



Repurposed. Recycled. Reused. Reclaimed. Restored. ... Revelation!

*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 on a thing! We'll keep an eye on diary dates and list them in these pages so you can plan your month ahead.*



## UK housing crisis? Innovative EYCDC shows the way

Celebrations were blessed with sunshine at the Kirkhope Steading development as the long-awaited 'official' opening took place on Tuesday 23rd July. This successful major building project of five affordable houses and seven business units was carried out by the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company, a community based charity run by a volunteer board. The opening ceremony was carried out by the Scottish Housing Minister, Paul McLennan MSP who unveiled a plaque marking the occasion and visited one of the houses to see the work. Thanks to Holly Mulligan and Jack Elliot for showing off their house so close to their wedding day!

Chairman of the EYCDC, Sir Michael Strang Steel welcomed everyone including past and present board members, some of the housing and business unit tenants, the building project team and representatives from the main funders. This was a very ambitious £2.3 million pound project to purchase an old farm steading from Buccleuch Estates and transform it into 5 eco-friendly houses with ground source heat pumps, PV panels and battery storage, each house achieving an A rating for energy efficiency.



◀ Scottish Housing Minister, Paul McLennan MSP is welcomed into the new home of Jack Elliot (not present) and Holly Mulligan (pictured here with their son Harris).

The project also converted part of the steading into business units with workshops and office space, again with PV panels, battery storage and an air source heat pump. Quite an achievement for a small group!

The houses were let to five local young families in December 2022, providing some much needed affordable and easy to heat homes. The business units have also been in demand with six of the seven spaces currently occupied. This is the first and only community led affordable housing project in the Borders so it was good to see it being officially recognised and celebrated. It definitely merited a party with lots of cake!

Sir Michael thanked the main funders including the Scottish Land Fund, the Scottish Government Rural Housing Fund, the South of Scotland Enterprise agency, Scottish Borders Council, the SSE Sustainable Development Fund and the Langhope Rig windfarm fund.

◀ (l to r) Sir Michael Strang Steel, Paul McLennan MSP, Holly Mulligan and son, Professor Griggs, Chair South of Scotland Enterprise, and EYCDC Co-ordinator Vicky Davidson



The unused and neglected steading at Kirkhope...



...transformed!

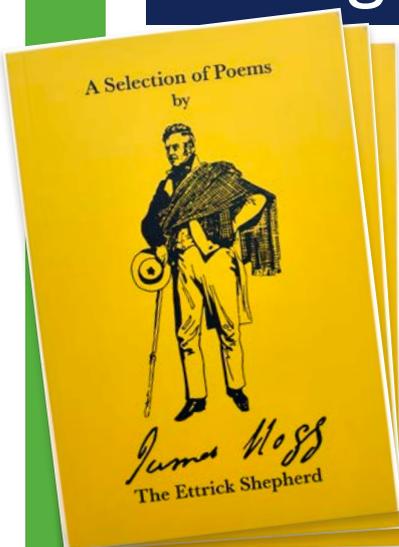


## In the footsteps...

In keeping with the spirit of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, a collection of literature inspired walkers took to the hills to mark 200 years since the publication of *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, Hogg's psychological masterpiece. The walkers set off from Ettrick and enjoyed a picnic on the summit on Berrybush before descending to Tibbie Shiels at St Mary's Loch for coffee and some very tasty scones.



## Going the whole Hogg...



From *'The Queen's Wake'* to *'The Witch o' Fife'*, and from *Kilmeny to Auld Ettrick John*, James Hogg's poetry captured the language and events of his time. Always lively, sometimes eerie, his words conjured life in an Ettrick and Yarrow of more than 200 years ago. Reprinted with a vivid yellow cover by the EYCDC this month, *'A Selection of*

*Poems by James Hogg'* is now available. It would be a delightful addition to any bookshelf and is an accessible introduction to some of his favourite verses. Available from the James Hogg Exhibition or the Bee Hive Café or by arrangement with EYCDC – [info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk](mailto:info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk)

James Hogg  
Exhibition

### The BeeHive Café

...and Shop stocks all your essentials and is 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.



### Mobile Library Service

The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 12th and Monday 26th August** 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 8th and 22nd August** 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

LIVE  
BORDERS

## Diary Dates: August 2024



### Walk this way

Last month local guide and experienced country ranger Tommy took several sizeable groups of ramblers out exploring parts of the huge community-owned conservation woodland known as the Ettrick Marshes. These gentle evening strolls are designed to be enjoyable and informative. Some routes aimed for a 'secret stell' (stone circle) where participants were promised a special brew made using Tommy's magic kettle! The walk pictured here shows the foraging, exploration and identifying of various plants found on another route through an ancient wildflower meadow.



Longer guided walks exploring the Marshes can be specially arranged for groups – enquiries to [info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk](mailto:info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk)

### Handy calendar: AUGUST 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	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

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
**Yarrow Feus Hall**  
**Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup**

**Come for Bouncy castle fun!**

**Under 5s 9.30am-11.30am**  
**Over 5s 12.30pm-2.30pm**

**Price : Donations**  
**tea/coffee included**

*Not particularly 'sporty'?  
 At least have a go at welly wanging! All welcome to take part!*

### Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall Cappercleuch

Regular Thursday Crafting group, 2-4pm

### Playgroup Fun

Yarrow Feus Hall

Time for some **Bouncy Castle fun** at the Yarrow Feus Hall on Friday 2nd August run by the Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup. Under 5's should bounce along between 9.30am and 11.30 am. Over 5's can play at bigger bounces from 12.30pm – 2.30pm. All welcome, donations include tea and coffee.

### Guided Walk

Ettrick Marshes

Ettrick Marshes **guided evening walk** 6pm. Join ranger Tommy for a sociable evening wander through the woods with some blaeberry foraging and specially brewed meadowsweet tea. This gentle two-hour stroll starts out on boardwalk and returns to Honey Cottage via stepping stones and an old hay meadow. Expect some fun foraging facts along the way and enjoy the evening sunset. Meet outside the **Bee Hive café at Honey Cottage Caravan Park at 6pm**. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. Suggested donation of £5 per adult goes towards the upkeep of the Ettrick Marshes. Children free.

### Note: No Coffee Morning

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Please note – No monthly Coffee Morning due to a Wedding event.

### Ettrick Sports

Boston Hall, Ettrick

This long-running **Traditional Sports Day** has all the usual favourites for both children and adults including sack races, egg and spoon and thread the needle as well as foot races, shot putt, hop, skip and jump, high jump and the very competitive half mile! Also pitch and toss, throw the welly, guess the distance or just enjoy watching with an ice-cream and picnic. Events kick off at 2pm in the field next to the Boston Hall. All welcome, £2 entry for adults, children free, bring your own picnic. The sports are followed by a **fun football match** if there are enough players. *(contd. on p4)*

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

## Diary Dates: August 2024

3<sup>rd</sup>

### Ettrick Sports (contd.)

Boston Hall, Ettrick

This year the evening entertainment in the Boston Hall is **Live music from 'Scandal'** - talented musicians with a local connection. Entry by donation to Macmillan Cancer Support. Bring your own booze. 8pm start.

4<sup>th</sup>

### Church Service

Kirkhope Church, 11.30pm

This service will be led by the proposed new minister for Selkirk and the valleys. All church members encouraged to attend and cast your vote after the service for the nomination.

4<sup>th</sup>

### Brigend Week

Ettrickbridge Sports field

Brigend Week kicks off with an **Opening Ceremony** and **Scavenger Hunt** in the Sports Field at 2.45pm followed by a Picnic and optional game of rounders. Bring your own drinks and snacks. This annual fun-filled week of events is organised by the Ettrick Forest Sports and Recreation Club who look after the sports field and tennis courts.

5<sup>th</sup>

### Brigend Week

Ettrickbridge Sports field

**Brigend Week Children's Activities** (all ages up to 13) at the Sports Field from 10am-12 noon. Must be accompanied by an adult. The fun continues with the **3 B's - Boules, BBQ and Brews** from 5.30pm to late. Teams to be pre-registered by 5pm. Burgers or sausages from the BBQ on a roll for sale on the night.

5<sup>th</sup>

### Community Council Meeting

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

The bi-monthly **Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council meeting** will take place at St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch at 7pm. The AGM in June saw Alison Renwick continuing as Chair, John Wildish taking over as Vice-Chair from David Currie who resigned, Kirsty Irving continuing as the hard-working secretary and Miranda Alcock as Treasurer. Jonathon Rowley from Yarrowford was co-opted as a new member. The new community council website can be found at [www.ettrickandyarrowcc.scot](http://www.ettrickandyarrowcc.scot)



### Past challenges



Pitch & Toss



Cracking croquet



Stone Stack Sculpture



Posh Teas



The Silver Welly award!



Ceilidh / Live music



Tug o' War (you should see the other side!)



Sack Race... sort of...

## Diary Dates: August 2024



### Make the most of summer... the easy way

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. Bikes can also be hired for multiple days and kept overnight if secure lock up is possible. Delivery by arrangement if required. Call **07483 404663** or email **bikes@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk**

## Summer Holiday fun at Bowhill

There's still time to get out and about in the great outdoors before the school Autumn term signals the end of the summer holidays. These family-friendly Mini Ranger activities with Countryside Ranger Andy will take place at Bowhill during August.

### Mini Rangers (5+yrs)

**Under cover** – knots and shelters: 30 August

**Find your way** – orienteering and map making: 2 August

**Underground and on the wing** – bugs and butterflies: 9 August

**Unseen nature** – tracks and trails nature walk: 6 August, 16 August,

**Frame and forage** – willow frame and dream weaver portraits: 23 August.



### Mini Rangers (under 5's)

**Mud Faces** – Lets get dirty: 2 August, 30 August.

**Nature's Treasures** – Forage and Create: 9 August

**Goblin Village** – Mini Dens: 6 August, 16 August

**Birds and Bugs** – Bed and Breakfast: 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/](http://www.bowhillhouse.co.uk/event/mini-ranger-family-activities/)

■ Meet in the Courtyard.

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

### Day Tickets Season Pass

Adults £7	Adult £14
Children £5	Child £10
Under 3's FREE	Under 3's FREE
Family n/a	Family (2+3) £30

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

## Curry Night

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

**Brigend Week Curry Night!** 6.30pm in the Kirkhope Hall – eat in or take away. £8 per person. Pre order essential by Sunday 4th at 5pm by phoning **Barbara on 07845 677104** or email **bckharrison@btinternet.com**. Own dishes required for take away option.



## Kite Making and Flying

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge

Come fly a kite! Brigend Week – **Kite making and flying** at the Sports Field from 10am to 12 noon. Children must be accompanied.

## Family Activity

Sports Field, Ettrickbridge

From 2pm the Brigend Week - **Family Activity**. This nature based event for all ages at the Sports Field will take participants through the stages of **making a squirrel feeder** to help our red squirrels.

## Craft Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Craft group meets at 10 am on the first Wednesday of every month in Kirkhope Hall.

## Pub Quiz Night

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! **Lindajack57@btinternet.com**

## Table Tennis session

Yarrowford Hall

The well-supported Table Tennis Sessions continue throughout August every Wednesday evening, 6 to 7pm.

6<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>

## Diary Dates: August 2024

8<sup>th</sup>

### Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Weekly Chat 'n' Craft session, 2-4pm

8<sup>th</sup>

### Brigend Week Fun

Ettrickbridge, various venues

Brigend Week children's activities continue with a **hockey taster session** on the sports field for 6 years and over. 10am to 12 noon.

In the afternoon it's time to look out your best bib and tucker for some special **Posh Teas** served in the village hall. (The 'tucker' was the lace frill covering a ladies neck and shoulders in olden days.) 2pm to 4pm. These must be booked in advance by **messaging Fiona to book a table on haggis1@hotmail.com** and give any dietary requirements. £8 per person.

Round off the afternoon with some **croquet** in the Sports Field from 4pm.

9<sup>th</sup>

### Brigend Week Activities

Ettrickbridge, various venues

Brigend Week Children's Activities at the Sports Field are going creative with **Arts and Crafts**. From 1pm there will be tennis lessons and mini games on the tennis courts for age 5-12 with accompanying adult.

Take Your Partners for the final event of the Week with a **Grand Ceilidh** in the Kirkhope Hall from 8pm to 11pm. Children welcome. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. Entry £5 with under 16 year olds free.

11<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday Church Service

Yarrow Kirk

Morning Service will be held at 11.30am

14<sup>th</sup>

### Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall

Weekly Table Tennis session, 6-7pm



14<sup>th</sup>

### Back to School!

Kirkhope & Yarrow Primary schools

Back to school for the Autumn term! 8.30am - 3.05pm



Upper Loch, Bowhill  
© Moy Mackay,  
2024

## Deeply felt

Award winning Scottish artist Moy Mackay's stunning felted pictures will be on display at the Bowhill

Courtyard Gallery, 10am - 5pm throughout August. Prepare to be amazed at the wonderful range of deep, rich colours incorporated into these tactile landscapes. Moy will be demonstrating the art of wet felting with merino fibres and stitch on 3 Wednesdays in August – the 7th, 14th and 28th from 12 noon to 4pm. More details online at [www.bowhillhouse.co.uk/event/moy-mackay/](http://www.bowhillhouse.co.uk/event/moy-mackay/)

Also featured in the gallery during August are works by artist Val Ferguson whose constant inspiration is the landscape. In her textile art, Val layers sheer fabrics and incorporates metals such as copper, copper mesh, bronze brass mesh and mild steel. Recently she has embraced woodturning and often includes metal elements in her woodwork as well.

Sculpture  
© Val Ferguson, 2024



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### Coming up in August ...

<p><b>COFFEE MORNING</b></p> <p>Every Wednesday 10.30am - 12pm</p>	<p><b>PIZZA</b></p> <p>Friday &amp; Saturday 5pm - 7.30pm Takeaway available</p>	<p>Every Saturday 5.30pm</p> <p><b>Play Your Cards Right</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Quiz NIGHT</b></p> <p>PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Pizza ALL AFTERNON</b></p>	
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>LADIES COCKTAIL CLUB</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Live Music</b></p>	

## Diary Dates: August 2024

15<sup>th</sup>

### Pilates Class

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Pilates Class - Pilates classes run in the Kirkhope Hall every Thursday at 6.15pm. Cost is £40 for a block of 4 sessions. Contact Katy for more details and to book prior to coming along: email [katytherapies@yahoo.com](mailto:katytherapies@yahoo.com)

### Craft, Coffee & Chat!

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

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

15<sup>th</sup>

### Walk & Talk: Ettrick Hut Circles

17<sup>th</sup>



Honey Cottage, Ettrick Marshes

Join local historian, Gilly Tulip, for a short **walk and talk on the Ettrick Hut Circles** in the Ettrick Marshes. The outline of 3 hut circles are still visible and point to people living in the Marshes during the Bronze Age. The walk will start at the **Bee Hive café at Honey Cottage** at 1.30pm (please park at the Marshes carpark if busy at the café) and finish there around 3pm. Learn about the people who lived here and why.

17<sup>th</sup>

### Exhibition

Halliwell's House Museum, Selkirk

Today is the last chance to view the beautiful and evocative watercolours by **Ettrick artist, Alma Dowle in the exhibition entitled 'In My Element'**, in the Robson Room, Halliwell's House Museum in Selkirk. This lovely quirky museum showing life in Selkirk in the old days is worth a visit. Entry is free / donation. Further details at: [www.liveborders.org.uk/museum-exhibitions-events/](http://www.liveborders.org.uk/museum-exhibitions-events/)

## Challenge of the Century!



As our 100th anniversary is in November, we would love it if you could add photos, memories etc to our wall. Please feel free the next time you are in St Mary's Hall to add a photo or just have a wee look!

## Let your business flourish at Kirkhope Mill



Come on in...

The Kirkhope Mill business units are community owned, eco-friendly workshops and office space just outside Ettrickbridge. There is co-working space available from £100 per month inclusive, unlimited hours. Also one large downstairs unit (500 sq ft) still available to rent. 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](mailto:info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk) to book.

**Glen Cafe**  
07512303205  
AT ST MARY'S LOCH  
Wednesday - Monday  
10am-6pm Kitchen Closes At 4pm



**LIVE BORDERS**  
MUSEUMS  
GALLERIES  
& ARCHIVES



'Inky Trees'

© Alma Dowle, 2024

## Diary Dates: August 2024

18<sup>th</sup>

### Flower Show

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The **Kirkhope Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show** in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge has been showing off the best produce and crafts produced in the Ettrick valley since 1855. Over 60 classes! For a schedule please contact **Miranda** for more information. **01750 52783** or **malcock51@gmail.com**  
Doors open 2.30pm with trophies presented around 3pm. Admission £1, tea/coffee and traybakes £2.50. Children free. Raffle prizes.

18<sup>th</sup>

### Church Service

Ettrick Kirk, Ettrick

Church Services in the valleys move around the three churches. Sunday 18th is in Ettrick Kirk at 11am

21<sup>st</sup>

### Art Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group is to be held, 10am to 12noon, in Kirkhope Parish Hall. 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.

21<sup>st</sup>

### Table tennis

Yarrowford Hall: 6-7pm

25<sup>th</sup>

### Church Service

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge

Church service at 11.30am

25<sup>th</sup>

### Flower Show

Yarrowford Hall

**Flower and Produce Show.** The hall will be open from 2.00 – 4.00 pm for afternoon tea, £4.00 per person

28<sup>th</sup>

### Table tennis

Yarrowford Hall: 6-7pm

29<sup>th</sup>

### Crafting Session

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Weekly Thursday Crafting session, 2-4pm



Family friendly  
monthly  
**PUB NIGHT**

**PUB GAMES NIGHT**  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August  
7pm

100<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Enjoy the warm atmosphere of the 'local' from 7pm. The family friendly 'pub night' features darts, pool, card games, dominoes, cash bar and tuck shop treats.



### The beauty of the blues



**Sunday 1st September**

– Botanical  
Printing

Workshop at  
Ettrick School

led by Carole Gascoigne from Yarn in the Barn. Pick your own botanicals on a short foraging trip first and then learn the art of cyanotype printing – making artworks by placing your botanicals on a pre-prepared light sensitive surface. Eight places available – must be booked in advance. More details from **info@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk**



### The Yarrow & Ettrick Pastoral Society Annual Show



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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. **www.yarrowshow.com**  
**Entries close on Friday 30th August** – late entries will be charged double and will not appear in the programme.

The **SINGING KETTLE** is coming to the **Yarrow Feus Hall** on **28th September 1.30-3.30pm** – Sure to sell out so book early!

