## The H Y3F

WHAT'S ON IN THE VALLEYS Ettrick and Yarrow news and events October 2024

Welcome ...to the October 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.

## Giants to stride among us

Disturbing news this month as Scottish Power and Energy Networks (SPEN) notified the community that a proposed new steel tower overhead power line would straddle both the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys. This new 'Cross Border Connection' will carry power from a new Galashiels sub station towards a point on the Scotland -England border, south of Newcastleton. The proposed overhead high voltage line (400kV) would be supported on 50 meter high steel lattice towers, 200 – 300 meters apart.

SPEN have identified their 'preferred route' which is shown on the map on the right. The pylon corridor crosses the hills above Yarrowford, then goes over the Swire above Kirkhope, runs up the Ettrick valley to East

Deloraine/Hindhope where it crosses the river and goes over the hills towards Drycleuchclea and Redfordgreen. It then goes over the Borthwick Water valley via Milsington on its way to cross the A7 south of Hawick, where it will go to a new 'Teviot' substation, before travelling onwards to Newcastleton and the English



border. The exact route within the corridor is not yet determined.

The first round of public consultation on this launched on the 23rd September and closes on the 28th October. This will be followed by a more detailed

design with a second round of public consultation planned for 2026. SPEN will be meeting the public and showing the plans in Kirkhope Hall on Thursday 3rd October 10am-1pm and in Yarrow Hall from 3pm to 7pm. The community council will also be hearing from SPEN at their meeting in Kirkhope Hall on Monday 7th October at 7.30pm.



Issue 5

## Another award on the way perhaps...?

reat News! The Kirkhope Steading development has been shortlisted for a prestigious SURF (Scotland's Regeneration Forum) award in the Housing and Regeneration category



where it is up against two other innovative housing developments, one in Govan and the other on the island of Colonsay.

These awards pick out the best projects which "showcase success in responding to regeneration challenges in communities across Scotland" and have been running for 25 years. The winner will be announced at an Awards Dinner in Glasgow in December – fingers crossed !

Valley residents and invited officials expressed their approval of the converted farm steading at its official opening in the summer



Progress

here was a great turnout of stock and horses as well as the traditional craft and trade stands at last month's 102nd Yarrow & Ettrick Pastoral Society Show held at Carterhaugh on the Bowhill Estate.

The sun blessed the opening hours of the event, but even the grey drizzle that followed didn't manage to dampen the spirits of those who attended. Talent, showmanship and business acumen were rewarded though the usual presentation of awards for the various classes and



all left the showground at the end of the day both entertained and educated in equal measure.

Smile for the camera! Tasha Crockatt is photo bombed by horse Sammy at the red rosette presentation.

malarky! These two are way ahead of the competition!

We've cracked this three-legged



\* more photos on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/yarrowshow

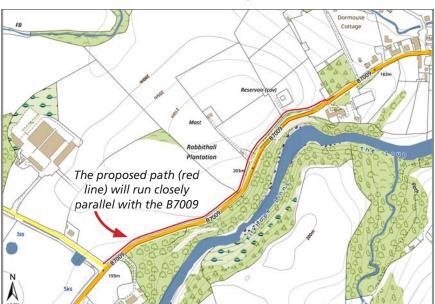
### Hurray! A safe Kirkhope - Ettrickbridge walkway is on the agenda at last

he Ettrick and Yarrow Community The Ettrick and Tarrow Company has been asked to look at an off-road path between Kirkhope and Ettrickbridge so that walkers no longer have to dodge traffic on the dangerous bends.

We'll be sending out a survey soon to guage community support for this and to help raise the necessary funding. The path would go through the four fields above the road

starting at the junction with the Swire road and coming out on to the straight leading down to the village opposite the Manse. The proposal is that it would be suitable for bikes, prams, walkers and possibly horses with an unbound whin dust surface.

It would also be fenced wherever necessary to keep users safe from any livestock in the fields.





### **Coffee to go?** 'Neigh' problem for these young entrepreneurs!

hen young Toby Buchanan from Ettrickbridge heard that his late granny's old horse trailer needed to be rehomed (or scrapped) he had a bright idea! Why not convert it into a mobile coffee- and- snack bar that could be toured around local events?!

With the help of father Alex - and in secret from the rest of the family - they set about transforming it over seven months into 'Granny Dee's, a smart new business venture.

Now with three successful events under their belt including last month's Yarrow Show, Toby and his brother Josh are available for hire and looking to provide top quality coffee and refreshments for any gathering (only on a weekend or during school holidays.) They are licenced and insured to trade so give them a call on **07702 343 589** and support these young entrepreneurs!

## Timely <u>reminders</u>

On October 27th the clocks go back an hour at 2am in the morning (so really Saturday night)



SCHOOLS OUT! The October school break starts on Friday 11th and pupils go back on Tuesday 22nd October'.

## Save £££s with the Valleys Oil buying Group!

Ettrick and Yarrow (E & Y) Oil Group serves the residents of the Community Council designated area. It was an idea which I put forward at a public meeting held in the valleys in 2011 about development of community activity.

There was initial interest from around 10 households. So I undertook research with several oil delivery companies and chose one company (Johnston Oils) on the following basis:

- Helpful and cooperative response to enquiry
- Scottish based independent company with local depot
- Consistent pricing lower than competitors
- Number of available and suitable tankers

All group members give me their full postal and email address - this confirms their willingness to be part of the group.

Postal addresses are then passed to the oil company administrative office – members are required separately to give their payment details to the company. Payment is an individual arrangement and can be by card on phone, by invoice or by monthly direct debit, whichever is most suitable to the member

I send out an email to ask for quantities required – usually once a month - and the total is given to the oil company. The discount is based on the

#### Report by Lindsay Lewis

total quantity ordered (and sometimes a bit of haggling from me!).

Delivery is usually 4/5 days after order and takes account of particular customer requirements e.g. small tankers to get up farm tracks; filling mobile tanks off site etc.

From its early beginnings there are now more than 140 members and with a fluid population there is always

work to do to keep the list up to date. The monthly order

litre. In total over the years the accumulated savings have reached well over £300,000!

In addition, keeping group membership to a defined geographic area and with orders at a specified time in the month the number of tanker journeys in to the valleys is kept to a minimum which reduces pollution with consequent benefits for the environment.

If you are not part of the oil group but wish to join you can contact me at:

email: lindsay@hartleap.co.uk or telephone: 01750 82363.

3

#### Handy calendar: October 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	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	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### **Diary Dates: October** 2024

### **The Stitchers Sewing Bee**

#### 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.

#### **Table Tennis**

#### Yarrowford Hall

Table tennis sessions in Yarrowford Hall move to the earlier time of 5.30 -6.30pm every Wednesday.

#### **Craft Group**

#### Kirkhope Hall

The Ettrickbridge-based Craft group gets underway at 10am on the first Wednesday of every month in Kirkhope Hall.

#### Pub Quiz

#### The Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge

Wednesday evening sees the very popular pub quiz in the Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge. Maximum 5 in a team, £2 per person. 7.30 for 8pm start. Booking essential as the pub can only hold so many! Contact: Lindajack57@btinternet. com

#### **Natter with neighbours**

#### Yarrow Feus Hall

First Wednesday (2nd October) – an informal cuppa and chat for neighbours in Yarrow Feus Hall from 2.00 - 3.00 (winter hours) on the first Wednesday of every month.

#### Pylon powwow

#### Kirkhope Hall; Yarrow Hall

Information drop in session about the proposed new pylons which will cross the valleys as part of the Cross Border Connection power line. Representatives from Scottish Power and Energy Networks (SPEN) will be in Kirkhope Hall from 10am to 1pm and in Yarrow Hall from 3pm to 7pm.

### **Crafting Session**

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Regular Thursday Crafting group, 2-4pm



has now increased substantially gaining a better discount averaging around 7 pence per

2nd

1 st

2nd

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Brd** 

3rd

2nd

Diary Dates: October 2024

### **Singing together**

#### Yarrow Feus Hall

The **Safety** in **Numbers** singing group weekly sessions

3rd

4,th

5<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>



meets every Thursday, 7.00 - 8.30 in Yarrow Feus Hall. The singing is led by Yarrow songstress Hilary Bell and costs £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.

#### **Playgroup Fun**

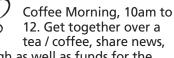
#### Yarrow Feus Hall

Change of venue for the Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup this week with an 'Autumn Messy Play' session in the Yarrow Feus Hall, 9.30 - 11am; f5 per child and f2 each additional sibling. Next Friday the playgroup are back in their usual home at Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge. 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)

#### **Coffee Morning**



Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge



raise a laugh as well as funds for the Hall. The more the merrier!

#### **Church Service**

#### Yarrow Kirk

Church Services in the valleys move around the three churches. Sunday 6th is in Yarrow Kirk at 11.30am. Services are led by the new Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah.

#### **Whist Drive**

#### Boston Hall, Ettrick

Come and play Whist in the Boston Hall, Ettrick on the first Monday of every month throughout the



winter. Starts 7pm, tea/coffee provided, bring your own cup and snack, only £1 per session. All welcome, no experience necessary.



There has been lots happening in the Ettrick Marshes this year with ranger Tommy Bryson (*pictured below*) doing a great job reinstating boardwalks, strimming and leading guided walks. The



paths are getting more use than ever which takes a lot of maintenance.

There is also a lot more replanting of native broadleafs to be carried out with more tree saplings arriving this winter. In addition, there are also plans being developed for more paths, commissioning interpretation boards and maps, designing leaflets, editing some of the fantastic trail camera footage of red squirrels, and fundraising ...just to mention some of the things that you could help with!

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer to help shape some of these tasks, please come along to a Friends of Ettrick Marshes meeting on Monday 21st October in the old Ettrick School at 1pm.





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

## Coming up in October...



4

# Annie get your gift voucher...

Annie Coltherd was the winner of our Yarrow Show Anagram Competition – All Things You Can Find at the Yarrow Show. She is seen here with her prize – a gift voucher for a meal at the award-winning Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge.

EYCDC had a very successful day at the Show despite the drizzly weather. Plenty of visitors dropped in to see our stand and we picked up 10 new members, bringing our total membership to 320.





Border

Ice Skating

### Come on kids – get your skates on

Do you have children who would love to learn to ice skate? Border ice rink skating club's Open Day is on Sunday 6th October, 12.15pm at Kelso Ice Rink.

It's the perfect day to try out ice skating before lessons start the following week. Friends and family are welcome to join children on the ice for this session and skate hire is available.

There will be tutors on the ice to help your children during this session so don't worry if they have never been on the ice before.

No booking required, for further info about the club, contact Alison Dagg on **01573 223347** or at **bordericeskatingclub@talktalk.net.** 

### Caution: imaginations at work!



Children get down to the important business of play at the weekly playgroup held on Friday mornings in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge.



5

### Diary Dates: October 2024

### **Community Council meet**

#### Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Community Council meets in the Kirkhope Parish Hall at 7pm. On the agenda is a presentation from SP Energy Network about the proposed new power line which will cross the valleys.

#### **CAB drop-in Surgery**

#### Yarrow Hall

Citizens Advice Bureau Drop In Surgery in Yarrow Hall from 9am - 12 noon. Also on the first Monday in November and December, same time.

### **Ettrick WRI**

Boston Hall, Ettrick

Ettrick Woman's Rural meets at 7.30 in the Boston Hall. This month members will get a hands-on introduction to the art of felting. Visitors, plus new and returning members always welcome.



Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall

Table tennis in Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm every Wednesday.

### **Crafting Session**

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Coffee and chat ...while being crafty! 2-4pm.

#### **Singing together**

#### 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.

### Playgroup Fun

#### Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Playgroup morning 9.30-11.30 is open to babies, toddlers 0-5 years – and their parents (of course!) An experienced play leader is on hand to inspire and create a fun atmosphere for all. Crafts toys and play activities every session.

### **Church Service**

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge

Morning Service at 11.30am

9<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

7th

8<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup>

13<sup>th</sup>

### Diary Dates: October 2024

### 15<sup>th</sup> The Stitchers

#### Boston Hall, Ettrick

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

### **New Age Kurling**

#### Yarrowford Hall

New Age Kurling will commence on Tuesday 15th October in Yarrowford Hall. The club will continue to run on every 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 2.00 -4.00 pm. The club is suitable for all ages and abilities and can be played seated or standing. The cost is £3 per person and includes refreshments.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Art Group

15<sup>th</sup>

#### Kirkhope Parish Hall, 10am-12noon



This month the theme of the Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group will be **Autumn**, and our medium of choice will be pastels, but you can of course use whatever you prefer. All abilities welcome. We can provide materials if you need them. Email: iris@happyhedgerow.co.uk for more information.

#### **Table Tennis**

16<sup>th</sup>

#### Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm



## Halloween at Bowhill

#### Friday 18 Oct - Saturday 26 Oct

Book a place for a fang-tastic new family event, celebrating all things ghoulish and ghastly in the Grounds of Bowhill!

#### HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

- Pick the perfect pumpkin in the Walled Garden Pumpkin Patch – (last admission 3.30pm).
- Explore the ghoulish Grounds on our Halloween Trail. From the eerie sights in the Ice House to spooky skeletons in the Walled Garden.
- Get creative making a variety of Halloween crafts in the Courtyard Gallery.



- Enjoy a cinema screening of a Halloween favourite, Hotel Transylvania, in the Theatre.
- Discover the Victorian Kitchen, unlike ever before...
- Marshmallow Toasting at the Old Horsebox

Find full details and booking options on www.bowhillhouse. co.uk/event/halloween/



Call 01750 52224 or email hello@crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com to book



ary Service

The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 7th and Monday 21st October** at the following locations and times:

LOCATION	STOP	TIMES
Broadmeadows	Bridge	13.00-13.15
Yarrow	Fues Hall	13.30-13.45
Yarrowford	Yarrowford	13.55-14.10

The library bus will also be visiting the **Ettrick Valley on Thursday 3rd and 17th October** 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



Yarrow Primary pupils lined up for the camera this week in their smart new Friends of Yarrow funded PE kits! Thanks go out to everyone who has supported the FOY fundraisers over the last year, without whose assistance the 'squad' wouldn't be quite so 'smart'!

The Kirkhope Hall staging last month of 'El Duglas', the new play produced by the HotTrod Theatre Company was a sell out success.

The story of Sir James Douglas - the 'Good Sir James' to the Scots, and the 'Black Douglas' to those south of the border is a story recognised in Southern Spain but not so much here. Every year, in the Andalucian town of Teba, an event is held in honour of the heroic deeds of Sir James Douglas who fought and died there in the Battle of Teba in 1330 whilst en route to the Holy Land with the embalmed heart



of his friend, Robert the Bruce. The show brings this dramatic unfolding to a modern day audience.

If you missed the Ettrickbridge venue, you can catch the play again at the Victoria Halls, Selkirk, on Friday 1st November, 7.30pm. Tickets £15 from Scott's Selkirk shop or via the website: www.hottrodtheatre.co.uk

Our Friends of Yarrow are planning ahead for the festive season – and are encouraging others to do so as well! A Christmas Fayre is to be held on Sunday 10th November in Yarrow Feus Hall and organisers are currently inviting anyone who would like a stall to get in touch to book a place now. Tel: **07709 878406** 



7



### Diary Dates: October 2024

### **CAB drop-in Surgery**

#### Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Citizens Advice Bureau Drop in Surgery in Kirkhope Hall from 9am to 12 noon. This is a great opportunity for anyone to speak face to face with one of our very experienced Advisers about issues that may concern or affect them. This could be about entitlements to benefits (or support to apply for them), or help with energy, debt, employment, consumer issues or a myriad of any other concerns and questions that people have but are not sure how to deal with.

No appointments are needed, people just need to pitch up and speak to the Adviser. Advice provided by CAB is always free, independent, confidential, impartial and available to everyone. Also will be held on the 3rd Thursday in November.

#### **Guys Get-together**

#### Yarrowford Hall

Not as energetic as a 'mens' shed', sports club or an allotment group – this is just a **Guys'** 

**Games & Gab** group! This Informal weekly club for men of all ages to drop in for a chat, game of cards, dominoes or darts commences on Thursday 17th October. The cost is £3.00 per session (2.00-4.00 pm) and includes refreshments.

### **Singing Group**

#### 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.

### **Crafting Session**

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

### **Church Service**

Church service in Yarrow Kirk, 11.30am

## Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall 5.30-6.30pm



17<sup>th</sup>

20<sup>th</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Diary Dates: October 2024**

### **Crafting Session**

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

#### **Singing Group** Yarrow Feus Hall

24<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

25<sup>ti</sup>

25<sup>ti</sup>

26<sup>th</sup>

**31**<sup>st</sup>

The Safety in Numbers singing group led by singer Hilary Bell meets every Thursday 7.00 - 8.30. Cost: £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.

### **Guys G&G Group**

#### Yarrowford Hall, 2-4pm, £3.00

Not betting on the gee-gees! Just the new weekly Games & Gab men's club.

### **Playgroup Fun**

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge Playgroup morning 9.30-11.30 is open to babies, toddlers 0-5 years - and their parents (of course!)

### Pub Games Night,

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch 25th October, from 7pm (see poster)

### **Live Music Night**

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge Live music night - tingle-making tunes!

### **Church Service**

The last service in Ettrick Kirk before it closes for the winter months. The service starts at 11am. Coffee and biscuits afterwards.

#### **Bowling** in the **Boston**

The long-standing and everpopular Bowling in the Boston Hall, Ettrick, returns for the winter months. Thursdays from 7.30pm. All welcome, no experience necessary as plenty of experienced bowlers will help to get you started.

### **Singing Group**

#### Yarrow Feus Hall, 7.00 - 8.30pm

The Safety in Numbers singing group led by singer Hilary Bell. Cost: £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.



51

**31**<sup>st</sup>

### **Guys Get-Together**

Yarrowford Hall men's social drop-in club 2-4pm

## **Crafting Session**

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







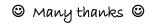
KIRKHOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL and KIRKHOPE & YARROW ELC

#### **Rag Bag Collection** MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024

We would like to make you aware that our next Rag Bag Collection will be on MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024.

If you have any items which you would like to donate to this collection, please kindly drop them off at the main door of the school on either Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 8.30am-12.30pm or between 8.15am-9.00am on Monday 16th December. All items should be placed in black bin bags please.

Items which can be collected are: All washed & dried men's, ladies and children's clothing, underwear, paired shoes (tied together), handbags and belts. For further information please visit: www.rag-bag.co.uk





khope Primary School and Kirkhope & Yarrow ELC: Woodend Road : Ethickbridge : Selkirk : TD7 5JJ R. Russell Williams (Headtascher) : Telephone: 01750 52231 : Email: <u>KirkhopePS@scotborders.gov.uk</u> Web: <u>www.kirkhopeprimaryschool.co.uk</u> : Facebook: @KirkhopePrimarySchool



Remember! The Ettrick and Yarrow CDC AGM will be held on Tues 3rd December.

## **Remember!**

... to plan your Christmas meal 3 months to go but its time to start booking!

