

WILD WRITERS

Festival 2025

22 – 26 JANUARY

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

Extended to run over five days and include multiple venues, this year's Wild Writers Festival once again celebrates the wealth of outstanding writing about the living world and our place within it – from nature writing and adventure to ecology, memoir and the simple joy of time spent in wild places.

As well as showcasing the work of authors from Scotland and beyond, this year's event includes a selection of films and storytelling from adventurers who all experience the outdoors in different ways.

Find out more...

EASTGATE THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE

BOX OFFICE 01721 725 777

www.eastgatearts.com



WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY

THE MOUNTAIN WITHIN ME

1pm – 3pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

Having suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury, professional rugby player Ed Jackson's world changed forever. The Mountain Within Me charts Ed's journey of recovery as he scales the mental and physical heights of Snowdonia, the Alps and Himalayas and comes to terms with life-altering challenges closer to home.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY

NOTES FROM SHEEPLAND

7.30pm – 8.35pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

A delightfully left-field look at the life of lipstick-wearing, potty-mouthed, no-nonsense artist and shepherd, Orla Barry. A self-confessed ovine addict, she is "a decade in sheep", tending her flock of pedigree Lleyn sheep in southeast Ireland – a move that has both slowed her art career and inspired it.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

THE EAGLE WITH THE SUNLIT EYE

with online Q&A from
director Ted Simpson
3pm – 5pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

Pulling back the curtain on the reintroduction process, combining breathtaking visuals with heart stopping action, and even turning the cameras onto the filmmakers themselves, this sweeping documentary asks whether we will ever learn to live alongside the eagle with the sunlit eye. Includes online Q&A with director, Ted Simpson.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

WILD HORIZONS: SHORTS PROGRAMME

Thu 23 6pm – 7.15pm
Fri 24 2.30pm – 3.45pm
Sat 25 11am – 12.15pm
Sun 26 11am – 12.15pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

A mix of short films that celebrate outdoor adventure and exploration in all its forms. Each session is different.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY

WHAT CAN WRITERS DO FOR WILD PLACES?

with Kate Rawles
6pm – 7.30pm

Milne & Pickles, 53 Northgate Peebles

Cosy up in beautiful Milne & Pickles as Kate Rawles, a writer and cyclist who uses adventurous journeys to raise awareness about environmental issues, explores the importance of telling stories about adventures in wild places – and how we can all play our part.

£18, includes a welcome glass of wine/soft drink

BOOK TICKETS

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY

LOCAL HERO SECRET SESSION

with Ian Veitch and special guests
8pm – 9.30pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

Runners, cyclists, swimmers – and sometimes all three! The Tweed Valley is chockful of outstanding outdoor athletes of all ages achieving incredible things in their chosen disciplines, including national and world record holders. Come and hear what makes some of these remarkable 'local heroes' tick – and perhaps be inspired to follow in their footsteps.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS



FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

REWILD

with Ben Martynoga
(and Tweed Reads)
4.30pm – 6pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

After a decade exploring brain cells in the lab, writer and biologist Ben Martynoga has turned his scientific eye to writing about intriguing subjects in his Explodapedia series of illustrated popular science books for young adults. Join us for an engaging discussion where a panel of Tweed Reads readers from Peebles High School (Ben's former school) will put their questions to Ben. What they will ask is anyone's guess!

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

ANOTHER 100 GREATEST CYCLING CLIMBS

with Simon Warren and Stuart Kenny
6pm – 7.30pm

The Cross Keys, 24 Northgate, Peebles

Longer, higher, steeper! The reissue of this lactic acid-inducing follow-up to Simon Warren's original bestselling 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs is packed with another century of deliciously painful ascents. Simon appears in conversation with travel writer, presenter and keen cyclist Stuart Kenny.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

THE LAST SUNSET IN THE WEST

with Natalie Sanders and Niru Dorrian
8pm – 9.30pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

After completing her PhD in marine biology, Natalie Sanders developed a deep fascination with orcas, particularly the culturally and ecologically unique community off Scotland's West Coast. With only two remaining elderly members, this fragile group faces imminent extinction. Natalie appears in conversation with Niru Dorrian, marine mammal biologist and UN Ocean Decade Ambassador.

£18, £8 under 16

BOOK TICKETS

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

THE CULL OF THE WILD

with Hugh Warwick
1pm – 2.30pm

Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre

Invasive species are recognised as one of the greatest threats to native biodiversity worldwide, but tackling the issue is fraught with ethical and practical challenges. A writer and ecologist who loathes the idea of harming any animal, Hugh Warwick has described Cull of the Wild as the hardest book he has ever written. Taking a balanced and often humorous approach to an emotive subject, he explores the global movement of species and their impacts.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

RUNNING THROUGH THE DARK

with Jen Scotney
1pm – 2.30pm

The Park Hotel, Innerleithen Road, Peebles

A successful human rights lawyer and running coach, Jen Scotney was a rising star of the UK ultrarunning scene, with podium places in prestigious races and an eye on the Fastest Known Time for the Pennine Way. But there was a side that she kept hidden. In this courageous memoir, Jen has written about running, yes, but also much more: grief, childlessness, career burnout, a chronic health condition, resilience, the power of exercise and how, sometimes in life – or often – our expectations have to be reset.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

for more information visit www.eastgatearts.com

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

WHERE THE WILDFLOWERS GROW

with Leif Bersweden
4pm – 5.30pm

Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre

Leif describes himself as a face-down, bottom-up botanist who likes nothing better than interpreting the delights of our resident flora: a rich tapestry of climbers, carnivores, puppeteers and parasites; plants that poison predators and play mind games with pollinators, some that are giants thousands of years old and others just a tiny pinprick a millimetre across. Your eyes will be opened!

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BOOK TICKETS



at a glance....

WILD WRITERS Festival 2025

22 – 26 JANUARY

Words that explore nature,
landscape, people and place.



Feature Film
The Mountain and Me
Wed 22 Jan, 1 – 3pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Feature Film
Notes from Sheepland
Wed 22 Jan, 7.30 - 8.35pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Short Films
Wild Horizons
Thu 23 Jan, 6 – 7.15pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**What can writers do
for wild places?**
with Kate Rawles
Thu 23 Jan, 6 – 7.30pm
Milne & Pickles,
Northgate, Peebles



Talk
**Local Hero
Secret Session**
with Ian Veitch
Thu 23 Jan, 8 – 9.30pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Short Films
Wild Horizons
Fri 24 Jan, 2.30 – 3.45pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
REWILD
with Ben Martynoga
(and Tweed Reads)
Fri 24 Jan, 4.30 - 6pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**Another 100 Greatest
Cycling Climbs**
with Simon Warren and
Stuart Kenny
Fri 24 Jan, 6 – 7.30pm
The Cross Keys, Northgate,
Peebles



Writer Event
**The Last Sunset
in the West**
with Natalie Sanders and
Niru Dorrian
Fri 24 Jan, 8 – 9.30pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



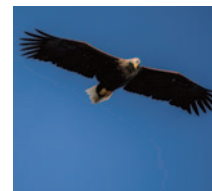
Short Films
Wild Horizons
Sat 25 Jan, 11am – 12.15pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



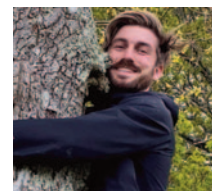
Writer Event
Cull of the Wild
with Hugh Warwick
Sat 25 Jan, 1 – 2.30pm
Anne Younger Studio,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**Running Through
the Dark**
with Jen Scotney
Sat 25 Jan, 2 – 3.30pm
The Park Hotel,
Innerleithen Road, Peebles



Feature Film
**The Eagle with
the Sunlit Eye**
with director Ted Simpson
Sat 25 Jan, 3 – 5pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**Where the
Wildflowers Grow**
with Leif Bersweden
Sat 25 Jan, 4 – 5.30pm
Anne Younger Studio,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
Bothy
with Kat Hill
Sat 25 Jan, 6 – 7.30pm
Anne Younger Studio,
Eastgate Theatre



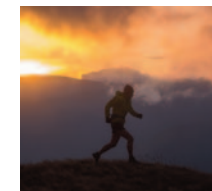
Writer Event
**An Evening with
Helen Mort**
and Kate Rawles
Sat 25 Jan, 8 – 9.30pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Short Films
Wild Horizons
Sun 26 Jan, 11am –
12.15pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**The Winter of
our Lives**
with Sara Barnes
Sun 26 Jan, 11am - 12.30pm
Neidpath Castle, Peebles



Writer Event
Makin a Mackem
with Julie Carter
Sun 26 Jan, 12noon – 1.30pm
Anne Younger Studio,
Eastgate Theatre



Writer Event
**Hunt for the Shadow
Wolf**
with Derek Gow
Sun 26 Jan, 1.30pm - 3pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre



Talk
Mountain Women
with Anna Wells and
Jamie Aarons
Sun 26 Jan, 3.30pm - 5pm
Auditorium,
Eastgate Theatre

Find out more...

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BOX OFFICE **01721 725 777**
www.eastgatearts.com

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

BOTHY – IN SEARCH OF SIMPLE SHELTER

with Kat Hill
6pm – 7.30pm

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Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre
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The word 'bothy' conjures many things in the minds of those who love the mountains and wild places – and Kat Hill's stirring, erudite book will likely make many of us feel even more deeply about why these simple mountain shelters are so special. With a historian's insight and a rambler's imagination, Kat leads us on a bewitching journey around the UK to explore the history of bothies and the people – fellow wanderers past and present – who visit them.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS



SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

AN EVENING WITH HELEN MORT

with Kate Rawles
8pm – 9.30pm

.....
Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre
.....

An award-winning poet and novelist with a wonderfully eclectic body of work, Helen Mort has a particular interest in women and mountaineering. Her first full length non-fiction book, *A Line Above The Sky*, was published to wide acclaim in 2022, while her latest work, *Ethel*, tells the story of Ethel Haythornthwaite, a quietly formidable countryside revolutionary whose pioneering efforts to protect green spaces and wild land have been lost to history. Through poetry, film and music, Helen has also collaborated widely, including with a flamenco guitarist, a baroque orchestra, photographers, philosophers and even football teams. All of this and more will likely be covered as Helen appears in lively conversation with writer and environmental adventurer Kate Rawles.

£18, £8 under 16
BOOK TICKETS

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

THE WINTER OF OUR LIVES

with Sara Barnes
11am – 12.20pm

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Neidpath Castle, Peebles
.....

Having appeared with us in 2023 with her book *The Cold Fix*, Sara Barnes makes a welcome return with her first work of fiction: the story of three mid-life female friends who find solace from life's challenges with each other and in the wild waters of the Lake District. Audience members are also invited to join Sara for a dip in the Tweed below the castle ramparts afterwards.

£18, £8 under 16
BOOK TICKETS



SUNDAY 26 JANUARY

MAKIN A MACKEM

with Julie Carter
12noon – 1.30pm

.....
Anne Younger Studio, Eastgate Theatre
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How can we balance our need to belong with our desire for freedom? It is a question explored by veteran champion fell runner Julie Carter in a memoir grounded in a three-day run from Cumbria to Tyneside. With humour and humanity this deeply personal story draws on Julie's life-long involvement with running and her expertise in genetics and medicine to examine the extent to which we are free to determine our life's path.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide
BOOK TICKETS

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY HUNT FOR THE SHADOW WOLF

with Derek Gow
1.30pm - 3pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

Farmer, conservationist and maverick rewilder, Derek Gow has played a significant role in the reintroduction of the Eurasian beaver, the water vole and the white stork in England. Join Derek as he uncovers the true nature of a shadowy animal and his dream that, with greater understanding, we might one day see wolves return to these shores. Derek appears in conversation with writer and biologist Ben Martynoga.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

SUNDAY 26 JANUARY MOUNTAIN WOMEN

with Anna Wells and Jamie Aarons
3.30pm - 5pm

Auditorium, Eastgate Theatre

We end this year's festival with a fabulous opportunity to hear from two phenomenal female endurance athletes as Anna Wells (the first woman to climb all 282 of Scotland's Munros in a single winter season) and Jamie Aarons (World Record holder – male or female – for the fastest self-propelled, continuous Munro round: 31 days, 10 hours) compare notes and chat about their love of Scotland's mountains.

£14 or £10 or £6
Pay what you decide

BOOK TICKETS

EXTERNAL VENUES...

Milne & Pickles

53, Northgate, Peebles, EH45 8BU
07506 348082

The Cross Keys

24 Northgate, Peebles, EH45 8RS
01721 723467

The Park Hotel

Innerleithen Road, Peebles, EH45 8BA
01721 720451

Neidpath Castle

Neidpath Castle, Peebles, EH45 8NW
01721 400701

Tickets for all events can be purchased in person at the Eastgate Box Office, over the phone on 01721 725777 or online at www.eastgatearts.com

Special Thanks to all of our collaborators, external venues and food and drink partners.

**10%
discount**

on all food & drink at
Milne & Pickles
The Park Hotel
The Tontine
during the festival
(on display of event ticket)

**10%
discount**

on all food at
The Cross Keys
during the festival
(on display of event ticket)



**THE
PARK**



**GO
TWEED
VALLEY
SCOTLAND**

**the
TONTINE**
the hotel in the heart of Peebles



