

FREE

eyemouthliving

Your local community magazine

December/January 2025/2026



Lennox Dixon P7

welcome



Welcome to our December/January bumper issue of *Eyemouth Living*.

It's our 4th birthday and we still can't believe that we are still here! We have to thank the EDT for it's continuing support and funding. But most of all we are hugely indebted to all the volunteer contributors, you know who you are, and we couldn't do it without you.

Also we particularly want to thank all of YOU dear readers for picking up the magazine and giving us lovely feedback. We love putting it together for you and it's great to know it's appreciated.

In this issue we have two interesting articles about history, one noting events happening on December 25th through the ages and the other specifically about Eyemouth 100 years ago. Talking of history, there is an exciting opportunity for Eyemouth folk looking for a rewarding new career path with the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust.

It's great to do a follow-up from last month's issue reporting on the success of Brian Payne's charity trip to Ukraine – so a big thank you to our readers who supported him.

Maddie's article on page 8 reminds us that small steps rather than huge ones can be more beneficial when trying to stick to New Year health resolutions. And of course this can apply to other areas of our lives too. Abundant Borders also have some interesting plans for the new year which you can get involved in. And if you have the time, the community centre needs your help too.

Don't forget if you are alone on Christmas Day, the Rotary are offering company and refreshments at the Mason's Hall (10-1pm).

On behalf of Eyemouth Development Trust and the magazine team we wish you all a very happy christmas and a healthy new year.



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Compiled by Liza, Jackie, Joanna and Susie.

Magazine contact: livingmagazine@eyemouth.org

If you would like to promote your commercial business by placing an advert in the magazine our rates are as follows:

Full page (portrait size)	£100.00
Half page (landscape size)	£50.00
Quarter page (portrait size)	£25.00
Eighth page (landscape size)	£10.00

Community and volunteer groups are promoted free of charge.

Please contact us at: livingmagazine@eyemouth.org





splash



Cook and Share

Splash and partners have been busy in the kitchen at Ayton Primary School this week, delivering our hands-on 'Cook and Share' soup-making event. The pupils jumped straight in, chopping, peeling, stirring, and tasting their own homemade soups. The atmosphere was brilliant: lots of laughter, plenty of concentration, and lots of 'Mmmmm's' being heard while they were trying their creations.

These sessions give children the chance to learn practical skills they can use at home and beyond. They pick up tips on safe knife handling, kitchen



safety, food hygiene, and healthy eating, all while discovering how simple ingredients can come together to make something really tasty. Working in small groups helps build teamwork and confidence too, especially when they get to share what they've made with their classmates.

Obviously, what made the event even more special was the support from our community partners. PC Cameron, Lianne from Berwickshire Swap, Jennifer from Berwickshire Housing Association, and Justin from The Ship in Eyemouth all joined us in the classroom. Their energy and encouragement brought a lovely buzz to the sessions and showed the pupils that cooking is something everyone can enjoy, no matter what you do day to day (although Justin does have a bit of an advantage!).

The cooking events have quickly become a highlight for the schools we visit. They're a great mix of learning, fun, and connection, and it's always fantastic to see how excited the children are with what they've achieved.

Next up, we'll be heading to Eyemouth, Reston, Co'path, and Coldingham Primary Schools in January and February to keep the cooking adventure going. We can't wait to see more young chefs growing in confidence, trying new ingredients, and tasting new things.

splash

Lentil and Smoked Bacon Broth

200g finely chopped smoked streaky bacon
1 large onion
2 carrots
100g diced turnip
1 medium leek
1 stick of celery
2 parsley stalks
750g red lentils
4ltr white chicken stock (or 3 chicken stock cubes)



Finely chop all vegetables into little cubes about 5mm

Heat up 50ml of veg oil in a large heavy pot

Fry some colour into the bacon

Add all the vegetables and continue to fry until soft but not coloured

Add in the lentils and stir until everything is covered in the tasty oil

Add the chicken stock, bring to boil, then simmer for around 30–40 minutes or until the lentils have softened

Taste, then season with a little salt and white pepper if required

For best results, let the soup cool completely then store in the fridge until tomorrow.

Justin from The Ship



wildlife notes



"All good things are wild and free" – Henry David Thoreau

As the festive season draws ever closer and the New Year is just around the corner, it's always a good time to look back on your wildlife year as the nights draw in. There has been so much to see locally from the wonders of Grey Seal pups in early January, to the ongoing sightings of Orca along our coastline. 2025 has had many highlights and here are just a few that you might well have heard of or encountered yourselves.

In late 2024, over 2000 Grey Seal pups were born on the beaches from Lumsdaine, north of St. Abb's Head NNR, right down to the rocky shore at Wuddy Rocks. The sight of fluffy newborns always brings a joy to the soul, but I must admit, I'm more of a teenager fan, the 'weaners' – as they are collectively known (right). As they begin their moults and start to develop their waterproof coats, they are full of character and it's a real pleasure watching them grow up and observe their behaviour. And then they are gone – heading out for a life full of adventures in open water.



Also in January, it was a pleasure to take part in the Hibernating Heralds project, a real 'treasure hunt' for the moth geeks amongst us. Herald moths (left) will hibernate from September onwards in caves, underground tunnels, or abandoned buildings that are dry, cool and dark. By conserving energy in a dormant state, they can survive the winter and emerge in the following spring to resume their lifecycle. By mapping their locations, it provides much needed research into their lives and abundance. Needless to say, there was plenty of crawling about in tight spaces and a few spiders encountered!

During May, the sun was blazing and not a hint of rain to be had. It had an impact on the emergence of butterfly species with our Eyemouth/Burnmouth Small Blues (right) appearing 2 weeks ahead of schedule.



wildlife notes

Along this stretch of coastal path, it was a joy to see a spring migrant in full voice – the Grasshopper Warbler (right)! No mistaking that sound – like a hundred grasshoppers belting out a tune. It looked at me; I returned the favour with camera in hand and rejoiced in its song.

From July to October (yes, October!), big waves of wildlife species were blown over from the continent, with Painted Lady and Small White butterflies taking centre stage. And with this, it was a great year locally for Hummingbird Hawkmoths (left), with sightings across our region, from gardens to sea cliffs.



The great thing about wildlife is that it's out there for us all to enjoy and it doesn't take much to find. Just before writing this article, I came across some lichens on the edge of a hedgerow, a spot I've passed many times in the past but never paid much attention to. Oh, was I so wrong – on closer inspection, Maritime Sunburst lichen (one of its many names, see right). Wow! Wow! Wow! I zoomed in with the camera and what a joy – it's a lichen-forming fungus. Nature is just magical!



From Wildlife Notes, a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all.

David Lewis, NTS Ranger Team, St. Abb's Head NNR



look after yourself

New Year, Doesn't Need to be a New Me

Everyone knows what happens around this time of year. Weight loss adverts are rife, gyms are offering discounts, and you have run out of fingers for the number of people who have told you their New Year's Resolution is stopping eating 'bad' food, or losing weight, or running a marathon every day.

I also know that it sounds strange I'm saying this since I am based within this industry. However, let me give you some suggestions instead. This means you don't need to change your whole lifestyle, just add or remove an element or two to overall benefit your wellbeing without it being too much and causing you to fall off the wagon three weeks in.

Ten minutes of movement: this can be as small as walking to the shops rather than driving, or sitting watching TV in the evening whilst doing some stretches. It doesn't need to be a lot, but can be just enough for your body to start creating endorphins, increase your metabolism, aid your digestion and improve your mental health.

Arrange once a week, two weeks or a month to do something different with a friend: It doesn't have to be the same friend! You could go to a class if that's accessible, or you could go for a dog walk, swim or arrange somewhere to do a seated movement class on YouTube (or a local class that offers subsidised places for people who need it). Again, make it

accessible for you; it doesn't need to cost the earth or make you break out in an intense sweat.

Balance baby: I know most people have heard that standing on one leg whilst brushing your teeth will change your life, and you think, yeah right, but really it can! Simply balancing on one



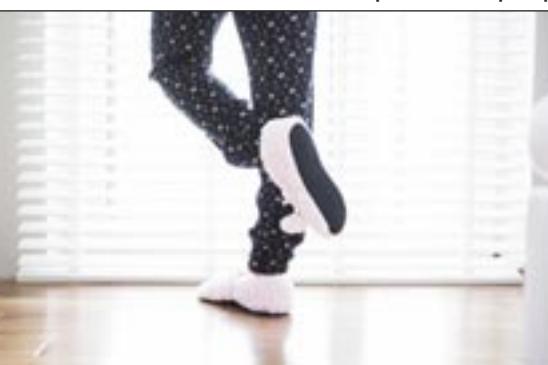
look after yourself

leg whilst you're making a tea, brushing your teeth or raising your leg and knee whilst you're sitting down changes your body's weight distribution and proprioception, so tiny muscles in your feet, legs and core have to work an awful lot harder. This can help to maintain muscle tone, improve your agility and posture and walking speed.

If you feel you'd like to try a class, I offer a wide array of Yoga and Pilates classes designed so that there is hopefully something for everyone (subsidised places are available). I also offer 1:2:1s and Sports Therapy if you'd like some more tailored guidance. Like I say, you don't need to, but there are options out there.

I wish you a fantastic New Year, whatever or however many of these small things you might try to add to your lifestyle.

*Maddie Reynolds, Yoga and Pilates Teacher
Contact: 07590 724 573*



gardening notes

Apples at Christmas

Our domesticated apple tree originated in Central Asia from its wild ancestor *Malus sieversii*. Because of its delicious fruit combined with beautiful blossom and its strong growth it has spread throughout the world. En route it has also picked up a lot of genetic information from our own wild crab apple *Malus sylvestris*. The domestic apple has much larger fruit than the crab apple but they are very closely related and can cross breed. The word apple did not originally apply specifically to apples but actually referred to any fruit at all and also nuts.

Apples are an important fruit at Christmas since whilst other fruits will have decayed, apples can be kept in a good condition for a long time and they can be preserved by drying or cooking. Commercial apples are kept in controlled atmosphere facilities with high humidity, low oxygen and controlled carbon dioxide levels to maintain their freshness. Lots of Christmas recipes contain apples and if like me your tree has produced an over-abundance of fruit, you should try making batches of apple sauce for the freezer.

In China it is now a tradition to eat a 'Peace Apple' on Christmas Eve. In Mandarin, Christmas Eve is translated as Ping'anye or the evening of peace, which also happens to sound a bit like the Chinese word for 'apple' or pingguo. Hence Peace Apple 'ping'anguo'.

As a child I used to enjoy toffee apples on Bonfire Night and in Scandinavia 'Glaserete Epler' are a common treat. Try this recipe yourselves...

- Take 6 crisp apples such as Granny Smith and rinse them in boiling water to remove their waxy coating. Dry them and remove stalks then push a skewer into each.
- Put 400g sugar into a pan with 100ml water and heat until the sugar dissolves. Stir in 1 teaspoon of vinegar or



gardening notes

lemon juice and 4 tablespoons of golden syrup. Boil the syrup until a drop placed in water is hard.

- Dip each apple into the syrup and place on a baking tray to set.

Now is the time to think about planting a new apple tree or pruning existing trees. Apples are grown on selected rootstocks to control their vigour and size so it is possible to select a tree which can be grown in a container but still produce a good crop of fruit. Apple trees can also be trained and pruned to grow against a wall or trellis.

Before you plant your new tree find the 'graft point' where it was grafted to the rootstock. This must be kept above the soil level and a tree stake is important to keep it upright.

Existing apple trees should be winter pruned to remove congested or crossing branches. The idea is to create an open framework which lets light and air into the middle of the tree and allows you to pick all the fruit.

Things to do in the garden

In the veg patch harvest any remaining leeks, cabbages or sprouts and any root crops such as parsnips.

Some perennials can still be lifted and divided.

Try to leave some leafy plants such as grasses to provide cover for wild-life.

Tidy up any tubs and containers too. Keep removing dead foliage and old flower heads. Mulching with stones or bark keeps them looking fresh.

Take root cuttings from perennial poppies *Papaver*, *Phlox*, *Verbascum* and *Acanthus*.

Have a great Christmas!



Caroline Lathe
(Ayton Gardening Society)



splash

SPLASH BRUNCH HUB

CLOSED
DECEMBER 18 -
JANUARY 8



Brunch Hub

Allison and her colleagues are looking forward to welcoming you to the Splash Brunch Hub. Open every Thursday at the Community Centre from 10.30 for breakfast rolls, teas and coffees with lunch being served from 11.30. Closing at 1.30

Weekly Specials including home made soups and puddings, traybakes, cakes and scones

CLOSED
DECEMBER 19 -
JANUARY 4
INCL.

EYEMOUTH LARDER
AND COMMUNITY
FRIDGE

OPENING HOURS

Monday	9 - 11
Tuesday	3 - 5
Wednesday	9 - 11
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9 - 11

PARISH CHURCH, EYEMOUTH



splash

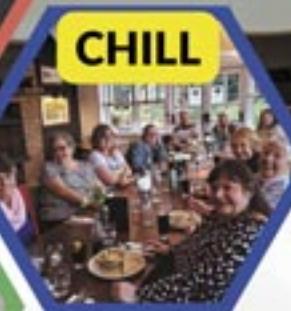
SKILL



CHAT



CHILL



Splash

SKILL, CHILL, CHAT
WOMEN'S GROUP

WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT THE MASONS HALL 1PM - 3PM

CLOSED
DECEMBER 23 -
JANUARY 6

NATURE FOR
WELLBEING
GROUP

CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 -
JANUARY 7

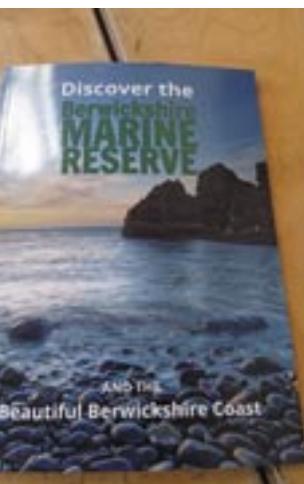
Meet in the Masons'
Hall at 1.30pm on
Wednesdays





We had a fascinating, well attended meeting on Wednesday November 12 with an excellent talk by Charlotte Keeley, Project Officer from Berwickshire Marine Reserve. She explained that their work involves many aspects of

conservation and preservation on the marine reserve which stretches from Eyemouth to St Abbs, covering a marine area of 10.3km². BMR promotes responsible recreational activities alongside a sustainable fishery to the benefit of all. It also raises awareness of the marine environment through education and research. Our coastal waters are renowned for their rich biodiversity and Charlotte told us of the amazing wildlife to be found here from Minke whales to kelp forests.



Our future Open Meetings are:

Wednesday 10th December:

Rachel Abbott, a wild foraging tutor, talking about fungi and opportunities for foraging on seashore, woodlands and fields.

Wednesday 14th January:

Pete Rowberry, the U3A national subject advisor for wildlife, who is a great advocate for spending time in nature as a stress relief from modern life.

We are all looking forward to our annual Christmas lunch in early December and seeing friends both old and new.

Season's Greetings to you all.

Library opening times:

Monday 10am–1pm, 2–5pm, Thursday 10am–1pm, Friday 10am–1pm, 2–5pm.

Once a Year by Felicity Hayes-McCoy

This book is a charming, generational saga from the popular Irish author and a lovely, festive read!

'Now that she's finally (and secretly) divorced her unreliable husband, Sheila is ready to celebrate. But is her family's annual get-together, held at the hotel they've owned for generations, the best time to break the news?

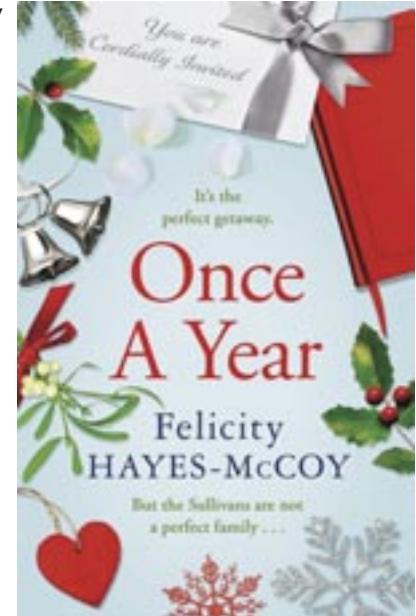
'And she's not the only one keeping something to herself.

'Nora, Sheila's formidable mother, is distracted by her doubts about the Castlehill Hotel's new manager: her grand-daughter Máire. Can she hide her feelings though, putting family before the business for once?

'Meanwhile, Sheila's three daughters each have a big decision to make: Henrietta needs time away from home to think, Máire is afraid of losing someone, and Barbara is eager to take a risk...

'As the Sullivan women gather at a place filled with memories, bittersweet and painful truths come to the surface. Will honesty drive them further apart, or will they finally find themselves brought closer together?'

Available at Eyemouth Library.



Library News

Drop-in Lego sessions every second and fourth Friday, 2–4pm.

Hearing Aid clinic on Friday 19th December and Friday 16th January, 10am–12pm.

There will be no Bookbug in December or the first 3 weeks in January.

There will be no Walking Bookgroup in December and January.



history

Important Global Events that Happened on Christmas Day

Most people in the world will know that December 25th is known as Christmas Day, when millions of Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. But throughout the centuries and across the world many other important events have taken place on that particular date. Here are a few from the 4th to the 20th centuries that may interest you.



336AD: the first Christmas was celebrated on December 25th by order of the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine. Jesus' birth date isn't given in the Bible. It's likely that December 25th was chosen to coincide with the Roman festival of Saturnalia in honour of Saturn, the God of the harvest.

800AD: Charlemagne, King of the Franks, was crowned the first Holy Roman Emperor by the Pope in Rome. He ruled over large parts of Western and Central Europe. The title lasted until the 19th century.

1066AD: William, Duke of Normandy, was crowned the first Norman King of England after defeating Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings. He later successfully reshaped England's government, language and culture.

1170AD: Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered by four knights (above), after they heard King Henry II say, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?"

1492AD: Christopher Columbus' flagship, *Santa Maria*, ran aground on the island now known as Haiti, in the Caribbean, and resulted in Columbus discovering America.

1652AD: The Puritan Government that had ordered the execution of King Charles I ordered all churches to be closed on Christmas Day.

1776AD: (during the War of American Independence from Britain) George Washington and his army crossed the Delaware River, defeated a British army and turned the tide of the war in favour of the 13 American colonies.



history

1831AD: The Great Jamaican Slave Revolt, involving 60,000 slaves, led to the abolition of the slave trade (but unfortunately not to the abolition of slavery)

1868AD: President Andrew Johnson issued a full pardon to all the Confederate soldiers who had fought against the government in the American Civil War.

1914AD: (first year of World War I) there was an unofficial truce along some parts of the Western Front when, on that one day, British, French and German troops laid down their weapons and met in 'No Man's Land' to chat, exchange gifts, and even play football!



1932AD: King George V delivered the first Royal Christmas radio message on the BBC Empire Service.

1941AD: (during World War II) the British Governor surrendered control of Hong Kong to the Japanese. They held the colony until the end of the War.

1950AD: four Scottish students, in favour of Home Rule for Scotland, stole the Stone of Destiny from the royal throne in Westminster Abbey. In 1296 Edward I of England had removed the ancient stone, which had been used to crown Scottish Kings, to London.

1957AD: Queen Elizabeth II delivered her first televised Christmas message to the nation.

1968AD: Apollo 8 was the first crewed spaceship to orbit the Moon.

1979AD: The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, marking the start of a 10 year war.

1989AD: Nicolae Ceausescu, Communist dictator of Romania, was executed by firing squad after being found guilty of mass murder and other crimes.

1991AD: Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the USSR was officially dissolved.

Fay Waddell



abundant borders

It's been another busy year in the Eyemouth Community Food Garden (part of the allotments, Golf Course Road, TD14 5SF). We started the year off in January with an apple tree grafting workshop. In February we hosted staff and pupils from Eyemouth High School for a compost-making workshop. In the spring we ran a series of back-to-basics sessions for novice gar-



deners covering all stages of plant propagation. Jane and Elizabeth were back in May and ran a series of herbal remedies workshops in the garden throughout the summer (left). During the summer we also held our annual soft fruit PYO event, with recipe cards available, and had a tree-planting afternoon establishing elder trees propagated the previous autumn. As we moved into autumn, Sabina joined us in the garden for some al fresco cooking sessions (far right), using seasonal produce from the garden. We seed-saved, and the apple press was back in action. In November we held winter workshops and Christmas wreath-making.

We're planning another wide array of events for 2026, not just in Eyemouth but also the other Community Food Gardens in Ayton, Foulden, Duns, Kelso and Hawick. If you'd like to receive details of events as they are announced, sign up to our newsletter on the Contact Us page of our website (abundantborders.org.uk/contact) or follow us on Facebook. All of



the workshops are generally FREE! We hold weekly volunteering sessions in each of the gardens and new volunteers are always very welcome – regardless of experience. All tools and equipment are provided. During the winter months, the volunteering sessions at Eyemouth will be every Wednesday, 10–12 noon, with additional and longer sessions taking place from the spring. We grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs (including our first grapes and lemons in the polytunnel this year!) Volunteers choose what we grow and have priority access to whatever we harvest, with any surplus being distributed to local community food initiatives. We are also planning on holding more al fresco cooking sessions in the garden next year, where we can use seasonal produce straight from the garden to create tasty and nutritious social lunches.

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We have exciting developments in store in the garden in 2026. Thanks to funding from the Scottish Crown Estate we will be able to develop a full-scale apple tree nursery in the Eyemouth Community Food Garden. We plan to teach grafting skills and produce at least 100 apple trees annually for community use and for those on low incomes. The project will commence in February 2026 with grafting workshops, and we plan to focus on propagating north-hardy heritage varieties which should thrive in our climate.

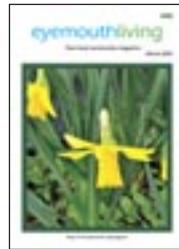
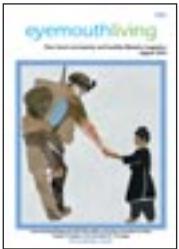
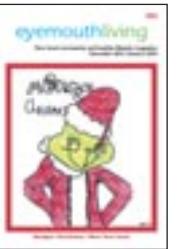
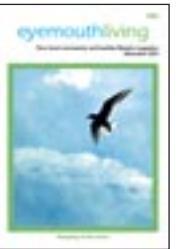
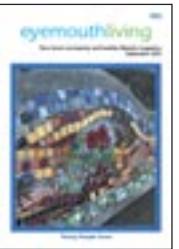
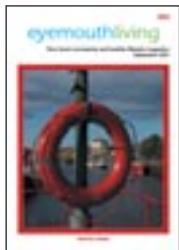
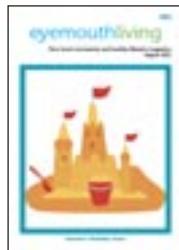
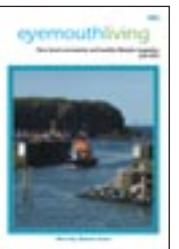
If you'd like to get involved with this project, we'd love to hear from you. Full training will be provided to anyone who's interested. To register your interest in this, or in any other element of our work, you can contact us at projects@abundantborders.org.uk.



abundant borders

it's our fourth birthday!

it's our fourth birthday!



eyemouth community centre

News From Your Community Centre

You may not realise that Scottish Borders Council have been deliberating off and on for many years as to the future of the Eyemouth Community Centre. It is probably for that reason SBC has not carried out necessary repairs as and when problems arise. Now the building has a number of issues to resolve, not least of which is the condition of some of its roof. Slates are loose and may fall in any windy condition. If walking in the grounds of the centre, please be careful!

The management committee are taking steps to try to preserve the centre for the future of our community. There is a distinct possibility that, if SBC takes the decision to try to divest itself of its responsibility for the building and its upkeep, our community can acquire an interest in it, either by outright purchase (funds permitting), or a long lease at a nominal rent. The latter course may be preferable as such a lease could incorporate a 'break clause' exercisable by the centre committee if, despite its efforts, the centre could not be made financially viable.

Whatever SBC decide there is now, and will always remain, the necessity for a strong and active committee to manage the day to day running of the centre. Each 'affiliated group' has a duty to appoint a representative to the management committee, however if their representative fails to regularly attend meetings the group will lose its affiliation and the benefit it receives (which is the substantially reduced hire fees for meetings).

If you feel you can help the committee in any way, whether by ideas for its current or future management or by physically assisting please feel free to contact us.

Phone: 01890751200

Email: treasurer.eyemouthcc@gmail.com



GET THE RIGHT CARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE



NHS inform includes self-help guides for a range of common conditions: NHSinform.scot/self-help-guides

If you think you need A&E, but it's not life threatening, call NHS 24 on 111. If you need same day medical attention that cannot wait for your GP Practice to reopen, call NHS 24 on 111.

NHS 24



- Colds
- Cold sores
- Sore throat
- Diarrhoea or constipation
- Indigestion
- Aches and pains
- Help if you run out of your repeat prescription

Pharmacist



Contact your GP Practice
Call NHS 24 on 111, 24/7, 365 days a year
Breathing Space: 0800 83 85 87
Weekdays: Monday - Thursday 6pm to 2am
Weekend: Friday 6pm - Monday 6am

Mental Well-being



- Tooth pain
- Swelling to your mouth
- Injury to your mouth
- Painful or bleeding gums
- Advice on oral hygiene

Dentist



- Red or sticky eye
- Pain in or around your eye
- Blurred or reduced vision
- Flashes and floaters

Optometrist



A range of clinicians, including doctors, nurses and sometimes pharmacists and physiotherapists to help you with both mental and physical health issues.

GP Practice



- Cuts and minor burns
- Sprains and strains
- Suspected broken bones and fractures

Minor Injuries Unit



- Suspected heart attack or stroke
- Breathing difficulties
- Severe bleeding

A&E or 999

If you are unsure about where to go or who to see, find out at:

NHSinform.scot/right-care

**SANTA CLAUS VISIT 2025**

Once again Father Christmas plus his Sleigh and Merry Helpers will be visiting the East Berwickshire communities during December distributing good cheer and gifts to children.

The programme for this years' visits is given below. **Please Note some changes to Santa's timings and locations due to Reindeer issues especially in Reston.** Parents/Carers are invited to bring their children along to meet Santa and his Rotarian helpers.

Friday 19th December

COCKBURNSPATH	(Village Square)	4.30pm
GRANTSHOUSE	(Grantshouse Inn)	5.30pm
RESTON	(Railway Station Car Park by Bus Stop)	6.00pm

Saturday 20th December

EYEMOUTH	(Hallydown Crescent)	4.30pm
EYEMOUTH	(Deanhead Drive/Callercove)	5.15pm
EYEMOUTH	(Co-op Car Park)	5:45 pm
EYEMOUTH	(Stebbins Rise/ Skeldons Brea)	6.15pm
EYEMOUTH	(The Avenue/ Gunsgreen Circle)	6.30pm
EYEMOUTH	(Gillsland, top of)	7:00pm

Sunday 21st December

AYTON		4.30pm
BURNMOUTH	(Near Village Hall)	5.15pm
ST ABBS	(Post Office)	5.45pm
COLDINGHAM	(Village Hall)	6.15pm



PLEASE LOOK AT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE IN CASE OF ANY CHANGES TO SCHEDULE DUE TO WEATHER



Don't be alone on Christmas Day



No Santa but 'Lotsa Banter!

We know Christmas can be a difficult time, so please drop in for a coffee (or tea) and a crack.

December 25th The Mason's Hall

We will be open from 10am till 1.00pm



abi & kathy



End of the Year Reflections

It's November and Abi and Kathy are sitting in a café with coffee and cake.

Abi: I didn't see you at the Poppy Scotland coffee morning this year?

Kathy: I heard it was good. It was run by Rotary again. It's good they do that to help Poppy Scotland and Eyemouth British Legion. I was meaning to go but just didn't feel like it.

Abi: Are you ok? It's not like you to miss being able to judge the quality of the scones on offer!

Kathy: I just find this time of the year difficult. It feels like a time of reflection especially with Remembrance Sunday in November. Those pipes always get to me and I worry about how people will cope with Christmas.

Abi: I know what you mean. It seems like you're not able to have a good Christmas unless you have lots of family, presents and food.

Kathy: That's it! When I was younger we looked forward to getting a clementine at Christmas and a couple of presents. It was a treat. Times have changed. I'm not sure these dark nights help either.

Abi: It feels that we all go into hibernation. The town also seems quiet. It feels like we are all taking a breath and seeing what will happen.

Kathy: Totally agree, there's so much chaos going on here and abroad that it does feel that we are holding our breath. I need to talk myself out of this mood and you need to help me. There are things to look forward to. Christmas needs to be magical again for the youngsters and adults too.

Abi: Think positively, there are good things happening and it will soon be spring again. Have you seen that NORAD in America do a Santa Tracker on Christmas eve? We follow it.

Kathy: That sounds like fun – I'll look for it. Christmas and these months are a time for reflection. A friend always used to say to me "may you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas eve". I need to remember that.

After a quick hug it was time for another coffee and maybe a slice of pizza.

Rachael Hamilton MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire constituency

If there are any issues that I can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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The Scottish Parliament
Parlamenta na h-Alba



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John2Win

JohnLamontBorders

Working hard for the
Borders, all year round

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berwickshire marine reserve



WELCOME TO THE Berwickshire MARINE RESERVE TEAM

Scotland's first voluntary marine reserve

Anna Temple | Research Officer | anna@berwickshiremarinereserve.org.uk

Hello, Eyemouth!

I'm exploring the feasibility of creating a permanent marine education facility here in Berwickshire, speaking with local people and communities to understand its benefits and to recognise the area's exceptional coastline.

If you have any ideas or would like to share your thoughts, get in touch for a cuppa and a chat!

Or join me at our next
Community Consultation Drop In
Events:

Sat 22 Nov | Eyemouth Hippodrome
11am-2pm
Sat 6 Dec | Coldingham Village Hall
11am-2pm
Sat 10 Jan | Ebbo Centre, St Abbs
11am-2pm



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IN AID OF EYEMOUTH HERRING QUEEN

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
@THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL HALL
12.30-2PM

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supporting ukraine

Travelling to Lviv – Delivering Aid to Ukraine

In an earlier edition of *Eyemouth Living*, I revealed that I was taking a 4x4 out to Ukraine and asking for items to take with me. Firstly, “Thank You” to the people of Eyemouth and Ayton who provided items – everything went and everything was welcomed. An especial thanks to the family who looked out all their old soft toys, cleaned and mended them, and delivered them to me. They went to an orphanage just outside Lviv which has been overwhelmed with children arriving from the east of Ukraine.



I was travelling under the umbrella charity Pickups 4 Peace. They have very strong connections in Poland and Ukraine and have been running



convoy for some time – I was part of Convoy 24. There were 35 vehicles going in at the border and one of them was the 750th that had been donated and taken out. Over 1200 people from the UK and elsewhere have volunteered to drive and co-drive the vehicles since the charity started – a great indication of the level of support that the UK provides to the Ukrainians.

The trip out wasn't easy – the driving conditions were very poor with torrential rain and strong winds at times. However, built in to my timings

were breaks at points of interest. Most poignant was a visit to Gross Rosen concentration camp near Wroclaw in Poland. Now largely unknown, I went because a number of SOE Agents, commissioned into the British forces, were murdered there. Now an ‘old war’, but they should not be forgotten.

Once into Ukraine and the city of Lviv, we had a day to visit the war graves for Lviv soldiers killed since 2022 and to lay a wreath for them. I was last out there in September 2024, and the lines of graves have nearly doubled in that time.



I cannot stress too highly how much the people of Ukraine are grateful for the continued support of the people of the United Kingdom. And well done Eyemouth and district for adding to that support.

Brian Payne

eyemouth clubs/activities

Do please let us know if you would like your voluntary organisation/community group included, or your information updated.

Club/Activity	Information	Contact
60's, 70's, 80's Music We Love	E Berwickshire U3A	https://u3asites.org.uk/eastberwickshire/welcome
Abundant Borders	Community food gardens and food related activities	https://abundantborders.org.uk
Andy's Man Club	Mon 7pm Parish Church Hall	https://andysmanclub.co.uk
Art Appreciation	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Basic French	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Berwickshire Nerd Guild War-gaming and Boardgame Club	Parish Church Hall, Friday 6–10pm	see facebook page
Bingo	Tavern Bar Thursdays	see facebook page
Birdwatching	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Book groups, various	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Busy bees baby/toddler group	Tuesday 10.30–12, Friday 10.30–12.25	see Eyemouth Parish Church facebook page
Chirnside Amateur Boxing Club	Monday, Wednesday, Friday see page for details	see facebook page
Coldingham and Eyemouth Netball Club	Tuesday 8–9pm, Eyemouth High School during term time	see facebook page
Coldingham Brave Bayers	Sundays 10am and see page for details, Coldingham Beach	www.facebook.com/groups/2709684882686174/
Coldingham Ukeleles	Tuesdays 7–8.30pm	see facebook page
Community Café	Thursdays 10.30am–1.30pm Community Centre	www.facebook.com/Splash.Eyemouth/
Community Choir	Wednesdays 6.30–8pm EU church	
Connect Berwickshire Youth Project	Thursday 5.30–7pm P7 to S2 Thursdays 7–8 S3 +	https://bypconnect.com/drop-in-sessions
Dabbling with Words	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Eyemouth and District Amateur Swimming Club	see page for details	see facebook page
Eyemouth and District Coastal Rowing	see page for details	see facebook page
Eyemouth and District Walking Football	Thursdays 6–7pm High School Sports Hall	www.facebook.com/groups/1196035434451614/
Eyemouth Bowling Club	Seasonal	www.facebook.com/groups/1747266198918352/
Eyemouth Golf Club	Junior membership <16 yrs £5	www.eyemouthgolfclub.co.uk
Eyemouth Mens Shed	Tuesdays 9am–2pm	see facebook page

eyemouth clubs/activities

Group/Club	Information	Contact
Eyemouth Rotary	Thursdays via Zoom 6 for 6.15pm	jo.pawley@talktalk.net
Eyemouth Scouts	Tuesday evenings, ages 6–18	www.borderscouts.org.uk
Eyemouth United Football Club	Weekly	stephanspeirs@hotmail.com
Eyemouth Variety Group	see page for details	www.eyemouthvariety.co.uk
Fisherman's Choir	Tuesdays 7pm Hippodrome	see facebook page
French Conversation	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Gardening Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Geology Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Junior parkrun	Sundays 9.30am	www.parkrun.org.uk/eyemouth-priplayingfields-juniors/
Knit 3 purl 3 Knitting Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Lego Club	Every 2nd and 4th Friday 2–4pm Eyemouth library	www.liveborders.org.uk/home/our-libraries/library-lego-sessions/
Lipreading Group	Community Centre	www.scotborders.gov.uk/disabilities/deaf-deafened-hard-hearing/3
Local History Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Majong Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Music Appreciation	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Opera Appreciation	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Poetry Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Prostate Cancer Support Group	1st Tuesday of month 7–8pm Eyemouth Golf Club	check facebook page
Quiz Group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Scottish Country Dancing	E Berwickshire U3A	see above
Scottish Karate Federation	Thursday 6–7pm and 7–8.15pm Eyemouth High School	www.skfscotland.co.uk/clubs/eyemouth.html
Scottish Womens Institute	Chirnside, Ayton and Coldingham	hello@theswi.org.uk
Sea the Change	E-bike hire, cycling support etc	info@seathechange.org.uk
Singing For Fun	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Skill, Chill, Chat Womens Group	Tuesdays 1–3pm	susie@eyemouth.org
Table Tennis	E Berwickshire U3A	see website
Walking for Wellbeing Book Group	2nd Thursday of month 1.30pm Eyemouth Library	www.liveborders.org.uk/exercise-referral/walking-for-wellbeing/
Walk It (low impact, accessible, 55 minute walks)	Tuesdays Community Centre 10am	SBC Walk It Walks website
Walking group	E Berwickshire U3A	see website



scottish historic buildings trust

Participants Sought for New Traditional Skills Training Scheme Launching in Eyemouth

A new traditional skills training course held a 'skills taster day' on Eyemouth High Street as it seeks its inaugural cohort of trainees to take the first steps towards a career working on historic buildings.

Building Traditional Skills Eyemouth (BTSE) will run part-time for 20 weeks from January 2026, offering two days training each week in the skills needed to work on historic buildings, such as stonemasonry and joinery. Fourteen participants will have the opportunity for hands-on learning with skilled trainers, and those who complete the course can expect to gain a First Aid certificate and their Construction Skills Certification



"Too often, young people and career-changers who live in smaller rural towns in Scotland find they are required to travel long distances to seek training. The Building Traditional Skills Eyemouth scheme will bring traditional construction skills training to people in Eyemouth, increasing the opportunities available to people on their doorstep. We are delighted that the environs of Category A-listed Gunsgreen House will provide a training site for this exciting pilot project."

Riddell Graham,
Chair of the Gunsgreen House Trust

Scheme (CSCS) card, which is essential for anyone looking to work on construction sites in the UK.

The scheme, which is funded by the Scottish Borders Local Employability Partnership Grants and the HCI Skills Gateway, is open to participants aged 16 and over, whether just leaving school or looking for a rewarding

scottish historic buildings trust

new career path. Trainees may be eligible to receive a training bursary of £50 per week for taking part.

Trainees will have the opportunity to undertake hands-on training at one of Eyemouth's most significant historic buildings, the Category A-listed Gunsgreen House. Repair works including raking out and repointing to the masonry rubble retaining wall, along with joinery repairs to window sills, will provide valuable introductory learning opportunities for course participants as well as delivering benefits to the fabric of the historic building.

The scheme is being run by Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT), a national building preservation charity whose mission is to save historic buildings at risk by restoring and regenerating them for the benefit of local communities. SHBT has previously helped deliver the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme projects in Jedburgh and Hawick, and the charity was recently successful in purchasing at auction the Category A-listed Bernat Klein Studio, between Selkirk and Galashiels, to embark on a restoration of the 1972 modernist building.

SHBT also supports traditional building skills training, addressing the shortage of skilled craftspeople needed to repair and maintain Scotland's historic buildings. Since its foundation almost fifty years ago, it has restored some 30 buildings and raised in excess of £50 million, with its portfolio and fundraising capacity set to scale significantly through 2026.

To find out more and register your interest in taking part email: training@shbt.org.uk.

"The success of our conservation projects depends on the availability of the traditional skills required to work on historic buildings. As the need to maintain and repair Scotland's traditionally-built homes, shops, and public buildings grows year by year, the demand for these key construction skills continues to increase. We're proud to be launching this programme in Eyemouth, with its fine architectural heritage, and those people who join the scheme here could be taking the first step in a long and rewarding career. We encourage anyone interested in taking part to get in touch."

Dr Samuel Gallacher,
Director of Scottish Historic Buildings Trust



from the archives

Christmas and New Year in Eyemouth – 1925

At the time of writing, TV schedules for the 12 Days of Christmas are confirmed and the 'Strictly' finale looms! There are literally miles of shelves in Berwick's stores groaning under every conceivable, must have, Christmas item. Christmas Markets and Craft Fairs have been in progress for weeks. So, how different was Christmas in Eyemouth 100 years ago? We can get a glimpse of this by delving into the newspaper and other archives.

Overall, 1925 had been a year of significant struggle for most Scots, overshadowed by economic hardship leading to high levels of poverty, even forcing some to emigrate for a better life. Early in December there was much anxiety for the Eyemouth fishing fleet making its way homeward from Yarmouth in the face of stormy weather and heavy seas. On 17 December, the unemployment figures were published for Eyemouth. 66 men were unemployed (up from 55 the previous week) and 71 women (up from zero). A system of poor relief was actively in operation in Scotland, administered by local councils, some awarding a 'Christmas bonus' of 2s. (10p) for adults and 1s. (5p) for children.

Some interesting facts from 1925:

- The average life expectancy was below 65.
- The cost of posting a Christmas card was 2d (1p).
- A 'wireless' (radio) cost between £15 and £25 at Redfearn's of Berwick and the BBC had only started daily transmissions in 1922. (TV had been invented in 1925 by Scottish engineer John Logie Baird but not given its first public demonstration until 26 January 1926).
- Presents advertised in Berwick shops, totally beyond the means of most families in Eyemouth, included a rocking horse at 14s.6d (72p), a 'Fairy Free Wheel Cycle' at 59s.6d (£2.97p) and 'solid gold watches' from £3.2s



from the archives

(£3.10p) to £5.11s. (£5.55p). Most children would have to make do with handmade toys – and real socks were used for Christmas stockings!

- Bus timetables were published by the operator, Brook & Amos of Coldingham, on 22 December and services were provided on Christmas and New Years Day.
- The public were being urged to 'shop early for Christmas' – on 15 December!
- Father Christmas was a 'leaner, scarier-looking figure'.



The Berwickshire News for 29 December tells us that "Christmas Day at Eyemouth was an ideal Winter's day, hard frost and bright blue sky but no snow, though there was plenty in the District. With the exception of the extreme cold, it might have been a Summer's day. A service was held in the Parish Church to which very few turned out, perhaps owing to the fact that Christmas celebrations are not so customary in Eyemouth as at New Year, when one even hears of Santa hovering over the District. The Church Sunday School Treat was held at the Masonic Hall where the children were regaled with tea etc, after which the Church Bell was rung and parents and friends assembled in the Church for a long programme of songs and recitations".

At the event the programme included hymns, 'The Snow' and 'At the Seaside' by Mary Stevenson; 'The Snowdrop' by James Dougal; and 'O Star Divine' by the Girl's Chorus. Joan Fairburn, Jessie Angus, Barbara Leitch, Alice Aitchison and Joan Swanston also performed. "Each child, on leaving, was presented with an orange – all performers getting two".

New Years Day saw a "full sports programme" with Eyemouth Swifts away to Chirnside United in the Leo Trophy.

We can only wonder what those living in 2125 will make of our Christmas!

Happy Christmas and New Year From the Archives!

David Littlewood

TEENS TALKS

Christmas

The streets are glowing, lights all around,
Snow crunching softly under the ground.

Mum's in the kitchen, scent of treats,
Dad untangles lights in stubborn heaps.

Friends send messages,
plans start to grow,

Excitement hums in the air we know.
We laugh, we chat, we share little things,
The joy of the season quietly clings.

The tree stands tall, ornaments bright,
Stockings hung and candles alight.

It's not just presents or the festive display, It's
warmth and love that make my day.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA



Barbecues: Barbecues with prawns, salads, and cold meats are a popular alternative to a traditional roast dinner.

GERMANY



A wreath with four candles is placed in homes, with one additional candle lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas

CHINA



On Christmas Eve, it is popular to give friends a specially-branded apple. In Chinese, "apple" is pingguo (苹果), and Christmas Eve is called Píng'ān yè (平安夜), or "peace night".

#ANDYSMANCLUB

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1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS

ALL OUR GROUPS MEET MONDAY 7PM

in Eyemouth Parish Church Hall
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We are a peer to peer support group for men. Come have a brew and a chat!