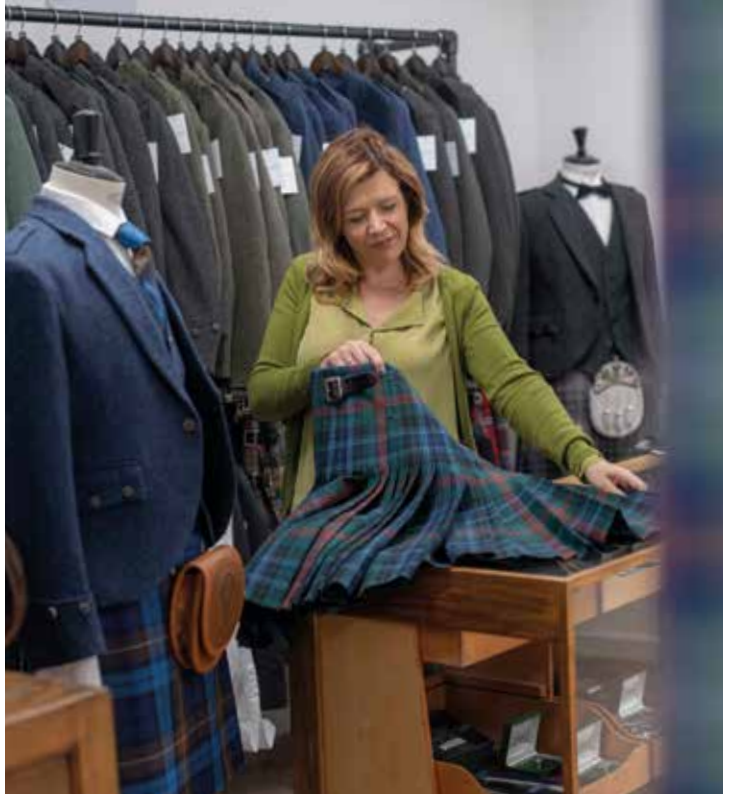




EXPLORE THE
Borders
Magazine

Your gateway to the brilliant borderlands

Issue 7
June - July
2024



LOHCARRON

MADE in SCOTLAND

We are open - come and visit us!

VISITOR CENTRE & SHOP
Private Fitting For Highland Wear & Kilts
visit@lochcarron.com | 01750 726100

GUIDED MILL TOURS
Authentic tartan weaving mill in Selkirk
visit@lochcarron.com | 01750 726100

ONLINE SHOP
www.lohcarron.com
hello@lochcarron.com | 01750 726025

WAVERLEY MILL, ROGERS ROAD, SELKIRK, TD7 5DX



EXPLORE THE Borders Magazine

Explore the Borders Magazine is produced bi-monthly with the twin objectives of promoting the tourism offer in the brilliant borderlands of Scotland and Northumberland - and the all important task of helping you plan ahead for your visit.

Your team

Editorial

David Pike
Yvonne Ridley
Maggie Elliot
Aline Varty
Meriem Yahiaoui

Photography

Steven Somerville
Ian Bell
Dennis Laing

Get in touch

Explore the Borders Magazine is free of charge and e-mailed to desktops everywhere.

You can make sure of a regular copy by getting in touch at the editor's e-mail below.

And if you have a story you would like to tell or an event coming up we would love to hear from you.

Explore the Borders,
Headkeeper's Cottage
Wildcat Gate
Jedburgh.
TD8 6LS

m 07970 811 831

e editor@exploretheborders.com

Copyright © All rights reserved.
Produced by Borders Media for Vertu
Corporate Communications.



Welcome to the brilliant borderlands

We are in celebratory mood this issue.

The June - July issue marks the first anniversary of the launch of Explore the Borders Magazine and the feedback we are receiving, from home and abroad, confirms we are on the right track when it comes to promoting the tourism offer in south of Scotland.

Our birthday edition contains some great features, flagging up first class visitor attractions and helping you plan ahead for a trip to this marvellous part of the world.

As usual we welcome your comments, news and suggestions for future issues of the magazine - *or to sign up to be put on the mailing list* - just drop a line to me at editor@exploretheborders.com and we'll respond.

In the meantime, from everyone at Explore the Borders, happy reading.

David Pike

Editor

The magazine that helps you plan ahead

Coming Up

8-9 History comes alive at Caerlaverock

Take a memorable trip back in time at the imposing Caerlaverock Castle near Dumfries.



24 Borders Book Festival



The brilliant Borders Book Festival is back.

Featuring well-known names from fiction to politics, sport to current affairs, health and wellbeing to comedy, history to science and philosophy the event promises something for everyone.

Due attention is also paid to children's literature favourites and the programme also features new, emerging talent.

We are delighted to carry a full report in this issue.

14-15 Vintage heaven at Thirlestane Castle

More than 1,000 classic and vintage vehicles will be making their way to Thirlestane Castle, Lauder for the annual Borders Vintage Automobile Classic.



12-13

Canoe trail launched

The River Tweed is now home to an exciting new outdoor activity with the launch of the first official canoe trail in the south of Scotland.





Your perfect travel companion

Whether its a day trip, a weekend break or an extended stay - it's essential to plan ahead.

And the borderlands of south Scotland offers something for everyone.

Explore the Borders is your perfect companion for information on places of interest, activities, where to stay and where to get a decent meal.

The promotional package is delivered by experienced journalists, writers and photographers, drawing from the key themes of :-

- Historic Borders
- Border towns
- Romans and Reivers
- Borderlines - News
- Active Borders
- Trips and Trails
- Homes and Gardens
- Arts and Crafts
- Stay in the Borders
- Good food guide

Explore the Borders Magazine also keeps you up-to-date with events and entertainments coming up for the two months ahead.

16 Celebrating cycling history

A new sculpture celebrates the success of the coast to coast cycle route from Stranraer to Eyemouth.





MICHELIN
2022



A FEAST FOR ALL THE SENSES

There's nowhere in the world like The Globe Inn in Dumfries - the favourite haunt of Scotland's national bard Robert Burns, who lived, loved, and entertained here.

One of the most historic bars in Scotland, with an impressive collection of more than 300 whiskies, it is also home to our Michelin-listed, award-winning destination restaurant, 1610.

We look forward to welcoming you for lunch, dinner, coffee or cocktails, for a dram or for date night, or for our eight-course degustation menu.

We also have a range of private and corporate dining options.

The
GLOBE
INN
Burns' Favourite Howff

The Globe Inn, 56 High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2JA
globeinndumfries.co.uk - 01387 323010



Book Now

Paying tribute to a local racing legend

The 63rd Jimmie Guthrie Memorial Rally promises another spectacular trip down memory lane this year.

Over 100 motorcycles and 50 vintage cars will be taking part in the ever popular event, sponsored by Bonhams, on June 16.

They will be covering a 40-mile trail through the glorious Scottish Borders, taking in Ancrum, Nisbet, Crailing, Jedburgh, Campdown, Chesters and Bonchester Bridge, before crossing the finishing line at Hawick's Wilton Lodge Park.

For those who like to take a closer look at the vehicles and cycles taking part, they will be on display at Denholm Village Green before setting off from 1pm for the rally.

The oldest motorcycle taking part will be a 1923 Sunbeam. Organiser Jimmy Steel said: "Once again we can look forward to a spectacular range of vehicles and motorcycles at this year's rally.

"The route provides plenty of vantage points for people to check them out and the final prize giving ceremony will take place at the Jimmy Guthrie memorial statue in Wilton Park Lodge at about 3.45pm."

** Jimmy, who owned a garage in Hawick, was one of the outstanding motorcycle riders of his day. He died, aged 40, riding his beloved Norton motorcycle and, as usual, leading the field and thrilling a crowd of 250,000 people packed into the Sachsenring Circuit near Chemnitz in Saxony, Germany.*

The year was 1937 and Jimmie, who had sharpened his talent for riding motorcycles as a despatch rider on the battlefields of France during WW1 (not to mention coping with the twists and turn of the country roads around Hawick) was at the pinnacle of a glittering career.

Over the previous 10 years he had raced and beaten the best, collecting 32 major titles along the way.

The Hawick flying machine has a dedicated display of bikes, trophies and memorabilia at Wilton Park Museum - and it's well worth a visit. More about Jimmie Guthrie at www.jimmieguthrie.weebly.com

www.exploretheborders.com



An exhilarating trip back in time at Caerlaverock

by David Pike

On a warm, sunny afternoon the beguiling appeal of Caerlaverock Castle - *who could resist that stunning aerial view - and its imposing historic outlines are hard to beat.*

Today's tranquillity, however, masks centuries of conflict for this 13-century fortification and it's strategic gateway location in southern Scotland.

The magnificent structure standing today was started in the late 1270s, a replacement for much more modest structure lying to the south that has been extensively excavated and can be viewed by visitors.

By 1307 Caerlaverock Castle, overlooking the Solway Firth a few miles east of Dumfries, was the seat of power for the Maxwell family who occupied and developed the castle for more than three centuries.

For nearly 400 years the castle was caught up in the cut and thrust of power struggles through the Middle Ages.

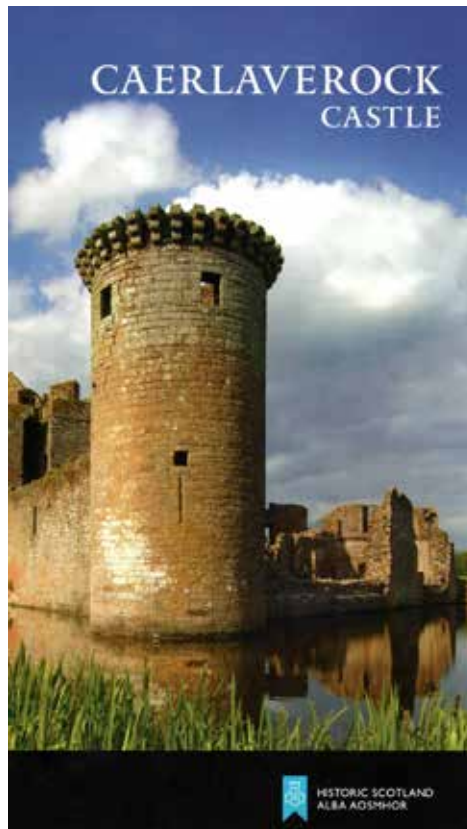
In 1300 Edward 1 laid siege to Caerlaverock and his forces overwhelmed the garrison of 60 in two days.

After the Wars of Independence the walls were rebuilt in the 1370s and alterations made to make castle life more comfortable.

The siege of 1640, during the Civil War

between Charles 1 and his Scottish rebels - the Covenanters - marked the ultimate demise of the castle.

It passed by inheritance through the family of Herries, a branch of the Maxwells, to the dukes of Norfolk.



In 1946 it was placed into state care and today is one of Historic Environment Scotland's most popular south of Scotland destinations, attracting over 30,000 visitors a year.

A visit to Caerlaverock offers all round family appeal with themed tours, a quiz trail for younger generations and an excellent visitor centre.

There's also a nature trail through the ancient woodland and wetland environments surrounding the castle.

The Castle's fascinating story is engagingly retold in the official HES souvenir guide and displays of original stonework offer a glimpse into the castle's past.

This year Caerlaverock has joined forces with the Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust to commemorate the 750th anniversary of Robert the Bruce including the Big Birthday Trail - a teaser for young visitors.

Through June and July, Robert the Bruce themed tours are to take place at the castle and a full list of tour dates and additional information can be found at ...

www.historicenvironment.scot

Watch H

Experience exhilarating horsemanship and the thundering of hooves and the clash of lanceing. And then there's the chance wander

It's all on offer at Caerl

Saturday 27 a

£7



History come alive

Impressive skills as brave and courageous knights battle it out. Hear the tales as four champions take to the arena for a spectacular show of jousting through the living history camps and meet soldiers fresh from battle.

Caerlaverock Castle's Spectacular Jousting event in July.

Friday and Sunday 28 July 2024 - 11am - 4pm

£11.00 - £41.00 (family ticket)



Caerlaverock Castle
Castle Road End, Dumfries, DG1 4RU

Opening times

9 March to 30 September
Daily, 9.30am to 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)

1 October to 28 March
Daily, 10am to 4pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Tel: 01387 770 244
www.historicenvironment.scot

A trip down memory lane at Selkirk

by David Pike

As celebrity footprints go they don't come any bigger, or more enduring, in the Scottish borders than those of Sir Walter Scott.

The accolades are significant; the best selling author of his day, socialite and Sheriff of Selkirkshire for nearly 30 years, until his death in 1832.

Today, his Borders' legacy includes his "conundrum castle" home of Abbotsford, overlooking the River Tweed near Melrose, the building where he spent some of his school-days in Kelso and the courtroom in the centre of Selkirk from where he dispensed justice.

The courtroom, a building that dates back to 1804, stands in Selkirk's market place fronted by an impressive statue of the man himself.

Inside displays turn the pages of Scott's working relationship with the town, *he was known as the Shirra*, where personal objects sit next to historic artefacts from Selkirk's past.

Its place at the heart of the community is underlined by its importance as a host venue for Selkirk Common Riding events and cultural activities.

The courtroom also offers a re-enchantment of a real trial that took place and presided over by Scott.

Facing the court bench on a charge of poaching is one Thomas Purdie who, in his defence, stated: "work is scarce but grouse are plentiful"

As the courtroom interpretation board relates,

Scott was legally bound to punish poachers and handed out a significant fine.

Inability to pay meant Purdie still faced imprisonment, so imagine his surprise when court officials told him the fine had been paid in full and he was free to go.

The Shirra had obviously had a hand in helping Purdie and his family out of precarious

circumstances and when he went to thank Scott in person he was offered the job of managing his farm.

A short walk from the Courtroom brings the visitor to Halliwell's House Museum that is contained in a row of houses dating back to the late 1700s; a fitting location for a time capsule that chronicles local life in wonderful detail.

The name is taken from Walter Halliwell, a wig maker, who owned buildings in the Close.

Halliwell's offers a fascinating trip through time and charts Selkirk's growth and development.

Famously, the town is known for shoemaking and when the Craft of Cordiners (leather workers) applied for trade guild status in 1609 there were 27 master craftsmen based in the town.

It was a reputation that led to locals being nicknamed 'Souters,' or makers of shoes.

In 1745, 2,500 pairs were supplied to Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army.

Upstairs at Halliwell's House is the Robson Gallery hosting exhibitions and showcasing the work of local artists and makers.

Scott's Courtroom and Halliwell's Museum are jointly administered by Live Borders, a charitable organisation that provides culture and leisure services throughout the Scottish Borders.





LIVE
BORDERS

Scott's Courtroom & Halliwell's House Museum

Market Place, Selkirk, TD7 4BL

Entry to both centres is FREE

Opening times and more information
at www.liveborders.org.uk

Tel: 01896 661166
e enquiries@liveborders.org.uk

Canoe trail first for south of Scotland

Long celebrated as one of Scotland's great salmon rivers, the River Tweed is now pioneering another kind of journey with the launch of the first official canoe trail in the south of Scotland.

Created by Go Tweed Valley, the Tweed Valley Canoe Trail covers a distance of 30 miles, with a focus on the scenic upper Tweed.

Aimed at all abilities, the trail starts at Stobo, just minutes from Dawyck Botanic Garden, with six sections of varying lengths taking paddlers as far as Galafoot Bridge, just outside Galashiels.

The trail has been created in close collaboration with landowners, the River Tweed Commission, Paddle Scotland, river guides and local businesses. It will be promoted as an experience to enjoy from April to September, avoiding the peak salmon fishing season in October and November.

As part of its development, Go Tweed Valley has established a donations system that enables paddlers to contribute to ongoing maintenance of the trail, as well as support conservation projects along the river.

The trail passes some of the area's most iconic landmarks – Neidpath Castle, Traquair House and Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford – connecting paddlers with the people, places and stories that have shaped this part of the Scottish Borders.

Although strong paddlers might cover the full distance in a single day, the trail has been designed to be enjoyed over multiple days – or dipped into section by section – allowing time to stop and explore the area's towns, villages and attractions along the way.

Infrastructure along the route is light touch, with information signage in five locations, a series of waymarker posts, secure canoe anchor points and a range of paddler-friendly accommodation.

"Our ambition is for the trail to celebrate

one of Scotland's great rivers like never before, as well as showcase the Tweed Valley as a destination for a different kind of visitor.

"In addition to the physical adventure, the trail will enable people to immerse themselves in the area's cultural history and experience the landscape and its wildlife from a unique angle," said Rich Rowe, Project Manager at Go Tweed Valley.

The brand-new trail is seen as a natural extension of the area's existing network of waymarked routes, many of which run close to or in view of the River Tweed.

"From cyclists to walkers, runners and horse-riders, the Tweed Valley already attracts an active crowd and it felt like a natural next step to create a route on the Tweed itself – a river that has shaped the surrounding landscape and communities," added Lindsay Quayle, Project Officer at Go Tweed Valley.

As well as trail infrastructure, there are also physical maps plus detailed information online to help paddlers enjoy the river safely and responsibly, with particular emphasis on the river's precious wildlife and ecology.

The Tweed Valley Canoe Trail has been made possible thanks to generous support from the Fallago Environment Fund, which shares the benefits of the Fallago windfarm in the Lammermuir hills with projects across the Borders.

The Fund aims to enhance the quality of life of communities and visitors by protecting and enhancing the area's natural, built and cultural heritage.

For more information on the Tweed Valley Canoe Trail, visit gotweedvalley.co.uk



Taking steps in the right direction

The expansive rolling hills and valleys that spread south from the Scottish borderlands and down through Northumberland are arguably the finest in the UK.

Walking in the remote countryside, however, can be a daunting experience and having basic skills and expertise to stay safe, and to fully enjoy the countryside, are a useful addition to any trip.

And North East Guides has become a popular first stop for visitors and locals alike to ensure positive and enjoyable outdoor experiences.

Helping to point you in the right direction is company founder Paul Mitchinson who runs bespoke courses to equip walkers with the knowledge and safety skills that enhance hill and mountain walking trips.



“We teach people basic skills such as reading a map and taking a compass bearing that can help them stay safe when they are out in the wild. People hill walk for many reasons, but a significant motivating factor is the sense of freedom that you gain from exploring the great outdoors.

“Being out in remote areas can present challenges, sometimes unexpected, and the courses we arrange at North East Guides helps prepare them for those eventualities,” said Paul (above right).

His company works with schools and charities in addition to arranging courses for small groups and individuals.

And for the more ambitious, North East Guides delivers the National Navigation Awards Scheme. “Hill walking was a hobby that turned into a full time occupation and it’s just a fantastic experience helping people make the most of the countryside,” added Paul.

The Cheviot Hills in the Alwinton area is the main training area used by North East Guides but more demanding courses take place in the Lakes.

More information about North East Guides and how to get in touch is available at the company website at www.northeastguides.com.

BVAC Classic celebrates 60 years of the Mustang

This year marks 60 years of the iconic Ford Mustang and the Borders Vintage Automobile Club is celebrating this automotive birthday with a fabulous collection of Mustangs at this year's BVAC Classic.

Described as 'the Best Classic Car Festival in Scotland', the BVAC Classic Festival of Motoring is promising to be bigger and better than ever.

While the central theme of this year's show will be 60 Years of the Mustang, more than 1000 vintage and classic vehicles of all shapes and sizes are expected at Thirlestane Castle, in Lauder.

The Mustang was introduced by Ford in 1964 as an affordable performance car for the youth market and was an instant success, selling over 22,000 cars on its first day of release!

Originally renowned for their loud, powerful V8 engines and stylish looks, the Mustang has picked up starring roles in numerous movies over the years, most notably the 1968 Steve McQueen movie 'Bullitt', featuring what is considered to be the best ever movie car chase.

Vice Chairman of the BVAC, Chris Biggs said: "It's no surprise that the Ford Mustang has proven to be such a 'poster car' for so many.

"We are delighted that visitors to this year's BVAC Classic will be treated to a wonderful castle front display of Mustang's through the years, with models on show from 1965-2018.

"In addition, we are set to welcome displays from Mustang owners clubs in the main show field and continuing with the American theme, we are also featuring displays of Corvette's and other eye-catching American muscle cars.

"As well as this year's central theme, there will of course be extensive displays of

stunning veteran, vintage and classic cars and the show has a huge array of superb attractions to keep the whole family entertained.

"There's also a live rally action stage, children's play zone and activities, BMX stunt displays, pipe band shows and an Artisan Food and Drink Village to keep visitors fuelled throughout the day," said Chris.

The BVAC Classic Festival of Motoring takes place on Sunday, June 2 at Thirlestane, a magnificent 16th century castle and one of the oldest ancestral homes in Scotland, 25 miles south of Edinburgh, in Lauder in the Scottish Borders.

It will feature veteran, vintage and classic cars, motorcycles, commercial, agricultural, military, steam and American Classes.

Tickets can be booked online at an advanced ticket price of £12.50, available to visitors who purchase before 30th May.

Under 16's, accompanied by an adult, can enjoy free show access and tickets will also be available to purchase on the day, for £15.

Well behaved dogs will also be welcome.

The show gates will open at 11am and the event will close at 5pm.

Full ticket information and purchases can be made via the BVAC website <https://bvac.org.uk>





Sunday 2nd June



**BVAC
CLASSIC**

"The best classic car
festival in Scotland"

Festival of Motoring

**Celebrating 60 years
of the Mustang**



Tweed is tops for rod catches



The River Tweed continues to maintain its position as the UK's premier river for rod catches.

Figures release by the River Tweed Commission (RTC) for last fishing season salmon rod catch of 5,720, accompanied by an encouraging increase in the sea-trout catch to 2,285, the best since 2015.

Atlantic salmon populations face alarming declines across various river systems, highlighting the urgent need for proactive measures.

Climate change poses a particularly grave threat, with rising temperatures endangering freshwater habitats during hot, dry summers.



Recognising these challenges, the RTC initiated a comprehensive study in 2023 to bolster Tweed's resilience against climate change, and outlining strategies for long-term preservation. This work continues to be a key focus.

On-going investigations will help prioritise the improvement of in-river, riparian, and wider catchment management issues relating to healthy fish stocks.

They will also identify the introduction of future work programs and serve as a blueprint for subsequent catchment-wide audits.

Jonathan Reddin, Chief Commissioner, said: "Our aim is to foster more meaningful involvement from all stakeholders in the Tweed community. However, there are no simple solutions or instant remedies.

Our only recourse is to exert maximum effort and efficiency in addressing the underlying factors contributing to these challenges," he said.

A striking new interactive sculpture of the world's first pedal bicycle has been installed on the West Pier in Stranraer at the official start point of a major cycle route – the Kirkpatrick C2C: South of Scotland's Coast to Coast.

The awe-inspiring route is 250 miles – making it one of the longest coast to coast cycle routes in the UK – and ends in Eyemouth, where another eye-catching artwork has been installed to mark the finish line.

The £14,500 piece took three months to design and build in the Barlow brothers' workshop in Auchencairn, near Castle Douglas. Representing the first pedal-powered bicycle – known as the velocipede and invented by Dumfriesshire blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan in 1839.

Funded by South of Scotland Enterprise, the eye-catching sculpture was created by local blacksmith brothers Finn and Sam Barlow. "We hope that many people of all ages will interact with the piece, using their eyes and bodies to understand how the velocipede works and why it was such an important milestone in the development of human powered transport.

"Maybe they will be inspired to cycle some of the same roads that Kirkpatrick Macmillan used to test out his marvellous machine," they said.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the Kirkpatrick C2C, on the Berwickshire Coast, a new artwork has been installed at Eyemouth Harbour marking the end point of the route – or the start point, depending which direction cyclists tackle it!

Unveiled last summer, the fully signposted Kirkpatrick C2C route is already proving to be a huge draw for the South of Scotland. Early projections prior to its July 2023 soft launch suggested the new route could attract up to 175,000 new visitors to the region, with a direct spend of £13.7M per year.

For cyclists who want a challenge, the Kirkpatrick C2C can be tackled over four days, while the slower Explorer Route allows riders to immerse themselves in the beauty, heritage and charm of the South of Scotland, spending eight days completing the route from Stranraer to Eyemouth with plenty of places to stay, visit, eat and drink along the way.

The development of the route has been led by South of Scotland Enterprise alongside Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders councils, South of Scotland Destination Alliance, VisitScotland and Sustrans.

Pedal power from the past marks C2C success



A place to share

by Aline Varty

Nestled along Selkirk High Street is a new little Border's gem waiting to be discovered.

Whether you are on the hunt to try some Selkirk bannock for the first time or fancy a special culinary experience, Tibbie's selection is truly exceptional.

Owners Allan Walker and Ewa Przemyska have developed a unique culinary creative streak, specialising in gorgeous sharing platters, charcuterie boards and a lovely selection of tapas.



Labelled 'a place to share,' Tibbie's cosy interior is the perfect place for a candlelight catch up, a spot of respite after a walk up the 'Three Brethren or a history buff.

Tibbie's also boasts the best gin bar in the Borders, selling their own Selkirk Gin - Allan's first brainchild. Monday and Tuesday, Ewa and Allan can be found distilling their award-winning Gin at the nearby Philiphaugh estate, just to pivot Wednesday through Sunday to sell it to thirsty customers who have popped into Tibbie's for delicious cocktails or a cheeky G&T.

If you are in, be sure to also try Ewa's favourite dish - their 'paddington style' baked brie. Topped off with a healthy serving of marmalade, this is part of their sharing platter and a must try for culinary explorers.

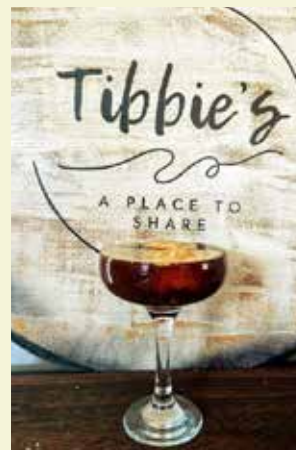
If you are brave enough to venture back outside following a selection of tapas or even a glass of wine or two, there is a beautiful short walk up to

Tibbie Tamson's Grave after whom the restaurant takes its name.

Tibbie Tamson, an 18th century local figure from Selkirk is remembered primarily for her 'transgressive acts' and the mysterious circumstances surrounding her death.

Discovered pregnant out of wedlock and subsequently ostracised by the local community, Tibbie's grave has since become a symbol of social injustice. Allan, a lover of stories, is keen to revive Selkirk's less well known history and eager to chat to any intrigued customers.

To reserve a table or scour Tibbie's Menu check out their Facebook



page at <https://www.facebook.com/tibbiesinselkirk>. For the gin lovers you can also visit <https://www.selkirkdistillers.com> to check out Selkirk Gin.

Be sure to also watch out for their themed nights which are instant sell-outs. They dive into Mexican, Greek and Polish cuisine and aren't scared to experiment!



Widely regarded as "Britain's Most Brutal" endurance race, the Montane Summer Spine is a non-stop, 268 mile race along the Pennine Way.

Starting from Edale in Derbyshire, runners have a time limit of 156 hours to reach the village of Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders.

The event starts on June 16 and, all being well, competitors will be arriving in the borders from June 22 - an ordeal and a half ... and there's a Winter Spine challenge that takes place in January!

Art that's good enough to eat

Kerry Samantha Boyes is opening a shop packed with the most mouth-watering-looking cakes, pies, jellies and other goodies that you can imagine.

None are edible, yet they are in huge demand.

Her ice cream cones recently featured prominently in the beach party scene near the start of the blockbuster Barbie movie.

Disney are customers, as are the Guggenheim Museum, The Royal Worcester Museum, The National Trust for Scotland, Jo Malone, The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Netflix, Heinz and countless others.

Now, for the first time, Kerry is inviting the public into her studio in Kirkcudbright, the Fake Food Shop, where she works with her daughter Primrose.

Kerry, whose studio overlooks Kirkcudbright's fishing harbour, started her business on her kitchen table during lockdown, and was partly inspired by a classic book.

She said: "I had bought a copy of Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management and loved the lithographs of all the dishes she made – I thought it would be fun to see if I could recreate some of them.

"Then I was looking at similar things online and thought that perhaps I could make things and sell them. I started a little online store and the orders just started to come in. And they were from all over the world."

Shops, stately homes, museums, restaurants, theme parks and many other businesses all find her fake food irresistible.

And it's increasingly popular with the public too – making quirky and attractive home decorations.

Customers have wanted everything from roast goose, peacock pies, and many historical dishes for banquets, to full Scottish breakfasts (in the frying pan) and even a jelly with a replica gun inside for a party thrown by the makers of hit series The Gentlemen.

Theatres have asked for items like breads, made of foam, that actors can hurl on stage without injuring anyone.

Kerry was amply qualified to make fake food.

She said: "I've spent many years creating replicas. I began my career on Hadrian's Wall, making facsimiles of Roman altar stones and painting frescos for the Vindolanda Museum.

"I went on to study museums and work for English Heritage caring for their collection. Later I moved to Edinburgh and worked in stone conservation before starting a family.

More about the Fake Food Shop and visits at ...

Email: info@fakefoodworkshop.com

Tel: +44 (0)798 6679828



Dont miss an issue

Explore the Borders Magazine is delivered free of charge to desktops everywhere.

To make sure of your regular delivery just drop us a line and we'll put you on the mailing list.

Get in touch at ...

editor@exploretheborders.com

'All go' at local archaeology sites

While the Scottish Government continues its appraisal of the five contenders for new National Park status, the Scottish Borders National Park campaign team and its partners continue to develop several projects, including the Twelve Towers of Rule.

Local expert Roger Curtis said: 'In early May, a new dig took place on Bonchester Hill (Bonchester Townhead), where Archaeology Scotland (AS) led its growing band of volunteers in the partial excavation of the probable castle site.

The team uncovered good supporting evidence although it was clear that the site has had a few interventions and demolitions over the centuries. However, the dig has provided plenty more to go on, and AS will look at continuing at a later stage on what is clearly an interesting location.

'The Historic Scotland Environment (HSE) survey team were at Fulton Tower around the same time, surveying both the tower and adjacent ground with Lidar and other survey equipment.

Some good data being processed at the moment shows signs of other structures in the vicinity, and where there may be opportunities for further work.



**Scottish Borders
National Park**



The team also took an initial look at the earthworks above the Fulton cottage. This is a complex but degraded structure, date uncertain but likely to be pre medieval.

It is new to the record and will be examined in more detail when funds and time permit. In the interim, details will be entered onto the historic environment record.

Archaeology Scotland will be back in Rulewater at the end of August to resume work at Bedrule Castle – watch this space!

Paying tribute to a Scottish legend

Few names resonate down the centuries as deeply as that of Dumfries and Galloway's most famous royal, King Robert the Bruce.

And in this, his 750th anniversary year, a programme of celebrations and tributes has been led by the Medieval Bruce Trust in partnership with the People's Project Dumfries and the Imaginarium's Gallovidian Way.

On offer in June and July are Bruce themed events that include:-

MEDIEVAL DEATH AND WHAT FOLLOWED

Dumfries Museum &
Mostly Ghostly
Friday June 7 at 7pm
Dumfries Museum - FREE

TALES FROM MEDIEVAL TIMES

Thursday June 13 at 7pm
Dumfries Museum - Free

WALK THE BRUCE LINE - UNCOVERING ANCESTRY

Tuesday July 2 at 6pm
Ewart Library, Dumfries - Free

ROBERT THE BRUCE INSPIRED ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION

Thursday July 4 to August 31 - 11am - 4pm
The Yellow Door Gallery, Dumfries - Free

FAMILY CRAFTS FIT FOR A KING

Thursday July 11 11am - 3pm
Dumfries Museum - Free

The 750th brings to life a wealth of hidden histories and the story of The Bruce.

Information about the full programme and new announcements are available at the Medieval Bruce Trust's website at ...

www.BruceTrust.co.uk/750



BordersBook Festival

where words come alive!

13-16 JUNE / 2024

HARMONY GARDEN • MELROSE • SCOTTISH BORDERS

The Borders Book Festival has announced a glittering programme for its annual extravaganza that this year celebrates its 21st anniversary.

Now a stalwart in the literary calendar, the festival will deliver over 100 events featuring household names from fiction to politics, sport to health and comedy.

It will include children's literature favourites and pay due regard to new, emerging voices from the world of books.

From its spiritual home of Melrose's Harmony Garden, the packed four days of events include legendary female comedians - Scotland's own Janey Godley and, from south of the border, the fantastically funny Jo Caulfield - discussing with typical humour, candour and warmth their acclaimed memoirs.

From the world of politics, Labour Shadow Cabinet MP Wes Streeting (general election permitting) will be talking about his autobiography, recounting his rise from a life of poverty in London's East End to the Palace of Westminster.

Well-informed Westminster insider, broadcaster Robert Peston and former MP Alan Johnson will be discussing their novels and there will be memoirs, too, from BBC stalwarts Clive Myrie and recently retired Rory Cellan-Jones.

Publishing sensation David Nicholls, of One Day fame, celebrating his latest sure-to-be-a-hit novel, *You Are Here*; former BBC Breakfast presenter Louise Minchin and nature-lover and queen of cosy Kate Humble are also top attractions.

Also joining the line-up will be crime-writing royalty Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre and Mark Billingham.

For history fans, Philippa Langley will be giving a glimpse into solving the cold case of the Princes in the Tower, WW2 historian James Holland and Scottish historian Steven Veerapen examining the life and reign of James IV (James I of Scotland).

Festival favourite James Naughtie returns with his personal take on the state of the nation in the throes of a general election.

The winner of the prestigious Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, with six shortlisted international literary talents in contention for the £25,000 prize, will be announced live on stage at the festival on Thursday 13th June.

The four-day Borders party will also play host to live music, the Orchard tented food village, and free, fun activities for all the family, making the Borders Book Festival a great day out for young and old alike (and all those in between!)



THE WALTER
SCOTT PRIZE
FOR HISTORICAL
FICTION





A special sporting tribute

This year's book festival is honoured to host, in this Paris Olympic year, a very special event on the centenary of Scotsman Eric Liddell's historic 400m win at the 1924 Olympics - also in Paris - and immortalised in the 1981 blockbuster film *Chariots of Fire*.

In an Adam & Company Event, unique to the book festival, Sally Magnusson, Liddell's biographer, will be joined on stage by ...

Allan Wells, the Scottish athlete who dedicated his 1980 100m sprint win at the Moscow Olympics to Liddell

Eilidh Doyle, Olympic and Commonwealth medallist and an ambassador for the Eric Liddell 100 Programme

Liddell's niece, Sue Caton

The Baillie Gifford Children's Programme takes place throughout the day on the Saturday and Sunday (15th & 16th June), packed with exciting author events.

Guest of honour will be author and former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo OBE, now celebrating 50 years in print, with more than 35-million books sold.

He will be joined by Abi Elphinstone with *Ember Spark* and the *Thunder of Dragons*.

Festival Director, Alistair Moffat, said: "It's time to start making plans for those long, light, balmy days at the height of the Scottish summer, and what better event to pop in the diary than our annual celebration in our very own Borders slice of heaven, Melrose's Harmony Garden.

"This year sees our programme again offer something for every taste: whether that's literary fiction, comedy, sport, politics, health, current affairs, history or travel – all of life is here.

"And we sincerely hope that you will all be here, too, as we revel in the joy of gathering in high summer to talk about the things we love with the people we love, before whiling away a gentle afternoon or evening surrounded by (and partaking in) delicious food and drink, enjoying the gorgeous scenery, and absorbing the chitter-chatter of friends and other festival goers alike.

"All the good things in life. So do come and join us for the biggest party in the Borders!"



Borders Book Festival

Harmony Garden, Melrose

June 13-16

The full programme is available at
www.bordersbookfestival.org.

Tickets can be purchased from
Citizen Ticket at www.bordersbookfestival.org
or by calling 0131 290 2112.

A tasteful reminder to bring visitors to south of Scotland

Eight trailblazing food and drink businesses are playing a starring role in a new promotional campaign delivered by the South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA).

Thanks to support from the Regional Food Fund, the SSDA commissioned leading Scottish food and drink writer Cat Thomson and renowned photographer Phil Wilkinson to profile eight local 'legends' offering superb quality food and drink experiences in the South of Scotland.

Their resulting portfolio of written profiles and high quality images has been made available to any publication, free of charge.

The quality local food and drink sector is a critically important part of the South of Scotland's visitor experience, as well as a major employer, with hundreds of exemplary businesses – from restaurants and bars to specialist food producers – cooking up a storm for locals and visitors alike, right across the region.

The businesses, who are now set to star in a dedicated multimedia campaign on SSDA channels, including its Scotland Starts Here website and blog, are:

Kitchen Coos and Ewes (top right) in the Luce Valley, near Stranraer. Owners Neale and Janet McQuistin host visitors to their 900-acre farm, offering a variety of experiences including Highland Cow safaris. They won Best Outdoor or Adventure Experience at the 2023 South of Scotland Thistle Awards.

Allanton Inn (bottom left), near Duns in Berwickshire, an award-winning 18th century coaching inn in the peaceful conservation village of Allanton. The Inn was named Best Eating Experience at the South of Scotland Thistle Awards 2023 in recognition of their work championing excellent local produce.

The Ethical Dairy near Gatehouse of Fleet, founded by Silver Thistle Award-winners Wilma and David Finlay. Their farm, Rainton Farm, was the UK's first commercial dairy to follow the 'cow with calf' method. As well as farm tours, the Dairy offers cheese-making courses for people to learn how to make artisan soft and pressed cheeses.

Wilson's Farm and Kitchen near Kelso, which exemplifies the story of the countryside from field to fork and runs a unique 25-mile BBQ event, with all meat and seafood sourced from within a 25-mile radius.

The Globe Inn in Dumfries and **Annandale Distillery**, Annan. The Globe Inn was a regular haunt of national bard Robert Burns. The original distillery was established in 1836 and was reborn in 2014, a 5-star visitor experience that includes hourly tours and a cafe.

Cocoa Black Chocolate and Pastry School in Peebles, where you can try your hand at making delicious chocolate truffles and patisserie or sample the wide selection of handmade patisserie and indulgent hot chocolates in the café.

Barony Country Foods (top left) near Lockerbie, whose Barony Smokehouse uses age-old processes combined with unique methods and recipes to create beautifully smoked fish, game and poultry, which is sold at the connecting artisan farm shop.

Traquair House & Brewery (right) near Innerleithen is Scotland's oldest inhabited house – dating back to 1107, it has been visited by 27 Scottish Kings and Queens. It is home to one of Scotland's oldest breweries and recognised as a pioneer of micro-brewing. Brewery tours and ale tastings are held regularly.





A regional campaign to whet the appetite

The local legends project showcases eight local food and drink 'legends' and trailblazers who each represent different highlights of the region's food and drink tourism experience, including recent winners of the first ever South of Scotland Thistle Awards.

David Hope Jones, Chief Executive of the SSDA, said: "We're incredibly lucky in the South of Scotland to have such a fantastic range of superb food and drink businesses, offering unforgettable experiences for visitors and local communities to enjoy.

"Through this Regional Food Fund-backed project we've been able to shine a spotlight on a 'Magnificent Eight' of the sector's trailblazers; offering everything from chocolate-making classes and Highland Coo safaris, to field-to-fork farm tours and the chance to sit on Robert Burns' chair at his favourite howff.

"These examples of local excellence are sure to whet people's appetite, inspiring them to visit and sample the experiences first-hand.

"We're very grateful to the Scotland Food and Drink Partnership for making this initiative possible, helping us celebrate the cream of our region's food and drink experiences."

Fiona Richmond, Head of Regional Food, Scotland Food & Drink, said: "Through the Regional Food Fund, we're so pleased to see this valuable project come to life.

"In every community across the country there are compelling food stories to tell, and we are lucky to have such a rich variety of businesses championing the industry in the South of Scotland.

"It is vitally important that we continue to sing their praises, in the local market and further afield.

"We encourage you all to get to know and support them, too. Thank you to everyone who has made this brilliant project happen."

Food writer Cat Thomson, who has been nominated as Scotland's Food and Drink Writer of the Year in the 45th Scottish Press Awards, said: "What a joy and privilege it was to speak to the people featured in this project. I hope by telling the stories of these amazing food and drink businesses, we can tempt more visitors to come to the South of Scotland."



New Hawick gallery inspires artistic activity

by Meriem Yahiaoui

Situated along one of Hawick's oldest streets is a new art hub, Chattel Yard Gallery, showcasing artworks and crafts by local, established and up and coming contemporary artists.

But this space, at 3 Silver Street, is so much more than an art gallery.

It is the first steps to what will be inspiring art spaces and fun days out for must-see exhibitions in the local area.

The owner, Genevieve Matthews (right), has ambitions to strengthen and celebrate the art sector in the Borders by establishing dedicated spaces to highlight excellence and originality.

As you enter the Chattel Yard Gallery, the owner's vision and unparalleled enthusiasm for all things artistic strike you instantly.

The walls are embellished with varying styles of beautifully painted pictures of landscapes, animals and people; whilst the rustic and ornate furniture offer up crafts and jewellery at affordable prices.

Meandering through the gallery, you then find a room to your right with a welcoming sofa offering up a reading space with a selection of carefully curated art books.

There you can relax and immerse yourself in inspiration; then further to the back of the gallery is a private space for hire at competitive prices, where everyone is encouraged to test their creative potential.

This venture is the first of many art spaces Genevieve hopes to establish in the Borders.

Her focus and ambition derive from her belief that the people of the borders have untapped artistic talents and potential that should be expressed and showcased.

"My vision is to attract tourists and visitors to Hawick and help the town thrive with a trail of unique art spaces dotted through the ancient town.

"Each art space will have a different atmosphere, offering diverse and quirky experiences," she said.

The Gallery will also function as a hub for advertising the latest art



news, exhibition listings and venue details of what to see, buy and recommend across the Borders' many artistic platforms.

Chattel Yard Gallery

3, Silver Street Hawick

Opening times

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday 11am - 2pm

Closed Mondays

e: jellibabe50@gmail.com



Monteath Mausoleum

Public Open Days

Guided tours of this hidden gem in the Scottish Borders are to take place from 10am to 4pm on the following days ...

- Saturday 29th June**
- Sunday 30th June**
- Sunday 4th August**
- Sunday 25th August**
- Monday 26th August**
- Sunday 8th September**

The mausoleum is just off the A68, 3 miles north of Ancrum. The site is open for cyclists and walkers.

A key to the crypt is available from Ancrum Pantry, Ancrum, Jedburgh or the Lilliardsedge Holiday Park, Jedburgh, for a small fee.

More information at our website
www.friendsofthemonteathmausoleum.org.uk



The Ultimate Rock Show

GREATEST ROCK ANTHEMS! **GET READY TO ROCK**

Friday 26 July
7.30pm

£15

Duns Volunteer Hall
www.aheartforduns.org

CAMPAIGN FOR BORDERS RAIL

ONWARD TO HAWICK & CARLISLE

Join the campaign to extend the Borders railway
campaignforbordersrail.org

BUILD A BETTER BORDERS

Add your voice for a better Borders, a community that's connected, more prosperous, more inclusive, and a better environment for all. All it takes is your membership...

"Pride and the passion throughout the Borderslands will bring back this line for the benefit of generations to come"

Rob Bell
 Adventurer, TV Presenter, Engineer and Patron of the Campaign for Borders Rail.

Edinburgh - Galashiels - Melrose - St Boswells (Park & Ride) - Hawick - Newcastleton - Carlisle

Carlisle - Glasgow - West Cumbria - Newcastle - Leeds - Manchester & London

JOIN US ONLINE FROM ONLY £10

FOR THE GOOD OF THE RIVER

www.rivertweed.org.uk



RIVER TWEED

The Tweed Foundation is a charitable trust working to protect, improve and enhance the stocks of all native freshwater fish species within the River Tweed system. We are at the forefront in bringing a professional, scientific approach to fisheries management and are engaged in an extensive programme of biological monitoring, habitat enhancement and education.

Conservation

Education

Smolt Tracking Study

TweedStart

Guardians of the Tweed

Go Wild For Fish

Tweed Foundation, Drygrange Steading, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9DJ