



## Welcome

...to the September 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.

Wow! What magic has settled in the Yarrow Valley?!



## Good food at The Gordon Arms? Yes - one of UK's best!



Congratulations to The Gordon Arms Restaurant with Rooms in Yarrow for being judged one of the top 100 local restaurants in Great Britain 2024 by the Good Food Guide. A fantastic achievement as it's judged out of 60,000 nominations – well done Bryn and Oxana!

## Bollywood comes to the Borders

Meanwhile, at another eatery in the Yarrow Valley, a whirlwind visit from a Bollywood film crew last week caused quite a stir among staff and visitors to The Glen Cafe, St Mary's Loch.

The cafe usually opens at 10am but the visitors arrived at 9am and kept the staff busy until after 8pm!

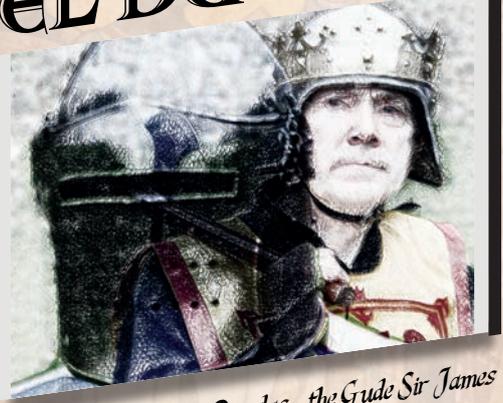


However, there was time for some fun – there was a stunt crew, elaborate costumes and it was amazing to watch all the dancers. In addition, cafe staff Maddy and Lisa got to ride in a carriage pulled by four beautiful black horses!



Five whole minutes of feeling like princesses! It was a good day all in all, despite the rain. It is believed the scenes were linked to the production currently being filmed in Edinburgh for 'Son of Sardaar 2'.

HotTrod Theatre Company presents **EL DUOLAS** 



*The 'Black Douglas ...the Gude Sir James*

**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER • 7.30pm** **£15**  
**KIRKHOPE HALL, ETTRICKBRIDGE**

Tickets from LOUISE via email:  
**[louisejrobson8@aol.co.uk](mailto:louisejrobson8@aol.co.uk)**

For details visit: [www.hottrodtheatre.co.uk](http://www.hottrodtheatre.co.uk) or via QR code: 

## Diary Dates: September 2024

1<sup>st</sup>

### Church Service

Yarrow Kirk

Sunday morning service at Yarrow Kirk at 11.30am

2<sup>nd</sup>

### CAB drop-in Surgery

Yarrow Hall

Citizens Advice Bureau Drop In Surgery in Yarrow Hall from 9am – 12 noon. This is a great opportunity for anyone to speak face to face with an experienced Adviser 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 needed, people can just pitch up and speak to the Adviser.

Advice provided by CAB is always free, independent, confidential, impartial and available to everyone. Also on the first Monday in October, November and December, same time.

4<sup>th</sup>

### Craft Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

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

4<sup>th</sup>

### 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! [Lindajack57@btinternet.com](mailto:Lindajack57@btinternet.com)

4<sup>th</sup>

### Exhibition

Former Ettrick School

James Hogg Exhibition, 2-5pm at the former Ettrick Primary School. Every Wed, Fri and Sun afternoons until end of the month.

4<sup>th</sup>

### Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall

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



Last month saw the return of pupils to the Valley Primary schools for the autumn term – along with a few new faces as Primary 1 pupils stepped onto the learning curve. Kirkhope took time out to take a school photo of the whole roll of students (above), while Yarrow hit the ground running with literacy learning – even the new P1 pupils who were learning their sounds through Jolly Phonics (see below right). Good to see such healthy numbers – and pupils – boosting our local schools.



For more news from our Valleys schools visit Facebook and search for "Yarrow Primary School" or "Kirkhope Primary School"

### Handy calendar: September 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	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	1	2	3	4	5	6



Yarrow by Walker Baxter, CC BY-SA 2.0

## Yarrow Calendar

It is time once again to get out your cameras, phones or photo albums and submit an entry for the Yarrow Hall 2025 calendar.

All entries should be landscape format and as high a resolution as possible. The entry should include an approximate location of the photograph. The image should be in jpg format. Used by most cameras and phones.

All profits from the sale of the calendar will go to Hall funds.

All participants who have their image selected will receive a free copy of the 2025 calendar.

All entries to be sent to [2025calendar@scottish-borders.com](mailto:2025calendar@scottish-borders.com) by 20th September. Entries will then be displayed on the [yarrowhall.com](http://yarrowhall.com) website and will be available for a public vote.

## Clean water on tap...



Scottish Water's planned examination of the drinking water in the Yarrow Feus area of Selkirk to undertake a new water treatment process is currently underway and is aimed at improving water resilience and quality. It is expected to be completed by the second week in September.

Originally, the switch to a new treatment process, called Chloramination, was scheduled for May but this was delayed to allow for essential network upgrades.

Caledonia Water Alliance is carrying out the work on behalf of Scottish Water.

During the switch to Chloramination, residents might notice a change in water pressure or some discoloration in their water. If this occurs, just turn on the cold water tap in your kitchen and let it run slowly until the water clears.

## Diary Dates: September 2024

### Natter with neighbours

4<sup>th</sup>

First Wednesday: 4th September - 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.

### Crafting Session

5<sup>th</sup>

St Mary's Hall Cappercleuch

Regular Thursday Crafting group, 2-4pm

### Playgroup Fun

6<sup>th</sup>

Kirkhope Village Hall

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 (adult carer stays for the session so a good chance to get to know others over a friendly cuppa)

### Coffee Morning

7<sup>th</sup>

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Coffee Morning, 10am to 12. Get together over a tea / coffee, share news, raise a laugh as well as funds for the Hall. What's not to like?

### Church Service

8<sup>th</sup>

Ettrick Kirk

Sunday morning service at Ettrick, starts at 11am - tea and coffee afterwards

### Ettrick WI

10<sup>th</sup>

Ettrick WI restarts after the summer break on Tuesday 10th at 7.30 in the Boston Hall. This month's topic is Autumn gardening. Visitors, plus new and returning members always welcome.



### Table Tennis

11<sup>th</sup>

Yarrowford Hall

Playing regular table tennis has an array of health benefits. Strengthen your muscles, hone your co-ordination, improve joint mobility and burn off calories! It's also great fun. Every Wednesday, 6-7pm



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

**CROSS KEYS INN**  
ETTRICKBRIDGE

Main Street, Ettrickbridge • 01750 52224  
[hello@crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com](mailto:hello@crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com)  
[www.crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com](http://www.crosskeysinnettrickbridge.com)

## Coming up in September ...

 <p><b>COFFEE MORNING</b> Every Wednesday 10.30am - 12pm</p>	<p>Friday &amp; Saturday 5pm - 7.30pm Takeaway available (until 21st)</p> 	
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><i>Quiz</i> <b>NIGHT</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>  <p>Yarrow &amp; Ettrick Show after-party &amp; music</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRE-THEATRE DINING 5PM-6.30PM</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>Pizza in the Garden</i> SUMMER CLOSING PARTY</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>  <p>THE TURNBULL TROPHY ROUND 1</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><i>Live Music</i></p>

## Diary Dates: September 2024

12<sup>th</sup>

### Welcome Service

#### Selkirk Parish Church

A special service for the induction of the new minister will be held in Selkirk Parish Church at 7pm. Rev. Kwame Ahaligah has been appointed to take up the role of Minister for both Selkirk and the valleys. Everyone is warmly invited and refreshments will be served afterwards. (See news item on right)

12<sup>th</sup>

### Pilates Class



#### Kirkhope Hall

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 information and to book prior to coming along: email [katytherapies@yahoo.com](mailto:katytherapies@yahoo.com)

12<sup>th</sup>

### Crafting Session

#### St Mary's Hall, Cappercleuch

Coffee and chat while being crafty! 2-4pm Remember: "Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye." – Dorothy Parker (1893-1967)

13<sup>th</sup>

### Playgroup Fun

Getting to know your neighbours starts early! Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup meets every Friday morning at Kirkhope village hall from 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years.

14<sup>th</sup>

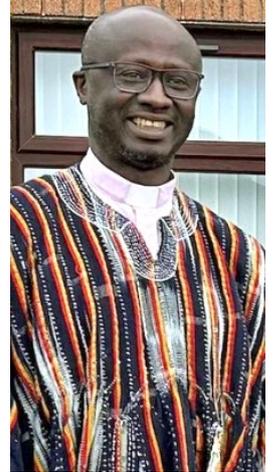
### Yarrow Show

The 102nd Yarrow and Ettrick Pastoral Society Annual Show will be held on Saturday 14th September at Carterhaugh, Bowhill this year. Livestock competitions, crafts, equestrian events, food stalls, bar and much more. A full day's entertainment for all the family. Judging commences at 10am. (Further details in feature on right.)

## Welcome to the Scottish Borders!

A welcome and Induction Service will be held in Selkirk Parish Church on September 12th to mark the appointment of the Rev'd Kwame Ahaligah to the Parishes of Selkirk and Ashkirk linked with Ettrick and Yarrow.

Kwame is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and holds a PhD from Leeds University, UK. He is a graduate of Yale University and Wartburg Theological Seminary both in the USA. His research areas include religions in Africa and the African/American Diaspora, and religion in politics and public life, and African migrant Christianity in the United States. Kwame is passionate about climate and social justice.



Rev'd Kwame Ahaligah

## Yarrow Show 2024

The long-established and popular Yarrow Show, (this is the 102nd annual show) is taking place at Carterhaugh this year. It's in the field next to Bowhill on the road nearest Selkirk which links the two valleys.



and includes, 'dog most like its owner', and 'dog the judges would most like to take home' as well as 'best household pet (any variety) for 12 yrs and under.' The

The Yarrow and Ettrick Pastoral Society Annual Show (to give it its full title!) is a competitive local show with lots of classes including always a big turn out of horses and ponies. Some of the top cheviot and blackface sheep breeders in the country farm in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys so the sheep judging is a serious business starting at 10am.

children's dog handler class is split between 10yrs and under and 10-16 yrs.

Other classes include field and garden produce, the flower show, baking, craft items and walking sticks – with all these special entries available to view in the industrial and craft tents. The dog and pet show is open to entries on the field

Further attractions include childrens' races, lots of stalls to wander around, big machinery, vintage tractors, ice-cream, catering, and the beer tent. Ed Strang-Steel will be doing the commentating and this year's president, Gibby Findlater, will be presiding.

Admission is £10 per adult (incl. car parking), concessions £5 and Under 16s free.

Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company will have its usual blue gazebo at the show so please drop by and say hello!



Yarrow Show, 2023

## Lest we forget...

Back in the late Nineties, John Nichol of the Hot Trod Theatre Company decided he would like to tell the story of Sir James Douglas – the 'Good Sir James' to the Scots, and the 'Black Douglas' to those south of the border. The play was, however, written, put aside, rewritten, put aside again, many times over the years.

However, last year, both Iain Fraser and Alistair Pattullo (John's fellow HotTrodgers) declared themselves enthusiastic about the idea and so the final adaptation of *El Duglas* quickly evolved.

Why *El Duglas*? 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. Sir James was Bruce's ablest lieutenant



John Nichol, Hot Trod Theatre Company



James Douglas memorial plaque in Teba, Andalucia

and the most professional soldier of his day, whose menacing resourcefulness and outright genius undoubtedly led to victory in the Scottish Wars of Independence.

The show begins with Juan coming in from the Andalucian sunshine to take a break from his role as Sir James

Douglas, just after a parade through the streets of Teba during the Douglas Day celebrations. Removing his surcoat, Juan becomes the Bruce, who then takes up the story...



**HotTrod**  
Theatre Company

*'El Duglas' will be staged at Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge on Friday 20th September. Ticket details in diary listing overleaf or advert on p1.*

## Diary Dates: September 2024

### Exhibition

Old Ettrick School

James Hogg Exhibition open 2-5 in the old Ettrick School. Every Wed, Fri and Sun afternoon until the end of September.



15<sup>th</sup>

### Church Service

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge

Sunday Morning Service in Kirkhope Church at 11.30am

15<sup>th</sup>

### The Stitches Sewing Bee

Boston Hall, Ettrick

The Stitches – Ettrick's sociable sewing bee restarts for the winter 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.



17<sup>th</sup>

### Valleys Art Group

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The next date for the Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group is Wednesday, 18th September, 10am to 12noon, in Kirkhope Parish Hall. This month we are going to be experimenting with a variety of watercolour techniques including learning how to paint bubbles, and how salt, cling film and even feathers can be used to great effect. All abilities welcome. We can provide materials if you need them. Email [iris@happyhedgerow.co.uk](mailto:iris@happyhedgerow.co.uk) for more information.

18<sup>th</sup>

### Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall 6-7pm



18<sup>th</sup>



The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 9th and Monday 23rd September** 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 5th and 19th September** 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

## Diary Dates: September 2024

19<sup>th</sup>

### 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 October and November.

19<sup>th</sup>

### Singing together

Yarrow Feus Hall

The Safety in Numbers singing group weekly sessions for autumn 2024 begin on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

20<sup>th</sup>

### Theatre: 'El Duglas'

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Hot Trod Theatre Company with it's production of 'El Duglas', starring John Nichol will take place in Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 from Louise by email [louisejrobson8@aol.com](mailto:louisejrobson8@aol.com). For more details see page 5.

20<sup>th</sup>

### Playgroup fun

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

The regular Friday session of Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup 9.30-11.30 For pre-schoolers – babies, toddlers 0-5 years. Parents can stay and play too!

22<sup>nd</sup>

### Church Service

Yarrow Kirk

Morning Service – Church Services in the valleys move around the three churches. Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> is in Yarrow Kirk at 11.30am.



## A meeting that was great, great, great!

James Hogg's great, great, great granddaughter, Perrine Gilkison, a Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry for the Environment, Wellington, New Zealand, paid a visit to the James Hogg Exhibition, Ettrick, in late August.

During her stay in the Borders, Perrine also popped into The General Store in Selkirk where she met Proprietor Sue Briggs who was able to highlight how popular Hogg still is within the heritage of the Borders and Scottish literature in general.

Sue (on left in photo) drew attention to two books in the shop. The first: *Walking with James Hogg - The Ettrick Shepherd's Journeys through Scotland* was written by Hogg's great-great-grandson (and Perrine's father) Bruce Gilkison in New Zealand. The second, produced last year by the Ettrick and Yarrow Tourism Association, is entitled *James Hogg Poetry Trails*. Featuring two trails, one in each valley, the routes are designed to be enjoyed by foot, bike or car and highlight key landmarks, places of interest and local businesses that are as interesting and inspiring to visit and explore



today as they were in Hogg's time.

The Hogg Trail book is in stock in the General Store and the Hogg Exhibition in Ettrick is open till end September.

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



**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**WE THINK  
YOU'RE  
AMAZING**

**Ted? Pooh Bear?  
Rupert? Bruno?**



Summer, who works in the Bee Hive café at Honey Cottage Caravan Park, is appealing to visitors to “Do something amazing” and help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Not a marathon, a sponsored silence or a 10-mile walk – all she asks is for visitors to partake in a Guess the Name of the Bear competition held at the Cafe’s Coffee-and-Scones day on September 27th, 10.30-12noon. Easy. There will also be a raffle and a Guess the Best Cake challenge. Entry by donation for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## The BeeHive Café



...and Shop stocks all your essentials and is **now into its autumn opening hours which are: 10am to 2.30pm, seven days.** 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.

## Bowhill House closure ends summer season

August 31st marked the closure of Bowhill House for the summer season and it won’t be long until the Grounds of Bowhill are clothed in Autumn splendour (like the photo above) once more.

Visitors are reminded that if they have a 2024 Annual Pass they can now gain entry to the Grounds right through autumn and winter! Go for a brisk walk outdoors, experience the stunning seasonal transformations in nature at Bowhill and come away with some wonderful photos.



## 29<sup>th</sup> Church Service

The Sunday morning service will be held in Ettrickbridge at Kirkhope Church 11.30am.

This is a joint service with Selkirk and Ashkirk.



## Diary Dates: September 2024

### Wool Marketing Board visit

A visit to the newly-opened British Wool Marketing Board depot in Selkirk to see how all the local wool crop from valley farms is graded and sorted has been organised for members of the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company and their friends. 10.30am at the depot, and must be booked in advance – names please to [vicky@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk](mailto:vicky@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk)



25<sup>th</sup>

### Table Tennis

Yarrowford Hall 6-7pm

25<sup>th</sup>

### Crafting Session

St Mary’s Hall, Cappercleuch, 2-4pm

26<sup>th</sup>

### Valleys Playgroup

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup - every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years.

27<sup>th</sup>

### Something Amazing...!

Beehive Cafe, Ettrick

**Let’s do Something Amazing...** Coffee and Scones for a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support in the Beehive Café, Honey Cottage Caravan Park, Ettrick 10.30 to 12 noon on the 27th. Also raffle, Guess the Teddy’s name and Guess the best cake. Any donations of raffle prizes gratefully received.

27<sup>th</sup>

### Pub Games Night

St Mary’s Hall, Cappercleuch

Pub Games Night darts, pool, card games, dominoes, cash bar and tuck shop treats. Friday 27th, from 7pm.

27<sup>th</sup>

### Live Music

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge

Live music night - All welcome.

28<sup>th</sup>

### Singing Kettle

Yarrow Feus Hall, 1.30-3.30pm.

Sure to sell out so book early!



28<sup>th</sup>



### A reminder from EYCDC

The aim of this newsletter is to provide a link for all residents in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys. If you have something to publicise, sell or interesting to share, please contact the editor at the address below.

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

The editors reserve the right to modify, shorten or otherwise edit material submitted to the Newsletter. We cannot guarantee that late copy will be included.

This online newsletter is produced by Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company and is free to all valley households. Please contact us on the email address above if you wish your name and email address to be added to the distribution list.

The Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company (EYCDC) has been operating in the valleys for over 10 years. Projects include redeveloping the old farm steading at Kirkhope into five affordable homes to rent and a business unit with seven lettable spaces.

We also own and manage the Ettrick Marshes, one of Scotland's largest wetland restoration projects and

an important conservation area which includes an extensive boardwalk along the fringe of the Marshes and two bird hides.

We are still in the process (after many years) of taking ownership of the old Ettrick Primary School where we run the James Hogg Exhibition, occasional workshops, office space, hire out electric bikes and provide an overnight stopping point for campervans in the playground. We are currently looking at further improvements to the building.

Other projects include completing a circular walking route around St Mary's Loch and reopening the Captain's Road walking route which links both valleys from St Mary's Loch in Yarrow over the hill to Hopehouse in Ettrick. We are currently looking at providing a safe off-road walking route from Kirkhope to Ettrickbridge.

Membership of EYCDC is open to all residents who are 16 or over and live within the valley postcodes. You can be an associate member if you live outside these postcodes. We currently have 298 members and associate members. If you would like to join, please contact EYCDC for a membership application form - cost £1.

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE TO USE AS A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



### Application for Ordinary Membership

The Valleys Community Company aims to promote the regeneration of the valleys for the benefit of all residents through support for schemes or projects that will benefit the community.

Membership of the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company is open to all residents in the Ettrick or Yarrow Valleys, over 16 years of age, registered to vote, and agree with the company's aims and objectives.

**Membership fee is £1 - please include this with your application.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Post code: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

*This information will be used to keep you informed regarding the Company. If you do NOT wish your details to be stored please put a cross here*

*I confirm that I support the objectives of the Company.*

Signature: .....

*Please return your completed application to: Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company, c/o Waterwheel Cafe, Philiphaugh, Selkirk TD7 5LU*