

YES Arts Festival 2015

Diary of Events 9 – 19 September

FESTIVAL OFFICE open daily at La Contea, by courtesy of the County Hotel, with information, tickets, competition forms, and voting slips for your favourite New Border Ballad.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| From Wed 9 | 11am - 4pm | Trace exhibition | 1 Tower Street |
| | 11am – 4pm | Landscapes exhibition | The Studio on the Green |
| | 10am – 5pm | Moonwatching exhibition | Forest Bookstore |
| | 10am – late | Willie Muirhead exhibition | County Hotel (all FREE) |
| 9, 11, 13, 16, 18 | 2pm – 5pm | James Hogg exhibition | Etrick School (FREE) |
| Thu 10 | 7.30pm | Scottish Chamber Orchestra | Victoria Halls £16, £14, £5 |
| From Thu 10 | | Souter Stormers | various locations |
| Fri 11 | leaving 6.30pm | Car Treasure Hunt | Country Store, Selkirk £10 |
| Sat 12 – Sat 19 | 2pm – 6pm w/e 12pm – 6pm | Hail and Farewell exhibition | Clapperton Studio FREE |
| Sat 12 – Sun 20 | 11am – 4pm | Beyond the Shutter | The Haining £1 |
| Sat 12 & Sun 13 | 12pm – 4pm | Helen Douglas open studio | Deuchar Mill |
| Sat 12 & Sun 13 | 12pm – 4pm | Robert Maguire open studio | Etrickbridge (both FREE) |
| Mon 14 – Fri 18 | 12pm – 4pm | FESTIVAL OFFICE open daily | |
| Tue 15 | 2.30 & 7.30pm | Poetry Challenge Read-a-thon | County Hotel (FREE) |
| Wed 16 | 7.30pm | John Nichol & friends - Around the Bleezin' Ingle | Yarrowfeus Hall £10 |
| Fri 18 | 1pm | John Nichol & friends – Around the Bleezin' Ingle | County Hotel £12 |
| Sat 12 | 10am – 5pm | Yarrow & Etrick Show | Carterhaugh |
| Sat 19 | 1.30pm | Poetry Challenge Awards | Bowhill House (by invitation) |
| Sat 19 | 2.30pm | Bravura Ballads | Bowhill Theatre £10 |
| Sat 19 | 4pm & 7pm | Borderlands | Bowhill House (FREE) |
| Sat 19 | 7pm | Ethel Maude in Conversation | The Haining |



celebrating creative work in Yarrow, Etrick and Selkirk



**Details of
YES Arts Festival
and associated
events in Selkirk
and the valleys of
Etrick and Yarrow
9 – 19 September 2015**



POETRY

Poetry Challenge – New Border Ballads

The valleys of Ettrick and Yarrow were the cradle of many of the finest of the great Border Ballads. The challenge for poets in 2015 was to bring that tradition into the present day by writing a ballad set within fifty years of 2015. The ballads had to adhere to the convention of telling a story, have a structure of regular metre and rhyme, and a length of between 20 and 200 lines. They could be written in contemporary Scots (including Border Scots, Teri, Dumfriesshire dialect) or English (including Northumbrian and Cumbrian).

The competition attracted entries from across the UK, with final honours awarded by a judging panel drawn from some of the top names in UK poetry and literature – Rab Wilson, Luke Wright and Gerda Stevenson. This year's challenge proves that the ballad form is still alive and well in the 21st century.

The Awards Ceremony

The Duke of Buccleuch hosts this year's Awards Ceremony at Bowhill House. Prizes will be awarded for the best ballads selected by the panel of judges, and for the most popular work chosen by members of the public.

Bowhill House
Sat 19 Sept, 1.30pm
(by invitation only)

The People's Prize

The public also have an opportunity to cast their vote and select their own prize-winner from the shortlisted entries. Copies of the shortlist are available to read at Rogersons Newsagents, the Selkirk Library, the Courtyard Cafe, or the Waterwheel, with voting slips to be completed by Thursday 17 September.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Read-a-thon

Local residents also have two opportunities to listen to a live recitation of the whole shortlist presented by John Nichol, Janet Coulson and others, with voting slips gathered in at the end of each session.

Scott's Hall, County Hotel, Selkirk
Tue 15 Sept, 2.30 & 7.30pm
FREE

Bravura Ballads

The three judges of the New Border Ballads take to the stage to share some of their own work, in poetry and song.



Ayrshire-born **Rab Wilson** is one of the country's foremost

poets in the Scots language – with work ranging from a virtuosic translation of *The Ruba'iyat of Omar Khayyam*, to verses penned during his residency in Ettrick as James Hogg Fellow in 2013.



Gerda Stevenson – actor, writer, director, singer and song writer – won first prize in the inaugural YES Arts Festival Poetry Challenge in 2013, and has more recently won acclaim for a new album of self-penned songs, *Night Touches Day*.



Photo by Steve Ullathorne

Performance poet and broadcaster **Luke Wright** has updated the traditional ballad form into a witty, bawdy style to suit contemporary stories. His work is described as 'visceral, poignant and riotously funny.'

Bowhill Theatre, by Selkirk
Sat 19 Sept, 2.30pm
£10

EXHIBITIONS

Trace

Mary Morrison, Clare Money, Inge Pannells

This small but beautifully formed exhibition shows the work of three artists whose artworks are all informed by maps and mapping. The title of the exhibition refers to the investigative nature of their work – tracing old, perhaps forgotten vestiges of culture, which have formed the Borders landscape.

Mary Morrison is an artist based in Selkirk whose work 'investigate the relationship between the individual and the landscape that has shaped them, something you carry with you – a geography of the mind'.

Much of her work is inspired by relationships between the written word – poetry in particular – and image, and some works respond to the geo-poetical writings of Kenneth White, and the Sufi poet Rumi.

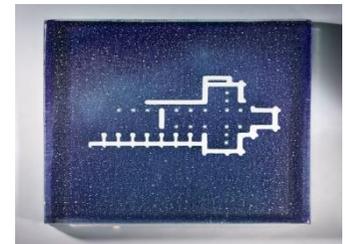
Clare Money is an artist who reworks old maps: 'In working with erased maps I aim to examine how we communicate what is no longer; how do we tell of lost places?'

Her current work is topical, as it investigates the now abandoned Riccarton railway junction, part of the old Waverly line to Carlisle – now partially re-opened as the new Borders Railway.

Inge Pannells has been mapping as a means to get a sense of place, as part of her ongoing Map-I project. The works in this exhibition were informed by an artist-in-residency at Jedburgh Abbey in 2012.

Selkirk formed the site of the very first Borders abbey, of which four remain, so it is fitting to show these four works on the site of the fifth and original abbey – the exact location of which remains disputed.

1 Tower Street, Selkirk
Wed 9 – Tue 15 Sept
11am – 4pm



EXHIBITIONS

Landscapes and Seascapes

Patricia Sadler & Helen Tabor

Based in the Scottish Borders, **Patricia Sadler** draws inspiration from the land and seascapes of Northumberland, the Scottish Borders, Scotland's west coast and the Hebridean isles.

She paints in a free and fluid style using watercolour, acrylic and mixed media, always searching for an emotional response which leads the mind beyond what the eye perceives.

Patricia's work is widely collected, and has feature in both solo and group exhibitions throughout the UK.



Helen Tabor is a painter who lives and works in the Borders. Born in Middlesex, Helen studied English and History at York University, then spent a number of years teaching in the UK and in the Himalayas before settling in Scotland in 1992.

Since then she has concentrated on her career as a painter (as well as rearing three children), exhibiting widely in the UK, Germany and Denmark. All her work is oil on canvas or board, with subject matter varying according to what she finds inspiring at the time – usually landscapes, seascapes, and images from her travels.



The Studio on the Green

19 The Green, Selkirk

Wed 9 – Sat 19 Sept

11am – 4pm

CABARET

Around the Bleezin' Ingle

For the past 15 years, American tourists have been entertained by **John Nichol**, **Iain Fraser** and **Gordon Kelly**, as part of an annual Songs of Scotland tour organized by Texas-based folksinger and radio presenter Ed Miller.

Now local audiences get the chance to see the **Friends of Ed**, and enjoy their entertaining mix of traditional stories, songs and fiddle tunes.



Yarrow Feus Hall, Yarrow
Wed 16 Sept
7.30pm
£8

As an alternative to the evening performance, you can enjoy the company of **Friends of Ed** over a light lunch at the County Hotel, upstairs in Scott's Hall.

Scott's Hall, County Hotel, Selkirk
Fri 18 Sept, 1pm
£12 (includes soup and roll)

Book in advance for either performance at the Festival Office in La Contea, open Mon 14 – Fri 18, 12 – 4pm

MUSIC

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

The orchestra pays a welcome return visit to Selkirk, under the baton of Ben Gernon. The concert includes Rakastava by Sibelius, Beethoven's 'Eroica' Symphony, and a performance of Mozart's Horn Concerto featuring the orchestra's award-winning Principal Horn, Alec Frank-Gemmill.

The evening starts with the premiere of a new work by Borders composer Chris Achenbach, commissioned to celebrate the opening of the Borders Railway. The work is written for wind quartet and Border pipes – with Borders-based piper Matt Seattle joining four SCO musicians for the performance.



Chris has titled his piece **Lament and Flourish** – recalling the sad demise of local railways under the Beeching cuts, as well as celebrating the success of those who've campaigned for many years to bring trains back to the Borders.

Victoria Halls, Selkirk
Thu 10 Sept, 7.30pm
£16 (£14, £5)
tickets available from Rodgersons

Karine Polwart at the String Jam Club

An unmissable opportunity to enjoy an evening in the company of the Queen of Scottish folk music.



Karine's debut album Faultlines won three awards at the 2005 BBC Folk Awards and the follow-up, Scribbled in Chalk, included the song Daisy which won Best Original Song in the 2007 BBC Folk Awards.

Her latest CD Traces was shortlisted across all genres in the Scottish Album of the Year Awards 2012, as well as winning the accolade of Album of the Year from The Guardian and The Sunday Herald.

'For me' says Polwart 'music is one of the most powerful ways of making sense of the world. It's for celebrating, grieving, sharing, wondering.' *Nothing inspires me more than the realization that any one of my songs means something to someone else.*

County Hotel, Selkirk
Sat 12 Sept, 7.30pm
£15
phone 01750 721233
to book in advance



DANCE

Dudendance presents Borderlands

This production was created in 2014, the year of the Scottish Referendum, and performed within four Border Abbey sites at Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose and Dryburgh, as well as for the Queen's Baton Relay in Hawick.

Borderlands draws on the juxtaposition of spirituality and war, contemplation and conquest. The phantasmagorical figures could be seen as colonising the landscape, or fleeing from a place of conflict. The work does not aim to impose itself or represent specific events, but to show a kind of simplicity that makes people aware of the spaces around them.

Heather MacCrimmon's costumes are inspired by paintings of the Renaissance – combining historical dress, armour and ecclesiastical wear in garments designed for free-flowing movement and shape-shifting.

in front of Bowhill House,
by Selkirk
Sat 19 Sept, 4pm & 7pm
FREE



Dudendance ad lib

Visitors to The Haining in Selkirk might catch some early glimpses of the Dudendance performers the previous weekend, as they work on extracts from the Borderlands performance at various locations around the house and grounds.

around The Haining, Selkirk
Fri 11 / Sat 12 Sept
FREE

A big THANK YOU is extended to all those who have provided funding and support for this year's festival – especially the Duke of Buccleuch, County Hotel, Andrew Elliot, Lochcarron, Selkirk Regeneration Company, Souter Stormers, Studio on the Green, several anonymous donors, many volunteers, and all the artists and venues involved.

EXHIBITIONS

Hail and Farewell Johnny Gailey and The Clapperton Trust

For over 140 years, four generations of one family worked from the same Victorian Daylight Studio in Selkirk. This exhibition pays tribute to the photographers, and to the family that continued to run the studio as a museum for 20 years until its closure earlier this year.

Archive material is shown together with a set of contemporary screen printed interpretations by Edinburgh based artist **Johnny Gailey**. The exhibition is the last chance to see the studio, and the images from the archive in situ.



The Clapperton Studio
28 Scotts Place, Selkirk
Sat 12 – Sat 19 Sept,
2 – 6pm
(weekends 12 - 6pm)

Moonwatching Tom Heatley

Recent works from the artist take as their axis 'moon watching' and an illuminating thought from Maurice Merleau-Ponty's writings on perception: 'Vision en-counters as at a cross-roads all the aspects of being'.



These large series prints have both graphic ground- play and airy, filmic surfaces. Estuary, calendar and cosmos drift in and out of sight/mind.

Forest Bookstore,
Market Place, Selkirk
Wed 9 – Sat 19 Sept
10am – 5pm

Valley Views Willie Muirhead



A selection of new work by a local artist who draws his inspiration from the Selkirkshire countryside.

Lounge Bar, County Hotel,
Selkirk
Wed 9 – Sat 19 Sept

James Hogg Exhibition



The valleys have a very important literary history. James Hogg, often called The Ettrick Shepherd, spent his entire life in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys. His most famous work, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, is important in Scottish literature. He was a lifelong friend of Sir Walter Scott, who aided his career as a writer wherever possible.

Poetry, portraits and other memorabilia are included in this engaging exhibition.

Ettrick School, TD7 5JA
9, 11, 13, 16, 18 Sept,
2 – 5pm

FILM

FILM SCREENINGS Improbable Cinema The Haining Workshop



The films in this programme celebrate our local film-makers and the diversity of works produced within the **Moving Image Makers Collective**.

This is a rolling programme of around thirty short to medium length films – step in and out at any time and expect to be constantly surprised!

Filmmakers include:
Joy Parker, Jason Baxter, Jules Horne, Grace Connor, Chris Maginn, Jessie Growden, Frank Brown, Dorothy Alexander, Patrick Rafferty, Jason Moyes, Eileen Cummings, Kenny Mitchell, Sara Clark, Kirsty Jobling, Kerry Jones, Tony Gulvin, Julie Witford, Richard Ashrowan, Narda Azaria Dalgleish.
The Bird & The Monkey

SPECIAL SCREENING Ethel Maude in Conversation

This special screening is devoted to exploring the collaborative practices of **Ethel Maude**, a collective of artists, designers and filmmakers based in Edinburgh.

It features their experimental video work *Exquisite Corpse*, which adapts the rules of a Surrealists' game involving a folded paper onto which each member of a group draws a body part.



The Haining, Selkirk Sat 19 Sept, 7pm

OPEN STUDIOS

Open Studio Helen Douglas

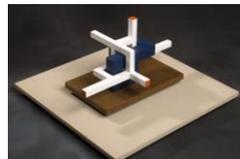
An invitation to visit Deuchar Mill, where the artist has lived, worked and created artists' books for 40 years. Helen opens her workshop to show visitors the presses, explain the working process and discuss her work with those interested.



Deuchar Mill near Yarrow Kirk, Yarrow Sat 12 & Sun 13 Sept 12 – 4pm

Open Studio Robert Maguire

In his career as an architect, Robert Maguire rethought the design of student housing, as well as the planning of churches for modern workshop. He now has time to pursue his passion for abstract sculpture, and opens up his studio to show current work in progress.



Hopewater House Ettrickbridge, TD7 5JN Sat 12 & Sun 13 Sept 12 – 4pm

VISUAL ARTS

Souter Stormers



Look out for a series of colourful and creative installations, in and around Selkirk, Ettrickbridge, and the Yarrow Valley. Each of these original, colourful and crafty items has been custom-made by a member of **Souter Stormers** using a variety of techniques and lots of vivid imagination.



Various outdoor locations Wed 9 Sept – Wed 28 Oct

Sheep in Shops

Why not forget about picking up the usual loaf of bread and bottle of milk, and indulge in a little sheep shopping instead? Lots of little sheep may be found in the window display of many of Selkirk's shops, and they need to be rounded up by some keen-eyed children – any time after 7 September. **Anyone aged 12 or under can pick up an entry form from the Festival office in La Contea, match the sheep's names with a number and identify each shop which has a hidden sheep.** First three correct entries drawn will receive a prize.



Selkirk shops Mon 7 – Fri 18 Sept (hand in entry forms by 3pm)

ON THE ROAD

Car Treasure Hunt

Scottish Borders Tilters invite you to test your knowledge of Borders culture, history and literature in twenty challenging but fun clues.



Thirty miles of driving through stunning Borders scenery. Followed by prize-giving with pies, refreshments and raffle, plus late shopping available at Country Store, Selkirk on return

Limited to thirty cars, so pre-booking strongly recommended

Entry forms from Rodgersons Newsagent, Selkirk. For further information email jsteelaikwood@gmail.com

Fri 11 Sept leaving at 6.30pm £10 per car

FILM

Beyond The Shutter



The Borders-based **Moving Image Makers Collective**, a film-making group of thirty members, presents a programme of over twenty locally made films and ten moving image installations at The Haining.

The site specific installations – situated in the house, cottage and outbuildings – offer a uniquely cinematic vision of grassroots creative renewal in the Borders. Subjects range from folklore to punk aesthetics, the haunting of Tibbie Tamson to the mercurial mysticism of feathers.

The Haining, Selkirk
Sat 12 – Sun 20 Sept
11am – 4pm
£1

FILM INSTALLATIONS
Forest 2
Jessie Groden
The Haining entrance



This film is an exploration into winter in Craik Forest. Filmed entirely on an iPhone, the tall and narrow space for finding images creates a new way of composing images. The film is an attempt to challenge the idea of 'deep dark woods' as a scary place that is dark and haunted.

FILM INSTALLATIONS

Some Room

Kerry Jones
The Haining Morning Room

Enter a room through a door /
Leave by a door
Spying some or no detail /
Leaving with impressions of
our own making.



Film Strip
Chris Maginn
The Haining stairwell

A series of unconnected impressions, moods and ideas contributed by several artists and edited by Chris Maginn. A substantial contribution to the hollow, echoing coffers of MIMC will get you your very own copy of film strip.



FILM

FILM INSTALLATIONS
Yarn of the Forgotten:
Tibbie Tamson Unbound
Sarahjane Swan & Roger Swan
a.k.a **The Bird & The Monkey**
The Haining Library



'By Haining Loch, beneath the dark'ning skies, what raging storm beyond the shutters lies?'

Victim or plague or murders?
Unravelling the yarn of Selkirk's
Tibbie Tamson, buried on un-
consecrated ground in 1790.

The Hope
Narda Azaria Dagleish
The Haining Dining Room

Realisations:time / timelessness,
colour / colourless.

A single channel installation depicting old archive footage of Hawick and the Scottish Borders, with some insights from interviews with alumni of Chisholme House, and some of the film-maker's poetry.



Celluloid Dreams
Jason Moyes
The Cottage - downstairs
left



This textural piece utilises a mid-20th century home movie to explore the deterioration of the American dream.

A sideways look at the minutiae of everyday life or an 'obsession with the ordinary'.

Property is Theft
Andrew Forsythe & Tony Gulvin
The Cottage - upstairs left



A day in the life of an anarchist squatter, living in the Scottish Borders.

The video installation is accompanied by a Tony Gulvin film.

Fugacious:
Addressing
Ephemerality
Sam Christopher Cornwell
The Cottage – downstairs
right

Technology has allowed us to send and share imagery at a faster and more transient pace. **Fugacious** explores one inevitable yet ridiculous nirvana we are headed for.



Mercurius
Richard Ashrowan
The Cottage - upstairs right



A film installation celebrating the mercurial nature of us all, through a mysterious encounter with feathers.

Within alchemy, the rising of the spirit vapour from heated mercury was often depicted using images of feathers.