

*Scottish Borders, Naturally!*

# Borders NATURE FESTIVAL 2015

15 MAY TO 14 JUNE

Our Scottish Borders  
Your heritage



# Love Life, Love Nature

It is time to get out there and discover the wonderful Borders countryside and the rich wildlife that thrives amongst the woods, fields, hills and rivers. The following events will hopefully encourage you to try something new. This is Scotland's Year of Food and Drink, so many of this year's events have a food theme. Why not make a day of it and enjoy a meal out or stock-up on some of the Borders finest foods?

The Borders Nature Festival is now part of **Wild Seasons**, an online initiative that brings together countryside professionals from across Southern Scotland. With a renowned series of seasonally based wildlife events and walks, we aim to make your experience as much fun and as informative as we can. You will also find a host of information and background about the natural resource and visitor facilities on the site. It really is THE 'go to' place for anyone with an interest in seeing and learning about the superb wildlife and landscapes here in Southern Scotland. For up-to-date news on all the latest events and news visit [www.wildseasons.org.uk](http://www.wildseasons.org.uk)

## Running between 14th May and 17th May

### **PALLET GARDEN COMPETITION**

**Woodside Plant Centre, Woodside Walled Garden, Ancrum TD8 6TU**

**9am to 5pm Free**

Take part in a pallet garden competition organised by the Borders Group of the RSPB and Woodside Plant Centre - the theme is "Giving Nature a Home". The competition is open to all groups, societies and clubs eg SWRI, schools, Guides, Scouts etc. The pallet gardens will be available to view during this time.

For information on how to enter email [emma@woodsidegarden.co.uk](mailto:emma@woodsidegarden.co.uk).



## SATURDAY 16 MAY

### INTRODUCTION TO WILDLIFE RECORDING

**Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, Ancrum, TD8 6UQ.  
10.30am to 3.30pm Free**

Make your wildlife observations count! A practical workshop from The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) covering the essentials, including an outdoor identification session. No previous experience or equipment necessary. Please bring suitable outdoor clothing and a packed lunch. Minimum age 16. More information on 01835 830306 or harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk [www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

### FAMILY WORK-PARTY

**Glenlude, near Innerleithen, EH44 6PY  
10am to 4pm Free**

A fun, family day at Glenlude with the John Muir Trust undertaking a variety of conservation tasks & activities. Glenlude is an upland site with no proper footpaths. Bring packed lunch, wellies & waterproofs in case of wet weather. For further information visit [www.jmt.org/Glenlude.asp](http://www.jmt.org/Glenlude.asp) or email [karen.purvis@jmt.org](mailto:karen.purvis@jmt.org). Booking essential. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

## SUNDAY 17 MAY

### DAWN (YAWN) CHORUS

**Meet at the new bandstand on the green,  
Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick TD9 7JL.**

**5am to 7am Cost £5 to include breakfast**

It's an early morning start for a dawn chorus walk as we listen to and discover the sounds of nature as the park wakes up. Breakfast in the park to follow. Suitable for all ages but children must be accompanied by an adult. Please book places by phoning Heart of Hawick box office at 01450 360688. For further information contact [gordon.webber@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.webber@scotborders.gov.uk)

### BIRD SONG AND BINOCULARS WALK

**Meet outside Abbotsford Visitor Centre, Melrose,  
Roxburghshire, TD6 9BQ.**

**11am to 1pm £6.00 adults £3.00 for 17 years and under. Please book in advance**

With the skills and experience of expert ornithologist, Andrew Bramhall, you can join a late spring walk around the designed landscape created by Walter Scott to identify birds by song and by sight. From woodpeckers and nuthatches in the woodland to buzzards circling

over the meadow and wildfowl in the Tweed, visitors are encouraged to bring their binoculars and get involved. For further info visit [www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk](http://www.scottsabbotsford.co.uk) or contact Philip Munro on 01896 752043.

## OTTERS ON WOOD

**Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, TD8 6UQ**

**2pm to 4pm. Free**

Artist Eben Rautenbach demonstrates pyrography on wood. Part of 'The Otter's Tale' which runs from 1 April - 7 June. More information on 01835 830306 or [harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

## WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

### RIVER TWEED NETTING

**Paxton House, near Berwick, TD15 1SZ.**

**2pm to 5.30pm**

**£4 /Adult (Free with Annual Grounds Admission)**

Netting for Salmon and Sea Trout is conducted at Paxton for scientific and conservation purposes by the Tweed Foundation and the Paxton Fishery Crew. Members of the public are invited to watch the netting, learn about the history, traditions and conservation work. The Tweed Foundation's biologist will be on hand to explain the process and answer questions. Booking recommended. For further information contact [Allison@paxtonhouse.com](mailto:Allison@paxtonhouse.com).

## THURSDAY 21 MAY

### ROCKY SHORE SAFARI: COLDINGHAM BAY

**Meet at St Vedas Hotel, Coldingham Bay, TD14 5PA**

**10.30am to midday Free**

Our rocky shores are abundant with an incredible diversity of marine plants and animals. Come and explore this wonderful habitat at Coldingham Bay with the European Marine Site Officer. Learn about the tides, shore zonation and the wonderful marine life living on our shores. Bring a net and bucket, plus footwear suitable for sharp rocks that you don't mind getting wet



– wellies are best. The rocky shore can be slippery and uneven; this event may not be suitable for those who are unsteady on their feet. Suitable for 4yrs plus but under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Please book early as places are limited. Contact [claire.hedley@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:claire.hedley@northumberland.gov.uk) or call 01670 622 651.

## SATURDAY 23 MAY

### NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP AT RUBERSLAW

**Ruberslaw Wild Woods Camping**

**10am - 2pm £45 per person including light lunch**

Have fun improving your photography skills at our Nature Photography Workshop. Learn to take crisper landscapes, get close ups of wildlife and shoot in macro. Ruberslaw Wild Woods Camping [www.ruberslaw.co.uk](http://www.ruberslaw.co.uk)  
email [reception@ruberslaw.co.uk](mailto:reception@ruberslaw.co.uk) to reserve a place at the workshop. Contact Alasdair Crooks 01450 870092. Booking essential

### SPOT THE QUEEN BEE

**Meet outside Hawick Museum, Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick. TD9 8TB**

**1pm to 3pm Free**

Bumble along to Wilton Lodge Park and try some hands-on wildlife recording as we try and spot and record the movement of bees in the park. We'll also be planting some wildflower beds to help the bees out with pollination. Suitable for all ages but children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information contact [gordon.webber@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.webber@scotborders.gov.uk). or phone Heart of Hawick box office at 01450 360688.

### BIRD WATCHING FOR BEGINNERS

**Meet in car park by the Castle Hotel, towards west end of the Main Street, Coldstream, TD12 4AP**

**2pm to 5pm Adults £5, concessions £3, children Free**

Explore the variety of habitats from the woodlands of the Hirsell Estate to the River Tweed and surrounding



farmland looking for a good range of birds that can be found around Coldstream. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. More information from Scottish Borders Council Ranger service on 01835 826750 or [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

## ARTY OTTERS

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, TD8 6UQ

1pm to 4pm £3

Drop-in and make your own otter-inspired art works under expert tuition. Part of 'The Otter's Tale' which runs from 1 April-7 June. More information on 01835 830306 or [harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

## SUNDAY 24 MAY

### COOL POOLS AT THE BAY!

Coldingham Bay near Eyemouth TD14 5PA

1pm – 3pm Free

Come and join the ranger down at Coldingham Sands for a spot of rockpooling. Always a fascinating activity for all ages – find out some weird facts about the shore creatures! Under 18s must be accompanied by an parent/guardian. Meet at the Lifeguards' hut on Coldingham Sands. More information from Scottish Borders Council Ranger service on 01835 826750 or [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

## HORSE LOGGING DEMONSTRATION

Abbotsford, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9BQ. Access through Visitor Centre

2pm to 4pm Free

Up until the 1940s, horse logging was standard practice for timber extraction across Scotland and would have been used extensively at Abbotsford on its vast 1500



acre estate. Drop by to see traditional horse logging in action again as it would have been practised in Sir Walter Scott's time. Part of the Borders Festival of the Horse. Wheelchair accessible

Visit [www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk](http://www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk) or contact Philip Munro 01896 752043 for further info.

## 21ST CENTURY OTTERS

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, TD8 6UQ

2pm to 3.30pm £2

A lively illustrated talk with otter expert Melanie Findlay. Suitable for 12yrs plus. Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult. Booking advised. More information on 01835 830306 or [harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk) [www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

## TUESDAY 26 MAY

### AQUATIC WILDLIFE OF GLENKINNON BURN AND RIVER TWEED

Yair Campsite Car Park, Near Ashiestiel Bridge, Clovenfords TD1

7pm to 9pm Free

The Tweed Foundation's Senior Biologist, Dr Ronald Campbell, will demonstrate electro-fishing techniques used to sample species of freshwater fish. This will be carried out in the Glenkinnon Burn and adjacent River Tweed and be followed by a practical session on fish identification and biology. For further information please contact Malcolm Lindsay [malcandles46@talktalk.net](mailto:malcandles46@talktalk.net).

## FRIDAY 29 MAY

### SEABIRD CRUISE TO ST ABB'S HEAD

Meet outside Café Questo, Harbour Road, Eyemouth, TD14 5HY

5.45 pm depart, return at about 8.00 pm.

Adults £25, children (over 10 years only) £17



Sail along the stunning Berwickshire coastline to the spectacular cliffs at St Abb's Head to experience the sights and sounds of the seabird colony at the height of the breeding season. A National Trust for Scotland Ranger will act as your guide on this 2 hour trip, telling you all you want to know about the area and its wildlife. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. This event is weather dependent and requires outdoor clothing. Bring binoculars if you have them. For more information or to book online visit [www.nts.org.uk/Property/St-Abbs-Head-National-Nature-Reserve/events](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/St-Abbs-Head-National-Nature-Reserve/events) or contact: the Rangers' Office (07892) 698028

## SATURDAY 30 MAY

### MAP-READING FOR BEGINNERS

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, TD8 6UQ

10am to 4pm £12

Learn about maps and plan your own hill walk, in the company of a Countryside Access Ranger. Discover the different types of map used by hillwalkers and how to plan a route. Afternoon will be spent walking in the Peniel Heugh area using the maps.

To book a place call 01835 830306 or [harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

### SECRET STROLLS AT BOWHILL

Bowhill House & Country Estate, Selkirk, TD7 5ET

11am to 1pm Adults £3 Children £2 Family £8

Guided walks for all the family exploring some of the hidden corners of the estate. Come along to find out more of the history of the landscape and woodland while getting the chance to see some of the secret paths of Bowhill. Booking recommended. Further information at [www.bowhillhouse.co.uk](http://www.bowhillhouse.co.uk) or call Rory Powell on 01750 22204.



## WILD FOOD @ KAILZIE

Kailzie Gardens, Peebles, EH45 9HT. Situated 2.5 miles from Peebles town centre on the B7062

11 to 4pm Donation

Discover the variety of all things edible found in the woods and the wild. From seeds to leaves and bulbs to bark..... what does the local wildlife eat and what can we safely forage? Help make the Songbird Feasting Tree, look out for Predators in the Pond, and discover Food from the Forest with guided walks and tastings.

For more details including timetable check out [www.kailziegardens.com](http://www.kailziegardens.com) and [www.forest-festival.com](http://www.forest-festival.com) websites. Contact Lady Angela Buchan Hepburn 01721 720007 or Chris Sawers 07801 308991

## SUNDAY 31 MAY

### WILDLIFE PUPPET DAY

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, TD8 6UQ

12 to 4pm £3 per activity

Puppet theatre performances and wildlife-themed puppet-making workshops. Suitable for 4yrs+. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. More information on 01835 830306 or [harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:harestanes@scotborders.gov.uk) [www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes)

### BUTTERFLY AND MOTH WALK WITH CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Paxton House, near Berwick, TD15 1SZ

2pm to 4.30pm £3 per child, £5 per adult (this includes the £4 annual grounds pass) and £15 family.

Search for butterflies, including Speckled Wood and Orange-tip, in the grounds and woodlands led by Iain Cowe. If weather conditions permit we will also examine the contents of an overnight moth trap, led by Barry Prater. There will be butterfly themed craft activities after the walk and face painting. The Tearoom will be open all day with extra special butterfly inspired treats!

We advise booking - please email [allison@paxtonhouse.com](mailto:allison@paxtonhouse.com). [www.paxtonhouse.co.uk](http://www.paxtonhouse.co.uk)



## WHITMUIR FARM WALK

Whitmuir Farm, Selkirk, TD7 4PZ

10am until noon Free

Walk around Whitmuir Farm to see how nature conservation and food production can go side by side. Look at contents of a moth trap. For further information contact Teyl de Bordes at Whitmuir@aol.com

## WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

### RIVER TWEED NETTING

Paxton House, near Berwick, TD15 1 SZ

2pm to 5.30pm

£4 /Adult (Free with Annual Grounds Admission)

See Wednesday 20 May for details.

## FRIDAY 5 JUNE

### SEABIRD CRUISE TO ST ABB'S HEAD

See Friday 29 May for details

## POND DIPPING AT ST BOSWELLS COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Meet at the pond behind the tennis courts, St Boswells Community Woodland, TD6 0EP

4pm to 6pm Free

Discover the wonders of pond life. Look out for damselfly larvae and water boatmen. All equipment provided. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. More information from Scottish Borders Council Ranger service on 01835 826750 or rangers@scotborders.gov.uk

## MOTH TRAPPING

Whitmuir, The Organic Place, West Linton, EH46

9pm to midnight Free

Come and help with setting up moth traps and then experience the thrill of trapping until midnight. Suitable for all ages. For further information contact [www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk](http://www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk)

## BATS BY THE WATER

Neidpath Viaduct by Peebles EH45 9EE. Meet at Kingsmeadows car park in Peebles

8.30pm - 10.30pm Free

Bats are one of our much maligned creatures in myth and folklore. If you would like to observe their almost silent beautiful night manoeuvres please join us for this bat watching evening and have a shot with a bat detector.

Under 18s must be accompanied by an parent/guardian.  
More information from Scottish Borders Council Ranger  
service on 01835 826750 or rangers@scotborders.gov.uk

## SATURDAY 6 JUNE

### MOTH BREAKFAST

Whitmuir, The Organic Place, West Linton, EH46

9am to 11am Free

Opening up the moth traps, identification of the trapped moths and their release. Reasonably priced breakfast will be available in excellent farm shop.

For further information contact

[www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk](http://www.whitmuirtheorganicplace.co.uk)

## SUNDAY 7 JUNE

### BERWICKSHIRE COASTAL WALK FOR BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Meet at Bummouth Village Hall TD14 5SX

11.00 to 3.00pm Free

A walk south along the Berwickshire coastal path to visit a colony of the rare and very localised Small blue butterfly. Other butterflies which may be encountered include Northern brown argus, Wall, Small copper and Small heath. The Blackneck moth also thrives here at its only known Scottish haunt. If conditions permit the contents of an overnight moth-trap will also be examined. Some of the areas off-track are steep and rocky, so please wear suitable footwear and bring a packed lunch. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult. No dogs please. For further information please contact Iain Cowe at [orb@lammer.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:orb@lammer.orangehome.co.uk) or 01890 818314 / 07775 747838.



## FOOD FORAGING AND REMEDIES

Meet outside the Visitor Centre, Abbotsford, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9BQ

2pm to 4.30pm £10 adults, £6 for 17 years & under.  
Please book in advance

In the late 1820s Walter Scott regularly wrote in his Journal about the herbal remedies he was taking and the effects of his diet and exercise on his sense of wellbeing. Plant materials were readily at hand in the varied landscape at Abbotsford, and today there are over 200 species of flora. With the guidance of professional forager and herbalist, Ali Murfitt, you can explore varied habitat and identify the dos and don'ts of foraging whilst also having a go at making some remedies. Suitable for 12yrs plus. For further information visit [www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk](http://www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk) or call Philip Munro on 01896 752043.

## BUTTERFLY SURVEY AND POND DIPPING AT LINDEAN LOCH

Meet at the wooden platform at the loch-side near Lindean Loch car park above Selkirk. TD7 4QN.

1pm for Butterfly survey walk or turn up any time between 2pm and 4pm for Pond dipping Free  
For further information visit More information from Scottish Borders Council Ranger service on 01835 826750 or [rangers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@scotborders.gov.uk)

## FAMILY RANGER CLUB

Bowhill House & Country Estate, Selkirk, TD7 5ET

11am to 1pm Adults £3. Children £2. Family £8  
Ranger activities for all the family focusing on the wildlife and conservation side of things at Bowhill. Activities will include pond dipping, wildlife and bird surveying and constructing houses for birds, bats and hedgehogs. Booking recommended. For further information visit [www.bowhillhouse.co.uk](http://www.bowhillhouse.co.uk) or call Rory Powell on 01750 22204.



## WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

### EVENING CHORUS WALK

Woodside Plant Centre, Woodside Walled Garden,  
Ancrum, TD8 6TU

7pm to 9pm £15 per adult including drinks and  
supper. Under 16's £7.50

Enjoy a chance to listen to the evening birdsong in and around the Woodside garden, with expert guidance from Mike Fraser of the RSPB, followed by a drinks and a light supper in the garden. Booking required. For Information visit [www.woodsidegarden.co.uk](http://www.woodsidegarden.co.uk) or call Emma Emmerson on 01835 830315.

## THURSDAY 11 JUNE

### MURDER MOSS

Lindean Reservoir car park, near Selkirk, TD7

7pm to 9pm Free

An evening walk to this nationally important wetland to look at birds, flowers, mosses and insects. We will search for Coral-root orchid and may be able to detect the elusive Water Rail by tape-luring.

For further information contact Malcolm Lindsay  
[malcandles46@talktalk.net](mailto:malcandles46@talktalk.net)

## FRIDAY 12 JUNE

### BAT WALK

Paxton House, near Berwick, TD15 1SZ

9pm £6

Graeme Wilson (bat expert) will give an interesting talk before heading out into the grounds to search for bats using bat detectors. The walk will head down to the river, so sensible shoes are necessary. It will be very dark so please remember to bring a torch. Hopefully,



the Daubenton's will put in an appearance down by the river - it is an amazing sight! Along with the many Pipistrelles that live here and we sometimes see Noctules!! All in all, a wonderful evening. Spaces are limited so booking is requested.

Please email [info@paxtonhouse.com](mailto:info@paxtonhouse.com) or via [paxtonhouse.co.uk](http://paxtonhouse.co.uk)

## SUNDAY 14 JUNE

### MOTHS WITH THE NORTH

### NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP

Hunting Hall Farm, near Lowick, Northumberland, TD15 2TP

**2pm to 4pm £2.50 per child**

An opportunity for youngsters to discover moths from a light-trap and to learn about their fascinating lives. This will be followed by butterfly-themed activities in the resource centre at the farm. Tea and cakes too! Please book a place by contacting Harvest Harris-Jones at [harvest643@btinternet.com](mailto:harvest643@btinternet.com). Tel: 01289 388867. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Further information at [www.huntinghallfarm.co.uk](http://www.huntinghallfarm.co.uk)



# EXHIBITIONS

## THE OTTER'S TALE

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, Ancrum,  
TD8 6UQ

**1st April to 7th June Free**

Discover this elusive mammal and its world through art, science and culture. Exhibition includes contributions from Findlay Ecology Services, Laurie Campbell, TWIC, John Tolland, Angela Hunter, Julia Linstead, Hannah Longmuir, Eben Rautenbach and Martin Wilson.

## PENIEL HEUGH AND WATERLOO

Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, Ancrum,  
TD8 6UQ

**13th June to 24th August Free**

The Waterloo monument on Peniel Heugh is one of the Scottish Borders' best-known landmarks. On the 200th anniversary of the battle, discover the surprising story of the tower and the remarkable hill on which it stands. An exhibition from Scottish Borders Council Museum & Gallery Service.

Visit [www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/harestanes) or [www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk) for further information





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