrive. Open to a wide range of entrants — including farms, estates, rural enterprises, charities and community groups — the scheme aims to shine a light on innovation, resilience and leadership in rural areas.

To mark this milestone year, the new Rural Champion Award will recognise an individual who has gone “above and



THE ROYAL
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

beyond” to support their rural community. The winner will secure a £10,000 prize for their community organisation, providing a significant boost to ongoing local initiatives. Nominations for the award are now open, with entries closing on 30 June 2026. Winners will be announced at a gala ceremony later in the autumn.

To be eligible, nominees must be based in Scotland and already nominated for one of the existing Helping it Happen award categories. In addition, they must be working with a rural

community organisation that meets the Royal Countryside Fund's funding criteria.

The new award reflects a growing recognition of the vital role individuals play in sustaining rural life — from strengthening local economies to fostering community engagement and resilience. By spotlighting these contributions, organisers hope to inspire further action and investment across Scotland's rural landscape.

For more information and to submit nominations visit the Royal Countryside Fund website.



Common Riding Chatter from 1956

...a look back at the jottings in the E&L archives

Looking back...

THE PRESTON THISTLE

One of the most interesting tales regarding this year's Common Riding concerns some visitors from Preston and the thistle. Apparently, our Preston friends have attended the Common Riding for several years past but were simply not believed when they told their acquaintances in Preston about the size of the Common Riding thistle.

Well, the sceptical people in Preston will have proof this year about Langholm's thistle because that is where it has gone. We believe Mrs Martin of Townfoot Gardens has many requests for a bit of the thistle when the ceremonies are over and she thought that the men from Preston simply wanted a "buttonhole" to take home with them, but no, they wanted the whole emblem to convince their friends over the Border, so Mrs Martin said "go ahead".

Now, as every Englishman knows, a Scotch thistle is not to be trifled with, and neither is the Langholm Common Riding one. What a job the men had to stow it in the car. They tried the boot but the "jags" were tailing on the ground. They tried the roof, but the thistle simply wouldn't stay put. They tried getting it into the car but

it just wouldn't go in. Determination won in the end and both windows of the back doors were opened and the thistle set off for Preston hanging out of the car on either side.

We would heartily endorse Mrs Martin's remark that she wouldn't like to be the one sitting in the back seat with a thistle on one's knee and both windows wide open. We are quite sure however that the emblem has done its stuff and has convinced the doubting Thomases of Preston, not to mention those between Langholm and Preston.

Great stuff.

BY THE WAY, what happened to the Flute Band on the Common Riding morning when they started to play "Within a Mile" at Langholm Bridge? There was a bit warble at the start then only the drums were heard for a space until the flautists rallied and synchronised in their introduction to this familiar tune.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tommy Mark who won the trail with "Postman". Tommy has a great Common Riding Trail record because he was the trainer of the famous Miss Ina, the bitch hound which won the trail four times in succession. This, however, was the first time that Tommy has been both the owner and trainer of the winner



PRICKLY SITUATION: Imagine that in the back of the car, all the way to Preston!

of the Langholm classic.

Another well-known visitor at the trail was Mr Armstrong, Brampton, who owned Miss Ina. We also noticed Mr Pulsford, the ex-president of the Border Hound Trailing Association and, of course, there was Joe Thompson from Low Hesket who was attending the Langholm trail for the 52nd year in succession.

WHAT ABOUT MORE space being made available at the Kilngreen for the polka in the evening? On Friday night there

was hardly room for the Band let alone any dancers. In laying out the Kilngreen regarding shows in future this matter must be kept in mind and a clear space left for the crowd to polka.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT of dancing, we were pleased to hear the Band play "Inspiration" the well-known Common Riding waltz tune. Last year remember we waltzed to a Strauss melody and we criticised the Band for departing from custom. Thanks to Bandmaster Stein, the old air, has been

resuscitated and we all appreciated it very much indeed.

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO a Langholm exile, on a visit to his native town, had a walk up Whita where he found a root of white heather. This he took away with him to his place of exile at Warwick Bridge where the heather was duly planted in his garden. The heather flourished exceedingly well and it was a sprig from this root which the Faircrier wore on Friday.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report

Thursday, 25th 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 4,795 sheep comprising of 1,375 prime lambs, 1,240 hogs and 2,180 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 25th June 2026.

PRIME LAMBS

A similar show of 1,375 lambs forward
Top price per head of £243 for Texel lambs shown by J Muir & Son, Cleughbrae.

Top per kilo of 500p for Beltex lambs from J & E Walby, East House.
Overall average 419.3p (SQQ 418.0p)

Principal Prices (Per Head)

Texel £243 Cleughbrae, £234 Corneyside, £230 Kimmeter Green, £226 Shantlerhill.
Suffolk £240 Staffier & Cleughbrae, £239 Kilnford Croft.
Charollais £226 Larel, £215 Romanway & Shantlerhill.
Beltex £200 East House, £194 Nether Side.
Oxford £198 Guards.
Hampshire £192 Hartbush.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex 500p East House, 485p Nether Side.

Texel 466p Cottage, 460p Baurch Rigg, 459p, 458p Corneyside, 454p Kilnford Croft, 452p Corneyside & Shantlerhill, 450p Corneyside.
Suffolk 463p, 442p Kilnford Croft, 437p, 430p Shantlerhill, 425p Staffier.
Charollais 439p Romanway, 426p Larel, 422p Shantlerhill.
Blue Texel 411p Romanway.
Hampshire 405p, 402p Steel Hall, 400p Hartbush & Balgray Hill.
Oxford 404p Guards.

PRIME HOGGS

A smaller entry of 1,240 prime hogs forward
Top price of £214 for Texel hogs from J Irving, Lucemains, with top per kilo of 420p for Texels from JT & EM Marrs & Son, Broomhills.
Overall average 306.3p (SQQ 310.6p)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel £214, £210 Luce Mains, £192 Drumcairn, £191 Airyolland House, £190 Fearn.
Beltex £214, £192 Drumcairn.
Suffolk £184 West End Town, £172 South Bogbain, £170 West End Town, £166 Lammonbie, £160 Broomhills.
Half-bred £184 Aimster.
Bluefaced Leicester £178 Southdean.

Mule £175 Heathery Hall, £170 South Bogbain, £160 Heathery Hall.
North Country Cheviot £170 Larkhall.
Cheviot £162 South Bogbain.
Blackface £156 Syke Head.
Cheviot Mule £154 South Bogbain, £150 Geltsdale.
Herdwick £146 Pasture House.

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Texel 420p, 385p Broomhills, 366p West Stobs Wood, 362p Pasture House & Drumcairn.
Beltex 376p, 362p Drumcairn.
Suffolk 371p Cottage, 344p South Bogbain, 340p Fala Hill, 331p New Hall.
Blackface 367p Pasture House.
Cheviot 361p South Bogbain, 330p, 324p Mallsgate Hall, 324p South Bogbain.
Dutch Spotted 360p Cottage.
Herdwick 353p Pasture House, 335p Cottage.
Mule 350p Pasture House, 328p Cottage.
Cheviot Mule 333p Geltsdale.
Swaledale 322p Pasture House.
North Country Cheviot 321p Larkhall.
Half-bred 313p, 300p Aimster.

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A similar entry of 2,180 cast ewes and rams were forward
Texel ewes sold to a top of £325 for Texel ewes from WT Morison, South Bogbain.
Light ewes selling to £190 for Lleyms from S & R Irving, The Height and for Cheviot ewes shown by M & W Fotheringham, Drumcairn.
Rams topped at £285 for a Texel from Beckfoot Farms.

Heavy ewes

Texel £325 South Bogbain, £320 Mull of Galloway, £310 Oldfield, £300 Thackwood & Aimster, £295 Catslackburn, £290 West Stobs Wood & Beckfoot.
Charollais £260 Luce Mains, £252 Grassmainston, £242 West Stobs Wood & Beckfoot, £2440 The Bungalow.
Suffolk £218, £214 Beckfoot, £212 Kimmeter Green, South Bogbain & Cottage, £210 Larkhall.
Bluefaced Leicester £218 Tinnis, £205 Southdean.
Blue Texel £218 Three Farms.
Blue du Maine £215 South Port o Spittal.
North Country Cheviot £202 Larel,

£200 Lythmore, £198 Aimster & Tofts of Tain.
Beltex £198 Tercrosset, £192 The Bungalow, £190 Lower Moor.
Cheviot Mule £198 Baillie, £185 Oldfield, £182 Larkhall.
Hampshire £198 Hartbush, £190 South Bogbain.
Zwartble £198 Three Farms.
Oxford £198 Guards.
Mule £195 Fala Hill, £194 Staffier, £190 Mull of Galloway, £189 New Farm, £180 Braehead & Mull of Galloway.
Border Leicester £188 Aimster.
Half-bred £184, £178 Aimster.

Light ewes

Cheviot £190, £180 Drumcairn, £172 North House & Supplebank, £170 Drumcairn.
Lleyn £190 The Height.
Blackface £162 South Bogbain, £160 Ulzieside, £158 South Bogbain, £154 Ulzieside.
Woodland £158, £148 South Port o Spittal.
Swaledale £151 Whitton, £139 Southdean, £128 Airyolland House, £127 Bridge End.
Kerry Hill £148, £136 Three Farms.
Shetland £144 South Poer o Spittal, £135 Three Farms.
Rams

Texel £285 Beckfoot, £270 Baillie, £245 Fearn, £240 Moorfoot Cottage & Galleywreay.
Beltex £255 Thornthwaite Close.
Suffolk £195, £180 South Bogbain.
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Blackface £185 Catslackburn.
Dutch Spotted £185 Beckfoot.
Cheviot £180 Catslackburn, £150 North House.
Bluefaced Leicester £180 Whitton.
Dorset £170 Beckfoot.

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

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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



CREATION MILL

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

W/C 6th July 2026

	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Mon	Summer Workshop with Suzie	10-2	Eskdalemuir Hub
	Mending Monday	1-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Tues	Summer Workshop with Suzie	10-2	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Evening In-Stitches	6-8	
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Community Bunting Making	11-4	
	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Scrap Store open	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	FARM TOUR & FIBRE PROCESSING	10-3	Starts at Burnfoot farm, finishes at Creation Mill

Scrap Store is open
Monday - Friday 10-3

Booking required, please visit
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

Langholm Common Riding

(SCO44989)

SALE OF COMMON RIDING
GAZEBO PITCHES

for the perimeter of the Cricket Club
will take place in
The Crown Hotel Coffee Bar
on Friday 5th July from 12 noon

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.

WHAT'S ON IN JULY		
Fri - Sun 3rd - 4th	Newcastleton Music Festival and Friday night Ceilidh	Various venues Newcastleton
Sat 4th	Copshaw Common Riding	Newcastleton
Sat 4th	Jason Arnup and his Band	Newcastleton Village Hall 9pm till late
Sat 4th	Jake Reid Memorial bowling open pairs	Langholm New Town Bowling Club
Sat 4th	Langholm Producers' Market	The Buccleuch Centre 9am - 1pm
Wed 15th	Hard of Hearing Group	Langholm Day Centre 1pm - 3pm
Sat 18th for one month	The Langholm Common Riding Exhibition	The Old Post Office 10am - 4pm
Sat 25th	Town Band Sale of Work	The Buccleuch Centre 1.45pm
	Castle Craigs Club bowling tournament	Old and New Town Bowling Greens

The E&L
General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2627 answers next week

- 1 What are Flat Holm and Sheep Holm?

2 In which English county would you find the town of Crediton?

3 Much of which author's inspiration as provided by the Helford River in Cornwall?

4 Which king was responsible for the construction of the Greenwich Royal Observatory

5 Who had a 1970s hit single with the song "Streets of London"?

6 Which world-famous trout river runs round Romsey and empties into Southampton Water?

7 Which British cable suspension bridge is the longest of its type in the world?

8 Which two ports lie to the south-west of Ipswich?

9 Which of the following is not on the Isle of Wight: Bembridge, Shanklin, Ryde or Peel?

10 Of which stone do the Grampians comprise?
- 11 Whose cottage can be found at Cloud's Hill in Dorset?

12 As what are Lady Day, Midsummer Day, Michaelmas and Christmas Day collectively known?

13 Where is Britain's Constitution held?

14 The pillage of which island heralded the beginning of the Viking raids on Britain?

15 Which river joins the Severn at Tewkesbury?

16 Which three counties surround West Sussex?

17 Which restored steam railway runs between Alresford and Alton in Hampshire?

18 Approximately how many square miles does the New Forest comprise: 125, 145, 165 or 175?

19 Which seat of learning was founded in 1214?

20 Just outside which major resort town is the Lytham St Annes golf course?



Crossword & Quiz
Solutions from
last week

Quiz 2626

- 1 Paris and Brussels

2 Bridgewater Canal

3 Wolf

4 Wheat

5 Northern

6 Chatsworth House

7 Edinburgh and Glasgow

8 George Gershwin

9 Dorset

10 3 (adder, smooth, grass)

11 Somerset

12 East Sussex

13 Whitehall

14 3

15 Chalk horses cut into the hills

16 Blackwall Tunnel

17 Anglesey

18 Hampshire

19 River Towy

20 Sweeney Todd

Crossword 2626

Across: 1 Snag, 4 Boston, 8 Clowns, 9 Damson, 10 Demolish, 11 Core, 12 Meets, 13 Enemy, 17 Spew, 19 Exorcise, 20 Twilit, 21 Isobar, 22 Trashy, 23 Last.

Down: 2 New South Wales, 3 Gossip, 4 Buddha, 5 Semi-conscious, 6 Odour, 7 Fleece, 14 Mislay, 15 Gentry, 16 Social, 18 Power.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

No. 2627 A mix of general knowledge and cryptic clues think. Answers next week

- Across

1 It suffers meltdown when overloaded (4)

4 Supply route (8)

8 Forms of art (8)

9 Romantic meeting (4)

10 Follow furtively (5)

11 Wild horses (7)

13 His opposite (4)

14 Sweet potato (3)

15 Address to Her Majesty (4)

16 Brass hats (4-3)

18 Often sported by 16 Across (5)

20 Down (4)

21 "The moment has come" (4,2,2)

22 Sent into battle (8)

23 Type of cricket (4)
- Down

2 The latest (2,2,3,6)

3 Clears the air? (7)

4 Breathe hard (4)

5 Seasoned smoked beef (8)

6 Shown to one's seat (3,2)

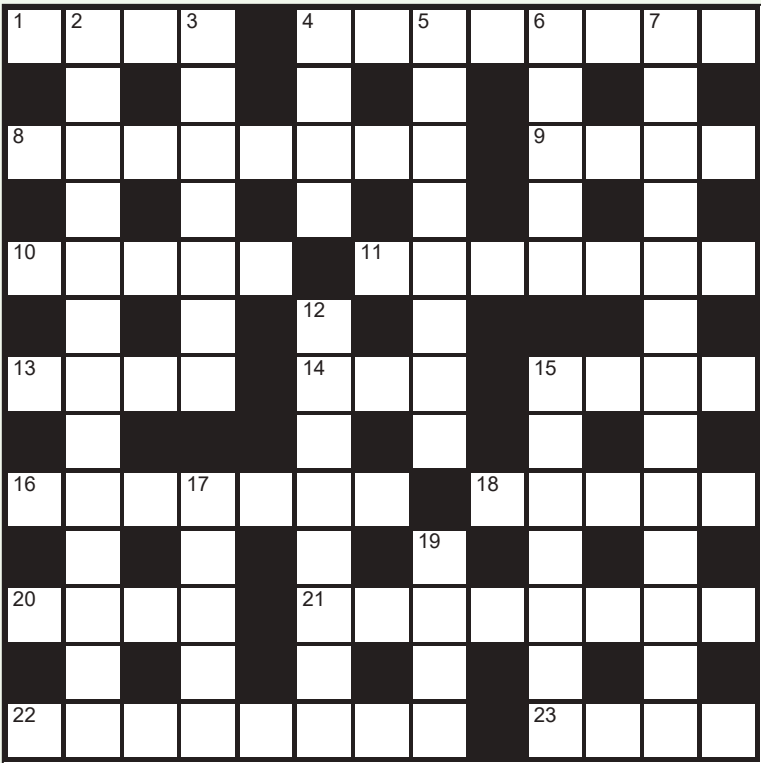
7 Peoples crookedly initiate loans (13)

12 Sometimes found with tea (8)

15 Politically, well red (7)

17 Kind of nut (5)

19 Variety (4)



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 16/07/2026 (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
26/1061/FUL (A) Mill On The Hill, Cemetery Road, Langholm -
Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of an air source
heat pump and septic tank and soakaway

Dumfries and Galloway 

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Something for all sports fans at Langholm Common Riding

All roads lead to the Castleholm

By Mairi Telford Jammeh

We're into July and many of us will now be thinking ahead to Common Riding Day at the end of the month and the sporting events that take place in the afternoon. From Cumberland wrestling to horse racing there's something for everyone.

If you've never attended the Common Riding before and are a sports fan you might enjoy the athletics which include a variety of flat races for some big prize money, as well as the always entertaining high jump with mostly amateurs taking part.

Many like to gather near the cricket pavilion to watch both locals and Cumbrians and sometimes folk from further afield take part in the wrestling. In the past the tradition was to wrestle in a white vest, white long johns and velvet pants often beautifully embroidered. Sadly, that tradition seems to have disappeared. But all wrestlers must wear socks. It's fascinating to

see the wrestlers move crab fashion around the ring to down their opponents.

The horse racing is a great favourite with the equestrian crowd, and a number of races are involved with some hefty winnings to be had. Racing has been held on the Castleholm for many years and the sport of kings provides a great spectacle.

The athletics is part of a circuit for runners from across the Borders and many of the races are handicapped which means that those who have done well in the past are stepped back while newer runners with little track record get a start. There should be some good local young runners this year so look out for them and cheer them on. Langholm and the area is producing some superb talent at the moment.

The high jump normally starts towards the end of the afternoon and attracts quite a crowd as they support those taking part with some great cheers. Sometimes the slightly inebriated get

involved in the jumping which often provides a few laughs. There are also children's races and the Ex-Cornets race which is always worth a watch.

The highland dancing is now normally on the opposite side of the cricket pitch to the pavilion and brings in dancers from far and wide. If you've not seen this kind of dancing before, pop over there to witness the jiggling and reeling and enjoy the pipe music.

All in all it's a great afternoon on the Castleholm and hopefully the sun will shine so that we can all enjoy the sport in dry conditions.



BEAUTIFUL SPOT: Langholm's Castleholm has a great afternoon's entertainment on Common Riding Day

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

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

It's a BOY!

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

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

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

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Langholm joint top spot after victory over Scotby

Cricket

By Graham Park

Langholm moved to joint top spot in the Eden Valley Division 2 with a solid victory over a good Scotby side whose League position of 2nd bottom does them no justice. Put into bat

Langholm made 151 for 6 with Graham Park top scoring with 46, in reply Scotby put up a good fight but were never really in the hunt and finished on 129 for 8.

Openers Graham Park and Chris Stewart made a solid start in difficult conditions against a decent Scotby attack, the pair added 42 in 14 overs before Stewart fell, clean bowled by Norman for 18. Professional No 3 batsman Tony Steele joined Park and these pair put on 29 before Steele on 7 smashed a full toss of Irtan straight to Cowan who took a great catch. Nicky P was the next to go as he launched leg spinner Heron into outer space unfortunately Cowan again took the catch. An Irtan slower ball saw the end of Park for 46 which left Langholm in a bit of trouble at 81 for 4. John Bell joined Corey Park, and this pair added 30 for the 5th wicket before Bell fell, bowled by Cowan for 10. This brought Dave Steele to the crease with just under 6 overs left. Park and Steele upped the run rate, and the score



Langholm are joint top of Eden Valley Division 2 alongside Patterdale on 87 points

reached 151 before Steele was run out of the last bowl of the innings for 19, Corey Park finished on 30. Looking at the wicket at the start of play Langholm would have taken 151 but it did play a lot better than it looked.

Trouble

Scotby were soon in trouble as they lost their first wicket with only 5 on the board, a short Dave Steele ball was lobbed by Smith to Graham Park in the slips. Unfortunately, Steele had to cut his spell short due to a back injury. This brought Scott Ritchie into the attack, and he struck right away trapping Little LBW for 0 leaving

Scotby on 12 for 2. Heron and Egglestone began the recovery batting solidly against some good Langholm bowling, they had taken the score to 65 in the 26th over when Heron was caught at mid-wicket by Ryan Johnstone off Andrew Paisley for 35, next over the Steele's combined with Dave taking the catch of Tony to get rid of Egglestone for 20, leaving Scotby 67 for 4 after 27 overs. A brief cameo from Anwar with 16 was ended when Scott Ritchie took a catch of Tony Steele with 90 now on the board in the 33rd over.

Scotby were well behind the pump now but kept on swinging, the score had reached 112 when

Tony Steele clean bowled Feddon for 18, then on 113 Dave Steele who had made a miraculous recovery had Waziri caught behind for Bell for 0. The last over brought one final wicket when Steele clean bowled Cowan for 11 with Scotby finishing on 129 for 8. In the bowling for Langholm Tony Steele took 3 for 31, Dave Steele 3 for 21, Ritchie 1 for 17 and Paisley 1 for 33.

Another good victory for Langholm against a decent Scotby side, Langholm are now joint top with Patterdale on 87 points as they have a one-week rest from the league and entertain a touring Australian side next Saturday on the Castleholm.

Hannah, Bella and Evie join D&G U15 squad

Netball



Three Langholm Academy pupils are part of the Dumfries and Galloway 2026/27 under 15 netball squad. Hannah I, Bella P and Evie R. They made the team following a highly competitive trial process with players across the region demonstrating excellent skills, teamwork and commitment. The standard at the trials was very high making selection difficult for the coaching team.

Hannah Imrie (pictured) has been made the captain of the team. Congratulations to the girls and good luck to them in future matches as they represent the region in the coming season.

Double gold again for Aoiffion

Athletics

Aoiffion McVittie Brangan became another two times Scottish Champion on Sunday when she won two gold medals at the Scottish Athletics Relay Championships in Kilmarnock.

Her first gold medal of the day came following heats and finals in the 4x100m relay with Edinburgh Athletics Club. Following a confident performance in the semi-final the Under16 Girls team were comfortable winners in the final to secure the gold medal. In doing so, they set a time of 49.62 seconds that was 0.16 seconds from the Scottish Club Record set in 1993. However, the girls will get another opportunity to break the record in August at the Scottish Youth Development League Final in Grangemouth.

Aoiffion then moved into the Edinburgh Athletics Club U16 Medley Relay team

with new team members that consisted of a 300m, 600m, 200m and 600m race. In a timed heats event, the team from Edinburgh set another fantastic time of 5 minutes and 15 seconds in the 2nd heat, again just short of a national record. However, it was 7 seconds ahead of second place and secured another gold medal for the club.

Aoiffion now has a break from competition for 3 weeks and will return to the track in Belfast on the 18th July where she will compete in the 100m for the Scottish Schools athletics team against England, Ireland and Wales. Then in August she will compete in the Scottish Youth Development League Final in Grangemouth, followed by the Scottish Under 16 Championships in Grangemouth, then the Scottish U18 Championships in Aberdeen and, if they qualify, at the UK Youth Development League Final in Liverpool



FLYING MACHINE: Aoiffion in action (l) and with her 4 x 100m team mates

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