

# WILD WRITERS

*Festival 2024*  
26 – 27 JANUARY

*Words that explore nature,  
landscape, people and place.*



*find out more*

EASTGATE THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE  
BOX OFFICE 01721 725 777  
[www.eastgatearts.com](http://www.eastgatearts.com)



# WILD WRITERS

## *Festival 2024*

*Words that explore nature,  
landscape, people and place.*

A celebration of the wealth of outstanding writing about the living world and our place within it – from nature writing and adventure travel to ecology, memoir and the simple joy of time spent in wild places.

The festival showcases the work of established as well as up-and-coming authors from Scotland and beyond who will all share ideas, stories, influences and inspirations through a mix of readings, Q&As, discussions and solo presentations.

### *Featuring*

**Andrew Cotter, Kate Rawles,  
Harrison Ward (aka Fell Foodie),  
Kerri Andrews, William Young,  
Jenna Watt, Amanda Thomson,  
Beatrice Searle and Anna Fleming.**

**FRIDAY 26 JANUARY**  
**GHOSTS OF THE FOREST**

with William Young  
6pm – 7.30pm

Go Tweed Valley visitor centre, Peebles High Street

An atmospheric mix of nature writing, folklore and archaeological analysis, William Young's *Ghosts of the Forest* delves into "the country under the countries" – a lost land that gave birth to the many vivid and enigmatic legends associated with the Border region. Once known as Yr Hen Ogledd or the Old North, it was a Celtic land with beliefs and a way of life that left a profound mark on the folk cultures of the region. Join William as he journeys into the remote moors and forests of the Borders to seek out the ancient hillforts, sacred stones and holy wells where traces of this lost culture still linger – in doing so revealing how the region has shaped the course of European civilisation in ways we are only beginning to understand.

**£10, £6 under 16, £14 adult + child**

**BOOK TICKETS**



## FRIDAY 26 JANUARY COOK OUT

with Harrison Ward (aka Fell Foodie)  
6pm – 7.30pm

Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre

Better known as Fell Foodie, Harrison Ward has turned the landscape of his Cumbrian home into an open-air kitchen – creating restaurant-style meals, often on a single-burner stove, high up in the Lake District fells. In Cook Out, his debut cookbook, Harrison shares over 80 gourmet recipes, all packed with big flavours, that can be enjoyed whether out on a day walk, wild camping or just relaxing back at a campsite. As well as revealing his favourite outdoor adventure recipes – there will be samples! – Harrison will also tell the redemptive story of how a combination of his new-found love of the outdoors with a life-long passion for cooking helped turn his life around.

"Very classy food" Dame Mary Berry

£12 or £10 or £6

★ choose the option that best suits your ability to pay

### BOOK TICKETS

EASTGATE PEEBLES EH45 8AD BOX OFFICE 01721 725 777

## FRIDAY 26 JANUARY THE LIFE CYCLE

with Kate Rawles  
8pm – 9.30pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

A writer and cyclist who has long used adventurous journeys to raise awareness about environmental challenges, Kate Rawles recently spent a year cycling 8,000 miles along the length of South America on 'Woody', a self-built, bamboo-framed bike to explore the continent's biodiversity. Her resulting book, The Life Cycle, is part cracking travel story and part call to arms: a look at why the natural world is so important and what we can all do to protect it.

Shortlisted for the 2023 Banff Mountain Book Competition (Adventure category).

"A gripping read for anyone who cares about what we're doing to the planet and how we can change it" David Shukman, Former BBC News Science Editor

£14, £8 under 16, £20 adult + child

### BOOK TICKETS

for more information [www.eastgatearts.com](http://www.eastgatearts.com)



## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY WAY MAKERS

with Kerri Andrews  
(and Anna Fleming)  
11am – 12.30pm

Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre

A follow-up to her bestselling *Wanderers*, Peebles-based Kerri Andrews's *Way Makers* is the first anthology of women's writing about walking. A testament to the rich literary heritage created by generations of women walker-writers, the book takes readers from the 18th Century to present day as it traces a long tradition of women's walking literature. For the trailblazers in this anthology – Mary Wollstonecraft, Jane Austen, Nan Shepherd, Cheryl Strayed, Raynor Winn and many more – walking is a source of creativity and comfort; a means of expressing grief, longing and desire. It is also a complicated activity: walking represents freedom but is also sometimes tinged with danger and fear. Kerri appears in conversation with Anna Fleming, author of *Time On Rock*.

*"A scintillating and exciting collection of women's voices"*

Katharine Norbury, author of  
*The Fish Ladder*

£12 or £10 or £6

★ choose the option  
that best suits your  
ability to pay

**BOOK TICKETS**



## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY HINDSIGHT

with Jenna Watt  
(and Amanda Thomson)  
1pm – 2.30pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

*Hindsight* is the story of writer and theatre-maker Jenna Watt's experience of stalking a deer hind on a vast Highland estate as part of an attempt to understand the shifting baselines of 'rewilding', and what it means emotionally and physically to participate in Scotland's deer cull. In what is an insightful, non-scientific exploration of wilderness and Highland identity, she unravels the story of that day's hunt, interlaced with a discovery that her ancestors were deer stalkers, gamekeepers and ghillies who participated in what are now considered by many as ecologically damaging land practices. Jenna Watt appears in conversation with Amanda Thomson, author of *belonging*.

*"Hindsight is about much more than deer... Watt has an unsparing eye for whims and ecological blind spots"*

The Times Literary Supplement

£14, £8 under 16, £20 adult + child

**BOOK TICKETS**

EASTGATE PEEBLES EH45 8AD BOX OFFICE 01721 725 777

## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY STONE WILL ANSWER

with Beatrice Searle  
3pm – 4.30pm

Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre

A compelling memoir, travelogue and insight into an intricate craft, artist and stone mason Beatrice Searle's *Stone Will Answer* is a most unusual adventure story. In her mid-20s, Beatrice crossed the North Sea and walked 500 miles through Southern Norway on a medieval pilgrim path to Trondheim, taking with her a 40-kilo stone from the west coast of Orkney. She had recently completed her masonry training at Lincoln Cathedral and become fascinated with the mysterious footprint stones of Scandinavia and Northern Europe – stones closely associated with travellers, saints and the inauguration of kings. In an incredible feat of endurance, she follows in their footsteps on a unique adventure that asks what lessons might be learned from stone, what we choose to carry with us and what we return to put down or pick up again. Beatrice appears in conversation with Anna Fleming, author of *Time on Rock*.

*"A story of dedication and tenacity that is deeply moving and utterly captivating ... a beautifully crafted tale of an artist's extraordinary journey."*

Sally Huband, author of *Sea Bean*

£12 or £10 or £6

★ choose the option that best  
suits your ability to pay

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## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY BELONGING

with Amanda Thomson  
5pm – 6.30pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

A visual artist, writer and lecturer at Glasgow School of Art, Amanda Thomson originally trained as a printmaker – with her interdisciplinary work often exploring notions of home, migration, landscape and the natural world. All are apparent in her latest book, *belonging*, a personal memoir about what it is to have and make a home. Informed by her previous book, *A Scots Dictionary of Nature*, it is a language-rich love letter to nature, especially the northern landscapes of Scotland and specifically the ancient Scots pinewoods around Abernethy. Join Amanda as she shares a mix of art, film work and readings that highlight how place, language and family shape who we are.

Shortlisted for the James Cropper Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing, 2023.

*"A book full of questions in a genre full of answers, but it is all the more powerful and beautiful for this"* Times Literary Supplement

**£14, £8 under 16, £20 adult + child**

**BOOK TICKETS**

## SATURDAY 27 JANUARY DOG DAYS

an evening with Andrew Cotter  
7.30pm – 9pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

A world away from his busy life as a BBC sports broadcaster covering major events from The Olympic Games to Wimbledon, the Ryder Cup and The Six Nations, Andrew Cotter likes nothing better than relaxing with his dogs, Olive and Mabel, ideally up a mountain. But these are no ordinary dogs: Andrew's hilarious and brilliantly paced commentaries on a series of video contests between the pair became an online lockdown treat for many – and made household names of Olive and Mabel. Their fame rocketed further following Andrew's two books about life with the endearing and eternally hungry pair – *Olive, Mabel & Me* and *Dog Days* – and how, deep down, there is "nothing as joyful as the simple happiness of dogs". Our headline session at this year's festival, join us for an informal chat with Andrew about his adventures with two superstar Labradors and, of course, his side hustle as a broadcaster for some of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

**£18, £8 under 16, £22 adult + child**

**BOOK TICKETS**



## USEFUL INFORMATION...

**Go Tweed Valley** is on the ground floor of the Chambers Institution on Peebles High Street, EH45 8AG

The Eastgate Theatre post code is **EH45 8AD**

### Car Parking

Use the Edinburgh Road Car Park. It is free every day except Saturday from 8.30am to 5.30pm. From the car park, take the pedestrian footpath towards town. The Eastgate is a 2 to 3 minute walk.

By Bus – Borders Buses run regular services to/from Edinburgh via Penicuik, and to/from Galashiels via Innerleithen and Walkerburn. The nearest bus stop (for buses in both directions) is opposite the theatre, at the Post Office.

### Tickets

You can buy tickets in person at Box Office, over the phone on 01721 725777 or online at [www.eastgatearts.com](http://www.eastgatearts.com)  
Pay using cash, cheque, debit or credit cards (excluding AmEx).

Tickets can be kept at the box office for collection, or posted out for a £1.50 charge.

### Reservations

We will only reserve tickets for groups of 10 or more. Any group reservations not paid for within an agreed timescale will be released for general sale.

### Refunds

Refunds are only given if a show is cancelled. Tickets may be exchanged or transferred at the discretion of the Box Office Manager. For shows which sell out we will try to resell any tickets returned, but this cannot be guaranteed.

### Data protection

All customer details are treated confidentially. The Eastgate adheres to all GDPR rules on customer data.

### Special effects

We will inform you as soon as we find out a show has special effects. Often we are not told in advance so please look out for signs in the foyer.

### Latecomers

If you are delayed and miss a show start time we will do our best to admit you as soon as we can to a seat at the back of the auditorium (to minimise disturbance). You may have to wait until a suitable break in the show and, occasionally, until the interval.

### Accessibility

The Eastgate has level access, adapted toilet facilities and a passenger lift. There are six spaces to accommodate wheelchairs (please book in advance through Box Office). The seating bank is also fitted with grab rails.

### Babies/young children

Are welcome in the café and the theatre. In the theatre under-two year olds are classified as babes in arms and can sit on adult's knees but must still have a ticket (it will be issued free by Box Office). Adults may be asked to remove noisy children from the theatre.


### Assist dogs


Are welcome, the front row offers the best space for dogs to lie down beside their owners, just ask at Box Office.

### Alterations to programme

All of the information in this brochure is correct at the time we go to press. However we reserve the right to be human and make the odd mistake.



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