



Welcome ...to the January 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.

Another National Award for Ettrickbridge!

We are delighted to announce EYCDC's Kirkhope Steading development has won the 'Housing and Regeneration' award at the 2024 SURF awards ceremony held last month.

The awards are delivered each year by SURF, a regeneration forum with over 300 cross-sector member organisations across Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Government. The purpose is to highlight, celebrate and share the achievements of initiatives that address physical, social and economic challenges in communities across Scotland, which is particularly prevalent given the current financial climate.

SURF's panel of 15 independent judges are drawn from national regeneration bodies and community groups. They carefully assessed all of the varied SURF Awards nominations in five thematic categories, visiting 15 different shortlisted initiatives from the Scottish Borders to Orkney, before selecting the following category winners.

Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company (EYCDC) used the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the farm buildings and carry out some feasibility work. EYCDC built five houses for rent, consisting of three 3-bed houses and two 2-bed homes, all A rated for energy efficiency. The team also converted one side of the stone steading into a business unit with four workshop spaces downstairs and

three office spaces upstairs, one of which can be used for conferences or co-working.

The project delivers a direct economic and social benefit for the area. The build period created or sustained 11 jobs for over a year, partially during difficult Covid restrictions. The wider economic benefit to the community comes from nine new tenants working locally. The social benefit comes from families now having children in the local playgroup and primary school, helping to sustain both. One tenant has restarted the local indoor bowling club in Ettrickbridge.

Three of the work spaces are rented by local valley residents who can now work closer to home, including an excellent weaver, Carole Gascoigne, who runs workshops, further attracting more people to the valley. The business hub, now named Kirkhope Mill, is reducing rural isolation and adding networking opportunities. The Mill has already hosted several conferences and

learning visits from other groups. The provision of workspace and affordable living space has had a positive impact on the demographics of the valleys, making it possible for young people to have a future in their own community, helping to sustain the community long-term.

The judges were very impressed by this cohesive and sensitive rural development which had been driven from the outset by an established and urgent demand for affordable, energy efficient housing in the local area. The judges noted that the viability of the development had been supported by the integration of much-needed workspaces and were delighted to hear how much this quality project had transformed lives, including during discussion with residents and those occupying workspaces.



Pictured above is Vicky Davidson, EYCDC Project Manager along with EYCDC Directors Lynne Hume and Marjory Hutton being presented with the award and personally congratulated on their inspiring work by the Scottish Government's Minister for Employment and Investment, Tom Arthur.



2024. A year to celebrate many achievements in the valleys!

Simply having a wonderful Christmas time....

FESTIVE FUN...



Kirkhope Crafters



Yarrow Crafters



Come buy! - Fund-raising at Kirkhope Crafternoon.



The Fleece Force

The Valleys school staff are an inventive lot! On the run up to the Christmas holidays both Ettrick and Yarrow Primaries made school attendance a whole lot more fun! Christmas 'Crafternoon' sessions for pupils, teachers, parents and staff were held at both schools with the aim of making items to sell and raise money for school trips and events in the coming year. Fun-raising as well as fund-raising!

...And then there were the Christmas Concerts. Pictured above is 'The Fleece Force' in mid-show at Yarrowfues Hall. No less than 23 children from P1-7 took part and delivered not one but two cracking performances, lines and singing top-notch. Kirkhope School teacher Jenny Kiernan, who was in the audience remarked afterwards, "What an outstanding performance! The children were phenomenal, a super show! Well done everyone!"



Yarrow Christmas term was rounded off with the Crafting morning to which parents were invited and offered some festive shortbread made by the pupils.



Kirkhope Christmas Sweater Day



...and Santa came too! Kirkhope Primary and Early Learning Centre pupils welcomed Santa to their Christmas party



Yarrow youngsters get ready to party!



Diary Dates: January 2024



*Sing we joyous, all together,
Headless of the wind and weather...*

The Safety in Numbers singing group bring their talents to the Christmas Eve Service in Kirkhope Church – The well-attended family evening featured Christmas Lessons, carols, candles and mulled wine – a perfect meditation for the following day's celebrations.



Wednesday 1st January **SOCIAL EVENING** at Yarrowford Village Hall doors open from 7.00 pm.

Bring your own food, drinks and entertainment



Main Street, Ettrickbridge • 01750 52224
hello@crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com
www.crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com

HOGMANAY WHAT'S ON

HOGMANAY HOOLIE!!!

1 Food all day from 12pm

3 New Year Kids Quiz 3pm

6 - 16 Closed

17 Reopen for 2025 & new menu

Social Evening

1st

Yarrowford Hall
Start the year with a get-together with friends! Social evening at Yarrowford Village Hall, doors open from 7.00 pm. Bring your own food, drinks and entertainment. The more, the merrier!

New Year Kids Quiz

3rd

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge,
Get the brain cells revved up for the new year with this trivia quiz open to all 5-15 year olds in the Cross Keys Inn, 3-4.30pm. Come along as a team, or join others on arrival. Up to five quizzers per team. Half-time hotdogs!

Coffee Morning

4th

Kirkhope Hall
Monthly Coffee Morning at Kirkhope Hall on Saturday 4th January (10.00am-12.00pm).

Sunday Morning Service

5th

Yarrow Kirk , 11.30am
Teas & coffee beforehand. Services are led by Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah.

The Stitchers

7th

Boston Hall, Ettrick
Ettrick's sociable sewing bee runs from 2-4pm in the Boston Hall. Beginners welcome, instruction will be given or bring along whatever project you are currently working on. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month.

CROSS KEYS INN • ETTRICKBRIDGE

NEW YEAR KIDS QUIZ

FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

3-4.30PM

HALF-TIME HOTDOGS

OPEN TO ALL 5 TO 15 YEAR OLDS
UP TO 5 QUIZZERS PER TEAM
COME ALONG AS A TEAM OR JOIN OTHERS ON THE NIGHT



Diary Dates: January 2025

7th

New Age Kurling

Yarrowford Hall, 2pm-4pm

New Age Kurling in is held on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Suitable for all ages / abilities and can be played seated or standing. The cost is £3 per person and includes refreshments.

8th

Craft Group

Kirkhope Hall, 10am start
Ettrickbridge based Craft group.

8th

Ettrickbridge WRI

Kirkhope Hall, 10am start

Ettrickbridge Woman's Rural meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge. (September to May) Visitors, plus new and returning members always welcome.

8th

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm

Table Tennis session, all welcome.

9th

Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch, 2-4pm

9th

Guys' Get-together

Yarrowford Hall

Informal weekly club for men of all ages to drop in for a chat, game of cards, dominoes or darts. It takes place each Thursday from 2.30pm. The cost is £3.00 per session and includes refreshments.



9th

Singing Group

Yarrow Feus Hall, 7-8.30pm

The Safety in Numbers singing group recommences for 2025 this Thursday. The weekly sessions led by Hilary Bell cost £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.

9th

Indoor Bowling

Boston Hall, Ettrick, from 7.30pm

Bowling every Thursday. All welcome, no experience necessary as plenty of experienced bowlers will get you started.

10th

Playgroup Fun

Kirkhope Village Hall, Ettrickbridge
Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup meets every Friday morning at Kirkhope village hall from 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. Always a craft activity, lots of toys and an experienced play leader.

The BeeHive Café



...and Shop stocks all your essentials but is now onto winter opening hours... the shop and cafe is closed every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Open as usual 10am till 2pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You'll find it in upper Ettrick at the entrance to the Honey Cottage Caravan Park.

Festive feast!

Thanks go out to everyone who attended the Christmas dinner on Friday 20th December. The event was a huge success, raising over £140 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The wonderful festive atmosphere was noted by diner Claire Stewart who shared her appreciation on social media afterwards. "I have never had such a lovely meal in any eating establishment ever!



The company was great and you could certainly feel the spirit of Christmas."

The organisers wish all customers a happy and healthy New Year. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Opening hours for the New Year are as follows; Mon 30th closed, Tuesday 31st 10 till 12, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd closed. We will also be closed on the 9th due to electrical maintenance in the Ettrick Valley – sorry for the inconvenience.

Handy calendar: January 2025

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 13th & Monday 27th January** at the following locations and times:

LOCATION	STOP	TIMES
Broadmeadows	Bridge	13.40-13.55
Yarrowford	Yarrowford	14.00-14.10

The library bus will also be visiting the **Ettrick Valley on Thursday 9th and Thursday 23rd January** at the following locations and times:



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
Ettrickbridge	Woodend Rd	15.10-15.40

Mobile Library Service



Blast your way into 2025!



Get Dirty this month!

Dirty Events is excited to announce the return of the Bowhill Duathlon Series. These are three low-key, back-to-basics off-road Duathlons based in the Scottish Borders. What better way to motivate your training over the dark winter months, test your progress, or simply have some good old muddy, wet, and 'dirty' fun!

The first of the three events – the Short Course – postponed from the first week of December, will now take place on April 26th, but the second event – the Medium Course – takes place this month on the 11th and the final course - Long - will go ahead on March 15th. The medium course is expected to take contestants around 1 hour+ to complete.

These relaxed events are open to all and the format is usually Mountain Bike followed by Trail Run, sometimes the other way round or possibly Run-Bike-Run. What the races always are though is muddy, a bit hilly and a lot of fun. They're very newcomer friendly and relaxed, but can also offer a stiff challenge if you're wanting to try and go quick. We welcome newbies to internationalists, triathletes,

runners, bikers, and people who just like to do 'stuff'. Come and have a go.

This event is entirely off-road, so you will need an off road bike and trail shoes. The route gives great views of the Bowhill Estate taking in the labyrinth of paths and trails. It's a mixture of hard packed paths and muddy trails with challenging climbs and exhilarating descents.

Prizes will be awarded in the Female and Open Categories for the following:

- Overall Series Winner
- Senior (up to Age 39)
- Veteran (Age 40-49)
- Super Veteran (Age 50-59)
- Vintage (60+)

Entry info and further details at: www.durtyevents.com/our-events/bowhill-duathlon-medium-course.

Diary Dates: January 2025



Bowhill Duathlon Medium course

Bowhill Estate, 12noon start

Dirty Events is excited to announce the return of the Bowhill Duathlon Series. These are three low-key, back-to-basics off-road Duathlons based in the Scottish Borders. Run and cycle around the picturesque Bowhill Estate in the Scottish Borders. What better way to motivate your training over the dark winter months, test your progress, or simply have some good old muddy, wet, and dirty fun! ENTER NOW at www.durtyevents.com/our-events/bowhill-duathlon-medium-course. Further races will be held in March and April.

Sunday Morning Service

Kirkhope Church Ettrickbridge

Morning Service in Kirkhope Church at 11.30am. Teas and coffee beforehand.

Ettrick WRI

Boston Hall

Ettrick Woman's Rural meets at 7.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Boston Hall. Visitors, plus new and returning members always welcome.

Yarrowford WRI

Yarrowford Hall

Yarrowford Woman's Rural meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30. Visitors, plus new and returning members always welcome.

Art Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group recommences today, 10am to 12noon. The topic for this month is still to be confirmed. All abilities welcome. We can provide materials if you need them. Email iris@happyhedgerow.co.uk for more information.

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm

Indoor Bowling

Boston Hall, Ettrick, from 7.30pm

All welcome, no experience necessary.

Guys' Get-together

Yarrowford Hall, from 2.30pm

Informal weekly club for men to drop in for a chat, game of cards, dominoes or darts. £3.00 incl. refreshments

11th

12th

14th

14th

15th

15th

16th

16th



A classic 17th Century Coaching Inn offering traditional pub food, real ales and B&B accommodation.

Main Street, Ettrickbridge • 01750 52224
hello@crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com
www.crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS	
HOGMANAY	12PM - 1AM
NEW YEARS DAY	12PM - MIDNIGHT
THURSDAY 2ND	4PM - 11PM
FRIDAY 3RD	12PM - 11PM
SATURDAY 4TH	12PM - 11PM
SUNDAY 5TH	12PM - 11PM



Diary Dates: January 2025

16th

Singing Group

Yarrow Feus Hall

The Safety in Numbers singing group meets every Thursday 7.00 - 8.30 in Yarrow Feus Hall. The weekly sessions led by Hilary Bell cost £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.

16th

Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch, 2-4pm

17th

Playgroup Fun

Kirkhope Hall, 9.30-11.30.

Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. Always a craft activity, lots of toys and an experienced play leader. All welcome (adult carer stays for the session so a good chance to get to know others over a friendly cuppa)

19th

Morning Service

Yarrow Kirk, 11.30am

Morning service led by Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah. Teas and coffee beforehand.

21st

The Stitchers

Boston Hall, Ettrick

Ettrick's sociable sewing bee runs from 2-4pm in the Boston Hall. Beginners welcome, instruction will be given or bring along whatever project you are currently working on. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month.

21st

New Age Kurling

Yarrowford Hall, 2pm-4pm

New Age Kurling in is held on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Suitable for all ages / abilities and can be played seated or standing. The cost is £3 per person and includes refreshments.

24th

Playgroup Fun

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup meets every Friday morning at Kirkhope village hall from 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. Always

a craft activity, lots of toys and an experienced play leader. All welcome.

E & Y Playgroup's Christmas 'Messy Play' day



Little tots, large adventures at Bowhill

Friday 10 Jan - Friday 21 Mar

Connect your tot to nature and enjoy some fun time in the recently refurbished soft play at Bowhill!

Over the next few months, two five-week blocks of fun and discovery are waiting for your little ones at Bowhill. Join the Ranger for short 45 minute activities discovering the wild side of the Estate grounds, followed by a 45 minute session of fun in the Courtyard Soft Play.

The new Friday morning sessions offer the perfect blend of education and entertainment for pre-school kids, ensuring fun and learning go hand in hand. Plus, with coffee and treats on offer, and the chance to catch up with other parents, its a win-win for kids and adults!

Example Mini Ranger Activities

- Muddy Tracks
- Nature Watch
- Bug Hunt
- Creative Collages
- Clay Animals



Important Information

Ranger activities will be predominantly outdoors, so please ensure suitable clothing and footwear is worn by participants. Light refreshments will be available to purchase from the Old Horse Box, set up in the Courtyard

DATES & TIMES

Friday Mornings, 9:30am – 11:00am

Two blocks, in 5-week sessions:
10th January – 7th February
21st February – 21st March
(booking available soon)

Per five-week block = £30 per child.



Booking details and more information at:
www.bowhillhouse.co.uk/event/mini-rangers-nature-and-play/



Diary Dates: January 2025

24th

Not Another Burns Supper...

Yarrowfues Hall, 7.30pm

Not Another Burns Supper with IDEOMS Theatre Company's alternative take on Burns. A rollicking night full of Haggis, Songs and Poems with NO SPEECHES! Tickets: 07780 682931 or yarrowfeushall@gmail.com

26th

Morning Service

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge,

Morning service at 11.30am led by Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah. Teas and coffee beforehand.

31st

Playgroup Fun

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup meets every Friday morning at Kirkhope village hall from 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years.



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

Selkirk Silver Band: gold star performance



One of Selkirk Silver Band's first outings during their festive schedule was to Kirkhope Hall for the Ettrickbridge Christmas Concert, a 'favourite gig' according to their Facebook page. A clear favourite with locals too – the capacity audience was warmly brought into the spirit of Christmas as a repertoire of seasonal melodies were expertly performed. The band even involved the spectators - to great amusement - when they coached them through the 'oompah band' moves of the German favourite 'Schneewaltzer'. Such audience participation left everyone - band members included - with smiles on their faces! Final word? "A great night. Such a brilliant way to start the Christmas festivities!" – Barbara Harrison.



2025 Yarrow Hall Calendar

If you haven't yet got around to obtaining a 2025 calendar, the Yarrow Hall version featuring local views and wildlife is still available to buy. All profits are returned to our rural Scottish community hall.

Please help us support the hall, go ahead, spoil yourself and support our community by buying a copy now. Calendars are priced at £8 and available from The Waterwheel Cafe at Philiphaugh Old Mill, TD7 5IU or from Gordon Webster at Forge Cottage, Yarrow TD7 5NE please call on 01750 82254.



Ettrick Valley, Selkirk TD7 5HT
01750 62356
email: thetushielawinn@yahoo.com
www.tushielawinn.co.uk

- The Tushielaw Inn is an historic coaching inn in the Ettrick Valley
- Letting rooms and a snug • Dine-in • Outdoor seating
- Delicious freshly prepared food •

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 31st, 6pm onwards (Hogmanay party)
LIVE MUSIC AND BUFFET
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday CLOSED
Friday 6pm onwards.
Saturday and Sunday open from 12pm onwards.



~ Thank you and a Happy New Year! ~

IDEOMS presents

NOT ANOTHER BURNS SUPPER



"refreshingly unconventional..."

featuring



at
**YARROW HALL,
YARROW FUES**

**FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY.
7.30PM**

A traditional supper interlaced with songs and poetry. IDEOMS don't go in for long-winded speeches and the supper is more like a party, with community singing and audience participation. We hope Burns would approve.

*Wi' sangs an' rhymes tae mak' ye grin,
Tae miss this nicht wad be a sin;
Wi' haggis, tatties, neeps thrawn in,
Tae burst yer breeches!
A feast o' a' things Burnsian,
Wi' nae lang speeches!*

Tickets:
07780 682931
yarrowfeushall@gmail.com

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS START HERE



NEW YEAR - NEW YOU

Borders College, Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HE

Borders College, Newtown St Boswells, Scottish Borders, TD6 0PL

Get your career underway with a full-time course starting in January 2025

Winter leaver or just looking for a new direction, apply now for one of our January 2025 start courses and unlock a world of possibilities!

- Pathway to College**
Galashiels
- Hospitality and Barista Skills**
Galashiels
- Introduction to Countryside Skills**
Newtown St Boswells

Courses commence 20th January 2025.

Visit our website for full details and to apply:
www.borderscollege.ac.uk/january25
Email: enquiries@borderscollege.ac.uk

APPLY TODAY!



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR FULL DETAILS

Borders College - Charity Number SC021180

Borders College New Year courses

If you or someone you know is struggling to find a way forward into 2025 and further, why not explore what Borders College has to offer? Below are three full-time courses all starting on **20th January 2025**

■ Pathway to College

- Attendance: 3 days per week.
- This course is preparation for other full time courses or into employment.
- To assist young people who are unsure of what direction of learning or employment they would like to take. You will have the opportunity to sample vocational areas that you may not have previously considered while also developing confidence and motivation to take steps to further study or employment.

■ Introduction to Countryside Skills

- Attendance: 3 days per week.
- Landbased courses.
- This course gives an introduction to working in the countryside

■ Hospitality and Barista Skills

- Attendance: 3 days per week.
- Progression: Further or Higher Education Opportunities NC in Hospitality at SCQF 5 at Borders College. NC in Hospitality at SCQF 6 at Borders College or Employment opportunities.
- This course introduces learners to hospitality and explores the scope of the industry, the career paths and job roles within it, and the employability skills that underpin them.

Additional Information about these courses, enrolment etc. can be found on the College website: www.borderscollege.ac.uk/january25

FREE Green Skills Courses

The Borders College is aiming to equip Borderers with the practical skills to transition to a more sustainable future and has received £530,400 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to allow students access to FREE tuition in green skills.

Fully Funded Green Skills Training – Businesses in the Scottish Borders can continue to benefit from FREE Retrofit Skills Training (January – March 2025).

This is an exciting journey to develop and deliver Retrofit training programs. This initiative is a direct response to the pressing need for upskilling to decarbonise the housing stock within our region. By doing so, we're not only fostering a greener future, but also building the necessary capacity for a thriving supply chain that aligns with our ambitious Net Zero targets!

Full details can be found at:
www.borderscollege.ac.uk/greenskills



Make sure your business benefits from FREE Retrofit Skills Training before the funding ends

JANUARY – MARCH 2025. BOOK ONLINE TODAY!

- BPEC Heat Pump Installer
- BPEC Unvented Hot Water
- BPEC Water Byelaws
- Basic Introduction to Domestic Retrofit
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Heat Pump Basic Awareness
- Introduction to Renewable Technology
- Sustainable Construction and Ventilation
- Understanding Domestic Retrofit SPF (NOCN)

FUNDING ENDS MARCH 2025

Are you eligible for this FREE training?

These courses are FREE to employees of social landlords and their subcontractors, as well as businesses based in the Scottish Borders. **Don't miss out** – book your free place today!

www.borderscollege.ac.uk/greenskills
Call us: 01450 361 030 Email us: debi@borderscollege.ac.uk

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funded by UK Government. Scottish Borders Council.

Borders College, Scottish Borders Campus, Nether Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HE • Charity Number SC021180



SCHOOL DATES: Spring Term starts Mon 6th January
 Friday 14 February 2025 - Last day of term for pupils
 Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 - Mid term break
 Monday 24 February 2025 - In service day for all
 Tuesday 25 February 2025 - All resume



The next Community Council Meeting is on Monday 3rd February at 7pm in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge.