

FREE

eyemouthingiving

Your local community and healthy lifestyle magazine
May 2024



Bank Holiday Issue

welcome

Welcome to our Bank Holiday issue of *Eyemouth Living* for the month of May, the month of bank holidays! Hopefully May is also the month when we might see some better weather for our wee toon. Make sure to look out for the signs of summer both in the garden and in the wild: check out the notes from both the Ayton Gardening Society and the National Trust for what to nurture and what to look out for. It is fascinating to see some of the different ways that May festivities feature in other cultures and our young people have a great section on that. However don't forget to try out the tasty recipe from Abundant Borders, maybe to be enjoyed while reading about our history or the wonderful project based on the experience of life in Eyemouth now. There is plenty more in this issue so take your time to check it all out! We hope you get to enjoy some good weather and we will be back with another issue in time for Summer.

Andy Haddow
 Chair, Eyemouth Development Trust



Pick up points for the magazine in Eyemouth are currently: Community Centre, Mason's Hall, EU Church, The Pet Shop, Beachcomber, The First and Last, FMA, ReTweed, Waterfront Cafe, Oblo, Larder, Petrol Station, Swimming pool/Leisure Centre, Library, BAVS shop, Coop, General Store, Swan Court, Linkim Court. We also distribute to: Ayton, Reston and Coldingham village shops.

You can also view the magazine at: <https://www.eyemouth.org/magazine>

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If you would like to promote your business or simply support us by placing an advert in the magazine please contact us at: livingmagazine@eyemouth.org

Any advertising must remain true to our healthy living ethos and we reserve the right to refuse any adverts that do not uphold this.

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

eyemouth food bank

Your Food Bank Needs You...

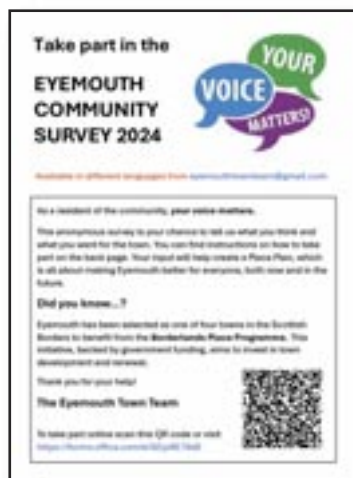
The Eyemouth Food Bank is looking for a willing volunteer or volunteers to manage the stores. The work involves some lifting and carrying and includes:

- Purchasing and collecting stock.
- Organising the store.
- Arranging delivery or collection of pet food from the Edinburgh Cat and Dog home.
- Managing the team of packers.

If you are interested please contact our chairman Andy Haddow via eyemouthfoodbank@gmail.com

eyemouth town team

Keep an eye out for the Eyemouth Community Survey or scan the QR code to access it online.



Money worries?



Help's at hand

Improve your financial health and wellbeing with NHS Borders Money Worries App.



Download the NHS Borders Money Worries App on the Apple App Store and Google Playstore.



Air Fryer

An air fryer is essentially a powerful small oven. It is very efficient and cost effective due to the strength of the air current inside. This fast and powerful fan means you can cook food for shorter periods of time than in a conventional oven and at lower temperatures.

Here's an example for converting oven-cooking instructions for an air fryer:

- reduce the oven cooking temperature in the instructions by 20°C
- reduce the cooking time by 20–25%

For example, if the item should be cooked in the oven at 200°C for 20 minutes, then it can be air fried at 180°C for about 15 minutes.

Air fryers are very energy efficient! According to research by Utilita an average cost of using an air fryer is £50 a year, compared to £300 when using a standard electric oven.

To give you a specific example let's take a baked potato. It takes approximately an hour to cook it in the oven at a cost of 45 pence. It takes 35–40 minutes to cook the same sized potato in the air fryer at a cost of 18 pence. Not only the actual cooking time is shorter but there is no need to preheat the air fryer saving even more time and money. To top it all up, air fried baked potatoes are absolutely delicious!



It is important to note that air fryer won't always be the cheapest option. If you're cooking larger food quantities it may be a better idea to use an oven as it has a larger capacity. You should never fill your air fryer basket too full as it will restrict air flow and the food will not cook properly.

Air Fryer Cheese Scones



Serves 5–6

Ingredients:

- 225g self-raising flour
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 1tsp baking powder
- 55g chilled butter
- 120g mature cheddar, grated
- 90–100ml milk plus 1tbsp for glazing

Method:

1. Sift the flour, salt, pepper and baking powder into a bowl
2. Add the butter to the bowl and combine with your fingertips to make breadcrumbs
3. Sprinkle 100g of the cheese into the breadcrumb mixture and rub together until evenly distributed (do not over mix)
4. Make a well in the centre of the mixture and pour in enough milk to give a fairly soft but firm dough
5. Lightly flour a surface and roll out the dough to approximately 2cm thick
6. Cut out the scones with a medium (about 8cm) cutter
7. Glaze with a little milk and sprinkle with the remaining cheese
8. Preheat the air fryer for 1 minute at full power
9. Put scones in the air fryer bowl
10. Bake at 200°C for 8–12 minutes



Abundant Borders (SCD49008)
 web - abundantborders.org.uk & [facebook.com/abundantborderscookfresh](https://www.facebook.com/abundantborderscookfresh)
 contact: robin@abundantborders.org.uk

performance

Berwickshire Coastal Arts: The People and The Sea Project brings 'The First Wave and the Last' to Edinburgh Tradfest 2024

Berwickshire Coastal Arts storytelling project 'The People and the Sea' invite you to join them for a showing of the beautiful and evocative film 'The First Wave' by Kate Sweeney and Roma Yagnik. It is inspired by interviews, sound clips, photographs and video pieces recorded by the community of Eyemouth recounting their experiences of living in this part of Berwickshire before, during and after the Pandemic. The film is accompanied by further stories songs and reminiscences about living in Eyemouth and surrounds.

Berwickshire Coastal Arts is a community arts organisation centred in Eyemouth. It grew out of the community performance 'Get Up and Tie your Fingers: Eyemouth' based on Ann Coburn's original play 'Get Up and Tie Your Fingers' performed in Eyemouth Parish Church in 2016. Through song, movement and narration, it told the story of the Eyemouth Fishing Disaster of 1881 focussing on the resilience of the grieving community left behind in their efforts to rebuild their lives. More than 70 local people

were involved in the production, performing to over 1,000 people from the town and surrounding areas. Excerpts of the play were later performed on the Eyemouth Bantry as part of the dedication service of the Widows and Bairns sculpture later that year. The piece was also performed at The National Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh in April 2017 as part of the Tradfest Festival. It was from that performance that our next project was born.

The People and The Sea Project originated in 2019. It was decided to produce a new performance, this time



Rehearsal at Coldingham Priory

performance

based on the experiences of living in Eyemouth and other coastal communities of Berwickshire today.

In partnership with the Scottish Storytelling Centre and with funding support from Creative Scotland, Berwick Housing Association and Green-coat UK Wind, the company began their research by holding workshops and interviewing people from the area about their experiences of living here.

We had hoped to create a series of live performances and events to be performed in and around the town during the Summer of 2020 – but then the Covid 19 pandemic struck. People couldn't meet and rehearsals were forbidden. The project moved on-line, and the material we had gathered became the heart of this short film 'The First Wave', created by film maker Kate Sweeney and sound artist and composer Roma Yagnik

It premiered in April 2022 at Eyemouth Parish Church and in April 2023 was shown at the magnificent Coldingham Priory. We were joined by the Eyemouth Fishermen's Choir, and we are delighted that they are able to join us for this final performance. As the Scottish Storytelling Centre were our initial partners in this venture, it feels right to return to Edinburgh Tradfest on May 12th at 3.30pm for its final performance. The Scottish Storytelling Centre is at 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR. You can obtain tickets online or by contacting the box office on 0131 556 9579.

If this intrigues you, why not pop along and enjoy this unique event with us and discover some interesting stories about our special coastal area and the people who live here.



Performance at Eyemouth Parish Church



Splash have had a very busy year so far delivering many projects and activities within the community. We have over 30 active volunteers assisting with all of these projects, which would not be able to run without them.

Splash Brunch Hub runs every Thursday from 10.30–1.30 in Eyemouth community centre. We have 8 lovely volunteers welcoming between 50–80 visitors each week to enjoy a variety of treats from breakfast rolls, coffee and scones to our healthy specials of the week, chefs soup or baked potatoes and toasties!

This is a donation-based service, which we heavily rely on to run, with a minimum donation of £2. This is also a great place to meet friends, and find out what services we have available in our community from partner organisations, who we invite along regularly to have a chat to some of our customers.



Eyemouth Larder is based in the Parish Church and is open:

- Mon 9am – 11am
- Tuesday 3pm – 5pm
- Wed 9am – 11am
- Fri 9am – 11am

The larder has been running since February 2021 with 12 volunteers picking up and sorting food donations and manning the larder during opening hours. We welcome up to 100 visitors per week who come in and choose up to 10 items for a suggested £1 donation; saving these food items from going to landfill. Since January this year we have saved over 2 tonnes of food from going to waste!



The Womens Chill, Skill & Chat Group meet weekly on a Tuesday from 1pm–3pm in our office at the Masons Hall. Every week we invite along skilled women to deliver and engage our group in a variety of activities – from wreath making, sock repurposing and chair yoga – to pottery, pickling

and butter making. The group has been running since July 2023 and welcomes up to 20 women every week to join in with activities, meet new people and have fun in a safe, warm space.

Splash are currently supporting a fantastic 6-week **Air-fryer Course** taking place in the EU Church every Wednesday morning, which is delivered by Abundant Borders. We have 10 women who are involved in the Chill & Chat group attending and learning to cook a variety of recipes. The sessions have seen the ladies cook fajitas, onion rings, spiced cauliflower, scones and a delicious courgette and lemon cake...



Primary School Cooking Events have taken place in Eyemouth, Reston and Ayton primary schools so far this year, which has seen every child in all 3 primary schools interacting with partner organisations to prepare and taste 54 variations of soup and stovie dishes. Vegetables have been donated by Drysdales and potatoes from Greenvale to assist with the cooking of these hot, hearty and healthy dishes, along with food items from Eyemouth larder to reduce food waste.

Training is provided to all of our staff and volunteers. This year we have hosted Basic Food Hygiene, ASIST and Emergency First Aid at Work training. Due to Splash now having our own office space we have been able to deliver these training sessions here in the Masons Hall.



Splash are delivering **Kirk Square Fair** in June with partner organisations and businesses. The event has been resurrected for the first time since the Covid pandemic. The Fair will see over 20 craft stalls, food demonstrations, musical performances and much more...

For more information on Splash volunteering opportunities, activities or events please email susie@eyemouth.org

wildlife notes

“In that dawn chorus one hears the throb of life itself”

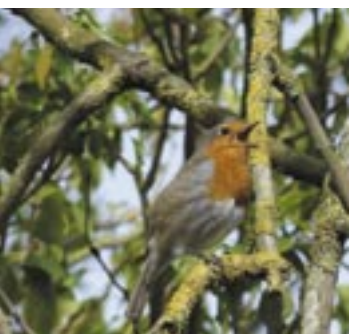
Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

With the May Bank Holiday upon us, it's the best time of the year to set the alarm very early and rise with the first glimpses of light to experience the magic of the dawn chorus. Even if it just means opening the window ajar in the bedroom for 30 minutes, you will be entering a world of song as birds compete for attention and defend territories. With incoming migrants joining the show, the chorus is full of songs, whistles and one or two rattles.

So, what's it all about and when does it start?

As the first rays of light take hold in the morning around 5.00am, the first of our songsters will be belting out their tunes. These will be the early risers, the Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) and the Song Thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, right), making the most of the still air to make sure their songs are heard.

Male birds use the power of song, not only to attract females in the area but also as a warning to other males – “this is my area, not yours; away you go”. In the low



light it is more difficult to search for insects to feed so it's an ideal time to sing away and re-affirm who you are. Blackbirds have a clear voice, quite low pitched with an abrupt end to their song, whereas the Song Thrushes are repeaters, singing the same verse up to 4 times. They can also mimic other birds and use this in between verses. Robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, left) also are early risers, and their song is very clear with lots of notes and whistles.

As more light appears the next groups of birds start joining in. Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) and the warblers take over with their tuneful songs. This is the time to hear those migrant birds which have

wildlife notes

flown hundreds of miles from North Africa to breed in the U.K. Some of these will travel during the night when there is less risk of dehydration, turbulence and predators, so imagine their surprise to be hit by this wall of sound first thing in the morning.

Chiffchaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*, right) are a very familiar sound of the spring and have their distinctive song of “chiff chaff” to recognise them by. Blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, below left) start with a bit of conversation first, chattering away, then develop into a richer song with clearer



notes – a real gem of the dawn chorus. Being a bit biased here, but one of my favourites is the Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*, right), again a migrant who breeds in the U.K. In a previous life I had the pleasure of hearing



this bird on the top of a visitor's centre for nearly a month, belting out tunes to attract females, but sadly he hadn't realised they were further down the coast. A real mix-match of a song, scratchy and hurried with short pauses in between.

By 6.30am the dawn chorus will start to dissipate as birds start to feed. The best conditions are dry mornings, but also habitat plays a big part, so woodlands and parks are a fantastic place to enjoy the spectacle. Set the alarm, grab that camping chair and settle in for the free concert!

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



Sedge Warbler

Teen

Talks

May



May 1st is a day that celebrates Spring. The month of May took its name from the goddess Maia; the Greek and Roman goddess of fertility.



The May Day celebration is believed to date back to the Roman era, with festivals worldwide taking place to promote fertility and new life.



All across Europe, there are several different traditions associated with May Day. In Germany, Czechia and Slovakia, it is custom for the boys to secretly plant "may trees", also known as hawthorns, in front of the windows of their sweethearts. This is said to ensure faithfulness and the return of love.



The ancient Celtic festival of Beltane is traditionally held on May 1st to mark the halfway point between spring and summer.

An older Edinburgh tradition has it that young women who climb Arthur's Seat and wash their face with the morning dew will have lifelong beauty.



International Tartans

International Tartans was a legacy bequeathed to ReTweed – the Eyemouth-based charity that diverts waste textiles out of landfill and repurposes them for educational, environmental and social objectives. David McGill, who owned International Tartans, loved the work of Re-Tweed. Before we lost him in



2022, he told us he wanted International Tartans to be taken forward under the banner of ‘Tartans for social and humanitarian good.’ And that’s what we’re striving for. We’re using Scotland’s iconic tartan to promote interculturalism and multi-culturalism at its best. People worry that they aren’t entitled to wear tartan or need to have some clan association or specific ancestry – NOT SO. Our National Tartans celebrate the shared history that Scotland has with over 50 countries around the world; our District Tartans reflect the heritage and history of numerous regions in Scotland. All were designed in collaboration with natives of those countries and regions as well as historians and others. Our Commemorative Tartans have soul, as well as being stunning, and ANYONE can wear them. Each of our tartans tells the story of the land, the people and their rich history.

International Tartans is based right here in the heart of our vibrant wee

fishing town that’s bursting at the seams with character and talent. We’re busy everyday making beautifully handcrafted items from tartans woven by the very best weavers here in Scotland. Our makers are women from the local area who’ve graduated from our



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Heather and Amy

own textiles and tailoring courses. Most of our products are wearables including shawls, scarves, sashes, kilts, trews and skirts but we also make a range of quirky and original accessories, including brooches, purses and bags in over 125 Nation State, District and Commemorative Tartans.

Our shop is being developed as a gallery and information space for visitors with our tartan library and an interactive learning space. Our workshop provides a first-hand experience of heritage crafts to our visitors and it’s all focussed on paying homage to the Borders’ long history as the industrial heartland of quality heritage textiles. We work with mills in Scotland that are committed to climate consciousness and provide skilled and well-paid employment – that stuff matters to us. In every transaction we’re striving to make sure we have an ethical supply chain so our customers get products with integrity. It might seem a bit ‘goody two shoes’ but we have one planet and she needs to be taken care of and the people who make our products deserve to be looked after.

Following in the footsteps of some of the late greats like Alexander McQueen and Vivienne Westwood who managed to use tartan to speak to the core of our roots as well as taking something very ancient onto the catwalks of the modern world – we want to promote tartan for everyone. We also just want to remind people that Scotland is more than the great cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and the mountains and glens of the Highlands and Islands. South of Scotland is an area rich in undiscovered heritage – it’s a little softer than the rugged North but just as beautiful and just as Scottish in character as the rest of it. Come visit, the kettle will be warm as will be the welcome.



Kayleigh

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Hazel Smith
www.internationaltartans.co.uk
info@internationaltartans.co.uk /07732 014893

gardening notes

“Ne’er shed a clout till May is out”...

It may be warm and sunny at last but beware of sudden frosts which can decimate your plants. Young bedding plants are particularly vulnerable as well as any new young growth on established plants. Blossom on fruit trees and bushes is easily damaged by frost.



When water freezes it expands and if it is inside a plant then it can burst the plant’s cells. These plants become limp, blackened and often turn brown or slightly translucent. Flowers are exposed and so easily affected. Excessive severe cold can also kill the roots of plants – especially when growing in very wet or waterlogged soil or compost. However some plants can withstand very severe frosts. Trees in the Arctic remove the water from their cells and store it temporarily outside the cells. In the autumn, cold temperatures and short day length slow plant growth and cause dormancy, making plants less susceptible to frost damage. Some plants contain chemicals which act like anti-freeze preventing the water freezing.



In order to prevent frost problems in your garden wait until the end of May or beginning of June before planting out tender plants. If you have particularly susceptible plants such as ferns you should protect their crown with fleece or straw – or even bubble wrap. Also avoid planting tender plants in areas of your garden where cold air might descend and cause a small pocket of frost.

Best of all is to select plants which are frost hardy. Hardiness measures a plant’s ability to withstand cold winter temperatures. As a rough guide, a hardy plant can survive a temperature of -15°C; a plant described as frost hardy can survive a temperature of -5°C; and a plant described as half hardy can only stand temperatures as low as 0°C. A tender plant will not survive temperatures below +5°C.

Hawthorn, holly, crab apple and rowan are all attractive hardy trees

gardening notes

which also provide a good food source for wildlife. Dogwoods are hardy and provide beautiful winter colour with their bright stems. For beds and containers try foxgloves, primroses or bird’s foot trefoil. Cornflowers are an annual plant which is very hardy and can be sown outdoors in early spring.

Things to do in the garden in May.

If frost has damaged your plants cut back the affected stems to undamaged buds or nodes in order to encourage new growth.

Even though May can still be frosty you can start planting up your hanging baskets. Once filled, keep them in a shed or porch to protect them until it is safe to put them out. Then you can also start planting out tender annuals and summer bedding plants such as cosmos and nasturtiums.

Protect winter crops such as broad beans, peas and spinach using cloches.

Potato plants need ‘earthing up’ as they grow, to protect early shoots from frost damage and to ensure the developing potatoes aren’t exposed to light, which turns them green.

Lawns will need weekly mowing now until October. Regular mowing keeps the lawn neat and in a good condition and also helps eliminate weeds and encourages a good dense turf to form. However ‘No Mow May’ is a national campaign calling on all garden owners not to mow their lawns in May. This is to allow wild flowers to grow and flower, providing food for pollinators such as bees and but-



terflies. Set your mower to cut higher and allow the small wildflowers to thrive, giving a flower-rich lawn. Consider leaving a strip of lawn uncut all year or create a wild flower meadow instead?



Caroline Lathe
(Ayton Gardening Society)

Food is music to the body, music is food to the heart

FREE ENTRY

Kirk Square FAIR Eyemouth

• Local Food & Drink • Crafts • Heritage • Music

Local Food & Drink

Local craft & Gift Stalls

Live Music

children's activities and face painting

Raffle

Event Fundraising Fun!

cookery demonstrations

+ MUCH MORE

Saturday 1st June
11.00am to 4.00pm

Kirk Square, Eyemouth

Splash FIND US ON   SCAN THE QR CODE



NATIONAL FISHING REMEMBRANCE DAY

12th May 2024



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT SUNDAY 12 MAY

Come to your local Fishing Remembrance Service

 **the seafarers' charity** 

STELLA MARIS

More info at <https://bit.ly/NFRDAY> or use QR code 

Your local event is :
Sunday May 12th - 2:30pm
Eyemouth Parish Church, Victoria Road,
Eyemouth, TD14 5JD
what3words
<https://w3w.co/node.factoring.closes>

book news

book news

LIVE BORDERS

Walking for Wellbeing monthly walks from Live Borders provide a familiar and supportive environment for people to participate and develop community wellbeing

walking for wellbeing

This programme has been developed to promote and support holistic benefits for wellbeing and mental health.

Walks combine walking with reading and literature supported from Live Borders Library Services, or a museum based cultural activity support by Live Borders Museums, Galleries & Archives Services.

PEEBLES: MUSEUM WALK	Meet in the quadrangle of the Chambers Institution	First Thursday of each month at 10:30
DUNS: MUSEUM WALK	Meet outside the Jim Clark Motorsport Museum	Second Tuesday of each month at 14:00
MELROSE: LIBRARY WALK	Meet at Melrose Rugby Club car park	Last Thursday of each month at 10:00
EYEMOUTH: LIBRARY WALK	Meet at Eyemouth Library	First Tuesday of each month at 2pm
GALASHIELS: LIBRARY WALK	Meet outside Galashiels Library	First Tuesday of each month at 10:00

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON ANY OF THE WALKS PLEASE CONTACT:
 E: libgalashiels@liveborders1.org.uk | T: 07467 917 777

www.liveborders.org.uk

Library opening times:

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

Bitter Wash Road by Garry Disher

Constable Paul Hirschhausen – ‘Hirsch’ to his friends (though he no longer has any) – is the only policeman in the small, Australian, back of beyond town of Tiverton, three hours from Adelaide. He’s been banished there, demoted from detective and back into uniform after the squad he worked with in the city went down for corruption. Hirsch wasn’t involved; he blew the whistle, but no one believes that and the stigma follows him to the country. Most people think he sold out his colleagues and is a rat.

He has a big patch to cover and his nearest colleagues are his sergeant and two constables 40km away. However, they believe he’s scum. When he heads up Bitter Wash Road to investigate gunfire and finds himself cut off without backup there are two possibilities – the fugitive killers thought to be in the area, or his ‘backup’ about to put a bullet in him. It turns out to be neither, only kids taking potshots, but they claim to have seen something.

The next call out takes Hirsch to the dumped body of a 16-year-old local girl and this investigation leads him on a complicated trail of cronyism, corruption, racism, infidelity, misogyny, rape and murder...

It’s a great story of the Australian outback and the problems that can lurk there. If you enjoy it as much as I did, rejoice! There are another three Hirsch novels to read afterwards!

Available at Eyemouth library.



Joany Cook

Library News!

Lego Club – 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 2–4pm – just drop in.

Bookbug – Tuesday mornings, 10.30am – babies and toddlers welcome!

Walking for Wellbeing – 1st Tuesday of the month, 2pm at Eyemouth library – join us for a stroll and discuss the month’s book choice.

Hearing Aid clinic – Friday 17th May, 10–12noon.

craft

Make your own Notepad.

If you find yourself writing notes on the back of envelopes why not make yourself a small notepad?

What you need: some scrap paper, pva glue, two clothes pegs. If you want to decorate it you also need some card, coloured paper and some fabric tape or a small piece of lightweight fabric.



1. Trim some scrap paper so each piece is the same size. You could use old envelopes! You can make a card template so that each piece of paper is the same size.

2. When you have 15–25 sheets, gather them together and use two clothes pegs to hold them together.



3. Fan the pages one way and paint the top edges with glue then repeat in the other direction.



craft

4. Paint a generous layer of glue along the top edge and leave to dry.



And that is a simple notepad with pages that can be easily torn out. You can also bind it with a cover:

5. To bind the notepad stick on a card back and a decorative paper front applying glue to the top 1 cm. place under a heavy book for a couple of hours so it dries flat.



6. To finish the top edge can be covered in a small piece of fabric or cloth tape.



history

Pay No Tithes!

Many people may wonder why an imposing bronze statue of a fisherman, pointing west, stands in the Market Place. The fisherman represented is Willie Spears 'The Kingfisher' – hero, in the mid-nineteenth century, of a lengthy battle to end the practice of paying 'tithes' or taxes, to the Church of Scotland.

Tithes had been levied by the church for centuries to pay for ministers and the work of caring for the poor of the parish. But in 1843 there was a split in the Church of Scotland. One third of its ministers and almost two thirds of its congregations, including most of the Eyemouth fishermen, left the established church to join the Free Church, Methodists or United Presbyterians. From then on those fishermen refused to pay tithes to a church they no longer attended.

But the Church of Scotland was determined to keep its right to levy tithes. In this small parish of Eyemouth the local presbytery backed by the local MP David Milne Home instructed the new minister, Rev Stephen Bell, to collect both the annual tithe on the winter white fishing and new tithes on the summer herring fishing. This sparked outrage in the town. When Rev Bell brought two men from Edinburgh, to check the herring landings for each boat, they were set upon and thrown in the harbour!

In November 1855 a Fishermen's Committee was formed. Its chairman, Willie Spears, was an intelligent, successful and respected skipper. He was ably supported by fish-curers, like John Dickson, and tradesmen, like Timothy Statham. They could see that the burden of paying tithes meant there was no money for much needed improvements to the harbour. Compromises that were suggested to solve the deadlock failed to win any support. Neither side would give in and the debate raged on.

In July 1856 all 28 Eyemouth skippers were summoned to Ayton JP



history

court for non-payment of tithes. Spears and his committee planned a peaceful demonstration for the same day. The fishermen had signed a covenant 'to pay no tithes'. The St Abbs Brass Band led a crowd of 2000 men marching four abreast with banners flying. Alongside the local fishermen were fishmerchants, coopers, tradesmen and crews from as far away as Yarmouth and Penzance. The orderly crowd swelled to 4000 by the time they reached Ayton. Spears knew they had to keep the respect of the public while Statham quickly realised the power of the press by publishing articles in the Berwick Advertiser. Public opinion favoured the fishermen's cause but nothing was resolved and the war of words continued.

In the election of 1859 David Milne Home lost his seat to David Robertson, a Liberal, and in 1860 a religious revival swept the country turning the fishermen away from drink but not from their determination to be rid of tithes. Spears and his committee worried that violence would erupt. Some hotheads hanged then burned effigies of Milne Home and Rev Bell in the Manse garden!

In November 1861 two sheriff officers and 16 policemen arrived in the town to arrest Spears for refusing to pay tithe arrears. The alarm was raised by neighbours and a hostile crowd gathered outside his house. The police had hoped to arrest Spears when most of the men were at sea, but a low tide had delayed the boats and on hearing the fracas, they raced to Spears' rescue. A fight ensued, with the police forced to retreat, battered and bruised.

Eventually, in 1864, it was agreed that a one-off payment of £1625 would be made to the church to end the tithes in Eyemouth. It was a huge sum at the time and, even with donations, a loan had to be arranged from the Commercial Bank. The loan wasn't repaid until 1878. Only then could harbour improvements begin, but it was too late. Two years later, when a hurricane struck the Berwickshire coast, Spears was forced to watch helplessly as 129 fishermen lost their lives trying to reach the safety of an inadequate harbour.



Volunteer *open day*

Come along, visit the Hub have a cuppa and find out more about our volunteering opportunities:

- Repair Technicians
- Repurpose Technicians
- Hub Assistants
- Upcycle Technicians
- Donation Processors
- Digital Champion

Smith's Workshop
Chirnside

Thursday 9th May
10am - 3pm








WE NEED YOU!

TO JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

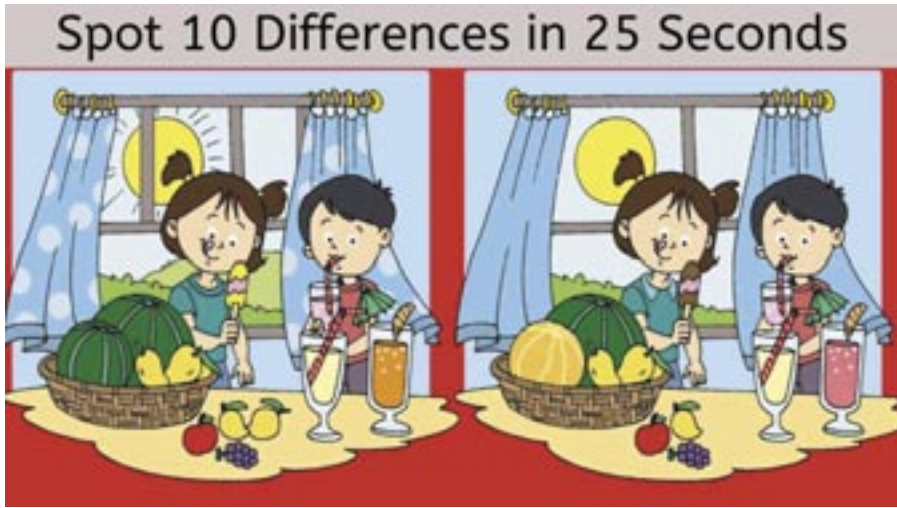
We need volunteers for our Digital Inclusion project. Are you a competent and confident digital user and would like to help others to access digital services? BAVS needs you! Please contact us!

- Digital User?
- Volunteer
- Enjoy social interactions?



<https://www.bavs.org.uk/>

puzzles



John Lamont MP
 Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

6 ways to contact John

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- 🌐 JohnLamontMP
- 🐦 John2Win
- 📘 JohnLamontBorders

Working hard for the Borders, all year round

The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

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

The Scottish Parliament
 Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

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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](https://www.nhs.uk/infomedia/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](https://www.nhs.uk/infomedia/scot/right-care)