



## **The Border Canary Association (BCA)**

### **Support Your Local Border Canary Clubs and Cage Bird Societies**

### **Keeping the Fancy Alive –**

In every corner of the country, dedicated clubs have kept the Border Canary Fancy alive for generations, from the quiet hum of show halls in rural villages to the lively debates over feathering, stance, size and type among passionate breeders. These clubs form the beating heart of the Border community, offering more than just a place to exhibit birds; they provide camaraderie, mentorship, and an enduring sense of purpose for bird lovers of all ages. One such club being The Border Canary Association (BCA)

With the support of Cage & Aviary Birds magazine, we're proud to shine a spotlight on the Border canary clubs that continue to serve their members with commitment and care. Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor chasing that elusive Best in Show, or someone brand new to the hobby looking for your first pair of birds, there could be a club near you ready to welcome you in.

These clubs are more than just organisers of events, they are the stewards of knowledge, the keepers of tradition, and perhaps most importantly, the doorways through which the next generation of fanciers will step. Many now also cater for other varieties such as Fife canaries, expanding their reach and relevance while keeping the Border at the centre of their identity.

The initiative of the Border Convention to showcase a series of featured articles about the remarkable clubs that make up our national network is hugely appreciated. From their histories and achievements to their current activities and future plans, we hope these features encourages more people to get involved, because the fancy is strongest when it is shared.

Established in 1966, the Border Canary Association (BCA) has long stood as a proud cornerstone of the Border fancy, offering a dedicated platform for fanciers in the region and beyond. Initially founded with a sole focus on Border canaries, the club has remained faithful to its roots while showing a commendable willingness to evolve. In 2019, recognising the growing interest in the wider canary fancy, the BCA opened its doors to Fife canary classes, demonstrating both inclusivity and forward thinking.

Over the years, the BCA has gained a reputation for its well-run and welcoming events. Its annual show, once a traditional two-day affair, now takes place on the first Saturday of every November, making it more accessible while maintaining its prestige. The show continues to be a significant date on the canary calendar, attracting exhibitors and enthusiasts from across the country.

The club's shows cater for both Border and Fife canaries, offering a range of competitive classes that reflect the high standards of breeding and exhibition associated with the BCA. The event is hosted at Ednam Village Hall, Stichill Road, Ednam, TD5 7QQ, a venue that provides an ideal setting with ample space and the warm, community feel that the club is known for.

The BCA's competitive history also boasts some notable moments. Legendary breeder Phil Warne etched his name into the club's annals by claiming Best in Show for an extraordinary ten consecutive years—a feat that speaks volumes about the quality and calibre associated with both the exhibitor and the competition.

Under the stewardship of dedicated fanciers like Fraser Anderson, the Club continues to thrive but one area that is in need of help is the need for volunteers and helpers to set up and take down the staging at the Annual Show.

Fraser can be reached at [byrewalls@aol.com](mailto:byrewalls@aol.com) or on (01573) 410515 for those interested in joining, exhibiting, volunteering or simply learning more about the club's activities.

As the BCA approaches its 60th year, its blend of tradition, excellence, and adaptability ensures that it remains not only a respected institution but a vibrant and vital part of the canary fancy in the UK



**Best in Show 2024 Paul Heathcote**



**Best Novice Andy Johnson**