

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY FIRE BRIGADE



LANGHOLM FIRE STATION Official opening

by Mr Denis R. Male

Dumfries and Galloway Council member for Langholm and Upper Eskdale

Friday, 11th October, 1996,
1300 hours

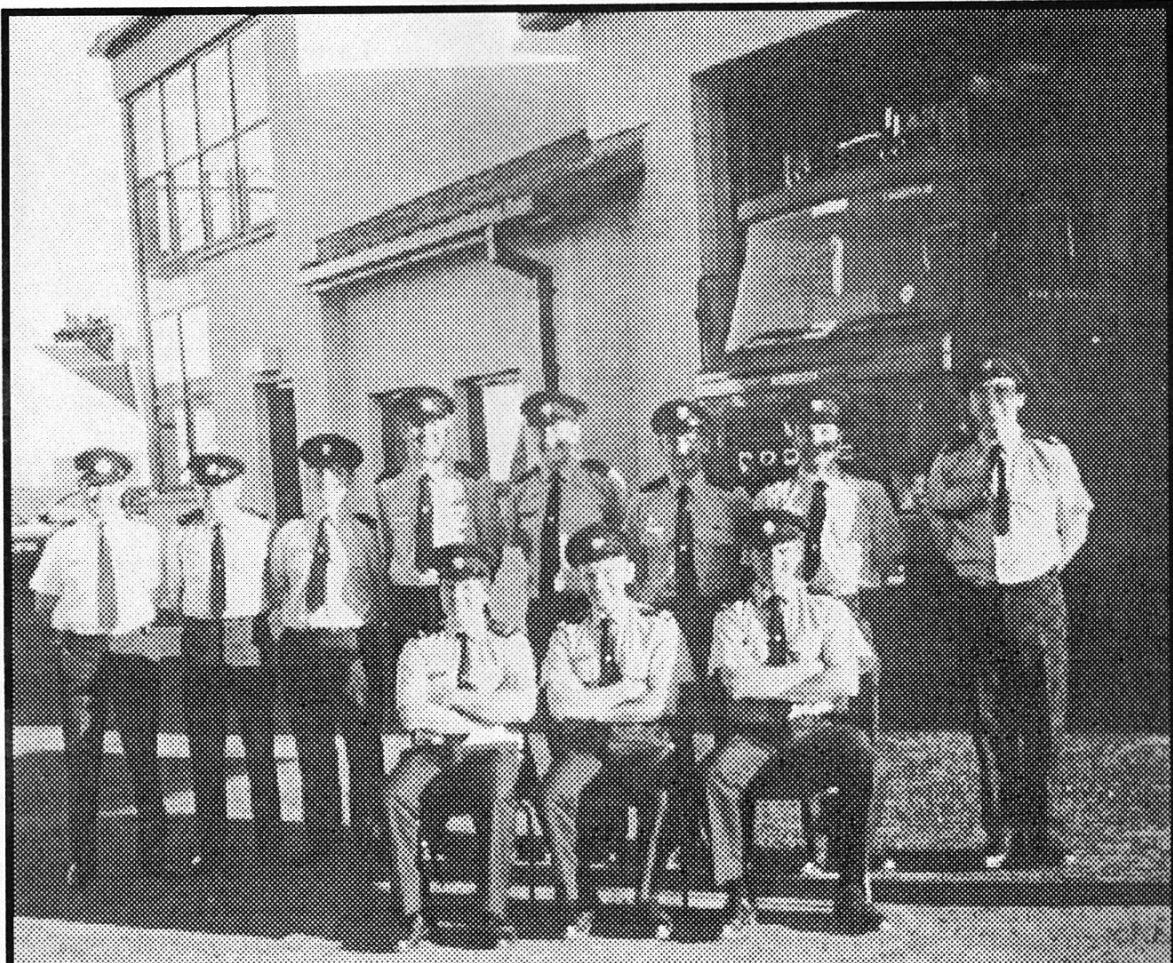
Programme of events

- 1300-1315 hours: Guests arrival
- 1315 hours: Mr K. Cameron, Chairman,
Police, Fire and Public
Protection Committee—welcome
- 1325 hours: Mr D. Male, Council member
for Langholm and Upper
Eskdale will be invited to
speak and to unveil the
commemorative plaque.
- 1335 hours: Mr J. Reid will unveil a plaque
for serving personnel.
- 1340 hours: Firemaster A. Russell's word
of thanks.
- 1345 hours: Buffet luncheon in Appliance
Room.

**Guests are invited to tour and inspect the
station guided by Brigade personnel.**



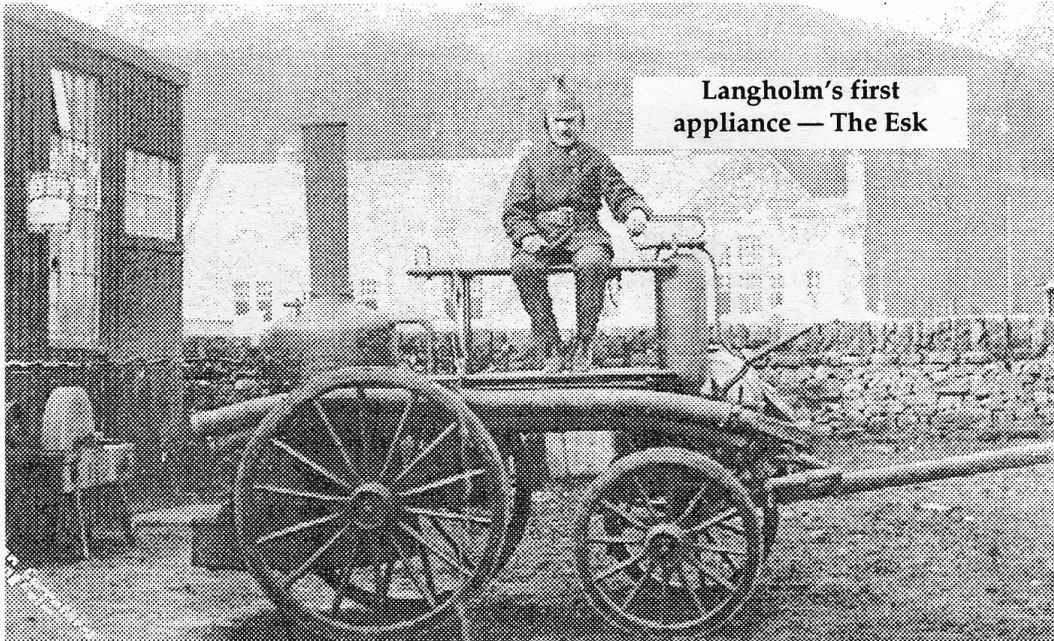
Langholm's new Fire Station — opened Friday, 11th October, 1996



Langholm Fire Station 1996

The Retained Personnel with Assistant Divisional Officer Ian Anderson (back left) on the move into the new Langholm Fire Station in July, 1996

Back (from left) — Firefighters Jim Jackson, Steven Twedde, Denis Barker, Sandy Gill, Stuart Smith, Ally Bell, Leading Firefighter Brent Thomlinson,
Front — Colin Barnfather, Sub Officer Mick Ryan and Roddy Innes.



On 21st March, 1871 the ringing of the Town Hall bell gave the alarm to the sleeping townsfolk that fire had broken out in the town.

It was the Rosevale Mill at the bottom of Laird's Entry which was totally destroyed.

The E&L Advertiser of that week reported: "The devastating fire, which totally destroyed a large three-storied woollen mill, was the means of rousing the inhabitants of Langholm to realise the imperative need of a fire engine."

Within two weeks an advertisement appeared in the E&L calling a public meeting of the inhabitants of the town "for the purpose of considering the question and, if resolved, adopting measures for providing a fire engine."

The meeting in the Town Hall was well attended and it was unanimously decided to purchase a fire-engine and a committee for this purpose was duly appointed.

On 5th July, 1871 the first steam fire engine arrived in Langholm and in the evening a huge bonfire which had been built on the Kilngreen was lit.

At a signal given by Mr Dobie the furnace

How it all began

was lighted and in about seven minutes the steam was raised. In three minutes the previous raging pile was reduced to a few blackened ashes.

The Esk, as the engine was named, had the distinction of

being the second fire engine in Scotland — a unique position of which the good folks of the Muckle Toon were justly proud.

In 1913 The Esk made its last appearance on the streets of Langholm drawn by a horse as it wended its way to the station.

The very first station was only a hundred yards from the new station, although later the town's engine was to be housed at Gas Entry and later at the Co-operative premises, where Farmcare now stands.

On 15th May, 1956 the Fire Authority purchased the site in Albert Place which was being used as an engineers' workshop and had previously been a tannery.

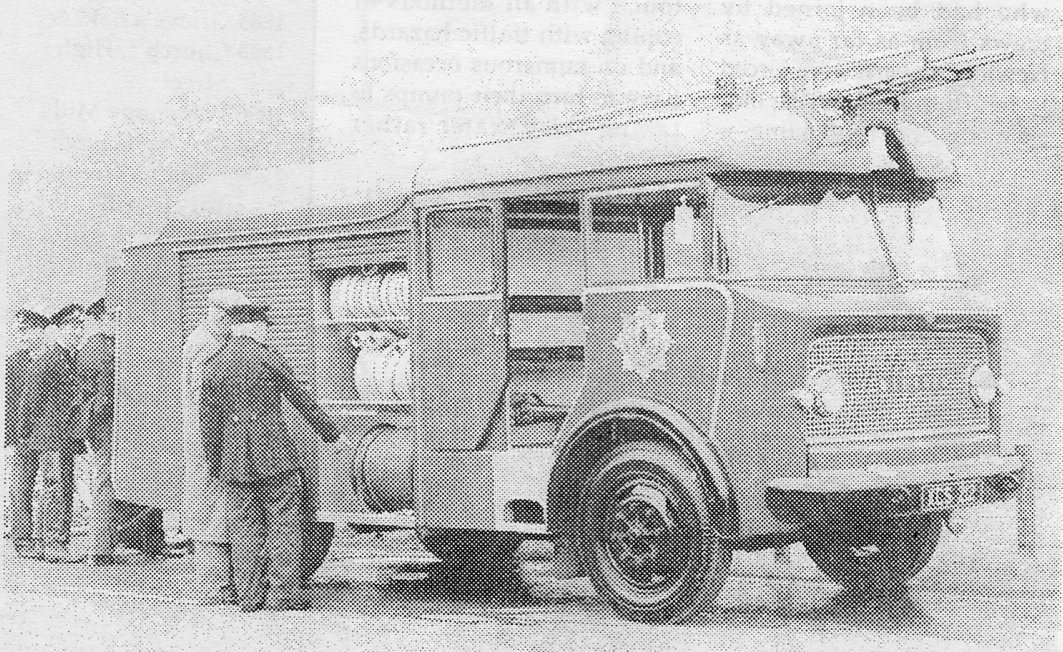
Over the last 40 years there have been numerous alterations to accommodate the different types of appliances required to move with the times.

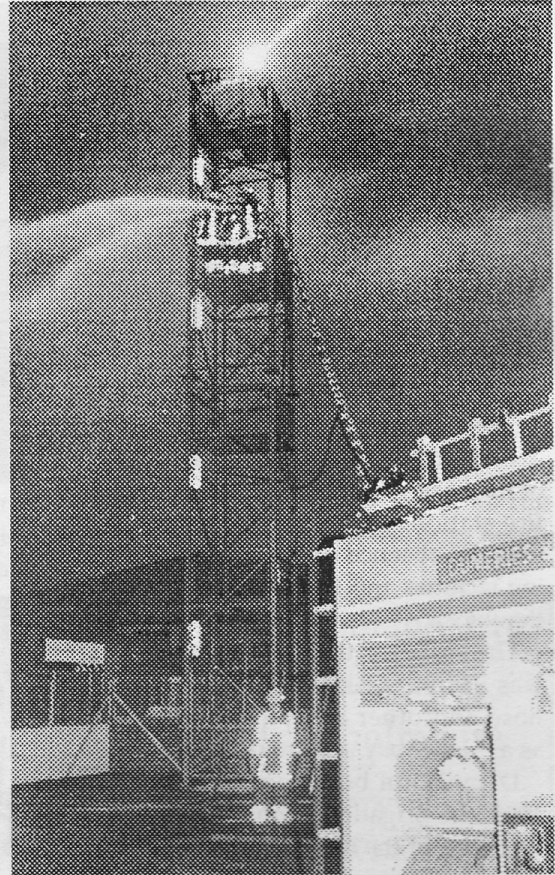
Until finally the building could take no more adaptations and was last year demolished in preparation for the new station.



Above — Langholm's retained and auxiliary firefighters in the National Fire Service during the Second World War. From left — (back) Dan Johnstone, Inglis Murray, Tommy Little, John Little, Jock Reid and Murray Hyslop; (front) John Jeffrey, Pat Friell, James Simmons, Matt Armstrong, Davie Elliot.

Below — Passer-by Watt Milligan takes time out at Bessie Bells to have a closer look at the new pump drill with water tender issued to Langholm in February, 1964. Leading Fireman David Elliot shows him the main points while other personnel at the rear are Auxiliary Jake Reid, and Retained firemen Walter Borthwick and Irving Davidson.





Work has been completed on the new fire station at Langholm at a cost of £320,000 and provides much improved accommodation for the town's retained personnel.

The new station is built to a proven design and standard and provides a single fire appliance bay, muster bay, watchroom, workshop store, drying facility, breathing apparatus room toilet and showering rooms and a lecture room and small kitchen on the first floor.

