



Welcome ...to the December 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.



St Mary's Hall Centenary Oh what a night!

A brilliant night was had last Saturday celebrating the 100th anniversary of St Mary's Hall Cappercleuch! The impressive overnight fall of snow did not deter local residents of all ages who packed into the hall to join the party.

Photos of past events and personalities were exhibited around the room and to further evoke nostalgia, a magnificent

spread of party food through the decades provided a wonderful way to kindle memories of past hall events. Pies, sandwiches, quiches, vol-au-vents, devilled eggs and cheese & pineapple cocktail sticks were among the many varieties of finger food laid out to get everyone talking – and munching!

Thanks go out to the committee who worked so hard to get the celebration organised – and a very special mention to Doreen Mitchell for her brilliant and entertaining speech.

Here's to the next 100 years!



You're the Best!

The smiles say it all: the Cross Keys Inn have only gone and done it again and are now officially Scotland's Best Pub 2024! Rory and Vicki Steel - pictured above with the trophy – were astounded that at the National Thistle Awards Final in Glasgow last week Ettrickbridge's village Inn was announced as the National Winner in the 'Best Bar or Pub' category.

"We've been absolutely overwhelmed this week with messages of congratulations for our award win," the jubilant couple posted on social media.

"We are so proud and humbled to bring back another big, jaggy Thistle Award to Ettrickbridge. The judges commented on us having an exceptional, warm, welcoming atmosphere showcasing the very best of Borders hospitality. And that is all down to our team of brilliant individuals and awesome support of unbelievably helpful locals. A massive thank you to you all!"

Other South Scotland attractions were also celebrating alongside the Cross Keys and the couple gave a convivial shoutout to their success too.

"Huge congratulations to our fellow South of Scotland National winners, the Trimontium Trust, The Globe Inn 1610, Dumfries, and Wigtown Book Festival - we had a great night celebrating with you."



Diary Dates: December 2024

1st

Church Service ❄️

Yarrow Kirk, 11.30am

Services alternate between Yarrow and Kirkhope during the winter months. The morning service on Sunday 1st December is in Yarrow Kirk at 11.30am. Services are led by the new Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah.

2nd

CAB Advice session ❄️

Yarrow Hall, 9am - 12noon

Citizens Advice Bureau Drop In Surgery in Yarrow Hall. 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 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, just pitch up and speak to the Adviser.

2nd

Whist ❄️

Boston Hall, Ettrick

Come and play Whist in the Boston Hall, Ettrick on the first Monday of every month through the winter. 7pm, tea/ coffee provided, bring your own cup and snack, only £1 per session. All welcome, no experience necessary.

3rd

The Stitchers ❄️

Boston Hall, Ettrick

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

3rd

New Age Kurling ❄️

Yarrowford Hall, 2pm-4pm

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

3rd

EYCDC AGM ❄️

Yarrow Hall, Yarrow Feus

The Ettrick and Yarrow Community Development Company AGM is on Tuesday 3rd, 7 for 7.30pm. All welcome. Hot mulled wine and mince pies for some seasonal cheer.



The BeeHive Café



...and Shop stocks all your essentials but is now onto winter opening hours... From Monday the 25th November 2024 the shop and cafe will be closed every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Open as usual 10 till 2 Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You'll find it in upper Ettrick at the entrance to the Honey Cottage Caravan Park.



Christmas countdown...

It's that time again. We are taking orders for Christmas wreaths which are selling for £15. Please call in to the shop or telephone Kay on 07881957809 to place your order.

We are also taking orders for the butchers in Selkirk which will be delivered on Xmas Eve and Hogmanay. Order forms available in the shop.

Handy calendar: December 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27	28	29	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	11	12



The monthly Mobile Library service, run by Live Borders will be coming to **Yarrow on Monday 2nd & Monday 16th December** 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 12th December** 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

Podcast pleasures

If you haven't already discovered the Tweed Valley Blogger, Episode Five of Tweed Valley Echoes is worth a wee explore. It was recorded in Selkirk and Ettrickbridge, with an excursion to Kirkhope Tower. Join Stewart Wilson as he shares stories of Auld Wat of Harden, Border Reiver and ancestor of Sir Walter Scott. Travel with him as he embarks on one of the finest short walks in The Borders, which couples well with a visit to Ettrickbridge's award winning pub.

Available now wherever you get your podcasts, or listen via Stewart's website – <https://tweedvalleyblogger.com>. You'll enjoy episode five!



Ettrick & Yarrow
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

AGM

7.30pm Tuesday 3rd December 2024
Yarrow Feus Hall

Seasonal refreshments provided

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Ettrick Valley Committee

Christmas Wreath Making!



Join us on.....

Wednesday 4th December at 7pm

or

Thursday 5th December at 10am

**Kirkhope Parish
Hall in Ettrickbridge**

£30.00

per person to include
all materials and
festive refreshments

CHRISTMAS
HAMPER RAFFLE
CHRISTMAS GIFTS
and HOME-BAKING

Places must be booked and paid in advance.

To book, please email: macmillanettrickvalley@gmail.com

Ettrick Valley Committee - Macmillan Cancer Support : Find us on Facebook : Follow us on Instagram

*Diary Dates: December
2024*



Craft Group



4th

Kirkhope Hall, 10am start

Ettrickbridge based Craft group.

Xmas Wreath Making



4th

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge,

Christmas Wreath Making, 7pm in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. £30 per person, incl. all materials and festive refreshments. Booking essential - email: macmillanettrickvalley@gmail.com Also on Thursday 5th, 10am.



Tea and Chat



4th

Yarrow Hall

Every first Wednesday of the month, either in the afternoon, 2-3pm or evening 7-8pm depending on School use of Hall.

Table Tennis



4th

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm

Xmas Wreath Making



5th

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge, 10am

Christmas Wreath Making in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. £30 per person, incl. all materials and festive refreshments. Booking essential - email: macmillanettrickvalley@gmail.com

Indoor Bowling



5th

Boston Hall, Ettrick, from 7.30pm

All welcome, no experience necessary.

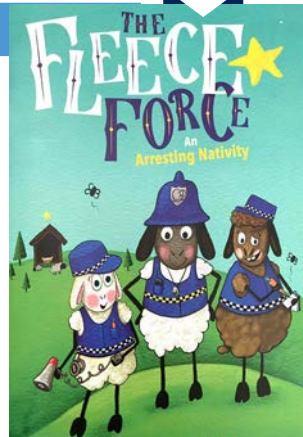
Christmas Concert

Yarrow Primary School

'The Fleece Force: An Arresting Nativity' 2pm & 6pm.

'The script for this nativity is very witty and communicates the Christmas story in an entirely fun and engaging way without losing the inherent sense of wonder embodied in the original tale.' (Teach Primary Magazine)

A Christmas hamper will be raffled by the Friends of Yarrow.



Singing Group



5th

Change of venue! Yarrowford Hall

The **Safety in Numbers** singing group usually meets every Thursday 7.00 - 8.30 in Yarrow Feus Hall, but for this week only the group is in Yarrowford Hall. The weekly sessions led by Hilary Bell cost £3.



Diary Dates: December 2024

5th

Crafting Session ❄️

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

5th

Guys' Get-together ❄️

Yarrowford Hall

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

6th

Playgroup Messy Play ❄️

Yarrow Feus Hall, 9.30-11am

Ettrick and Yarrow Playgroup meets for a Christmas themed Messy Play this Friday morning at Yarrow Feus Hall from 9.30am-11am Babies, Toddlers 0-5 years. £5 per child, £2 additional sibling. All welcome (adult carer stays for the session so a good chance to get to know others over a friendly cuppa)

8th

Morning Service ❄️

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge,

Morning Service at 11.30am, led by the new Selkirk and valleys minister, Kwame Ahaligah.

8th

Quiz Night ❄️

The Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge

Village Quiz Night - 7.30 for 8pm start. Maximum 5 in a team, £2 per person. Booking essential as the pub can only hold so many! Email: Lindajack57@btinternet.com

9th

Silver Band Concert ❄️

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Selkirk Silver Band will be leading a concert in Kirkhope Parish Hall, Ettrickbridge at 7.15pm Tickets on the door: Adults £5; Children £2 (includes festive refreshments)



10th

Kirkhope School Concert

Kirkhope School, Ettrickbridge

Kirkhope Primary School Christmas Concert. Times tbc



10th

Ettrick WRI ❄️

Boston Hall

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



Send us your Festive photos!

This month Storm Bert brought a day of snow and with it great photo opportunities. Here is one of my personal favourites of five Border collies, ears at full alert, ready to chase a snowball.

For our next edition we would like to see your festive photos. Email your pictures to vicky@ettrickandyarrow.org.uk to be featured in next months newsletter.



Book Week

Yarrow Primary School celebrated Book Week Scotland (November 18 - 24) by inviting parents and an array of amazing grown-ups in to the school to read to the pupils.

Thanks go out to everyone that gave up their time to celebrate and share their love of books.



Diary Dates: December 2024



2025 Yarrow Hall Calendar

The all new 2025 Yarrow Hall charity calendar has arrived! Twelve stunning images of Yarrow, all taken by local folk living in the Valley.

All profits are returned to our rural Scottish community hall.

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

Yarrowford WRI



10th

Yarrowford Hall, 7.30pm

NO Yarrowford Woman's Rural meeting today, the next will be in January - the 2nd Tuesday of the month as usual.

Ettrickbridge WRI



11th

Kirkhope Hall

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

Table Tennis



11th

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30-6.30pm

Service of Remembering

12th

Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge

2pm Thursday 12th December. Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Remembering Service. This is a quiet service of reflection for anyone who wants to remember a loved one at this special time of year. Tea, coffee and cake after the service.



Retired Gentlemen's Christmas Lunch ...!



12th

Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge, 12.30pm

Join fellow folk who have called time on their careers, but miss the fun of work-place festivities at our special Christmas gathering for retired gents. Just give us a call (01750 52224) or pop-in to pre-book your delicious menu choices (we also offer a two course option, available for this Christmas sitting only). Novelty Christmas jumpers is optional; having an afternoon of fine food, wine, fun and games with friends old and new isn't.

Crafting Session



12th

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

Coffee and chat while being crafty!

Guys' Get-together



12th

Yarrowford Hall, 2.30pm

Informal weekly club for men of all ages to drop in for a chat, game of cards, dominoes or darts. £3.00 per session - includes refreshments.

CROSS KEYS INN

ETTRICKBRIDGE

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

Main Street, Ettrickbridge • 01750 52224
hello@crosskeysinnetrickbridge.com

www.crosskeysinnetrickbridge.com

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

MONDAY 23RD	4PM - 11PM
CHRISTMAS EVE	4PM - 11PM
CHRISTMAS DAY	12PM - 2PM (DRINKS)
BOXING DAY	1PM - 5PM (DRINKS)
FRIDAY 27TH	12PM - 11PM
SATURDAY 28TH	12PM - 11PM
SUNDAY 29TH	12PM - 11PM
MONDAY 30TH	4PM - 11PM
HOGMANAY	12PM - 1AM
NEW YEARS DAY	12PM - MIDNIGHT
THURSDAY 2ND	4PM - 11PM
FRIDAY 3RD	12PM - 11PM
SATURDAY 4TH	12PM - 11PM
SUNDAY 5TH	12PM - 11PM

What's On December

8 Quiz NIGHT	12 Retired Gentlemen's Christmas Lunch <small>PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED</small>	21 Festive Beats <small>WITH DJ KAISER MATT</small>
23 CAROL SINGALONG	25 OPEN FOR DRINKS 12 - 2PM	27 PIZZA NIGHT 5pm - 8pm
29 Graham Scott Cup Dominoes Competition	26 OPEN FOR DRINKS 1 - 5PM	31 HOGMANAY HOOLIE

27TH NOV - 23RD DEC
Christmas Menu
PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED



Diary Dates: December 2024

12th

Singing Group ❄️

Yarrow Hall

The **Safety in Numbers** singing group meets on Thursdays 7-8.30 in Yarrow Hall. The weekly sessions led by Hilary Bell cost £3 to cover refreshments and hire of hall.

12th

Bowling Session ❄️

Boston Hall, Ettrick, from 7.30pm

All welcome, no experience necessary as plenty of experienced bowlers will help to get you started.

13th

Rag-Bag Collection ❄️

Kirkhope Primary School

Any unwanted-but-good clothing can be donated to Kirkhope School between 8.15 - 9am. Please place in black bin bags

13th

Playgroup Party! ❄️

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge

Ettrick & Yarrow Playgroup

CHRISTMAS PARTY! 9.30-11.30

Kirkhope Hall, Ettrickbridge. Party games, Festive snacks – and a very special visitor!



14th

Christmas Coffee Morning

Kirkhope Parish Hall, Ettrickbridge

Join us for a fun, festive get-together, 10-12noon! Stalls, home-made scones - and a visit from Santa!



Kirkhope Parish Hall

Christmas Coffee Morning

Join us for a fun, festive morning with delicious home-made scones, freshly brewed coffee & tea, lots of lovely festive stalls & goodies and a visit from Santa!

Saturday 14th December 2024

10.00am-12.00pm

If you would like to book a stall, please contact us via messenger on our facebook page.



Gift ideas a-plenty...



They're an enterprising lot in these valleys! It was great to see Yarrow Hall so busy for the recently-held Yarrow Primary School Christmas Fayre. Over £600 was raised for the school! Thanks go out to all who supported the event.

Occupy your green fingers this winter

Bowhill House's wreath making workshops are the perfect activity to get you feeling festive this December.



Courtyard at Bowhill and will last approximately two hours.

Workshops will run on:

■ Tuesday 3rd December, 10-12noon

■ Tues 3rd December, 7-9pm

■ Wed 4th December, 10-12noon

■ Wed 4th December, 7-9pm

■ Thurs 5th December, 10-12noon

■ Thurs 5th December, 7-9pm

Price: £35pp, including a hot drink and festive sweet treat.

Book online:

www.bowhillhouse.co.uk/event/wreath-making

The workshop will take place in the atmospheric Victorian Kitchen, accessed from the





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ



Time flies so fast. Since my Induction in September as the new minister, time has gone quite quickly. It is early days yet, but I feel part of the community already and I am looking forward to making more connections in the Valleys. I appreciate the warm hospitality of the people here.

It is almost December and nearly Advent. Advent is when we prepare and await the coming of Christ and a time to respond to his invitation to come into the manger of our hearts. Advent invites us to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ who is light in a world darkened by violence. As we also prepare to celebrate Christmas may we remember that it is all about the gift of the Christ child. The prophet Isaiah reminds us,

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

In the midst of the all the busyness, it is my fervent prayer that each of you will experience the light and peace that we are promised through the coming of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Despite signs to the contrary all around us, of wars, that continue to rage on all around us, we can still hope and set our eyes on 2025 with joy and expectation. Let me end with this inspiring poem by Malcolm Guite.



It's getting darker, darker all the time
And she is weary and beset with fear
Yet in the darkness of her womb he stirs,
Her tiny hope, the one who is to come.
So on she plods, on past the hostile stares
The checkpoints and the soldiers on the street
Seeking some shelter, somewhere to retreat
And bring to birth the hidden light she bears.
She finds her shelter now and we attend her
Attend this burdened girl who speaks for us,
Whispers to God a broken world's soft 'yes,
Come to be born with us, come to find us here.
Outface for us the darkness we can't face,
Show us the face of Love that casts out fear.

Good wishes to you all for a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Rev. Dr. Kwame Ahaligah
Minister: Selkirk & Ashkirk linked with Ettrick & Yarrow.

Morning Service



15th

Yarrow Church, 11.30am

Christmas Concert



15th

Yarrow Hall, 3pm

Come for carols, mince pies and mulled wine! Find some Christmas spirit with the **Safety In Numbers** singing group. Ticket: £8.00 (Children free) Tel. Irene 07774 683064 or Hilary 01750 82254 PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL All Proceeds To Fresh Start Borders.

Rag-Bag Collection



16th

Kirkhope Primary School

Any unwanted-but-good clothing can be donated to Kirkhope School between 8.15 - 9am. Please place in black bin bags

The Stitches



17th

Boston Hall, Ettrick, 2-4pm

Ettrick's sociable sewing bee. Beginners welcome, instruction will be given or bring along whatever project you are currently working on.

New Age Kurling



17th

Yarrowford Hall, 2pm-4pm

New Age Kurling - suitable for all ages / abilities and can be played seated or standing. The cost is £3 per person and includes refreshments.

Please Note: No Art Group

18th

No Ettrick & Yarrow Art Group today in Kirkhope Parish Hall – restarts in January

Table Tennis



18th

Yarrowford Hall, 5.30 - 6.30pm

Bowling Session



19th

Boston Hall, Ettrick, from 7.30pm

All welcome, no experience necessary.

Crafting Session



19th

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

Guys' Get-together



19th

Yarrowford Hall, from 2.30pm

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

Singing group (silent night!)

19th

Yarrow Feus Hall, 7.00-8.30pm

No Safety in Numbers singing group this week – break for Christmas, back in the New Year.

CAROLS, MINCE PIES
& MULLED WINE



with

Safety in Numbers

in

Yarrow Hall

Sunday, December 15th at 3.00

Ticket: £8.00 (Children free)

Tel. Irene on 07774 683064 or Hilary on 01750 82254

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL



All Proceeds To Fresh Start Borders



Diary Dates: December 2024

20th

Playgroup



Kirkhope Hall, 9.30-11.30

22nd

Morning service



Kirkhope Church, 11.30am

23rd

Carol Singing



Carol singers will be out in Ettrickbridge village to annoy the residents with festive joy.... Meet outside Kirkhope Church at 6pm. Wrap up well, singing ability welcome but not compulsory!

24th

Church Carol Service



Kirkhope Church, Ettrickbridge, 6pm

A Family Service of Christmas Lessons, Carols, the Christmas story, colourful lighting, candles and mulled wine.



A family service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

25th

Christmas Day Service



The Christmas Day service for Selkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow will be held in Selkirk Parish Church at 10.30am



25th

Festive Greetings!



The Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge will be open for drinks 12noon - 2pm

26th

Boxing Day Unwind



The Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge Too much Christmas? Unwind at the Bar on Boxing Day - open for drinks 1-5pm

29th

Morning Service



Selkirk Parish Church, 11am

31st

Hogmanay Ceilidh



Boston Hall, Ettrick

See in the New Year with lively good cheer, laughter, and toe-tapping tunes from the Maison du Blues Band. Doors open 7.30pm. £5 on the door (Bring your own drink and snacks).

31st

Hogmanay Hoolie



Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge



The Waterwheel Tearoom's Christmas Menu



Soup of the Day
Rosette of Melon with Fruit Sorbet
Prawn Salad with a Mango, Chilli & Lime Dressing
~
Turkey with Stuffing, Chipolatas & Cranberry Sauce
Slow Cooked Beef Stroganoff
Nut Roast served with a Tomato & Chilli Chutney
All Served with Roast Potatoes, Braised Red Cabbage and Vegetables
~
Christmas Pudding served with Vanilla Ice Cream
Fresh Fruit Pavlova with Mango Coulis
Lemon & Elderflower Cheesecake

From 3rd to 21st December

★ £29.80 for 3 Courses ★
Bring your own bottle (Alcohol Only) Soft Drinks Provided,
No Corkage Charge. ★ **PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL** ★
£10 Deposit Per Person Required
Please Book with a Member of Staff ~ 01750 22258
Waterwheel Tearoom, East Lodge, Philiphaugh TD7 5LU

Hogmanay

BOSTON HALL

Maison du Blues Band
LIVE MUSIC & CEILIDH

31 DEC DOORS OPEN 7.30PM
£5.00 ON THE DOOR
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK AND SNACKS




January Save the date!

2025

SCHOOL WINTER HOLIDAY ~ DATES ~
Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025
Spring Term starts Monday 6th January 2025

HAPPY NEW Year

Wednesday 1st January
SOCIAL EVENING
at Yarrowford Village Hall
doors open from 7.00 pm.
Bring your own food and drinks.