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The month of June signals the longest day in the calendar giving us the opportunity to play golf long into the evening. And the end of the month signals our Club Championship Week, the blue riband event in our fixture calendar and six days of match play golf drama for our members look forward to.

After three weeks of qualifying rounds, the competition shapes up to whittle the fields down to the leading players heading into the knock-out stages. And with seven different categories it's an opportunity for most golfers in the Club to take centre stage and go for glory.

Defending the title in the Club Championship is two-time winner Kris Hopkirk, who defeated Mike Foley in last year's final, while June-Anne Clark finally etched her name on the Ladies Championship trophy after edging out Marry Waddell. She's got a few still to go to catch Sheila Cuthbertson, with the local golf legend having won it on no fewer than 25 occasions!

The Gents Seniors Championship has become a keenly contested event, and 2023 winner Gordon Beveridge will be aiming to fend off an ever more competitive line-up to make it two-in-a-row.

Swapping the oval ball for the small ball, Scotland U18s stand off Ross Wolfenden was victorious in last season's Junior Championship, and 'The Wolf' will need to be at his best to go back-to-back with a strong junior section ready to pounce.

Championship Week Schedule:

Monday 24th

Gents B & C 1st round

Tuesday 25th

Juniors & Seniors QFs & Ladies A & B QFs

Wednesday 26th

Club Championship 1st round, Gents B & C QFs, Juniors SFs

Thursday 27th

Club Championship QFs, Ladies A & B SFs

Friday 28th

Club Championship SFs, Gents B & C SFs, Seniors SFs

Saturday 29th

All Finals to be played. Club Championship Final over 36 holes with others over 18 holes.

If you don't make it through yourself, come up to the course, support your fellow members and watch some exciting match play golf! This year's Club Championship Week is kindly sponsored by Graham Irvine & Partners.



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JUNE NOTICES

PEEBLES SINGERS - We are holding our Charity 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 - see page 34 for details. 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).

TWEEDDALE U3A - Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11th June at 2pm** in St Joseph's Hall, Peebles. Our speaker is Neville Kilkeny. See page 38 for details.

GREENER PEBBLES COMMUNITY GARDEN - Volunteer gardening sessions every Tuesday and Friday morning 10-12. **Friday 21st June** 10.30-12 - Nature-Based Drawing Skill Share . For further information and to book please email info@greenerpebbles.org

BROUGHTON CHORAL SOCIETY - we are holding our summer concert in Broughton Village Hall on **Saturday 15th June**. Doors open at 7 pm and the concert starts at 7.30. Tickets (£20) include supper and can be bought from the website broughtonchoralsociety.co.uk or by emailing secretary@broughtonchoralsociety.co.uk The concert programme includes Schubert's Mass in G, and works by Mozart, Fauré, Bruckner, Gjeilo and Bernstein, plus opera arias by our soloists.

CREATE WELLBEING STUDIO - 'Healing' Art exhibition - **Friday 7th June** - opening - 7.00pm - FREE, drinks and snacks served, just turn up! **Sunday 16th June** - Summer Solstice Yoga Day Retreat with option to wild swim, lunch included, - £60

Booking link - <https://www.createwellbeing.studio/summer-solstice-day-retreat.html>

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 June, 11th) at 7.30 at 42, Rosetta Rd, Peebles EH458HJ, and on the fourth Sunday of the month (in June, 23rd) at 10.30 at 7, Dukehaugh, Peebles EH459DN.

RECOLLECTIVE CHOIR - every Tuesday afternoon at Dovecot Court, Peebles 2.45 to 3.25. 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.

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

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 PEBBLES 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).



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FLORAL PEEBLES

Eighteen very young Rainbows helped Floral Peebles sow wild flower seeds along the railings at the Gytes in the area known as The Evie Douglas Way.

It is not very often our volunteers can do summersaults and cartwheels during sowing sessions.

Next in turn was Interest Link Borders who annually help sow wild seeds in the cemetery. No cartwheels but lots of laughter, chatting and Victoria sponge.

The 1st Peebles Brownies completed our wild flowers for 2024 in an other area of the cemetery. The 19 girls were all very inquisitive about lots of nature aspects and graves. A mini litter pick in the areas where we were working then took place.

All our gardens and plant boxes have now to be emptied ready for the summer bedding plants.

A special tribute remembering all those who fell or were injured on D-Day is being prepared for the Old Town garden.

Please remember we are always open to offers of help either financially or manually.



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Peebles March Riding and Beltane Queen Festival



HELLO, we hope you are starting to get into the Beltane spirit. We now have all our principals introduced and we are all raring to go.

Our Cornet Elect Reuben Sterricks and Lass Rianna Sterricks are extremely excited to get started and can't wait to lead the cavalcade on Beltane Wednesday evening.

Our Warden of Neidpath, Sir Hew Strachan (Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale) will become our warden in his final year as the Lord Lieutenant.

The Warden of the Cross Kirk, the Lady Reverend Pamela Strachan will get the festival underway on Sunday 16th in what we believe is Beltane History in the making with a husband-and-wife team becoming our Wardens in the same year.



Cornet Elect Reuben Sterricks



Lass Rianna Sterricks

Fiona Morris will Proclaim the Beltane Fair on Beltane Saturday as well as undertaking the Reading of the Boundaries.

Crowning Lady Margaret Stalker is bestowed with the honour of crowning our Beltane Queen.



Beltane Queen Lucy Crombie

This year's Beltane Queen is Lucy Crombie from Priorsford. Lucy will be helped by Chief Maid, Cara Murray from Kingsland and supported by 1st Courtier, James McKean from Kingsland and 2nd Courtier, Jonah Jackson from Priorsford.

The Beltane fun will get underway for the very youngest of our community on Saturday June the 15th with the Bairsns Beltane Boogie. Children ages up to Primary 2 can attend where there will be music, snacks, and much more. It takes place between 10.00am and 12.30pm in the MacFarlane Hall. The Cornet Elect and Lass Elect might even make an appearance.

Then on Sunday 16th after the committee and friends have been out turning the High Street, Old Town and Norgate red and white, it is the Cross Kirk Ceremony.

Leaving the Chambers Quadrangle at 5.45pm and marching proudly along the High

Street for a 6pm start at the Cross Kirk.

Monday is Disco night in the Community Centre for P3-P7, times will be published in advance, however the fun starts at 6pm.

Tuesday night is Children's sports in Whitestone Park, the fun all starts at 6.30 and there are adults' races too.

Wednesday from 6.00 pm onwards will see the Cornet and his Lass along with the Warden of Neidpath elected to office along with one of the weeks spectacular sights, the Riding the Marches containing over 200 horses and riders. One of the highlights after Neidpath is the fording of the Tweed in Haylodge Park. This is followed by horse racing at the golf course and the traditional Cornets reel outside the Tontine Hotel. It's a busy night.

Thursday is for the less experienced horse riders, allowing them to take part in the lead reign led Novice Ride. A great way to start gaining experience of a Rideout. Meeting at Kingsmeadow's Car park for 5.45pm to leave at 6.30pm. For one year only the Beltane Sports are taking place on Wednesday 12th June, outside of Beltane Week itself. Come down to Whitestone Park and watch some of the finest local athletes around compete against their peers.

Friday is Fancy Dress night so why don't you join in. We will have bands, some great fancy dress outfits and the nursery floats. A great night for everyone of any age. The Rugby Club and the YM Dancers will also be out to entertain.

Saturday is Red Letter Day and the festivities kick off around 9am with the Proclamation of the Beltane Fair as the Children's Procession make their way from Halyrude School to the Parish church steps where this year's Beltane Queen Lucy will be crowned. The children then move on to the grand procession where a lorry cavalcade will pass through the town to the cheering crowds.

A more sombre moment is set when wreaths are laid by the Beltane Festival at the Service of Remembrance that takes place at the County War Memorial.

The closing ceremony is what we call the Beat Retreat. This year we have a treat indeed so come down and watch.

Of course, the Beltane wouldn't be the Beltane without the Beltane Song which by the time you are in P7 you usually know off by heart. You will hear this sung many times during and in the run up to Beltane week.

Finally, the Beltane Festival is festival for the community of Peebles. It is an inclusive festival open to all to enjoy. It is for all those that like to come out to support the festivities and cheer on our principals. It brings our community out and it brings our community together like no other way possible.

So come out and cheer on our principals, savour the atmosphere and turn our town red and white.

On behalf of the Beltane Festival Committee can I wish you all a safe and Happy Beltane Festival 2024



Sir Hew Strachan



Lady Reverend Pamela Strachan



Fiona Morris



Lady Margaret Stalker



SAFE OOT, SAFE IN

Thank You Paul Spence (Chairman)

www.peeblesbeltanefestival.co.uk

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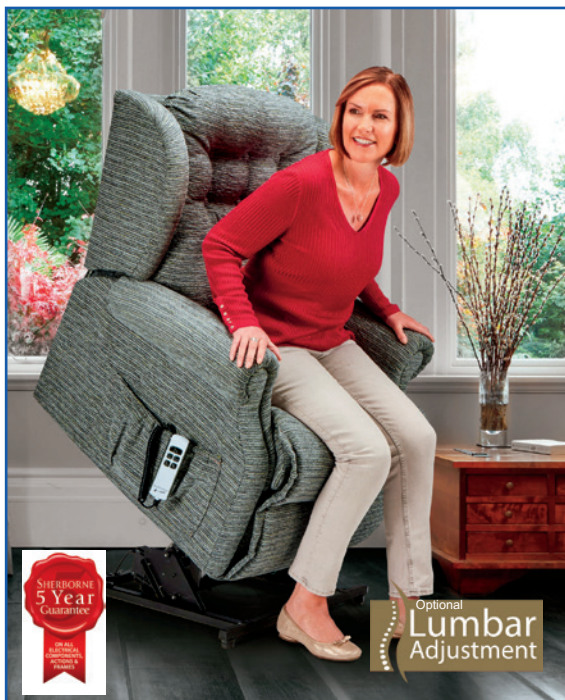
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Gardening Tips from Woodside

Here at Woodside we're pleased to stock everything you need to create a beautiful garden pond – you just need to put in the labour!

Ponds make a wonderful addition to the garden – as well as creating extra habitats for wildlife, it also provides different planting conditions for a whole host of plants. The most successful ponds tend to have a boggy area next to them to allow moisture loving plants to grow there and to make a smooth transition from pond to garden. Not only that, but the sound of moving water is very relaxing, and the presence of fish in the pond gives an extra dimension to your enjoyment of your garden.

Ponds are generally sited in sunny spots, which makes plant growth stronger, but also encourages algae growth. Ideally a pond should have 30-40% of its surface area covered with plant leaves, using plants such as water lilies, and other deep water marginals like the very pretty Water hawthorn (*Aponogeton*) and the Yellow Fringed Lily, which isn't strictly speaking a lily at all, but a close relative (*Nymphoides peltata*). This will help shade the water from the sun and reduce algae growth. Water lilies prefer still water to moving water, so be sure to site them away from fountains and inlet streams and read the label carefully to make sure they are at the right depth within the pond. Miniature water lilies can be submerged in large water-tight containers if you don't have space for a pond.

Oxygenators and floating plants are vital for the health of the pond. Oxygenating plants grow and photosynthesise under water, releasing oxygen into the water which is essential for water dwelling animals as well as for keeping the water full of healthy bacteria to help keep it clean. Crystal confetti (*Hydrocotyl*) is one of the most attractive oxygenators and should be submerged in the pond. Floating plants, such as Water Soldiers (*Stratiotes*) can simply be thrown into the pond, making them the easiest plant in the gardening world to actually plant! Barley straw products also help keep ponds clear and healthy, and they also act as an algae inhibitor.

A selection of tall, grass like plants are useful for height, structure and for allowing emerging larvae of dragonflies to hatch. Recommended varieties are Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) and any of the water loving irises. Other marginal plants provide colour and texture. By creating a bog garden you give yourself the opportunity to plant a whole range of plants from the beautiful green foliage of Hostas and ferns to the bright colourful flowers of candelabra primroses.

Hopefully this gives you a few ideas on how to make your garden even more attractive this summer, as well as creating a new habitat for wildlife. If you need help selecting the right pond product for your pond, just phone up and make an appointment to see Stephen at Woodside, and he'll be happy to offer advice.

Happy Gardening!



Follow us on Facebook

Emma Emmerson and the Woodside Team

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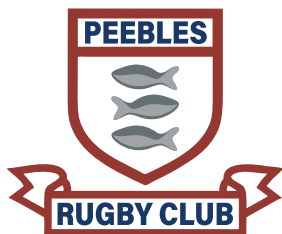
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The Success Keeps on Coming

Colts Round Their Off The Season With Another Win

Peebles Colts have enjoyed another outstanding season both in the 15s game as well as in the 7s. Peebles were, for the second time in our history, and the second year in a row, Borders Semi Junior League Champions. The BSJL currently comprises 12 teams from north, and south, of the Border and is recognised as the most competitive league in Scotland. Winning the League again was due to the commitment of the players to continuous improvement through twice weekly training sessions, the strength in depth of the Peebles Colts squad, and their sheer determination in some incredibly challenging games. The best example of their determination was the away game at Morpeth, against a big physical side, on a cold Thursday night in early January. Morpeth scored a converted try first, but Peebles Colts then stamped their authority on the game and came back to win with 22 unanswered points. The depth of squad, we have had at least 42 boys playing for either the Reds or Blues Colts teams at some point during the season, has been a great asset and shows the current strength of the youth programme at Peebles RFC.

The 7s season has shown the same levels of commitment and determination as the 15s with Peebles Colts winning the 'King of Sevens' for the first time in our history. There are now eight individual 7s tournaments that involve either 8 or 12 teams from across the borders, and sometimes further afield. In this 2023/24 season Peebles Colts won the 'King of Sevens' trophy by winning six of the 8 tournaments, coming second in one and getting to the semi-final in the other.

This has been a season like no other, with the 1st XV winning promotion to the National Division 1, the Colts winning the Borders Semi Junior League and the King of Sevens and The High School retaining The Borders Town Conference so topping that next year won't be easy.

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The Colts 7s Squad with the Kings of 7s Trophy

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PEEBLES BOWLING CLUB



With the new season now well and truly underway May was a busy month on the Walkershaugh Green with the start of the competitive leagues including the Men's Border League, Peeblesshire County League, Seniors League, and the Ladies Border League.

With all teams making positive starts we hope to have a successful season this year.

On first competition, Traders Day saw 160 players from shopkeepers, pubs, trades around Peebles compete for the So Stobo Traders Trophy for the second successive year Peebles Golf Club took the trophy defeating "The Builders" in a last end shoot out.

We hosted the finale of the Bowls England Touring Party who as part of President David King's celebratory tour played across Southern Scotland while being based at Peebles Hydro. The closing game of the tour saw 6 mixed rinks play against a Peebles Select on the Walkershaugh green.

As covered last month the club were awarded Silver Accreditation by the governing body Bowls Scotland the club set about achieving Gold Accreditation. With the hard work of the management committee the Peebles club were delighted to be awarded Gold Accreditation on 10th May.



Bowls Scotland President Frances Sandilands attended the Peebles green meeting her counterpart from Bowls England, President David King-Taylor and part of Frances's remit was to present to Peebles Bowling Club President Colin Thomson the Gold Award and to confirm Peebles Bowling Club now recognised as a Bowls Scotland Gold Accredited Club. The first club in the Borders to do so and only the third in Scotland following Freuchie and Nairn, respectively. A fantastic achievement for the club.

The club also held its first internal competition of the season with the 4 Bowls Pair and in a change to the format a plate competition was introduced for pairs knocked out in the opening stages. In the main competition Alan Gordon and Steven MacLean defeated Lloyd Chambers and Alan Chambers, while in the plate Jason Brown and Roy Welsh defeated Willie Bisset and Tam Cleland to take home the "Hilary Clarke Cup."



June is a busy month for the club with County League and Seniors Border League on Tuesdays and Men's Border League Games on Wednesdays.

Our first open event of the season is Saturday 8th of June hosting a knockout pairs competition kindly sponsored by Smith & McMath.

What is on at Peebles Bowling Club in June:

- Friday 7th June - Hat Night
- Saturday 8th June - Open Knockout Pairs
- Sunday 10th - Callants Day
- Saturday 15th - County Singles (Played at St Ronans & Peebles)
- Friday 21st - Mixed rinks Friendly V Bristol St Andrews.
- Sunday 23rd - Club Mixed Pairs
- Saturday 29th - Gents invitation Triples
- Sunday 30th - Ladies Hat Day

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

Tweeddale West Councillor Report

Cllr Drummond Begg (Liberal Democrat), Cllr Viv Thomson (SNP) and Cllr Eric Small (Conservative) are the Councillors for Tweeddale West representing the north side of Peebles.

Working together

We work together on most local issues to get things done as party politics rarely comes in to solving problems at a local level. Whether it has been supporting the Peeblesshire Foodbank or Greener Peebles through to helping people with tenancy issues, we have been more effective working as a team. This model of working is relatively unusual but some Councillor clusters in the Borders are now following suit. We do disagree on policy issues in the Council Chamber and at Council meetings, but we park that at the door when it comes to Peebles specific issues.

Road repairs

There is a vast backlog of road and pavement repairs needed in Peebles and we have campaigned hard to get our share of the limited roads budget. We have had some success with a stretch of the A72 by Neidpath being resurfaced last year and a 700m potholed stretch of the Edinburgh Road going to be repaired this year. Rose Park Wall is also in desperate need of repair, and we are glad that this is programmed for this year. There is always more to be done and we will continue to argue the case for Peebles.

Eddleston Water

As Councillors we seek to attract funding from outside sources that support community aspirations. For a long time, there wasn't a safe active travel route to the north of Peebles, with the A703 being narrow with no pavement in places. We have supported the peoples wish for a path and support the Sustrans longer term aspiration to connect Peebles with Midlothian and Edinburgh in the long term. Giving people options other than the car is important for the environment and people's health. The upstream flood prevention work has had successes in reducing the peaks of water flow which reduces the chance of serious flooding. The data from this groundbreaking work will inform other projects upstream from Peebles that we involved in. We have been regularly advocating for those affected by flooding, especially those living on Tweed Green.

Shop Local

We were delighted to support the creation of the Peebles Retailers Association. We know that many town centres are boarded up and we have been active in promoting Peebles as the best independent retail town in Scotland. We try to support those who bring business and jobs to Peebles from our retailers, bars and cafés to the Eastgate theatre and cycling festivals. Shop local, eat local, spend local, support local!

Contact us

We ensure that at least one of us attends the Peebles Community Council meeting each month and issues are often raised with us there.

We can also be contacted directly, our contact details are on the Scottish Borders Council website.

We also run drop-in surgeries in Peebles. Our next one is on the **29th June**, see local press for details.



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Peebles in Bloom 2024

Peebles Community Council needs your help with the Peebles in Bloom competition this summer. There are many beautiful gardens in Peebles, and we feel it is important to recognise all the hard work which goes into making this town such an attractive place to live in and to visit, so we'd hate to miss any!

In July Community Councillors will walk all around the town looking at front gardens and business premises in order to produce a list of gardens and displays that they feel are worthy of consideration (so don't worry if you see someone studying your garden and making notes on a clipboard, it's probably just one of us!) Then there is a review to create a short list followed by a tour by independent judges who make the final decisions.

We need the public's help with two aspects (see our contact details below). Firstly, if you know of a front garden which is really special then please tell us. That way we can be sure we won't miss any. Secondly, we need to be told about any 'secret gardens' as they cannot be seen from the pavement, such as the ones hiding behind stone walls, high hedges and fences.

The Secret Gardens category is just one of ten categories. The others are Very Small Garden, Small Garden, Medium Garden, Large Garden, All Year Round Garden, Business Premises, Courtyard Garden, Best Street and Community Garden. There will be a trophy for the best Community Garden this year, as well as the usual certificate, thanks to the generosity of Garry Rennie of Peebles Auction House.

The prize giving will be in the Burgh Hall on 15th August, this year's event promises to be quite different.

We will be in touch shortly with last year's winners in order to collect in the trophies.



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Soul Restore Counselling Service

Who are we?

We are a Charity working away to bring subsidised, donation based, professional Counselling to this community from rooms in County Buildings, Rosetta Road Peebles. It was founded in 2020 by St Andrews Leckie Church Congregation, and continues to be supported by them financially and with volunteers from the Church, alongside two paid staff. All Counsellors are trained, and registered with COSCA (Scotland's professional body for Counselling).

The service has grown at a rapid rate. Last year saw a 42% rise in the number of counselling sessions we were able to provide.

What is Counselling?

It is a talking therapy and a chance to speak confidentially about things in the present or past that are affecting you emotionally. Often talking can lift those burdens, and lead to acceptance or change in your attitudes. It is not advice or practical help, it may improve physical symptoms such as insomnia, depression, overwhelm.

Who can access the Counselling Service?

Anyone! You can enquire and then we would call for a brief chat before you go onto the waiting list. So you may have to wait before you see a Counsellor, once you do you would see that same Counsellor for a number of weeks.

What's the Cost?

We encourage everyone to make a contribution towards the cost of their counselling, if they can, depending on their means. The service is subsidised by donations from St Andrews Leckie.

How do I find out more?

You can check our website www.soulrestore.co.uk

Or pick up a leaflet from the church entrance on Eastgate.

Or call us on 01721 400616 leaving your number.

If you would like to support our work by giving do also get in touch.

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				8	7		4
			4		9		3
		2				3	9
5							1
	9	7				4	
7	8		3		5		
	3		6	7			
4			9				

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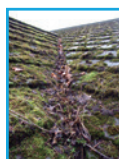
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TWEEDDALE YOUTH ACTION

The sun's out and we can see summer holidays on the horizon!

We've had a busy month at TYA with highlights including a trip to Yardworks street art festival in Glasgow, taking part in a Youth Scotland STEM challenge, and working with the Scottish Child Law Centre to get young people's views on accessing justice.



Exam stress

We know the pressure can be immense when sitting your exams, so our youth workers are here for anyone who needs to talk. Please remember there are many different ways to get where you're going and you are worth way more than your exam results.

Project Pizza

Some exciting news now... we have officially taken over the lease for our Project Pizza shop on Peebles High Street! We're really looking forward to joining the amazing independent shops our wee town has to offer. Huge thanks must go to South of Scotland Enterprise for funding this venture, we couldn't be more grateful.



You might have seen our Food punks van out and about but this shop will give them a permanent base to offer real-life skills and experience, mainly to 16-25 year olds not in education, employment or training. We'll be serving up mouth-watering takeaway pizzas during the day - so make sure you pop in for your lunch once we open!

Join our team!

As our work continues to grow, so must our team. We are currently recruiting for paid youth workers to help deliver our evening drop-in sessions. These lively sessions are challenging but a lot of fun - and offer great opportunities to build trusting relationships with young people that can have a real positive impact on their lives.



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Go to www.tweeddaleyouth.co.uk/workwithus or scan the QR code below for more info and an application pack.

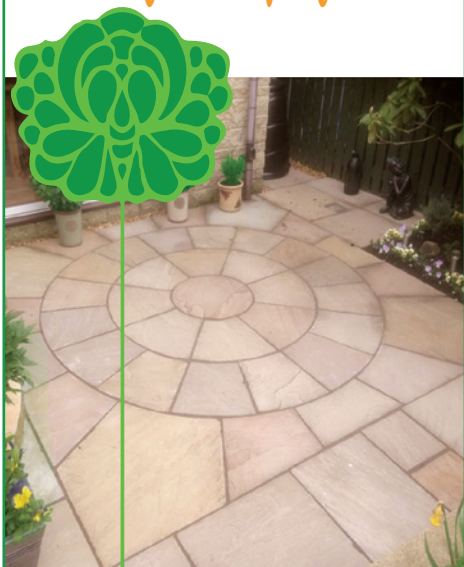
We are also looking for volunteer board members, especially a treasurer. You don't need to be a whizz with numbers, rather help ensure we are spending our funds wisely.

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Peebles Singers

**Spring Charity Concert at 7.30 pm on
Saturday 8th June in MacFarlane Hall**



The concert is entitled “Follow the Heron” and will highlight a choral setting of Karine Polwart’s lovely song “Follow the Heron home”. Entry, which includes refreshments, is £6 - payable at the door.

Proceeds from the concert are going to Peebles-based “Nomad Beat” - the only charity in the Scottish Borders providing affordable music opportunities for all. Since 2010, Nomad Beat has established itself as a thriving community music school. Music tuition is provided to people of all ages and abilities across a variety of instruments. The organisation also runs regular music groups, hires out instruments and equipment and provides rehearsal space for local bands and musicians.



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PEEBLES BURGH SILVER BAND



Well here we are again at the end of another month, where does the time go.

In last months issue I told you about our up and coming engagements for the month of May, the first of which was our involvement with the Tweed Valley Brass Concert, organised St Ronans Silver Band and held in Innerleithen on Saturday 4th May. The show was a resounding success with lots of glorious brass band music to enjoy, lets hope this is repeated next year. The Memorial Hall was full to bursting, the capacity crowd appeared to be having a lot of fun especially when the two bands came together to play the finale, consisting of Leaving Leithenside and Loch Lomond, what a night.

Several of the PBSB members helped out with Tweed Theatres production of Brassed Off which showed at the Eastgate Theatre the other week, the show was performed to a more or less capacity audience on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, with an extra Saturday afternoon matinee found to be necessary to cater for the demand for seats. Rave reviews have been forthcoming for the show, so well done all.

The most important event for the band this month was of course our own concert held on 17th May in the Burgh Hall. The evening was made up of carefully selected and entertaining glorious brass band music by the Senior Band conducted by Vaughan Fleischfresser who has been the band's Musical Director since March 2023, he has blended his own style into the more traditional repertoire of the band, his extensive knowledge of teaching music has brought a refreshing difference to the band, one which we hope was evident in the performance. We were fortunate to be able to showcase the "future" of the band with selections of music being played by the Peebles Burgh Youth Band, the Silver Squad and our very own Peebles Buzzers, or PBuzzers.

The Youth Band is made up of young enthusiastic players, mostly High School age, rehearsed and conducted by Keith Belleville who took over a few months ago, his teaching skills have had a really positive impact on their ensemble playing, PBSB are delighted with the progress being made and are thankful that Keith has agreed to continue in his role.

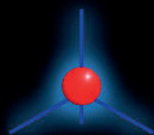
The Silver Squad is made up of younger, but no less enthusiastic players, from upper Primary School and early High School aged kids. They are being rehearsed and conducted by Sophie Ward-Murray who's family have a long history of involvement with the band. Sophie's experience with musical directors in several higher grade bands brings a depth of knowledge to this young group, Sophie hopes that they will soon be ready to move on to the Youth Band. Last but not least are our PBuzzers who are being taught and conducted by two well known ladies in the band, Donna Hamilton and Rhona Musgrave, both of whom started playing with the band over 50 years ago. Incidentally, they were the first females to be allowed to join the band, at that time being a strictly male organisation, and opened the way for many more to follow. This group is made up of even younger players from mid Primary School aged kids. They decided to start the PBuzzers around August 2023, which was made possible by the growing availability of the instrument which are relatively easy to blow and produce a sound, making it possible to get these younger players started at a very early age. They progressed on to brass instruments in January 2024 which is a remarkable achievement, well done ladies.

All of these ensembles played a selection of wonderfully entertaining music and helped to put together what was another very successful Peebles Burgh Silver Band Concert.

Lots of excitement building in the band with Beltane being just around the corner, so hope to see you around the town most days of that week.

Most importantly, this year the PBSB is 190 years old and are excited to announce that they will be performing the BELTANE RETREAT on Saturday 22nd June along with The City of Edinburgh Pipes and Drums, come along and listen on Peebles High Street commencing at 7.00pm.

Thanks for reading this article and look forward to giving a full report of our Beltane performances next month.



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TWEEDDALE U3A

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11th June** at 2pm in St Joseph's Hall, Peebles.

Our speaker is Mary Craig, a former Carnegie scholar and graduate of the University of Glasgow. She is a writer and historian who researches and writes extensively about various aspects of the history of northern Europe; most notably how political changes affect people's lives and how individuals and communities react to those changes. She has a particular interest in the women and men accused as witches in 17th century Scotland and is the author of the recently published book 'Borders Witch Hunt.'

Her talk will focus on the **Peebles Witch Trial of 1629**. The people of Peebles were swept up into the larger witch panic which spread across Lowland Scotland. This resulted in 27 individuals being arrested, interrogated and ultimately executed as witches; the youngest of whom may have been only 14 years old.

This promises to be a fascinating talk, so come along and hear something about our local history.

Refreshments will be served after the talk.

NB: Zoom will **not** be available.

Peebles & District Community Council

Extract from the Chair's Report

This is the writer's second AGM and covers a full year from May 2023. The report includes a lot of detail, more than an AGM usually requires. However, it is included to make two important points.

Firstly, on occasion we, that is the PCC has been accused of doing nothing worthwhile. This form of comment is always via social media and although it says more about the poster than it does about the PCC, it does cause some angst amongst our members. The detail here [See Website - <https://ccrbpeebles.co.uk/>] surely buries those comments stone dead. Allied to these comments is the occasional complaint that we haven't taken a particular action that the poster would have liked to see. Assuming that the poster is eligible to be a member of the PCC, they are welcome to join us and work free for the community. We should [instead] take heart from all the supportive verbal feedback that we hear day in and day out.

The second point relates to the community council system itself. Peebles CC receives £1,501 per annum, with only Galashiels and Hawick receiving more at nearly £2,000. Communities such as Walkerburn receive just short of £700, which the writer would argue is still too little by a long way. Our population is approaching 10,000 and Walkerburn is a tenth of our size but receives 50% of our funding. Our funding has deteriorated year on year from an equivalent today of around £2,100. If the reader considers the size and complexity of Peebles, and

that de-facto our community council is a poor replacement for a town council, then the support we have is pathetic. The average cost of a secretary today in Scotland is £28K per annum. Our secretary works three days a week for an honorarium of a few hundred pounds. If we don't have a volunteer, we don't have a secretary and then we don't have a community council. Someone in government, local and national wants to think about this and with some urgency.

It is impossible for this writer not to follow a trail. How much does local democracy cost in the Borders and how much in the country for a year? A little rounded up research gave less than £60,000. There are 68 community councils. Applied to the 1,200 [CCs] in Scotland this gives a rough estimate of less than a million pounds for the year. Of course, we are a low population in the Borders and the average may not be very accurate. However, it's almost certainly less than three million. So much for local democracy! Did those councillors who made the recommendations to SBC for another 10% fixed for three years, after a hiatus since 2009 actually discuss anything of substance, or did they just decide 10% sounded like a nice round figure? Councillors should be on our side, the side of the voters, and although they have difficult decisions to make can they really defend such a position [this time]?

Peter Maudsley
Chair

Bonnie Peebles SCIO

We held a very successful coffee morning in April and raised the tremendous sum of £1,223.35. Thank you to everyone who came along to the Burgh Hall and supported us. Thanks also to G.S. Chapman Ltd for supplying the biscuits and Tesco for donating a bottle of whisky for our raffle. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying a catch up over their cuppa.

Our gardening calendar is well underway now with a few weeding and tidying days behind us. On Wednesday 15th May all our areas had the bedding and tulip bulbs removed. The beds were all dug over and fertiliser applied. The tulip bulbs will be dried off and replanted in the autumn. Peebles Golf Club have been given lots of polyanthus which they will use in their chosen sites to provide splashes of colour. We were fortunate to have a nice dry morning and the teams did a fine job, clearing the beds at the Train, Gun Shed, Swimming Pool, Hay Lodge, Northgate Garden, School Brae, Forest View and the War Memorial. All tidy and ready for our next big day! Planting Out!! Can I please make a request? Anyone who is unfortunately not able to come out and help us now but may still have a Bonnie Peebles high vis. waistcoat, could they please return it to us. Thank you.

The summer bedding order of 5,000 plants will be delivered on Monday 27th May. Once again our Co-Ordinator, Avril will have planned the teams to go to the above areas and carry out the work of planting up the beds to provide the colourful displays over the next few months. Hanging baskets will be supplied by Derek at Scott Bros. for the Quadrangle which we will feed and water and Fleurtations will supply and maintain the 8 baskets above the tourist office and the 4 on the Provosts Lamps on the High Street. All will be in place before Beltane.

As a group we are delighted that one of our committee members, Margaret Stalker has been chosen as Crowning Lady 2024. A very well deserved honour and we wish her a wonderful Beltane week.

Please do get in touch if you would like to help us at any time. You would be made very welcome.

Margaret Wightman, Secretary 01721 721518 Avril Murray, Co-Ordinator 01721 720140.

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Borders Search and Rescue Unit



New Base Update

Thanks to a grant the team has sought quotes for completion of groundwork at the rear of the base.

Activities



Photo - B Tyson

The BSARU was formed in 1963 and the Borders Underwater Search Team (BUWST) in 1997. Since then both teams have held an annual combined training day until Covid interrupted. On the last Sunday in April the teams once again resumed joint training at Rutherford Boathouse, on the Teviot. The teams split into two with an upriver and a down river scenario, the groups reversing the scenarios in the afternoon. BSARU team members searched both banks of the Teviot, and BUWST team members took to the water to search after having transported a few of the land-based team members to the far side of the river. Both scenarios encompassed an island, and it was there that the casualties were located. Once the missing person had been assessed and treated evacuation of the casualty across the river was undertaken by the BUWST.

During the lunch break BSARU team members had the opportunity to practice using throw lines to BUWST members floating down the faster flowing section of the river.

Some of the team provided cover for the Coldingham Trail Run and for the North Berwick Triathlon.

The six monthly Personal Protective Equipment Inspection was carried out at the beginning of May.

The team recently searched Binnie Wood near North Berwick for a missing person. One or two later discovered the odd tick had latched on to them. Common between March and October, the sheep or deer tick does not fly or jump but climbs on to animals or humans as they brush past.

Seymour Haugh

Further information

<https://www.scottishmountainrescue.org> and
<http://www.bordersar.org.uk>

BSARU is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCo232213

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Councillor Robin Tatler (Independent)
Tweeddale East
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Email: robin.tatler@scotborders.gov.uk



Councillor Drummond Begg (Liberal Democrat)
Tweeddale West
Tel. 01835 825117
Email: Drummond.begg@scotborders.gov.uk
Twitter: @drummondbegg

**will hold a Joint Advice Session
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Borders
Community Action



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FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Eastgate Theatre Studio, ground floor Monday 24th June 10am - 12



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PEEBLES CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ASSOCIATION



Peebles Christmas Lights Association (PCLA) recently held their Annual General Meeting and welcomed two members of Peebles Business and Retailers Association (PBRA) who have joined the committee.

Once again PCLA have had a busy year. The biggest project undertaken was the impressive new feature on the façade of the Eastgate Theatre. It took a considerable amount of planning. Not only was it technically challenging but applications had to be made to fund it.

Meanwhile bad weather caused other problems. No matter how hard you try to make sure things are watertight water always seems to find its way in! The reindeer on top of the Tontine canopy was a casualty of all the rain and now needs a major repair. Fortunately the manufacturer and supplier have conceded there was a flaw in its construction and will repair it free of charge.

The Switch On Event in December was a great success. Peebles Chief Callant Adrian Swanston, who chaired the meeting for the election of office bearers, said that members of PCLA should be commended for the time and effort it takes to organise and run this event every year. Both the Chairman of PCLA David Elder, and the Chief Callant made a plea for more volunteers. The lights on the High Street don't go up and down by themselves and PCLA are looking for some younger people to join us and learn how things are done.

The Chairman thanked the committee for all their hard work over the year. and added that the support from Stobo Castle, Glenrath Farms, Peebles Callants, Peebles Round Table, other organisations and individuals is always much appreciated.

The Chief Callant also thanked the committee for the sterling job they do in providing our lovely town with one of the best Christmas High Streets around.

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Dementia Awareness Week 27th May – 2nd June.

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Do you know that, currently in UK, 944,000 people are estimated to be living with dementia? This figure is predicted to rise to over 1.1 million by 2030 and to 1.6million by 2050. These figures are startling – but they are seriously come by (see here <https://dementiastatistics.org/>).

Perhaps it is time to become aware and to accept that the condition of dementia is now a part of our society and our community life, whether we like it or not. So far dementia is not curable, but research is ongoing in nearly every university in the UK. A great deal has been learned about this brain disease, which is now the leading cause of death. It is said that more people dread getting dementia than cancer or heart disease. Yet, before recent years, many people have never come across it in their families. We think that is because we are now living longer and more likely to be affected in our 80s and 90s. It must also to be noticed that early onset dementia is also a problem – affecting an estimated 70,800 persons under 65 in UK.

The UKs leading research charity is **Alzheimers Research UK** -

<https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>. Some others are **Join Dementia Research** - <https://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>, which has lots of brain training games to play, and **Dementia Research UK** <https://demruk.org/>, who fund dementia research and have an interesting website.

Will you help in the research online? Brain Training Games are good fun and very absorbing. Young people are encouraged to participate. Changes in the brain start many years before dementia becomes obvious. Researchers need to learn what happens from the beginning.

Gradually Dementia Friendly Tweeddale is spreading dementia awareness in Tweeddale with our Memory Café, our Tea Dances, and Recollective Choir. See our Facebook page for current event information and ongoing interest in development. We have made great intergenerational connections with young volunteers from SchoolsOut and Peebles High School Young People. We are connecting with other districts of Tweeddale. And we are working with the official services to help people with the diagnosis to reach out and find ways to help them keep going.

Please help us and our colleagues in other local organisations – Nomad Beat, Greener Peebles, Friends of Dovecot Court, Cyrenians, RVS - to make Tweeddale Dementia Friendly, where people affected by dementia are understood, respected, supported and enabled to participate in community life.

Dementia Friendly Tweeddale, Registered Scottish Charity SC052395

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PEEBLES PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

For the last meeting of the spring session in May, I was delighted to present a visual quiz entitled "Peebles Walk-About", which was photographed, researched and compiled by Steve and Emma Scott. They both put a lot of hard work into the quiz, picking out interesting features around Peebles that we may see on a regular basis (but could we remember where we had seen them?), as well as others that many had never seen before! This was a very much enjoyed afternoon and special thanks to Steve and Emma for their imaginative quiz, which gave us all something to look out for the next time we are out and about.

It is very much hoped that the May meeting will be the last one without a guest speaker and that normal service will resume in the autumn, with much better sound quality in the Burgh Hall, once the acoustic panels are installed.

We are now looking forward to our annual summer lunch, which always falls within a few days of the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Old Age Pensioners Association (Peebles Branch) in 1938, which through a couple of incarnations became Peebles Pensioners Association.

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.

Laura Scott (Secretary) 07484 663518

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Report reveals billions going unclaimed each year

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) has warned that hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland are missing out on money they are entitled to. A new report from [“Policy in Practice”](#) estimates that close to £23 billion in social security payments and cheaper deals are going unclaimed across the UK by around 8 million people. Last year the Citizens Advice network in Scotland unlocked £142 million for people, with the average gain for those who saw a gain being £3,700.

Commenting on the report, **Citizens Advice Scotland Social Justice spokesperson Emma Jackson said:**

“During the worst cost of living crisis in memory, millions of people across the UK are missing out on billions of pounds that they are entitled to.

“In Scotland that figure could run to hundreds of thousands of people who could be missing out. That’s unacceptable when 1 in 4 children in Scotland is growing up in poverty.

“We hope this report encourages people to seek what support they are entitled to, and they can check www.moneymap.scot to see their options.

“It should encourage policymakers to see huge economic and social impact of properly funding advice services like CABs to empower people to exercise their rights to the payments they are entitled to in the first place.”

We know from experience in the Tweeddale area that the most underclaimed benefits are Pension Credit and Carers Allowance. If you think you might be eligible for those, or any other benefit, book an appointment for a confidential benefit check with one of our advisers.

At Peebles and District CAB, in the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, we had 2,840 client contacts and produced Client Financial Gains of £584,030.

CHARITY FACES HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POUNDS IN CHARGES TO PROVIDE ADVICE

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) is warning that proposals to charge advice agencies who provide immigration advice fees could have a ‘disastrous’ impact.

The Home Office is currently consulting on introducing charges for bodies providing immigration advice.

Immigration advice is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, who charge fees for those providing immigration advice to pay for their regulatory activity.

However, CABs across Britain have a block exemption and are classed as a ‘non-fee charging sector’. The regulator is proposing a system which would see CABs charged registration and re-registration fees which could cost the network in Scotland hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. CAS estimates set up costs could be over £300,000, with ongoing costs around £223,000 per year.

In a consultation response, CAS warns the impact of these changes would place a financial burden on CABs already struggling with demand.

Citizens Advice Scotland Chief Executive Derek Mitchell said:

“What these proposals fail to recognise is the wraparound nature of our advice service. People don’t come to a CAB with just one problem and four in ten cases advisors deal with are complex, requiring multiple different types of advice, restricting access to any type of advice makes it harder to help people.

“Last year 12,743 pieces of immigration-related advice were given to 4,406 people by CABs in Scotland. These clients didn’t just get immigration advice – they got help on housing, employment and energy as well. By restricting our ability to help these clients with immigration issues, it restricts our ability to help with everything.”

If you are experiencing any of the above issues, or need help or advice on anything else, please contact:

**Gill Westwood, Manager, Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau,
Chambers Institution, Peebles, EH45 8AG.**

01721 721 722

Gill.Westwood@peeblescab.casonline.org.uk

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