

...to the July edition of The EYE – a monthly news bulletin which aims 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 on a thing! We'll keep an eye on important diary dates and list them in these pages so you can plan your calendar for the month ahead.

Forestry and Land Scotland

Coilltearachd agus

People power postpones felling plans

le start with good news to report. The felling at Gamescleuch Forest above the Ettrick Marshes conservation area has now been postponed until mid-September. This means that the community boardwalk and paths in the Ettrick Marshes can remain open all summer and our red squirrels can continue to breed in peace!

Red squirrels rule.

We're pleased to report that Forest and Land Scotland listened to all the representations from the community and backed down over the felling dates. Local residents wrote with their concerns to NatureScot, MSPs, bosses at FLS, the Community Woodland Association, the Forest Policy Group and local wildlife groups. We even discovered that the Scottish Parliament has a Red Squirrel Champion who wrote on our behalf! Well done to everyone who took time to write asking for the delay until after the breeding and visitor season.

■ See feature on page 6 for guided walks led by Tommy, the Marshes countryside ranger.

Don't have a Summer holiday booked?

Yes you do - you can go to the Summer holiday show at Burnside Gallery, Market Place, Selkirk! See sunny West Coast beaches, swim in the Ionian

Sea, walk among wild grasses and flowers, and go up the Yarrow river. Artists featured; John Berry, Garet Cousins, Bill Galbraith, Kate Hajducka, Sylvia Quinn Home, James Hutcheson, Jules Jackson, Val Menon, Carol Ritchie, Alan Richmond, Emma Whigham. From Wednesday 03 July, open



Scarba; Val Menon

Cross Keys Inn: Rory and Vicki reap the awards



Re-opened Inn is one of UK's best!

10am - 4pm.

he Cross Keys Inn at the heart of Ettrickbridge which re-opened under the driving force of Rory and Vicki Steel last spring has not only attracted praise and support from locals and visitors alike but has also wowed the judges and specialists of national hospitality awards.

> Last year despite being open only a few months, the Inn was judged to be the National winner in the 'Best Bar or Pub' category of the 2023 Scottish Thistle Awards. Earlier this year it became a County Winner in the National Pub & Bar Awards 2024, and just last week it had yet more brilliant news to share.

"We're down to the final six in this year's Great British Pub Awards, Best Country Pub category,"



states a post on the Inn's Facebook page - www.facebook.com/ crosskeysinnettrick.

"Huge thanks to everyone who has supported us on our journey so far, especially our team who give it their all everyday. We just love being able to share a wee piece of the phenomenal rural community we are part of with guests from near and far.

"Can't wait to fly the flag for Scotland at the final in September!"

School's out for SUMMER

Last week pupils at Yarrow and Kirkhope Primary Schools enjoyed some end-of-term fun both in school and out.



Yarrow Primary School

Thursday 28th June was marked by the school's P7 leavers/end of year service. This year it featured a modern take on Mastermind, some amazing singing, and the rain even managed to hold off to enable a 'flypass' to give Ada, the sole pupil transitioning to High School, a humorous and fitting send-off.

Teachers and staff thank all who made the day so special. Extra big thanks to Caroline

for creating the most outstanding plane and going along with such a madcap idea!





She's ready to fly!





Kirkhope Primary School - Chili afternoon!

Pupils aged P4-7 brushed up on their cooking skills with a Mexican Taster afternoon. Tasty treats such as tacos, tortillas, nachos and burritos were on the menu – with salsa on the side.

The pupils were tasked with: making Spanish phrase books to help visitors learn some Spanish; having specific jobs to carry out (chopping / cooking / cleaning / setting up); finishing off their Spanish greetings role-plays, and finally sitting down to enjoy a topic-related end-of-term movie '*Ferdinand*'

The afternoon was a huge success with friends, family members and pupils all leaving with full and satisfied bellies!

Thanks were extended to all who came along and supported the venture as well as the small band of extra helpers.

BIEN HECHO!!!! (WELL DONE!!!)





Kirkhope School's summer trip to Bowhill was also a great success! The children enjoyed time in the Victorian kitchen, den building, playing in the adventure playground and were all treated to a cheeky wee ice cream too!

'Best day ever' was the

Look

what I

found

'summing up' comment made by one of the lucky pupils.

NOTE: Bowhill has a range of holiday activities for youngsters during the summer holidays. See page 6 for details.

2



Hot

stuff!



• ELECTION DAY • ELECTION DAY •

Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk Make your vote count

The following persons stand nominated for election as a Member to serve in the Parliament of the United Kingdom for the Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk County Constituency:

- Ray Georgeson, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Hamish Goldie-Scot, Scottish Family Party
 - I Carolyn Grant, Reform UK
- John Lamont, Scottish Conservative and Unionist
- Neil MacKinnon, Scottish Green Party
- Ellie Merton, Independent
- Caitlin Stott, Scottish Labour Party
- **David James Wilson**, Scottish National Party (SNP)

With just days to go until the General Election, voters are reminded that they need to vote with an 'X' to ensure their vote counts.

Melrose

Hawick

Jedburgh

elkirk

David Robertson, Returning Officer for the Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk Constituency, said:

"People across the Borders need to vote with an 'X' at this election. I would encourage voters to study the ballot paper instructions carefully, but polling station staff will be able to help with any queries they may have.

"I'd like to remind voters that they must take photographic identification or a Voter Authority Certificate with them when they go to vote, this is essential as they will not be able to vote without either of these documents. It will also speed up the process if they take their poll cards with them, but this is not a requirement, and they can vote without it.

"The best way to submit postal votes is via the Royal Mail, they must reach us by 10pm on the day of the count,

and times:

Yarrow

Yarrowford

Get out the deck chair and stock up on some summer reading! The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 1st, 15th and 29th July** at the following locations

TIMES

13.30-13.45

13.55-14.10

STOP

Fues Hall

Yarrowford

4 July. If voters are in any doubt that their vote will not reach us on time, they can hand them in to polling stations on the day of polling or into the Council headquarters in Newtown St Boswells in advance of the election.

"The earlier we receive postal votes the faster the process is for counting them on Thursday night."

Voting takes place on Thursday 4 July, between 7am and 10pm, with the count taking place overnight once the polls close.

Voters are being encouraged to check where they will vote. Details of their local polling station is on their poll card and can also be found at www. wheredoivote.co.uk.

If voters have not received their postal packs, or if they are unsure where to go to vote, they can call Scottish Borders Council's Elections Team on **01835 826579** or email **elections@ scotborders.gov.uk**

Further information is available online at www.scotborders.gov.uk/elections

UK General Election Thursday July 4th

POLLING STATIONS OPEN 7am - 10pm at:

> St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Boston Memorial Hall, Ettrick

Yarrow Village Hall

Kirkhope Village Hall, Ettrickbridge

Small but inspiring...

We now have our little community bookshelf up and running at St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch. Visitors are invited to please feel free to leave or take a book. On the book shelf there is a little suggestions box that can be used anonymously for any ideas that you would love to see implemented. Also visitors will notice that there has been a little spruce up with a fresh coat of paint.



The library bus will also be visiting the **Ettrick Valley on Thursday 11th and 25th July** 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



Diary Dates: July 2024

Craft Group

3rd

3rd

3rd

4th

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The Ettrickbridge Craft Group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Kirkhope Hall, 10am to 12 noon. All welcome. Contact Nora for more details **nora.hunter@btinternet.com**

Table Tennis



Yarrowford Hall

The well-supported Table Tennis Sessions will continue throughout July every Wednesday evening from 6 - 7pm

Pub Quiz cancelled

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no monthly Pub Quiz night this month

UK ELECTION DAY

Various Venues

Polling stations open 7am - 10pm, at: St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch; Boston Memorial Hall, Ettrick; Yarrow Village Hall, Kirkhope Village Hall.

Your official polling letter will have been posted to you over the past month and this will state where you are required to vote. It is important that you take some form of photographic ID with you when you go to vote. For more details see page 3.

Coffee Morning

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The regular Kirkhope Hall Coffee Morning in Ettrickbridge from 10am to 12 noon is a great way to catch up over some home baking on the first Saturday of the month. Top topic of conversation this week will no doubt be the Election results!

7th

6th

Church Service

Kirkhope Church

Church services in the valleys move around the three remaining Churches. First this month is Kirkhope Church; service starts at 11.30am

Anyone for Tennis?

f you are looking to get into the Wimbledon mood, look no further than the tennis court at Ettrickbridge. Managed by the Ettrick Forest Sports and Recreation Club (EFSRC), the court is of a very decent standard having recently undergone a complete re-build.

You can play without booking but please put a donation of £5 in the box. EFSRC also manage the Ettrickbridge sports field and are currently seeking funding to install a Petanque Piste. What's that you ask? It's a sandy type of surface for playing the French game of boules – where you throw your boule (ball) to try and get nearest to the jack (small ball). It's a great game for all ages!!

You can play tennis for free not just in Wimbledon weeks but all year round if you join EFSRC. Membership fees are deliberately kept low to try and encourage as many people as possible to join the club. The membership fees help pay for the annual insurance which is not insubstantial, but necessary to make sure that everyone who uses the field, tennis court and other facilities are covered.

We are hoping to encourage as many new members as possible from the TD7 5 area – so if you live in either the Ettrick or Yarrow Valley, please consider joining. The annual membership fees are as follows:

Adult	£10		
Adult Concessions*	£5		
Secondary School Pupils	£5		
Primary and Pre-school			
children	Free		
Concessions includes stu			
hose who are retired, stu	idents		
and those not working			
though you are welcome			
bay the full adult club rate if			

Become a member

f you would like to support us and become members, please give the names of all those in your household group who are joining to Barbara Harrison at **bckharrison@btinternet.com**, then work out what fees you need to pay for your household members and make your bank transfer to the following account, using your surname as a reference: Your support of this communit

you can)

Account Name:	Ettrick Forest Sport
Sort Code:	83-27-05
Account number	r: 00263003

Your support of this community facility will be very much appreciated and we hope you'll enjoy using the facilities of the club, including the tennis court.

...and Shop stocks all

your essentials and is

The BeeHive Café

open every day through the summer from 10am to 3pm.

Open for breakfasts, coffee and cakes and light lunches. You'll find it in upper Ettrick at the entrance to the Honey Cottage Caravan Park. Ideal to combine with a walk in the Ettrick Marshes or a visit to the James Hogg Exhibition.





and GUIDED WALK

The James Hogg Exhibition celebrating the life and work of this prolific and influential local author is a permanent exhibition in the old Ettrick Primary School which opens in the summer every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons from 2-5pm.

His masterwork is 'The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner' which was published 200 years ago this month. It is regarded as one of the defining texts of Scottish literature with Scottish writers like Ian Rankin and James Robertson citing it as a major inspiration. The 'Confession' charts descent into madness of the main character, Robert, with psychotic delusions leading to murder. Set in Calvinist Scotland, Robert believes in predestination and thinks he is one of God's saved, and his actions are therefore 'justified'. Within the novel, the 'Confession' is discovered in the pocket of a body preserved in peat in the hills above Ettrick and Hogg uses local place names from both valleys in much of his writing. The

site of the supposed grave where the 'Confession' is found is at Cowan's Croft above Berrybush between both valleys.

James Hogg: Confessions of a Justified Sinner

"The book, since I read it in black, pouring weather on Tweedside, has always haunted and puzzled me. It is without doubt a real work of imagination, ponderated and achieved." (Robert Louis Stevenson on Confessions)

The Selkirk Museum service is

hosting a day of talks about James Hogg and 'Confessions' on Friday 12th July in the Scott's Courtroom in Selkirk from 12 noon. More information from museums@liveborders1.org.uk

A guided walk on Hogg to mark the 200th anniversary of 'Confessions' will take place on Saturday 20th July leaving from Honey Cottage in Ettrick over the hill to St Mary's Loch, Yarrow via Cowan's Croft. Most of the walk will follow the path known as the Captain's Road and lifts will be provided from St Mary's Loch back to cars in Ettrick.

A suggested donation of £20 for adults will go towards the upkeep of the exhibition. Leaving Honey Cottage at 11am. Please contact **info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk** or **07846 505630** for more information and to say if you are coming. Bring your own picnic. Weather dependent.

The exhibition is open Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 2-5pm until September.



Diary Dates: July 2024

AGM & planning meeting for Ettrick Sports Day

Boston Hall, Ettrick

A planning meeting and AGM for the Ettrick Sports Day will be held. Enthusiastic volunteers and helpers for the day are required as well as some new committee members to keep this traditional sports day running. Meeting starts at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall

Table Tennis session, 6-7pm

Craft 'n' Chat

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

The weekly 'craft 'n' chat' afternoon will take place from 2pm - 4pm. If you have a love of handicrafts, this is a great way to catch up with like-minded creatives over a cuppa while still working on your chosen skill.

Pilates Class

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge



Pilates classes run in the Kirkhope Hall every Thursday in July (not the 4th) at 6.15pm. Cost is £40 for the 4 sessions. Contact Katy for more information and to book prior to coming along katytherapies@yahoo.com

James Hogg Day

Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom, Selkirk

To mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of James Hogg's 'Confessions of a Justified Sinner', the Selkirk Museum service is hosting a day of talks about James Hogg and his novel on Friday 12th July in the Scott's Courtroom in Selkirk from 12 noon. More information from **museums@liveborders1.org.uk**



12th

9th

10th

11th

11th

Diary Dates: July 2024

Church Service

Yarrow Kirk

14th

7th

Church services in the valleys move around the three remaining Churches. The mid-month service for July is Yarrow Church; service starts at 11.30am

Art Group

Kirkhope Hall

17th

18th

20th

The July session of Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group will be held 10am to 12noon in Ettrickbridge. This month members are aiming to master the art of Chinese brush painting. Brushes and inks can be provided if you are unable to bring your own. All abilities welcome – and, as always, if you don't fancy this month's topic you can

always come along and draw or paint whatever you like. Phone Iris on **01750 52204** for more information.

Table Tennis Session

Yarrowford Hall

Table Tennis session, 6-7pm

Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall Cappercleuch

Weekly Crafting session - be inspired by the crafts, the chat, ...and the coffee! 2-4pm.

Guided Walk

Honey Cottage, Ettrick

A guided walk to mark the 200th anniversary of James Hogg's novel 'Confessions of a Justified Sinner' will take place today. The walk will start from from Honey Cottage in Ettrick over the hill to St Mary's Loch, Yarrow, via Cowan's Croft. Most of the walk will follow the path known as the Captain's Road and lifts will be provided from St Mary's Loch back to cars in Ettrick. Suggested donation of £20 for adults will go towards the upkeep of the exhibition. Leaving Honey Cottage at



ettrickandyarrow.org.uk or 07846 505630 for more information and to say if you are coming. Bring your own picnic. Weather dependant.

11am. Please contact info@



Ranger Led Walks in the Ettrick Marshes



Join local guide and experienced country ranger, Tommy, for some gentle rambles exploring parts of the huge community owned conservation woodland known as the Ettrick Marshes.

- **Friday 26th July** Evening Walk for all ages from outside the café at Honey Cottage. 6pm to 7.30ish. This is a fairly level walk which loops back to the start through an ancient meadow, suitable for most abilities. Repeated on Friday 2nd August. Suggested £5 adult donation, children free. No booking required.
- **Wednesday 17th, 24th and 31st** The Secret Stell Guided Walk. Join ranger Tommy for a walk to the secret stell (a stone circle) where he'll brew up a special tea with his magic kettle. This is a fairly easy walk with one scramble up a banking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 1.30pm from Angecroft Caravan Park or park at the Marshes carpark next to the Tima Water and join in from there at 1.45pm. Return around 3.30ish. Suggested £5 adult donation, children free. No booking required.

Longer guided walks exploring parts of the Marshes can be specially arranged for groups – enquiries to info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk

Summer Holiday fun at Bowhill

Mini Ranger Family Activities: Monday 01 July - Saturday 31 Aug

Do you have youngsters that love being out and about in the great outdoors and thrive in nature? Introduce them to the wilder side of Bowhill this summer with our family-friendly Mini Ranger activities with Countryside Ranger Andy.

Mini Rangers (ages 5+)

Under cover – knots and shelters: 9 July, 19 July, 30 August

Life on the Loch – bugs, birds and amphibians: 2 July, 26 July,

- Find your way orienteering and map making: 23 July, 2 August
- Underground and on the wing – bugs and butterflies:]30 July, 9 August
- Unseen nature tracks and trails nature walk: 5 July, 6 August, 16 August,
- Frame and forage willow frame and dream weaver portraits: 12 July, 16 July, 23 August.

Bowhill Adventure Playground is open daily until 31st August, 10am until 5pm. Entry to the Adventure Playground includes entry to the wider Grounds.

5 July, 23 July, 2 August, 30 August.

Mini Rangers (under 5's)

get dirty:

Mud Faces – Lets

Nature's Treasures – Forage and Create: 2 July, 12 July, 30 July, 9 August

- Goblin Village Mini Dens: 9 July, 19 July, 6 August, 16 August
- Birds and Bugs Bed and Breakfast: 16 July, 26 July, 23 August
- Session cost per child: Entry to the Grounds/Season Pass + £6.00 for Mini Rangers and £4.00 for Under-5's

Children must have parental supervision. Pre-booking online is recommended at www.bowhillhouse. co.uk/event/mini-ranger-family-activities/
Meet in the Courtyard.

Weet in the courtyard.

nture Playground	Day Tickets	Season Pass
ntil 31st August,	Adults £7	Adult £14
n. Entry to the	Children £5	Child £10
ground includes	Under 3's FREE	Under 3's FREE
der Grounds.	Family n/a	Family (2+3) £30

Please Note – Bowhill House is closed for the 2024 season for essential maintenance.

Slow down, you move too fast!

Yarrow Feus residents this week voiced their pleasure at a new addition to the valley. Road markings, nicknamed 'dragon's teeth' have been painted along the A708 passing Yarrow Primary school to alert drivers to curb their speed and stick to a 40mph maximum. Although this is seen as a minor success, the Friends of Yarrow still consider the speed limit too fast and simply not safe enough for a school and community hall area.

Thanks go to Cllr. Caroline Cochrane for her help on this.





Let your business flourish at Kirkhope Mill

he Kirkhope Mill business units are community owned, eco-friendly workshops and office space just outside Ettrickbridge. There is coworking space available from £100 per month inclusive, unlimited hours. Includes communal kitchen area and superfast broadband. Need to work while on holiday? No problem, you can book for just what you need. Minimum fee £30. Text 07846 505630 or email info@ettrickandyarrow. org.uk to book.



The very first monthly pub night held as part of the Centenary Celebrations of St Mary's



7

Hall Cappercleuch was a great success last month. Thanks are extended to everyone who made it possible: - to our glamorous barmaid Katie; to Bron Clark for your 'vision' (it looked fantastic!); to The General Store, Selkirk for the loan of the mood lighting; to The waterwheel Tea room for helping us out with Bookers – and your spotlights! Finally thank you to our committe members, their families and community who took the time to come along and join in!! See you all at July's Pub Games Night!

Diary Dates: July 2024

Church Service

Ettrick Kirk

The final July Church Service for the valleys is at Ettrick Kirk at 11am.

Guided Bike Ride

Old Ettrick Primary School

This is a Guided Group Ride on Electric Bikes. Electric bikes are a great way to explore the quiet roads and peaceful forest paths in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys. The battery powered bikes allow you to go further and higher than you dreamed possible, without the effort required by a normal bike. The first guided group ride for 8 people exploring the tracks around the upper Ettrick valley will take place on 21st July from 10am finishing around 2pm. The ride is led by an experienced cyclist with everything you need supplied. Start and finish at the old Ettrick Primary School (TD7 5JA) £35 per person. Must be 14 or over. Booking essential - email bikes@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk or phone/text 07483 404663.

Table Tennis Session

Yarrowford Hall Table Tennis session, 6-7pm

Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall Cappercleuch

Weekly Crafting session: be inspired by your fellow crafters! As Albert Einstein once said: "Creativity is contagious, pass it on." 2-4pm

Family Friendly Pub Games Night

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Enjoy the warm atmosphere of the 'local' from 7pm. It was great to see everyone who came along last month for our first 'pub night' featuring darts, pool, card games, dominoes, cash bar and tuck shop treats. It's hoped that even more will turn out for this month's bumper night and some friendly games rivalry can be had along with the banter! This is not a structured event so if you can only pop in for a quick can of juice, then please do!

These social evenings are happening on the last Friday of every month from now until our 100th birthday bash in November.



21st

21st

24th

25th

Diary Dates: July 2024



Open Air Blanket Preaching service

28th

August

Save the date!

St Mary's Kirkyard, 3pm

n the seventeenth century Yarrow was the scene of religious dissent; presbyterian Covenanter preachers and their followers were forbidden to attend church services so were forced to worship outdoors, often huddling in blankets for protection from the elements. The annual open-air service in the churchyard near Yarrow commemorates this period in history. The service will be led by Rev. Jim Wallace at 3pm, followed by teas in St Mary's Hall at Cappercleuch.



Explore the easy way – The EYCDC have a number of eBikes which are available for hire on a daily basis. They have front suspension, comfort saddles and puncture proof tyres so ideal for gravel tracks as well as public roads. Helmets and HiViz waistcoats are supplied as well as suggested routes. Start and finish at the old Ettrick Primary School opposite the Boston Hall (TD7 5JA) Must be 14 or over and ID and deposit required. £20 per bike for up to 4 hours, or £35 for longer. Open every day by appointment only – must be booked in advance. Call 07483 404663 or email bikes@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk



