

The

Issue 14

WHAT'S ON IN THE VALLEYS | Ettrick and Yarrow news and events | August 2025

Welcome ...to the August edition of The EYE. We aim to keep residents and visitors alike up-to-date with all that is happening in this beautiful area of the Scottish Borders. Don't miss out! We'll keep an eye on diary dates and list them in these pages so you can plan your month ahead.

SOS: Save our swimming pool!

If you enjoy a swim, a sauna, exercise classes or take your children to swimming lessons at the Selkirk Swimming Pool, it's time to make your views known to Scottish

Borders Council! Their consultation on the possible closure of six facilities in Selkirk ends on 31st August. Also under threat are both museums, the library, caravan park and the Argus community Centre.

In Selkirk the community facilities recommended for closure are the Leisure Centre which includes the Swimming Pool and gym, the Caravan Park at the Swimming Pool,



the Library building. Halliwells House Museum, and the Argus Community Centre. These are all owned by the council and managed by Live Borders.

Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom is also on the list for change with suggested options being to move other services like the library into the building (which would require extending) or transfer it to a community group to manage. The consultation asks a few general

> questions and then asks for your opinion on each of the buildings and the options such as closure or transferring them to a community group.



Britain's greatest cycling challenge, the London to Edinburgh and back cycle ride takes place over five days from the 3rd to the 8th August. The 'LEL' takes place every four years and attracts thousands of very fit, hardy cyclists who have trained for the adventure.

There are designated checkpoints (and sleeping points if they choose) along the way as well as 'pop- up cafes' to keep them fuelled at all hours of the day and night.

The Beehive Café at Honey Cottage Caravan Site, Ettrick will be open to riders from 7am on Tuesday 5th August continuously through to 6pm on Wednesday 6th for riders heading back from Edinburgh towards Eskdalemuir.

The Glen Café at St Mary's Loch is also one of the open-all-hours pop-up cafes for the riders and will be open from 10am on Monday 4th to 6pm on Wednesday 6th to cover the Hawick to Moffat section. 2,400 cyclists are registered to start and will be coming through the valleys at any point between those dates.



▲ Cycle of life... Over the next week, watch out for cyclists on this route

Yarrow Blanket Preaching Service

Souls soothed. Senses stirred. Spirits raised.



sizeable congregation gathered at Ast Mary's Kirkyard for last Sunday's Blanket Preaching service led by Rev Kwame Ahaligah. Despite a foreboding weather forecast, the setting beside St Mary's Loch - and the sun-behindcloudy skies - provided a stunning atmosphere enhanced by Selkirk piper Colin Turnbull providing the musical introduction.

Teas were served after the Service in Cappercleuch Hall.







Saturday 2nd MacMillan Car Treasure Hunt (see separate advertising)

Sunday 3rd 1.00pm Opening Ceremony & Highland Games at The Sports Field.

Bring own drinks and snacks. "Ticket Office" for events later in the week.

Monday 4th 10am - 12:00 Kite Making & Flying at The Sports Field*.

5.30pm Boules, BBQ and Brews (BYOB) at The Sports Field. Pre-regist/

a team by 5pm. Burgers/sausages on a roll for sale on the night.

Tuesday 5th 10am - 12.00 Mountain Biking at The Sports Field (children 5 - 12 years*).

6.30pm Curry night at The Village Hall, £8 per person/U12 donation. Eat in (for take-away -

please bring your own dishes). Pre-order required - Contact Barbara by 5.00pm on

SUNDAY 3rd August on 07845 677104 or bckharrison@btinternet.com.

Wednesday 6th 2pm - 4pm Family Nature Activity at the Sports Field, all ages*.

7.30pm for 8pm start Quiz night at the Cross Keys Inn (booking essential -

<u>lindajack57@btintemet.com</u>)£2 per person, max 5 in team, snacks & prizes!

Thursday 7th 2pm - 4pm Posh Teas at The Village Hall. Tables MUST be booked by 12 noon on Tues 5th

and advise on dietary requirements by emailing Fiona (haggis1@Hotmail.com) £8/person

4pm start Croquet at The Sports Field.

Friday 8th 10am - 12.00 Children's Activities at The Sports Field. A morning of arts and crafts*.

7pm - 10:30pm Ceilidh at Village Hall. Bring own drinks and snacks. £5 entry, U16's free.

Where food is available certain dietary requirements can be catered for, e.g. Vegan/meat-free burgers. Please advise contacts above when booking.

Search Facebook for Ettrick Forest Sports and Recreation Club for details

Make the most of...

(A)

2







Ettrick Valley Committee

Saturday 2nd August 2025



CAR TREASURE HUNT

Starting at Selkirk Rugby Club at 4.30pm and finishing at Ettrickbridge Sports Field.

BBQ available at the finish (cash only)

Winner based on lowest mileage and having the correct answers to the clues!





Diary Dates: August 2025



Sat 2

Sat 2

Sat

2

Coffee Morning

Kirkhope Hall, 10-12noon

Monthly coffee morning in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge – a great way to catch up with news in the village.10am to 12 noon

Ettrick Sports Day

Boston Hall, Ettrick, 1.45pm

Annual Ettrick Community Sports Day and Picnic at the Boston Hall and adjacent field. Usual traditional games including pitch and toss, throw the welly, childrens sack race, egg and spoon, three-legged race and adult handicap races as well as shot putt, long jump, high jump and half mile. Ice cream and drinks on sale – bring your own picnic. All welcome. 1.30pm start. Music event at night in the Boston Hall – see poster.

Car Treasure Hunt

Selkirk Rugby Club start, 4.30pm

Car Treasure Hunt in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support starting from the Selkirk Rugby Club at 4.30pm and finishing at the Ettrickbridge Sports Field. £12 per car, see poster for more details.



Sunday Morning Service

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge, 11.30am

Church Services in the valleys move around the three churches. This Sunday the service is at Kirkhope at 11.30am with Rev Kwame Ahaligah.

Brigend Week Opens!

Ettrickbridge Sports Field 1pm start

Brigend Week 'Opening Ceremony' and Highland Games in the Sports Field, Ettrickbridge. 1pm start. This annual funfilled week of events is organised by the Ettrick Forest Sports and Recreation Club who look after the sports field and tennis courts. See details opposite.

James Hogg/Ettrick History Centre

Old Ettrick School, 2-5pm

The seasonal James Hogg and Ettrick History Centre at the old Ettrick School is open to visitors from 2-5pm. Learn about the life and work of James Hogg, 'the Ettrick Shepherd', browse our collection of old Ettrick documents or just watch our resident barn owls and their chicks on the live camera link to the community room. Open every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Sun 3

Sun 3

Sun 3



Mon 4

Mon 4

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge, 10-12 Learn how to make a kite and fly it in the

Boules. BBO

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge 10-12noon.

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge, from 5pm

From 5pm sign up to join a team for the Boules competition, (also known as pétanque) and if your metal ball throwing skills are not on target, just enjoy the BBQ and have a drink while cheering on the winners. Boules, BBQ and Brews in the Sports Field, Ettrickbridge. Competition starts at 5.30pm.

Mon 4

Community Council meeting

Boston Hall, Ettrick, 7pm

The bi-monthly meeting of the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council will be in the Boston Hall, Ettrick at 7pm. A chance to raise issues of concern in the valleys with the council.

Tues 5

Tues 5

Brigend Week: Children's Activities

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge, 10-12

Children's activities in the Sports Field, Ettrickbridge continue with Mountain biking for 5-12 years from 10am-12 noon.

aend Curry Ni

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 6.30pm

The very popular Brigend Week 'Curry Night' follows in the Kirkhope Hall at 6.30pm. Eat in or Take Away but must be pre-ordered by Sunday 3rd with Barbara (see poster on page 2)

Tues 5

Book Club

Yarrow Feus Hall, 7-9pm

The Yarrow Valley Book Club meets in the Yarrow Hall at Yarrow Feus from 7-9pm A welcoming space for book lovers to share thoughts, sip a glass of wine and enjoy some book related discussions.



eed your inner creativity with FREE crafting classes held in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, August-December and run by Bright Arts CIC & Red Button Arts of Peebles. Try out some different craft techniques in an

informal, friendly atmosphere. Absolutely no crafting experience needed, so if it's your first time - you may be in for a pleasant surprise!

Everyone is welcome. You can come to one class or all, depending on spaces. To book: call/text Mandy on 07958 158181. Monthly on Mondays from 7pm-8.30pm: 11th August, 1st September, 13th October, 3rd November and 15th December.





Midsummer madness comes to Bowhill

bit of midsummer madness and confusion is promised in Borders Youth Theatre's new, exciting production of William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Will the various lovers find the correct partner? Will Puck manage to deliver the correct potion to the correct people? Will Bottom and his friends manage to perform their play? Will everyone live happily ever after? We're sure audiences will.

BYT is well known for its imaginative and entertaining productions. Around 25 young people will be spending two weeks of their holiday rehearsing and preparing for the show. John Haswell, one of the founders of

BYT. returns to direct, assisted by regular Oli Bisset.

borders

The wonderful setting will be the exterior of the House and Grounds at Bowhill Estate. This will be an open-air performance so audiences should come prepared for Scottish weather. Action takes place in two locations with a short accessible walk between. Audience members might wish to bring a folding seat or blanket. Tickets can be booked at www.buytickets. at/bordersyouththeatre

This production is supported by the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust and the Weir Charitable Foundation.





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BOOK TICKETS AT HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/BORDERSYOUTHTHEATRE

Caught on camera!

Ettrick and Yarrow
CDC Project Manager
Vicky Davidson this week
reported another exciting
development taking place
at the Old Primary School,
Ettrick. "We have a pair of
barn owls on our live camera
box up at the old school
– three chicks and four
eggs still to hatch as of last
Wednesday!"

She managed to take a screen shot of the live video camera recording the event, which, though blurred, clearly shows the hatchlings and the remaining eggs.

Planning ahead

The new Barn Owls are a reminder that our valleys hold great wonders throughout the year





which deserve to be recorded! The Friends of Yarrow group this week launched an appeal for help with next year's calendar fund raiser for Yarrow Hall:

"We're putting together the Yarrow Hall 2026 Calendar and we need YOUR help! If you've captured the beauty of the Yarrow Valley – wildlife, landscapes, seasons, or special moments – we'd

love to feature your photos."

So! The challenge is on! Seek out your photos of 2025 so far and send them in to the calendar compilers – and keep recording the seasons in the months ahead. Then email your images (high-quality please) to calendar@yarrowhall.com

◀ A rainbow at Tinnis Farm, Yarrow ⓒ Walter Baxter



Diary Dates: August 2025



Craft Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge 10.30am

The Ettrickbridge based Craft group meet at 10am on the first Wednesday of every month in Kirkhope Hall and if you prefer just to chat, the regular...

Coffee Morning

...is in the comfortable and convivial Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge every Wednesday, 10.30am-12 noon.

Brigend Week Family Day

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge from 2pm

Brigend week continues with a Family Nature Activity in the Sports Field for all ages from 2-4pm. Then Wednesday evening sees the very popular...

Pub Quiz

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge, 7.30pm Maximum 5 in a team, £2 per person. 7.30 for 8pm start. Booking essential with Linda on lindajack57@btinternet.com

1st Wednesday Club

Yarrow Feus Hall, 2.30pm

The 'First Wednesday Club' meets in the Yarrow Feus Hall at 2.30pm. A friendly monthly meet up for valley residents-everyone welcome for a cuppa and a natter.

Yoga in Yarrow

Yarrow Feus Hall, 6.30-7.30pm

Relax and stretch with popular yoga leader, Andrea Beavon from Eildon Yoga in the Yarrow Hall. Wednesday 6th and 20th August and 3rd Sept from 6.30-7.30pm. Must be booked in advance. Email andreabeavon@hotmail.com

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30-6.30pm

Table tennis sessions in Yarrowford Hall 5.30 – 6.30pm every Wednesday.

Brigend 'Posh' Teas

Kirkhope Hall, 2-4pm

Time to dress up for Posh Teas in Kirkhope Hall from 2-4pm followed by optional croquet in the Sports Field from 4pm. Teas must be booked in advance with Fiona at

haggis1@hotmail.com by lunchtime on Tuesday 5th. Cost £8 per person.





Wed 6

Wed 6

Wed 6

Wed 6

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Fri 8

Brigend Arts & Crafts

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge, 10-12 Children's activities in the Sports Field, Ettrickbridge from 10am to 12 noon with a morning of arts and crafts.

Fri 8

Brigend Week Ceilidh

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 7pm
Round off Brigend Week at night with a traditional ceilidh with a twist – fantastic local musicians, good dancing, bring your own drinks and snacks. All ages welcome £5 entry with under 16s free. Kirkhope Hall

Fri 8

Hogg and History Centre

Old Ettrick School, 2-5pm

from 7pm – 10.30pm.

The James Hogg and Local History Centre is open at the old Ettrick Primary School, TD7 5JA. Learn about the life and work of the celebrated writer known as 'The Ettrick Shepherd' with knowledgeable local volunteers. 2-5pm every Friday, Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Entry by donation

Sun 10

Sunday Morning Service

Yarrow Kirk, 11.30am

Church service today is at the lovely Yarrow Kirk at 11.30am. Services are led by the Selkirk and valleys minister, Rev. Kwame Ahaligah.

Sun 10

Community Clean-up

Yarrow Hall, 10am-4pm

Yarrow Hall Community Tidy Up. 10am-4pm. Come and help the hall committee tidy up the ground around the hall. Whether you can spare 10 minutes or an hour, all help appreciated.

All Help Appreciated!

Sun 10

Hogg and History Centre

Old Ettrick School, 2-5pm

The James Hogg and Local History Centre is open at the old Ettrick School, 2-5pm.

Wed 13

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30-6.30pm Yarrowford Hall - Table Tennis session

Sun 17

Morning Service

Ettrick Kirk, 11am

The Church service today is at the historic Ettrick Kirk at 11am led by Rev. Kwame Ahaligah. Tea and coffee served afterwards.

Indigo Collective exhibition

Running throughout August in the Courtyard Galllery, Bowhill is an exhibition of the works of no less than ten contemporary professional artists working in a wide variety of media and displaying a fascinating array of skills and subject matter.

All have achieved varying levels of success in their fields and hope that their work will inspire, provoke and delight visitors in equal measure throughout the exhibition's run.

Entry to the exhibition (open between 10am and 5pm) is included with Grounds Entry and there will be various artist-led workshops running throughout August. Details of these can be found on www.bowhillhouse. co.uk/event/indigo-collective





Clockwise from top: The Courtyard Gallery; sculpture by Frippy Jameson; painting by Christine Clark; Landscape by Gary Anderson





ROAD CLOSED

ROAD CLOSURE: The C15 road east of Hartwoodburn will be closed for one day on Tuesday 12th August from 9.30am to 3.30pm for BT works.



The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 11th & Monday 25th August** at the following locations and times:

Service

LOCATIONSTOPTIMESBroadmeadowsBridge13.40-13.55YarrowfordYarrowford14.00-14.10

The library bus will also be visiting the **Ettrick Valley** on **Thursday 7th**, **and 21st August** at the following locations and times:



at the following locations and times.		DONDE
LOCATION	STOP	TIMES
Ettrick	Roweburn	12.30-12.35
Ettrick	Newhope	12.40-12.55
Ettrick	Boston Hall	13.05-13.30
Ettrick	Honey Cottage	14.10-14.30
Ettrick	Tushielaw	14.35-14.50
Ettrick	Crosslee Steading	15.00-15.10
Ettrickbridge	Woodend Rd	15.20-15.50

Seems like just yesterday...

Ten years ago this month on a gloriously warm and sunny Sunday a new circular walking route around St Mary's Loch – 'The Ring o' the Loch' – was launched. The walk – created to provide a safe off-road route around the spectacular St Mary's Loch – was officially opened by Michael Strang Steel, with the help of Kayleigh McKinlay who cut the ribbon (photo, left). Proceeds on the day went to Yarrow Primary School and Cappercleuch Hall committee provided refreshments to the thirsty walkers.

Almost to the day, this year, on the afternoon of 24th August, an Anniversary 'Ring o' the Loch' walk will be

held, with the funds raised this time going to the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team. The Cappercleuch Hall will once again receive thirsty walkers - and lets hope the weather is equally as beautiful as for the 2015 event.

Full details in Diary Dates on page 8.

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP KIRKHOPE MILL, ETTRICKBRIDGE, SELKIRK TD7 5HW SATURDAY 23 AUGUST 2025 10 am-4pm

Run by artist and educator Deirdre Nicholls



A one-day workshop for both beginners and those wishing to refresh their skills. Come and learn some good watercolour skills and techniques to build your confidence.

You will need to bring your own equipment, and a list is available. The cost is £45 for the day. To book, please email deirdrenicholis@me.com and I will send you a link for payment by card plus a list of equipment with some advice about selecting the appropriate materials.

The venue is fully accessible, and a kettle is available but there is no café. You will need to bring your own beverages and lunch.

BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR PLACE: (MAX 10 STUDENTS)



Emergency First Aid at Work course in Kirkhope Mill, Ettrickbridge. This course is subsidised by the community council and arranged by the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company. The trainer will be Iain Riddell and the cost is £20. Tuesday September 9th 10am start, finish at 4.30pm. Please bring your

own lunch. Tea and

12 places. Please

message vicky@

org.uk to book.

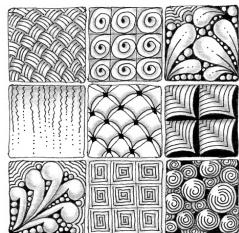
ettrickandyarrow.

coffee available. Only



Kirkhope Art Group

This month we're going to be learning the art of zentangle (see below), as it's one of the categories in the Yarrow & Ettrick Show this year. All abilities welcome. Materials can be provided if you need them. For more info email iris@happyhedgerow.co.uk





Yarrow Feus Hall, 3-5pm

Community BBQ at Yarrow Hall. A relaxed afternoon with good food, good company and good cheer! Doors open 2pm, food served from 3-5pm. Bar available.

Diary Dates:

August 2025

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge 2pm

Kirkhope Flower Show in the Kirkhope Hall.

Community

Flower Show

Community

Stitchers: so sew!

Bee Hive Café, 2-4pm

The Stitchers – Ettrick's sociable sewing bee - is meeting for the summer months in the Bee Hive café at Honey Cottage Caravan Park. No stitching, just chat! 2-4pm. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month.



Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 10-12



19

Tues



Diary Dates: August 2025

Wed 20

Wed 20

Fri

22

Sat 23

Sat 23

24 Sun 24

Back to School!

School bags packed, gym kit looked out, dinner money sorted -the holidays have gone too quickly and its back to school day!

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30-6.30pm

avgroup Fun

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 9.30-11.30

The Playgroup for both valleys restarts in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 9.30-11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. Always a craft activity and lots of toys. All welcome (adult carer stays for the session so a good chance to get to know others over a friendly cuppa)

Watercolour Workshop

Kirkhope Mill, Ettrickbridge, 10am-4pm

Brush up your watercolour skills or find a new creative hobby with this Watercolour Workshop led by Deirdre Nicholls at Kirkhope Mill, Ettrickbridge, 10am to 4pm. This is a taught workshop for maximum 10 participants - £45. email deirdrenicholls@ me.com for more details. Also see poster.

Live Music Session

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge, 7.30pm

Funky music in the Cross Keys, Ettrickbridge with Ian Lowthian's Accordian Weekend Pub Session – fantastic musicians and always packed so arrive early!



Yarrowford Hall, 2pm

Summer Flower and Produce Show, with Afternoon Tea served from 2.00 pm. Cost £4.00 per person. The excellent bakers in Yarrowford make this a special treat!

Walk the 'Ring': 10th year!

Start: Field opposite Tibbie Shiels, 1pm

Finish: Cappercleuch Hall

ome and walk the Ring of the Loch and help to raise funds for the Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team. It's 10 years since this circular path was created to provide a safe off-road route around the spectacular St Mary's Loch. Hosted by the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company, the walk will start in the field opposite Tibbie Shiels, courtesy of Tommy Hepburn, Farmer. The walk finishes at the Cappercleuch Hall for teas, and lifts back

to the cars. All donations to the Mountain Rescue volunteer team who do so much to keep people safe in the valley

hills. Teas available from 2pm for non walkers. (Start time around 1pm; walk takes approx. 3 hours.)



Kirkhope Parish Hall Ettrickbridge

Saturday 20th September 2025

from 7.30pm

Entry by Donation (suggested £2.00 per person / Under-12's Free

BAR

RAFFLE

Fancy Dress optional! 😊

Grab your dancing shoes and boogie the night away!

Contact: <u>KirkhopeParishHall@outlook.com</u> or DM via our facebook p



Saturday 13th September Carterhaugh, Bowhill

All entries to Mrs Christine Gray, Sunnycroft, Lindean Tel. 07960 426608 or cgrayettrick@ gmail.com. Schedules and entry forms from Christine or on the website. yarrowshow.com Entries close on Friday 29th August - late entries will be charged double and will not appear in the programme.

Please Note: News items /photographs /adverts for the next newsletter should be sent in by 25th August, 2025. email: vicky@ ettrickandyarrow.org.uk or phone/text 07846 505630.



- Beehive Shop and Café at the Honey Cottage Caravan Park Summer opening times everyday from 10am to 2pm midweek and 2.30pm at weekends.
- The Glen Café at St Mary's Loch Open 6 days (Closed Tuesday) 10am to 6pm. Hot Food until 4pm.
- Always a fun day with lots to do at the Roberton **Show on Saturday** 6th September from 10.30am in the Snoot Field, Roberton TD9 7LZ. Archery, dog agility, crafts, fun competitions, tea tent and sheep judging. Admission £4 adults, children free.

Morning Service

Kirkhope Church, 11.30am

The service today is led by Rev. Kwame Ahaligah.

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30-6.30pm

Playgroup Fun

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 9.30-11.30 Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. Always a craft

activity and lots of toys.



Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge, 7.30pm Get those toes tapping – live music session in the Cross Keys, Ettrickbridge

Morning Service

Selkirk Parish Church, 11am

United church service with Selkirk and Ashkirk in the Selkirk Parish Church at 11am.



Sun

Sun

24

Wed

27

Fri

29

Sat

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