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MAY NOTICES

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TWEEDDALE - **Thursday Afternoons 2nd and 16th May** **Memory Café** at Firholm Day Centre 2.30 – 4.30pm for people with dementia, either on their own, or with their carers, friends and family, to meet for a chat and cuppa. Suggested donation £2.50. (see page 49)

Spring Tea Dance and Ceilidh on **Friday 17th May** at MacFarlane Hall, Peebles (see page 49)

Recollective Choir every Tuesday afternoon at Dovecot Court, Peebles 2.45 – 3.45. all singers welcome to support those with dementia and other elderly and less able and for all to enjoy the uplifting experience of singing for pleasure and fun. Free of charge and cup of tea and chat afterwards.

PEEBLESSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - **Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm**. AGM and members evening. Talk by Dr Ronan Toolis CEO of Guard Archaeology: 'Recent Excavations at Drumelzier and Broughton'. Meeting to be held in St. Joseph's Neighbourhood Centre, Rosetta Road, Peebles.

INSPIRING LIFE 2024 - **EVIE DOUGLAS** - Eastgate Theatre 10th -18th May. There are a variety of activities to choose from : dance, music, discussion, drumming, story telling, fitness, and alpacas to meet. Everyone is welcome and most workshops are FREE. See pages 46 & 47 for full details.

PEEBLES SINGERS - We are holding our Summer Concert in the MacFarlane Hall at 7.30 pm on **Saturday 8th June**. Tickets will be available at the door. Some of the proceeds will go to a local charity - to be announced in the June magazine. We hope you will be able to join us.

We will then have a break until September. Prospective new members in September should contact either Jim Murdoch (01721 724444) or Anne Lumsdaine (07941551663).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 12th - 18th May See page 8 for details

TWEEDDALE U3A - Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 14th April at 2pm** in St Joseph's Hall, Peebles. Our speaker is Neville Kilkenny. See page 38 for details.

GREENER PEEBLES COMMUNITY GARDEN - Volunteer gardening sessions every Tuesday and Friday morning 10-12. Friday 10th May 10.30-1: Greener Peebles Young Plants Share and Community Picnic. For more information please email info@greenerpeebles.org

BORDERS IN RECOVERY meet **weekly on Mondays** at the Parish Church on the High Street, Peebles 2-4pm. This is a safe, friendly and free space for people who are 16+ and in recovery (substances/poor mental health) and family/friends to gather for peer support and a free meal. For more info contact Helen on 07930618615 or helen@bordersinrecovery.org www.bordersinrecovery.org

QUAKER MEETING - The local Quaker (Society of Friends) meeting welcomes anyone who would like to come and share our hour of quiet worship. Whether you are a Quaker or simply interested to come and explore, please join us. We meet on the **second Tuesday of the month** (in May, 14th) at 7.30 at 42, Rosetta Rd, Peebles EH458HJ, and on the **fourth Sunday of the month** (in May, 26th) at 10.30 at 7, Dukehaugh, Peebles EH459DN.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Lesley..... lesleyjmorrison3@gmail.com / 07792932406

INCHORUS CHOIR - We rehearse every Monday evening at the MacFarlane Hall in Peebles. If you are interested in joining this friendly, performing choir please email us at manager@inchoruschoir.co.uk or visit our website at www.inchoruschoir.co.uk. We would love to see you !

THE PEEBLES STROKE GROUP - meet in Firholm Day Centre, Innerleithen Road **every two weeks**. We meet from 2 - 4 pm. We enjoy gentle exercise, visitors to give interesting talks, music, games, tea/coffee and biscuits with lots of discussions, and outings. For more info phone Jane (01721 720264 / 07764 528069) or Mags (07812 113506).

Interest Link Tweeddale – Providing befriending opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

Coffee Morning, Saturday 11th May, at the Burgh Hall, 10am to 12noon. Entry Cost: £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. Refreshments, cake stall and other stalls, raffle and tombola.

Peebles Old Parish Church - **Community Cuppa, Saturday 18th May**, 10am to 12noon in the MacFarlane Hall. A Chance to Chat. All welcome.

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12 – 18 MAY 2024

Here in Peebles and district we have a packed program of events for **Christian Aid Week** which runs from **12 – 18 May** this year.

We start with a **Sponsored walk on Saturday 11th May**, for children aged 7 – 14 (and their families, if desired). Walkers will depart from the Rugby Club Pavilion in Hay Lodge Park at 10 am for the 7 mile route along the Tweed and back to the starting point. Sponsor forms are available from the churches, youth organisations or contact Chris Patterson on 07985 522156 or at chris_patters75@hotmail.com.

The **House to House Fundraiser** will run from 12th to 18th May and will cover the whole town. Filled envelopes can be placed in a number of collection points in the town. These will be highlighted on the note accompanying the envelopes.

For people who want to donate online there is a **Just Giving Page** at - www.justgiving.com/page/peebleschristianaidweek2024

Coffee Mornings will be held in St Andrew's Leckie Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th.

The ever popular **Plant Stall** will be held in the grounds of St Andrew's Leckie Church from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 18th. Plants for sale can be delivered to the church between 5pm and 7pm on the Friday evening and from 9am on Saturday morning.

Finally, a personal Triathlon Challenge for Christian Aid is being undertaken by one of our committee members, Sue Isherwood, throughout the week. Sue is 76, has suffered for many years with ankle problems, and has undergone a number of operations. See her inspiring story on her **Just Giving Page** at - www.justgiving.com/page/sue-isherwood-triathlon-christian-aid-2024.

For more information, please contact Nancy Hutchinson
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Peebles March Riding and Beltane Queen Festival



Hello, are you getting as excited about this year's festival as we are? The Beltane Festival has an exciting few weeks' ahead before Beltane week itself. We hope you can join us on the journey. By the time you read this, the 2024 Principals will have been announced. We should now know who the Cornet and Lass Elect, the Warden of Neidpath, Crowning Lady, Warden of Cross Kirk and Proclaimer of the Beltane Fair will be. The Cornet will have escorted up and down the High Street on the trusty and secure Cornets Chariot. Of course, if you don't know who they are please check on Facebook or our website. We will name the Principals in the June Edition of Peebles Life as well.

Peebles 3 Bridges Races

Also don't forget the 3 Bridges Races take place on Tweed Green on Sunday May 12th. Along with the Spring fete, stalls, games, and funfair rides. Something for everyone. The fun starts at 1.30pm. There are some changes this year and the inclusion of some Peebles High School races. Please check our Facebook page for more details.

Beltane Queen Announcement

This Beltane Queen and her court will be announced on Wednesday the 15th May at the Community Centre (Drill Hall). The P7 and P6 children from the three primary schools will learn who the Queen and Court are first and then the names will be announced to the waiting public.

How the Court is Selected

We want to ensure everyone who is a P7 pupil has a chance to be part of the Beltane Court. So, the Beltane committee have created application forms. These application forms have 5 questions for the children to answer. Once the forms are returned via the schools our selection committee have the extremely difficult task in choosing the Beltane Court for 2023. This is never an easy task and all the application forms are kept anonymous so the selection committee do not know the children's names.

Volunteers

The Beltane Festival is always on the lookout for volunteers to help with various tasks during Beltane Week. The entire week is busy, and we need help with marshalling and setting each event up. We will need help to build the sides for the lorries that take part in the Grand parade. You don't need to be a member of the committee to help. If you would like to volunteer, please email the secretary, and let them know. There is no commitment, and you can do as little or as much as you like.

The secretary's email is secretary@peeblesbeltanefestival.co.uk

Thank You

Paul Spence (Chairman)

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Peeblesshire Archaeological Society



Dr Ronan Toolis

After our time travels across Scotland over the past year, it feels good to come home to the Borders and to be concluding our 2023-24 lecture programme this month with a talk about some exciting local archaeology. Following our AGM on Thursday 2nd May, **Dr Ronan Toolis**, CEO of **GUARD Archaeology**, will be revealing the fascinating results from his recent excavations around **Drumelzier** and **Broughton**.

Instigated by the Arthur Trail Association and led by GUARD Archaeology, the **Discovering Drumelzier's Hidden Heritage** excavations were undertaken in 2022 by a team of volunteers from far and wide, including many people who had never participated in an archaeological dig before. The idea of the project has been

to promote a greater understanding of Dark Age (or, for the purists among you, Early Medieval) Scotland in the Borders through public participation – 'learning by doing'!

Focussing on **Tinnis Castle** and hillfort, the team of volunteers, including several members of our Society and Biggar Archaeology Group, explored archaeological sites connected with the **Merlin legend** that has been associated with the village of Drumelzier since the medieval period. The team were investigating if there were any archaeological roots to the story, by looking to see if the archaeological sites are actually contemporary with the late sixth century AD when the local legend was set.



*Volunteers excavating Tinnis Fort in 2022
© GUARD Archaeology Ltd*



*The vitrification of Tinnis Fort during the late Iron Age
© GUARD Archaeology Ltd*

Ronan's investigations uncovered archaeology from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period and what was discovered will be revealed in his talk at **St Joseph's Neighbourhood Centre**, Rosetta Road, Peebles on **Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm**. There will be a short AGM before the talk but don't let that put you off! All are welcome! (PAS members, free; guest, £4 at the door).

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PEEBLES TRIATHLON CLUB

Many people have heard the word 'Ironman', or perhaps in recent years seen Triathlon events as part of the Olympic or other world games. Not so many people realise that Triathlon has been a part of Peebles sporting life since the late 1980s, when a group of local athletes started training, entering, and organising fledgling events in the UK and beyond. Fast forward to the present day, and Peebles Triathlon Club is a flourishing local organisation, affiliated to Triathlon Scotland, and always happy to welcome new members.


Currently, membership is restricted to those over 18 as we do not have a junior section. The club caters for members of all abilities, from people who have never participated in a Triathlon (but would like to) across the whole spectrum of levels and event types up to and beyond Ironman (or full distance) events.

We train at Peebles Swimming Pool on a Monday evening, where our qualified coaches are able to offer planned sessions for swimmers of all levels. In the summer months, we also have open water sessions, swimming in Gladhouse Reservoir and St Mary's Loch/Loch o' the Lowes. Run training takes place on a Monday evening, slightly earlier so that if folk wish they can access coached sessions for both running and swimming.

Additionally, through a series of WhatsApp groups, members also organise a wide variety of extra runs both on road and trail. Cycling sessions take place both during the week and at weekends, with rides taking place on both road and mountain bikes.

The club also organises events for members: in June we have a Relay Triathlon event at St Mary's Loch, in August our annual 'Tweedman' event with swim, cycle, and run events of varying lengths. We also run other multisport activities throughout the year, trips to larger events, and an annual Christmas Ceilidh.

If you're interested in Triathlon, want to know more, or join the club, search on Facebook for 'Peebles Triathlon Club', or email us at PeeblesTriClub@gmail.com.



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Gardening Tips from Woodside

Well, what a cold and wet Spring it has been so far. Here's hoping that May will see some improvement in the weather and we can make up for some lost time in the garden.

Although the days are getting warmer and sunnier, it is still cold at nights, so beware of planting out frost tender plants, such as courgettes, runner beans and summer bedding too early. Before planting out you should harden off tender plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors. Even then you should watch the weather forecast and have some fleece handy to throw over them at nights if necessary. Summer hanging baskets can be planted up now and grown on in the greenhouse, before hanging up outside later in the month. Use a good quality compost mixed with slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in looking good all season long. Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days to let the air circulate and to prevent plants becoming too hot.

Now is a really good time to get your pond planted up with a good mix of submerged oxygenating plants, which will keep the water healthy and help keep it clean, along with marginal plants and deeper water plants. A well planted pond can be one of the most attractive features in the garden, as well as providing a great habitat for wildlife. It can take some time to achieve the right balance of pond plants to have clear water – so do be patient, as the rewards will be well worth the effort.


Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering by removing all the flowered stems – this will improve shape and performance for next year, and will stop plants becoming overgrown and straggly. Don't forget that all pruned plants will benefit from a dose of fertiliser, so give them a good feed of Growmore, Vitax Q4 or other general fertiliser to boost growth and health. Healthy plants are also more likely to resist winter cold as well as pest and fungal problems, so it's a good idea to give all of your garden plants a Spring feed to improve their overall health and resistance. Applying a good thick layer of mulch also helps plant health, as well as keeping the weeds down, maintaining moisture during dry summers, and it looks tidy too!

Plants in containers will appreciate having the top section of loose compost removed, and some fresh compost applied. They will also benefit from a dose of fertiliser, and I find that a liquid feed is easiest for all container and pot plants. Apply every 2-4 weeks in Spring and Summer to promote healthy growth, and remember to dead-head plants regularly to keep them flowering.

In the vegetable garden you can sow directly into the ground a whole range of seeds including spinach, carrot, beetroot, spring onion and lettuce. Thin out if necessary and water well after thinning or weeding. I know some of you didn't get your seed potatoes planted last month as the ground was too wet. It's not too late to get them in now – they will quickly catch up. If you feel you've left it too late to sow seeds, don't forget that you can buy a whole range of baby vegetable plants, which can be planted straight out in the garden now. I know it's a bit of a cheat, but if it saves some time and work, then why not? Remember to protect brassicas (cabbage, kale, cauliflower, calabrese, sprouts etc) from pigeons by covering with fine mesh or fleece, and lettuces may need protecting from slugs and snails.

It's a very busy gardening month, so let's hope we get the weather to be able to enjoy it.

Happy Gardening!

 Follow us on Facebook

Emma Emmerson and the Woodside Team

Find us just off the A68 on the B6400
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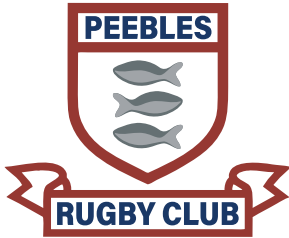
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More Success For Peebles RFC

Colts Make it Back to Back BSJL Titles

Following on from the National League 2 Championship for the Senior side, our Colts secured their 2nd Border Semi Junior League title with a 25-19 win over Kelso Quins on the 30th March. This win was followed up by the Colts 7s Squad winning the Jim Telfer Trophy at Melrose 7s. The lads are in strong position to take the Colts Kings of the 7s title this season too!

As this season finally draws to an end, we turn our attention to putting our own 7s weekend together. This will take place on the 1st weekend of August. As with previous years, there will be a U16s tournament on the Friday evening, the Peebles round of The Kings of The 7s on the Saturday followed by the Colts tournament on the Sunday.

Our 7s Committee are busy preparing for the weekend and would welcome anyone who is willing to step up and help. If this is you then please contact Andy Flannery on 07809488448. Sponsorship opportunities are available as well as hospitality packages. Get in touch soon if you are interested.

The Annual Club Dinner takes place on the 17th May in the Clubrooms. With so much success to toast this season, this is likely to be a night to remember. Tickets are available from Clubrooms.

The Club AGM is on the 31st May and will be held in the Clubrooms. All members are invited to attend. The Executive welcome nominations for all posts and details have been sent to members. The AGM is a good opportunity for members to speak to The Executive and if they have any specific issues to be raised then these should be sent to the secretary by the 10th May.

Finally, The Club is proud to have had international representation this season when Ross Wolfenden pulled on the Scotland U18 jersey and played in the U18 Tournament in Italy in April. Also, Holly Wilson, who attends Peebles High School but plays her rugby at Biggar, was called up to the Women's U18 Squad and played in the same Tournament. Congratulations to both and we will soon have your pictures up on the wall in Club!

Get in Touch

-  [PeeblesRugbyClub](#)
-  [@PeeblesRugby](#)
-  [peebles_rfc](#)
-  secretary@peeblesrfc.org
-  www.peeblesrfc.org



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PEEBLES BOWLING CLUB



Colin Thomson started his third year as President of the club and rolled the first bowl on the green on Saturday 13th April to get the 2024 well underway. Although the April rain put paid to any other bowling with the green waterlogged. Hopefully not a sign of things to come.

In February, the club were awarded Bronze Accreditation by Bowls Scotland which shows the club meeting various criteria set by the governing body and in April the club gained Silver Accreditation. A fantastic accolade for the club and the committee are now focusing achieving Gold Accreditation and if we do, we will be only the third club in Scotland to be granted gold status behind Nairn and Freuchie. Alan MacDonald from Bowls Scotland presented the club with the bronze and silver awards last month. Alan highlighted that we now have the biggest playing membership in the district and are 22nd on the national charts!

The competitive leagues have commenced including the Men's Border League, Peeblesshire County League with the Seniors League and the Ladies Border League starting shortly.

In the Border League the first league games commenced Wednesday 01 May with the A team at away to Newtown BC and the B team away to Jedburgh B. The Border Bowling League fixtures can be found on their website below:

<https://borderbowlingleague.leaguerepublic.com/index.html>

Our oldest Burgh competition, the Peeblesshire County League commenced on 30th April. This year Peebles have entered four teams and Walkerburn have also rejoined after a period of absence. The league has a website and Facebook page so teams can check results and league positions. All fixtures are available on the website:

<https://peeblesshirecountyleague1.leaguerepublic.com/index.html>.

The Senior League commences 14 May with an away tie to Kelso, and this is open to anyone over sixty who wishes to play competitive bowls on a Tuesday morning.

The Border Ladies League starts on Tuesday 7 May with an away fixture with Newtown Ladies.

Our social bowling starts with our "Wapinshaw" competition every Monday morning on the Green and on Friday nights the club will host "Hat Nights" where Members can come down and play social bowls with fellow members. The Friday night games are becoming increasingly popular and a wonderful way to start the weekend. Hat nights will be published on our Facebook page.

Our annual "Traders Trophy" event takes place on Sunday 5th of May and this year the event is sponsored by Stobo Castle Health Spa. Forty teams from local shops, pubs & businesses in Peebles and surrounding areas entering a team of four where only one can be a recognised bowler, which is 164 people in or around the clubhouse for the day trying out the sport. It is a great season opener for the club and the competitors. Last year's winners Peebles Golf Club will do doubt be keen to retain the trophy and collect the "So Stobo Traders Trophy" for the first time. The club extends its thanks to Stobo Castle Health Spa for their support.

On Friday 10th May the club hosts a Bowls England Presidents Celebratory Tour. 70 Members touring the Scottish Borders and Peebles will host a mixed rinks match 2pm. Bowls England are staying at the Hydo as they tour the South of Scotland taking in other clubs throughout the region in their weeklong tour which ends with a Gala Dinner on Friday evening.

What is on at Peebles Bowling Club in May:

- Friday 3rd May – Hat Night
- Saturday 4th May – 4 Bowl Pairs
- Sunday 5th May - Trader's invitation Trophy
- Sunday 12th May – Glenconner Shield
(Rinks) Played at Broughton BC
- Sunday 26th – Ladies Open Pairs



President first Bowl



Bowls Accreditation

For further information contact Peebles Bowling Club via Facebook: Peebles Bowling Club Official.



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Shakespeare at Traquair

The Merchant of Venice

This year we bring you The Merchant of Venice, deemed a difficult play as it does not deal with history, comedy, or death instead there is a moral dilemma to consider.

Written when Shakespeare could not have encountered a Jewish person because they had all been expelled, so given the current backdrop that is the tragedy of the war in Gaza, I don't think we can produce the play as it was originally written. However, by removing the offensive language we can focus on a narrative that highlights the damage the strong do to the weak.

Shylock is a character who bestrides the public consciousness of this play. He's not as is commonly misconceived 'the Merchant' of the title as his Jewishness prevents him from carrying out such an occupation.

One of the interesting aspects of his character, relates to an important figure in his life who doesn't appear in the play – his wife Leah. We don't know what happened to Leah. I imagine a childbirth tragedy leaving Shylock alone with their beautiful daughter Jessica.

The relationship with his wife and daughter explains much of how Shylock behaves.

I think Shylock never has any intention to kill Antonio by taking a pound of flesh, although he does enjoy the teasing as to whether he will lend Antonio the money and I think the pound of flesh is little more than a joke. It reflects on how he views their business, money or respect. When he discovers Jessica has eloped with one of Antonio's associates and stolen much of his wealth, this betrayal bites hard, but even harder is the gossip that Jessica has sold his wife's ring for a monkey. I think at that moment the pain is too much for Shylock, in that moment he takes refuge and lashes out at those who have oppressed him.

Yet there is no justice for Shylock. Antonio entered the bond freely, without coercion, he understood what it meant if he forfeited, but in his hubris, he thought it would never happen. Shylock looks to the law to deliver justice; however, a clever lawyer finds a loophole that not only robs Shylock of his justice but in a cruel twist of fate takes all his possessions. Worse still they take his faith from him by forcing him to convert. The Christian characters congratulate themselves for their cleverness and are delighted by this 'happy' ending.

Perhaps the greatest example of human scapegoating – The Shoah – took place in an educated, Christian, Western society. When we look around us today at the treatment of many groups on the margins, have we really changed?

In our production of The Merchant of Venice I hope we can recognise the complicated and messy stories that lie beneath the faces of the people we encounter every day.

Director, David Bon.

**Promenade performances start on Wednesday 29th May through to Saturday 1st June
and Wednesday 5th June through to Saturday 8th June**

**Tickets can be purchased at Eastgate Arts Online, visiting the Eastgate Theatre box office
in Peebles or by calling 01721 725777**

Wednesday / Thursday ticket price £10 / £12 - Friday / Saturday ticket price £12 / £14

***Please note that our outdoor performances are in the grounds of Traquair House,
the performances take place whatever the weather,
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Performances begin at 7.30 pm prompt.

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Shakespeare at Traquair

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

By William Shakespeare, directed by David Bon
Promenade performance in the grounds of Traquair House



29th May
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2024

5th June
- 8th June

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FRIDAY/SATURDAY - £14 / CONCESSIONS £12.



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www.shakespeare-at-traquair.co.uk

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Tweeddale u3a has over thirty interest groups ranging from Art Appreciation through Poetry and Table Tennis to Walking with Dogs and Wine Tasting!

We also have a programme of monthly meetings where we have a very diverse range of speakers who come along to talk about their special interest.

u3a is a voluntary organisation so there is an opportunity to become more involved in your community. We need two or three people to join our friendly committee to help run this organisation which is such a valuable resource to have in our area and from which all our members have benefitted.

Why not do something brilliant and come along to our next meeting on May 14th at 2pm in St Joseph's Hall Peebles and meet us.

You may find it's the best thing you have done since you retired!

For more information go to: tu3a.enquiries@gmail.com

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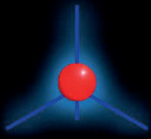
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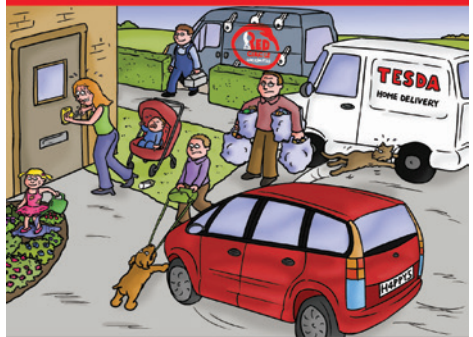
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FLORAL PEEBLES

As I write this article I say to myself that things might have changed by the time you got your Peebles Life delivered. Let's hope so. It's been a hard winter for bulls. After so much rain and bitterly cold winds we ended up with areas of disappointment. One variety of tulip where we planted 250 have all failed. Some plots and planters are however doing well.

We were pleased to get our first part of the Flash Art onto the plant boxes. Peebles and District Round Table very kindly sponsored this program which helps cheer all ages .

Thanks goes to the Wemyss Estates for the gift of over 5,000 snowdrops in the green. The clumps were split and then planted in sparse areas of our South Park wood project.

Later this month the bulbs will be lifted from all our plots around the town. These will be replanted in Victoria Park, the cemetery wall area, the Tesco Community Garden and South Park's Wood. We're also hoping time permits us to plant some in sparse areas of Haylodge Park.

Interest Link Borders, 1st Brownies and The Rainbows have all helped us by sowing wild flower seed again.

Floral Peebles would be struggling to fund the 18 hanging baskets that they did last year on the High Street . This year we appreciate Peebles parking fund coming to our aid otherwise the display would have to be curtailed. Floral Peebles will still pay for the Old Town display. More than 30 businesses have been contacted with a view to them giving a small donation. So far after 4 weeks we have had 3 positive reply's. As I wrote at the start perhaps by the distribution time things might have changed.

Over 4,000 plants arrive at the end of May which will surely help to make Peebles beautiful again this summer.

If you feel you can help in any way please make contact with myself.

John. 07707 658 529.





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TWEEDDALE YOUTH ACTION

We had a fun-packed Easter holiday here at Tweeddale Youth Action! It's always great to shake off the routine a little. Activities included a trip to the Glasgow Science Centre (thanks - as always - to the magnificent Tweed Wheels!), painting competitions, BBQs, outdoor games, Easter egg hunts, metalwork, baking and much more!

While the holidays were fab, we know this time of year can be very stressful for young people. Self-care is so important in protecting our mental health so whether it's time with friends, being creative, moving your body, talking about your worries, planning for your future or simply taking a break to be silly - the whole team at TYA are here to help.

One important way we support young people is through Stepping Stones, a partnership project with Youth Borders aimed at 10 to 18 year olds. Our Stepping Stones project worker Fiona supports young people one-to-one based on their personal needs, be that emotional health, wellbeing, confidence, transition, anxiety, life-skills, bullying or relationships. Stepping Stones helps them achieve their full potential and develop skills within a less formal youth work setting. Young people can self-refer or be referred by a trusted adult, so please get in touch if you think we can help.

We're also excited about our new yoga sessions, which have been specially tailored by amazing yoga teacher Amanda Clink to help young people aged 16 to 25 relax and take some time to breathe. You don't need to have practised yoga before and we promise there are no headstands required! Just come along to Silver Tree Studio on Mondays at 4.30pm-5.30pm.

So whether taking part in an organised project or session, or simply looking for a game of pool and a chat with a youth worker, we're here, we're listening and new young people are always welcome.



MONDAY

Yoga session for 16-25 year olds @Silver Tree Studio, Peebles
4.30pm-5.30pm

→
Drop-in S1+ @Inners youthy
6pm-8pm

→
Metalwork session S1+ (age 15+ ideal) @Inners workshop
6pm-7.30pm

TUESDAY

Art Club S1+ @Peebles youthy
4pm-5.30pm

→
Low Sensory Games Club S1+ @Peebles youthy
5.45pm-7.15pm

WEDNESDAY

Health drop-in with school nurse S1+ @Peebles youthy
1pm-2pm (except the last Wed of each month)

→
Drop-in P7+ @Peebles youthy
6pm-8pm

THURSDAY

Bike repair skills session @Inners workshop
5pm-7pm (Contact us to BOOK)

→
Drop-in P6-P7 @Inners youthy
6pm-8pm

FRIDAY

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PEEBLES BURGH SILVER BAND



This last month could be regarded as the lull before the storm, not literally of course, but the next three or four months will see the band very busy, in fact the business has already started with rehearsals under full steam heading towards various engagements during May.

By the time this report hits the streets our last April engagement will have come and gone, we will have played the Beltane Song for the first time in public this year and the Beltane 2024 Principals will have been introduced to an expectant audience, always a pleasure to be involved in an event which is so important to the people of Peebles, and ourselves of course.

Our May public appearances include joining St Ronans Silver Band at their Tweed Valley Brass event to be held in the Memorial Hall, Innerleithen on Saturday 4th May 7.30pm, doors open at 6.30pm.

The show will include music by Peebles Burgh Silver Band, St Ronans Silver Band, Peebles Youth Band and St Ronans Future Band, there will also be a photography exhibition by local artists and a licensed bar.

Tickets available from Hub on the High Street Innerleithen, Caldwell's Peebles or online at www.stronanssilverband.org.

We also hope to see you at our own Spring Concert in the Burgh Hall on 17th May, details of times will be available soon, the Band will be supported by the Youth Band and the Silver Squad and there will be a raffle and licensed bar, tickets will be available from any member of the band, or on the door.

Come along and enjoy a varied and exciting evening of brass band music.

I am delighted to let you know that young brass players from Peebles Burgh and St. Ronan's Bands travelled to the Scottish Solo and Ensemble Finals in Bellshill on 23rd March where they enjoyed success at a national level. In the junior (under 12) section, the St. Ronan's Junior Ensemble gained third prize whilst junior soloists Caitlyn Robb and Vivien Giegerich achieved Silver Awards. In the intermediate (under 16) section, the ensemble from Peebles Burgh Youth Band was also awarded third prize with soloist James Grassick receiving a silver award, a brilliant result from these talented young players and one that we are all very proud of.

Both groups were conducted by Keith Belleville who was delighted with the success of all young players, quote "the children and young people have all worked extremely hard since qualifying for this event back in February and thoroughly deserve the positive recognition they have received at the Scottish Finals."



Any young brass players or percussionists who would like to get involved in playing with either of the Tweeddale bands should get in touch:

Peebles and district: secretary.pbsb@gmail.com

Innerleithen and district: hello@stronanssilverband.org

Well folks that's all for this month, hope to see you at the above events.

Keith Orr

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TWEEDDALE U3A

The next meeting of Tweeddale u3a will be held on Tuesday 14th May at 2pm in St Joseph's Hall, Peebles. The topic is "An Introduction to Fungal Diversity" and our speaker is Neville Kilkenny, Field Mycologist and Research Associate (RBGE).

Nev lives on a farm in East Lothian and describes himself as lucky enough to make a living doing things that he thoroughly enjoys!

Nev will discuss the main groups of larger fungi one is likely to encounter in our local woodland and grassland. In addition to introducing us to the amazing diversity of fungi to be found in Scotland, he will explore the important role fungi play in the functioning of life on our planet and in our own everyday lives.

This promises to be a fascinating talk, so come along and learn all the things you could never have guessed about Fungi!

Tea and coffee will be served after the talk.

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Bonnie Peebles SCIO

The new seats at The Sensory Garden, by the swimming pool to replace the wooden benches provided by Bonnie Peebles in 2009 and now recycled.

The plaque reads -

"These seats were commissioned in 2023 by Bonnie Peebles SCIO in remembrance of Alexander (Sandy) Anderson who generously bequeathed to many Peebles organisations."

They were designed and made by Jim Whitson, The Blazing Blacksmith, and are a welcome addition to a very popular, well used area.

We are grateful to Ewan Irvine and his team who gave freely their time to undertake the work of installing the seats on Sunday 7th April.

Margaret Wightman



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PEEBLES PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

At the April meeting, we were delighted to welcome Mollie Davis as our special guest. Mollie entertained us with a repertoire of songs and members enjoyed singing along with her. Mollie is just one of those lovely people who lights up a room with her friendliness and warm personality and it was so special to see her chatting away with the members as though she had known them for years! On behalf of the members, I would like to thank Mollie for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment, which was enjoyed by all present.

The May meeting will be a visual quiz, which has very much been a Scott family collaboration, which has been photographed, researched and written by Steve and Emma Scott with the Secretary taking the on-the-day role of quizmaster. For this meeting, as with the meeting last October, it will be a meeting of two halves, with the quiz taking place at the non-stage end of the hall with seats in a semi-circle set up and tables and chairs at the stage end of the hall for teas and coffees thereafter. Clipboards with the quiz answer sheets and pens will be provided.

Membership fees are now overdue and should be paid as soon as possible. Members are reminded that external organised events are only open to full members who have paid their membership fee for the current year.

Peebles Pensioners Association is open to applications from anyone over the age of 55 so please get in touch if you are interested in joining at the next available intake

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Beltane Sports

This year's event will take place on Wednesday 12th of June, four days before the official start of Beltane week. This is mainly due to the sports convener going to Germany for the EUROS.

However this will not detract from the range of racing available. The evening will start with local primary pupils 75m heats at 6pm. There after there will be sprint races for youths and seniors including the Steven Maclean 90m youths sprint confined to Peeblesshire. Also 800m and 1600m middle distance races and the competitive One Lap Races for youths and seniors.

This event is a great opportunity to see local athletes trying their best in a variety of races and will be well worth the £5 entry fee. So please come along and support this historical event which has been going on for over 120 years. Refreshments will be available and a raffle will be drawn on the night for attendees watching the sports.

Les Shortreed



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Inspiring Life Day

INSPIRING LIFE

In November, it will be ten years since Evangeline Dobson Douglas (Evie) completed suicide. Since setting up a Trust in her name, and later, a registered charity, Inspiring Life : Evie Douglas Memorial Fund has donated almost £70 000 to individuals, support groups, community projects, and charities promoting good mental health and well- being, mainly in the Scottish Borders.

This year we have received funding from The National Lottery Community Fund and our Inspiring Life day and lead up events returns to the Eastgate Theatre 10th -18th May. Please book, as spaces are limited, and come along to our creative workshops focusing on the themes of recovery and renewal. There are a variety of activities to choose from : dance, music, discussion, drumming, story telling, fitness, and alpacas to meet. Everyone is welcome and most workshops are FREE.

Evie led an inspiring life and she continues to inspire others. I thank you for your support.

Freda Douglas (Evie's Mama)



Inspiring Life 2024

Friday 10 - Saturday 18 May

Most events will be held at the Eastgate Theatre in Peebles.
Tickets for most Inspiring Life sessions are **FREE** but advanced **booking is essential** and can be done through the Eastgate Box Office | 01721 725 777

Curry and Chaat

at the MacFarlane Hall, Peebles
Are you struggling with your mental health, or do you know someone else who's struggling? Research shows that talking helps to protect and sustain your mental health, so what better way to get the conversation flowing than doing so whilst tucking in to a delicious curry?

Fri 10 May | 19:00

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Broadway's Best

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Workshop 1

Tue 14 May | 18:45 - 21:15

Workshop 2

Thu 16 May | 18:45 - 21:15

Sound Healing Chamber

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Wed 15 May | 19:30

Tickets for this event are £20

Inspiring Life Day | Saturday 18 May

New Moves | 10:00 - 12:00

with Sara Boles

A dance workshop to warm up your body and wake up your mind. Find out how movement makes you feel, and what it communicates about you. Work with other participants to create a short routine for the 5pm session.

Art Therapy | 10:30 - 12:00

with Lynne Grahame

Try your hand at art in a relaxed, safe space. Look at each other's work and share some thoughts about mark-making to take your ideas further. All materials provided.

Let Yourself Go | 12:30 - 13:15

with Alex Saunders

Brighten up your afternoon with this movement to music session, where you can groove, move, stand, walk, shimmy and sway your troubles away.

Tell Us a Story | 13:30 - 14:15

with Franziska Droll

Experiment with different ways of making up a story, developing characters, creating an atmosphere, and performing in a front of a small friendly audience.

Follow the Beat | 14:30 - 15:15

with Jenny Noble

Find new ways of communicating with drums using rhythm, dynamics, and different types of hand-movement to build up some joyful noise.

Talking about Recovery | 15:30 - 16:30

with See Me Scotland

Take a fun and interactive look at different ways words can be used to help us on our recovery journey, with an emphasis on the stigma and discrimination we may find along the way.

New Directions | 17:00 - 18:30

Today's participants in dance, music and story take turns in sharing short informal performances that they've developed earlier in the day; while some of the tutors talk about recovery, renewal, and other themes that have emerged during the week.



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**Dementia Awareness Week in Scotland runs from
Monday 27th May to Sunday 2 June.**

Look out for **Tea and Blether** dates in and around Tweeddale and find out more about it here <https://www.alzscot.org/tea-blether>

We have a great programme at Firholm Memory Café on Thursday afternoons fortnightly. On 2nd May Jean Westwater will lead a discussion about “Dying Matters” – something we avoid talking about, although it happens to us all. We have a surprise visit from a very famous pop star on 16th. Our AGM is on Thurs 30th, so please ensure you are a DFT member so that you can have your say.

The Ceilidh Tea Dance on Friday 17th May is back in the MacFarlane Hall, Peebles, with our very popular live band, Dave Robb and Friends. Come along, bring new friends and have a go. You don't need a partner, just join in, and if you can no longer dance, the music and singing is the foot-tapping variety. All ages welcome 12 – 102+.

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THE TWEEDDALE SOCIETY

So, the season of 2023-2024 came to an end at the beginning of April with the annual general meeting of the Society held in the Anne Younger Studio, part of the iconic Eastgate Theatre.

The meeting reconfirmed certain members of the committee of the Society and gave approval for new members to join the Committee. Full details of the individuals on the committee, and so responsible for governance of the Society, can be found on our website.

In addition to the appointments there was a broad-ranging and lively discussion on the rates for membership of the Society in 2024-2025. Those present heard about the rising costs of the Society and the need to maintain a healthy, positive balance in the Society's bank accounts. After much discussion, three proposals were put to those present for a vote. It was agreed that the fee for membership would be increased in 2024 to £30.00 for the lectures. Listening to the feedback, a commitment was given that the committee would support those people wishing to attend the talks but who could just not afford the fee of £30.00. This would be handled in a delicate and sensitive manner by the senior office holders. We want to be able to welcome everyone to the talks.

After the formal business, Fy Martynoga gave a very interesting talk on foraging for food in the local area. She is a renowned author and her talk referred to the local foods which we can find in the nearby lands around the town of Peebles. Food and drink were available at the end of the evening for the members, so those present were able to sample the results of Fy's foraging; the table of food and drink was enhanced by Fy's culinary skills with examples of her foraged food.

At the end of the evening there were loud rounds applause for Geoffrey Hamilton's work as Treasurer over two decades; he is stepping down from that role but will remain as Membership Secretary. Brian McCrow, the Chairperson, was also thanked since both those on the Committee and in the membership know that without his drive, energy and attention to detail the Society would not be in the strong, respected position which it holds now.

The Society has almost completed the programme for 2024-2025, (with at least a couple of talks in August and September). The final programme will be announced in the summer, and the full details will be on the Society's website.

The members of the Committee wish everyone a very happy summer and we look forward to seeing you all at the talks in August and September and over the winter. Your support is crucial to us; without our loyal and supportive membership the Society would not exist.



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PEEBLESHIRE YOUTH TRUST



The first few months of 2024 have been busy as ever at Peeblesshire Youth Trust. We are now working with over 70 young people, helping to reach their potential.

We held our Achieve Your Potential workshops at the Scout Hall in Peebles and at Broomlee, West Linton, where our new group of Primary 6 pupils from schools across Tweeddale had the chance to make new friends, learn new skills and play games. Our activities aim to build confidence and self-esteem through challenges requiring teamwork, decision making, expressing of opinions and positive relationships. Following completion of this workshop series, our young people are offered the chance to be supported by a volunteer mentor, with whom they will meet each month to go out to try new things and explore new places.

We also invite our young people to a group activity each month. This year we have enjoyed an inflatables session at Peebles Swimming Pool and a youth club style evening at the Drill Hall, with pizzas, pool and puzzles. We are hoping for dry weather for our upcoming scavenger hunt! We are looking forward to attending a film night at the Eastgate, watching Kung Fu Panda 4 – this event on 2nd May is hosted by Peebles Youth Voice and is open to all in P6-7 and S1-6.

We held our fundraiser, Achieve-a-Ball, at Peebles Hydro on 2nd March, raising over £5500. These funds are vital to enable PYT to offer all our services free, to continue working with more and more children, and to expand our programmes to meet current needs. As such, we will soon begin pilot projects working to support primary pupils prior to P6, and to engage small groups of S2/3 pupils at Peebles High School to help build good emotional wellbeing. We are excited to pilot these new areas of work, in addition to our existing projects!

Our next fundraiser will be held at Peebles Golf Club on 14th May, in association with our principal sponsor Harrisons, Your Ford Centre. As Peebles Golf Club donate the use of the course all monies raised go directly to PYT. Our prizes are kindly sponsored by Evolution Bottling and Packaging Solutions and Holland & Sherry. We look forward to welcoming over 80 golfers on the day and promise we have ordered sunshine!

We are currently putting plans in place for our transition project for summer 2024, working with P7s from all Tweeddale primary schools to help ease the move to Peebles High School. We will be hosting this alongside our friends at Oor Space Youthy, with fun sessions open to all P7 pupils – more details will be shared soon! We will also be helping staff at Peebles HS to support the enhanced transition sessions within the school during May.

At PYT we can only do all that we do thanks to our valued volunteers, many of whom are matched as mentors with individual children. We hold quarterly Inspire sessions where our mentors have the chance to network with each other, to get ideas and inspiration for their mentoring journey, as well as receiving ongoing training from our staff. Mentoring only takes up a little amount of time, around 2 hours per month, but is hugely rewarding. We are always on the look-out for new mentors, and continually have young people that we are seeking to match with a mentor. No prior experience is needed as full training is given - just bags of enthusiasm, a little patience, and the ability to have fun!

If you would like to find out more about mentoring, or about other ways in which you can support Peeblesshire Youth Trust, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we would be delighted to join you for a cuppa and a chat.

Contact Sarah Keen, Programme Manager, Peeblesshire Youth Trust:

email info@peeblesshireyouthtrust.org or phone 07957 383663.

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