



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT – MARCH 2017

EDITORIAL

We are now approaching Spring, and the prospect of warmer and longer days ahead. Village life seems to get even busier than usual and there is much to ponder in this issue.

We would like to draw your attention to the Community Council minutes, particularly the very interesting talk by Isobel Morrison, who is a Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) volunteer; and to a report by Councillors regarding the problems, and possible solution, following the closure of the Innerleithen Post Office. We urge everyone to follow their advice and contact the Post Office to protest at the closure and the failure by the Post Office to find alternative permanent premises in Innerleithen.

It has also come to our attention that people have been asking whether 'Home Basics' is going to close. That is totally untrue. Like false reports about the Bowling Club, and other numerous 'Alternative Facts' that surface from time to time, we urge everyone to take care not to spread rumours. Please check the facts first!

Many of you will have noticed that work has begun on the new footpath and cycle path linking Walkerburn to Innerleithen. It is really pleasing to see plans progressing to improve our village. The fibre-optic Broadband is also planned for later this year and is another sign that things are getting much better for everyone in Walkerburn. However, as always, there are still problems to be addressed. With that in mind, we do urge you to read the Village Hall Appeal below and give any help you can.

Finally, the Newsgroup is always looking to improve. It has been suggested that a local Design Student might like to help us in this respect. If anyone is interested, please get in touch. It may be that it could be included in a college project?

WALKERBURN PUBLIC HALL - AN APPEAL

The Village needs your help if the Public Hall is to survive, we are asking for your ideas, support, donations or practical help.

As is the case for so many local groups and organisations, the last three years have proved to be difficult financially.

The Public Hall is owned by Walkerburn residents, everyone on the Electoral Roll being a shareholder and is a significant asset to our community acting as our Emergency Centre and providing a venue for all our loyal supporters to hold their events.

We were fortunate to have had funding from the Healthy Living Network for around 10 years giving us an annual income in excess of £6,000 per annum. Unfortunately, in early 2015 the Healthy Living Network's time in Walkerburn came to an end as did their funding.

Since then circumstances have forced us to spend a huge portion of our reserves on essential maintenance and upgrades. The Hall's heating systems have required ongoing repairs costing in excess of £9,000 and the roof has required considerable attention and once again needs repair work at an estimated cost of £8,000.

In 2015 we ended the financial year with a healthy balance of £11,000. However the end of the current financial year will show a balance of slightly more than £1,000.

We need to think of new uses for the Hall, perhaps along the lines of a community centre as funding is available for projects involving the young, the old, ethnic minorities and disabled groups.

What do you think? We are looking for your views.

The most important question now is - do the people of Walkerburn want a Village Hall?

Please contact any of the Management Committee members below with your suggestions, ideas, donations and help:

Sheilagh Sommerville (Chair) 01896 870 568, Mollie McIntosh (Vice Chair) 01896 870 234

Ruth Griffiths (Treasurer), Kinta Lindsay (Secretary), Denise Hanks, Amy Griffiths

Win Pennel 01896 870 236 or winpennel@hotmail.com

WALK THE WALK COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Tweeddale Youth Action
and Peebles Can
Saturday 18th March

from 10am to 12 noon in the Walkerburn Village Hall.
Everyone welcome.

Cake and Baking Stall, Paperback Table, Raffle
Entrance: £1 includes coffee/tea and biscuits.

PRIMARY SCHOOL 'BUNNY DRIVE'

'Bunny Drive' (like a Beetle Drive but with bunnies!)
Walkerburn Primary School
Friday 24th March at 7pm
Adults £2 including refreshments, children free
Raffle

Organised by the Parent Council - come along and have
some family fun!

Burning Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the April 2017 issue by the last day of March.
Thank you.



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WALKERBURN RFC



"Dog Fouling!"

It has recently been very distressing to find dogs' messes on the playing area of the Rugby Pitch. We earnestly ask anyone who has to walk across the pitch with their dogs to PLEASE keep them on a lead until they have left the playing area.

Do remember, not only is it used for rugby matches, but it is also used as a playing field for the primary school.

Walkerburn Bowling Club News

Where has the clubhouse gone? The small area of ground to the east of the green has continuously supported various clubhouses over the past 120 years.

For a short while, there is nothing left standing. Only a rather forlorn and empty space marks the spot where the last building stood as it tried, and failed, to resist the various big floods of the past century. However, a closer look will reveal that foundations have already been marked out in readiness for a built-up base to be erected in readiness for a new and much better structure to sit safely on top of it.

The replacement clubhouse is expected to arrive in early April, subject to Building Warrants being issued. The smart new rabbit-proof fencing is in place and the green is in excellent condition. Expect to see us up and running when the new season starts.

We are encouraging as many new members as possible to join us for Bowls and Petanque. Anyone, young or old (or even in-between!) who wants to join a very friendly and welcoming club is invited to get in touch with us in the Spring as the new season approaches. (Full details of the coming season will be set out in next month's newsletter, as well as on our 'Facebook' pages.) For information about the club please visit our website www.walkerburnbowlingclub.co.uk, or visit our Facebook page of Walkerburn Bowling Club. Both places are updated as information is received.

(Anyone wanting more details can contact us on 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY CRAFT CENTRE 'CRAFTS4U'

Walkerburn Old Mill Car Park

Tuesday: 1.00pm- 4.00pm (Quilting)

Wednesday: (Your Choice) 7.00pm-9.00pm

Thursday: Class in knitting and crochet for beginners and more experienced people 2.00pm-4.00pm

Friday: 1.00 pm – 4.00pm (Craft-for-Club)

Cost: Members £1.00 per hour, Non Members £1.50 per hour

Because of the continuing success of the Club, Membership now costs £20.00 per calendar year and allows you access to the cabin at all times and Social Membership is £5.per calendar year.

Newcomers always given a warm welcome.

Any queries, please contact Jenni Brown on 01896 833883.

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We collect good quality furniture and working electrical white goods free of charge, or you can deliver to our depot.

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Newsgroup AGM

The Walkerburn News Group AGM was held in the Craft Club on Tuesday 14th February.

The chairman thanked all who have helped to produce and deliver 'Burning Issues' throughout 2016. As always, we are very indebted to our advertisers and those people and village organisations who have donated money to help us continue. As a result, the Treasurer was able to inform the group that we had avoided going into debt and had, as in previous years, managed to end with a small profit. He urged members to continue with fundraising efforts in the coming year and hoped for a successful Community Fair.

We exist for the benefit of everyone in Walkerburn and welcome notices of any forthcoming events, reports of previous events and any letters, articles or opinions that may be of interest.

We look forward to another busy year, full of news and reports on village activities. Fingers crossed for the continued good working of our trusty photocopier!

Lesley Thornton, Secretary

WALKERBURN NEWS GROUP COMMUNITY FAIR & Coffee MORNING

SATURDAY 1st APRIL WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL
10.30am to 1.00pm

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
STALLS AND RAFFLE PRIZES

Coffee ~ Tea ~ Juices
Home Made Soup & Roll (£1.50)



Innerleithen & District Operatic Society

present:

'Guys & Dolls'

Memorial Hall, Innerleithen

Monday 27th March

to Saturday 1st April

Nightly at 7.30pm.

Saturday Matinee at 2.15pm

T: 0845-2241908; e:

tickets@idaos.org.uk;

www.idaos.org.uk

Notice:

ALLOTMENTS A.G.M.

Mon 3rd April 7.30pm

at the Crafts 4U Portacabin

All Welcome!

Walkerburn Old Age Pensioners Association

Walkerburn OAPs held their February meeting in the HB Club on Tuesday 14th when members met and enjoyed their games of dominoes, and had a blether with their tea and biscuits.

The Domino winner was Beth Tocher and Sheilagh Sommerville won the booby and the raffle.

Our coffee morning has been arranged for Saturday 25th March in Walkerburn Village Hall, 10am till 11.30. when we look forward to the usual good support for our fund-raising effort. Contributions for any of our stalls would be appreciated, as well as any offers of help on the day!

We are in the process of arranging our annual outing which will take place on Tuesday 13th June. This year we are planning to go to New Lanark Visitor Centre where we will have a

guided tour and then lunch in the restaurant, after which we will be able to visit the other attractions in the Heritage Site. Please let Mary or Anne know as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March at the HB Club at 2.30. when we look forward to seeing you there.

For any other information please contact President Mary Baillie on 01896 870246 or Treasurer Anne Kenyon on 01896 870757.

Rural Round-up

This month Lynsay Munnis came to talk to us about the restoration of vintage clothes.

This is primarily a hobby for Lynsay but she has also turned her passion for clothes into a business called 'Bustle' and she spoke very eloquently about it. Competition winners this month were:

Decorated egg: 1st M Millar,
Easter biscuits: 1st M Millar,

Next month we will have a table at the Community Fair selling home baking and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th April which is our A.G.M. – we are hoping to have a meal at The George for this.

Heather Shepherd

Walkerburn Rugby Club



Open for Birthdays and other Social events.

For bookings please contact the Secretary at
secretary@walkerburnrugby.org.uk
Latest news on Facebook:
Walkerburn RFC



Sheila Bertolino

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Walkerburn Primary School Report

News from the Early Years Classroom

The Early Years class have been enjoying the exciting topic of Scotland as part of their learning!

We completed an amazing performance of our poetry in honour of Robert Burns and learnt Scottish songs to dance and sing to. We have been able to make our own Scottish food in class from shortbread to Scotch broth! As part of our learning we have looked at how Scottish farms produce the highest quality food from meat on cattle farms to crops on arable farms. We visited Mossilee farm in Galashiels to learn all about how to run a Scottish farm and the challenges and chores a farmer faces every day – we even got to sit on an enormous tractor! We chose to share our learning with our parents and the rest of our school in a Scotland Day! We put up displays and set up learning zones for people to come and look at what excellent work we have achieved. Some of the highlights were dressing up in traditional tartan outfits, an awesome puppet show by the children for Old MacDonald and a lively performance of Coulter's Candy. The food tasting zone was very well received with some yummy broth, Scottish cheese and oatcakes and, of course, haggis.

We worked very hard for our Scotland topic and have learnt so much about where we live. We were so happy that so many parents and children could come and share our learning with us – thanks to all those that attended. We have also recently entered a competition to design a Pocket Garden for 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' and we will find out shortly if we have been successful.

News from P4-7

There has been a lot of excitement about our "Natural Disasters" topic this past half term, but it is now time to round it off and work on World War II – specifically looking at the effects this war had on Scotland. Our P7 cohort recently took part in the Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair Rotary Club's annual Primary Schools' Quiz – not reaching round two, but

March Wild Side

What a beautiful morning! Sunshine, blue skies and snow! It looks like a picture.

As we go into March, things should start warming up. I've been looking forward to Spring since Christmas and now I know it's on the way. Bulbs are through in the garden with the snowdrops and crocuses out in bloom and the daffs and tulips through the soil. Yesterday, when out for a walk with the dog, I saw masses of catkins and, of course, the mute swans and oystercatchers are back. This time of year is so full of promise and of course the snow won't last. The garden birds are in their brightest plumage at this time of year as they ready for the breeding season and some of the tit family in particular, remind us that we don't need to think of tropical birds for bright colours.

Going back to catkins, I remember Primary School when people brought them in and they stood in a vase for all to see in class. They were the first kind of flowers that we learnt about and they are certainly very different to how we think about flowers. The most well known 'catkins' are on hazel trees and are the male flower producing the pollen; the small

doing us proud with a very good score – congratulations to them!

Author Visits

We were very pleased to be working in partnership with the Mainstreet Trading Company and SBC to have two author visits this month. The children travelled to St Ronan's and Helen Peters talked to the P4-5 children, while Lyn Gardner met with the P6-7 pupils. The children were able to buy books and have them signed.

Google Expeditions

This month P4-7 travelled to St Ronan's for a second time to take part in 'Google Expeditions' and worked with a team from Google. 'Google Expeditions' is a revolutionary tool that uses Virtual Reality headsets to allow pupils to view an exciting variety of 360° photo spheres and 3D images, for example, The Great Barrier Reef, the Amazon Forest and even outer space. The teachers are able to see the images with extra details, highlights, and questions. These magnificent Expeditions were created in partnerships with David Attenborough, the Royal Palaces, and TES to create over 300 Expeditions. The children really enjoyed this experience.

Book Fair

To celebrate World Book Day we held a Book Fair, selling quality used children's books. The children were able to buy books at 20-30p each and every child received a book token to spend at the Fair that entitled them to one free book.

Parent Council

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 March at 6.30pm in the school.

Wanted

We are currently looking for any unwanted/spare items of dressing up clothes and accessories or any items that could be used to make costumes etc. (e.g. curtains). Please drop off anything you may like to donate to the School Office. Thank you.

red flowers which are quite insignificant on the branches are the female flowers which if pollinated as the wind borne pollen reaches them, will become the nuts. The appearance of catkins was regarded as a herald of spring. Lots of trees have swelling buds at present and once the snow's gone we'll soon be contemplating mowing the lawn or for some keeping their hay fever in check. Tree pollen has a lot to answer for in the case of the early appearance of hay fever. My personal herald of Spring is the oystercatcher with its unmistakable screeching as it flies overhead or takes off in alarm. Many spend the winter at the coast but fly inland to breed and can often be seen nesting on the shingly 'beaches or islands' on the Tweed. Next will be another ground nester, the curlew. After that, we'll be spotting swallows and martins and listening for cuckoos or watching ospreys feeding on the river. Bumble bees will be buzzing in the garden and the first butterflies will appear amongst the spring blossom. What'll be first? Can't wait-bring it on!

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 15th February 2017

(Full Minutes are also on the Community website)

Present: Dr. S. Henderson (Chairman); Miss M McIntosh MBE; Ms M. Daykin; Mrs. I. Ogilvie-Wilson; Mr G. Thornton (Treasurer) ; Mrs L. Thornton (Secretary); Mr. P. Waller (Minutes). *Ex Officio:* Cllr. S. Bell; Cllr. G. Garvie; Cllr G. Logan.

Chairman's Introduction: Dr. Henderson welcomed all present.

Talk by Mrs. Isobel Morrison, who is a Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) volunteer. Mrs. Morrison said that the purpose of her talk was to raise awareness of, and support for, CHAS. She explained when and why CHAS was founded, how it has grown and how it operates nowadays. At present, CHAS has two hospices – Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House in Balloch – and also the 'CHAS at Home' service. CHAS provides respite care, emergency care, end of life care and bereavement support and is the only hospice provider for children in Scotland. Mrs. Morrison distributed to those present 'About CHAS' leaflets and copies of the Autumn/Winter 2016 CHAS newsletter. Mrs. Morrison publicized various imminent local fund-raising events being organized by CHAS. Finally, Mrs. Morrison answered questions about the work of CHAS. Dr. Henderson thanked Mrs. Morrison for her very interesting and moving talk.

Apologies & Notices: Apologies for absence received from Mr. I. McVean, Mr. D. Thomson and PC Burnside.

Open Questions: Shona Haslam raised the matter of the closure of the Innerleithen Post Office and the impact this will have on people in both Innerleithen and Walkerburn. Ms Daykin said that the staff in Walkerburn's Post Office are already struggling to cope with the extra business that has resulted from this closure. (See Item 11, first bullet point)

Police Business: PC Burnside had provided his report covering the period 18th January – 14th February. Happily, little of note has occurred in our area.

* There were fourteen calls and one vehicle accident (no injury to persons).

* PC Burnside warned people to be aware of the need to be extremely cautious about the growing numbers of landline and internet scams.

* He pointed out that over the course of just fourteen days in January there were seven house-breakings in Eddleston and Peebles. Police believe the criminals were looking for vehicle keys. Accordingly, residents should secure front and back doors, as well as ground floor windows, and should keep their vehicle keys in a safe place.

January Minutes: Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by Mrs. Thornton, seconded by Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson and passed unanimously.

Matters Arising:

* Mr. Waller said that he had reported via SBC's website the problem of branches overhanging the footpath on the south side of the A72 east of the village, and the derelict condition of the bench there, but was unaware of any resultant action.

* Mr. Thornton said that he had been informed that, in the new financial year, repairs will be made to the path from Caberston Road into Alexandra Park and that the 'GIVE US A BRAKE' signs will be repainted.

Correspondence: Mrs. Thornton provided the list covering January – February.

* E-mail received from Colin Strugnell, Edinburgh District Council regarding Community Council Insurance Cover, with two forms attached which had to be completed and returned by 17th February. These were duly filled in, checked by the Chairman and returned.

* E-mail received from Robin Tatler, Chairman of Peebles Community Council, inviting us to a meeting of the Tweeddale Community Council Network on 26th January.

* E-mail received from Sarah Dannfald of Children's Hospice Association Scotland informing us that Isobel Morrison, their local volunteer, had agreed to come and give us a talk at tonight's meeting.

* E-mail received from Callum Hay, Borders Broadband Project, attaching a letter setting the work that this voluntary group have been doing and plans for the future. (Cllr. Bell

pointed out that this group is concerned with broadband connections to remote properties – eighteen such properties have been identified in our area – and is not involved with the provision of faster broadband to the majority of dwellings and businesses in Walkerburn & District. Seemingly, BT's work to install faster broadband in our area will start this month, but is unlikely to be available to users until the summer.)

* Letter from Charles Johnston, Local Planning Officer, Planning Policy & Access, enclosing a copy of the Scottish Borders Council Draft Supplementary Guidance Renewable Energy dated December 2016. The consultation period is from Monday 23rd January 2017 until Monday 17th April 2017.

* Police Report received from PC Chris Burnside.

Planning: Two planning items received: one concerned vehicular parking access in Tweedholm Avenue East and the other retention of a storage unit for Home Basics. Members saw no reasons whatsoever to oppose either application.

Reports by Members:

* Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson reported receiving a scam supposedly from the Nat West Bank and she suggested WDCC consider putting an item in BURNING Issues to warn people that such scams are becoming increasingly common and sophisticated. Still on the subject of scams, Dr. Henderson said that he knew of a neighbour who had arrived home to find an 'Undelivered Parcel' card requesting him to telephone a number in order to obtain this parcel. Further investigation revealed the number to be an overseas one, and if rung, the call would not have been answered, but would have incurred a £30 charge.

* Mr. Thornton said that members should consider WDCC paying appropriate expenses to WDCC's secretary. It was agreed this be discussed at a later date.

* Mrs. Thornton reported that she had contacted SBC about retaining the public telephone in Galashiels Road. She had been told that SBC has objected to BT about the removal of this phone, and is awaiting a decision from BT.

* Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson suggested the minutes should contain an item reminding residents that the Council Tax is going to increase by 3%. Members agreed to this suggestion.

* Ms Daykin said that she has joined the Tweeddale Access Panel and will keep us informed about progress regarding improved access to businesses and public buildings.

* Dr. Henderson raised the issue of wheelie bins being left permanently on pavements and asked if this is illegal. Cllr. Garvie agreed that this practice is a problem in some areas, but said that there is no law against it in the Scottish Borders, nor, to his knowledge, elsewhere in Scotland.

Reports by SBC Councillors:

* Cllr. Garvie said that the three Tweeddale East councillors have worked together to address the matter of the closure of Innerleithen's Post Office. It seems that a Post Office van may park one day a week in the Co-op car park in Innerleithen, but the councillors thought this to be an unsatisfactory solution to the problem. He encouraged people to contact the Post Office to protest at the closure and the failure by the Post Office to find alternative permanent premises in Innerleithen. Members decided that, on behalf of WDCC, Mr. Thornton will write a letter to the Post Office.

* Regarding the repair of the footbridge over the Lade – Cllr. Bell said that SBC intends to renew the surface completely, but before this happens a temporary repair is planned. This temporary repair has been delayed because of unexpected circumstances, but should be done soon.

* Cllr. Bell reported that SBC has received £100,000 from Sustrans and this will finance the extension of the Multi-use Path from Innerleithen to Walkerburn. However, completion of this section is not likely until 2018-19.

* Cllr. Bell said that the Walker Burn will be dredged once agreement has been reached with SEPA.

* Next, Cllr. Bell reported that in the next financial year SBC

will make £500,000 available for the various Area Forums to bid for projects. Also, SBC has assigned £100,000 for improving tourism signage.

* Cllr. Logan said that the organizer of the proposed Walkerburn 'litter pick' should find the necessary equipment in the Resilience Shed outside the Village Hall, and should get in touch with Iain Weir, who is the Resilience Coordinator for Innerleithen and Walkerburn. If there is a need for anything else, Jason Hedley at SBC can be asked to provide it.

* Cllr. Logan reported that SBC workers have improved

drainage by the garage, so flooding of the A72 at this point should not recur.

* Cllr. Logan said the issue of the dilapidated benches on the back road had been dealt with, the one at Glenbenna having been replaced and the one near the Triangle cleaned up. Mr. Waller thanked Cllr. Logan for this prompt action and asked him to pass WDCC's thanks to Jason Hedley.

* Finally, Cllr. Logan said that the bench and bus shelter on Peebles Road will be cleaned, and, in due course, the railings will be painted.

Date of Next Meeting: 15th March, 2017 at 7pm.

MINDFUL YOGA

Susan Cotterill is inviting everyone in Walkerburn to come along to the Village Hall on MONDAYS, from 7pm to 8.45, starting on 27th March. The cost will be £7 per 'drop-in' session.

It is suitable for Beginners as well as the more Experienced and combines traditional Yoga practice with Mindfulness Meditation and elements of Qigong and Sound Therapy.

Contact Susan for further information at: email: sueandkev1@aol.com Tel.831658 or 07983-167075

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL MARCH/APRIL

(Anyone interested in booking the hall, please contact Win Pennel on 01896 870236)

Date	Event	Time
March		
Tuesday 14th	Fellowship, Friendship and Fun	10.00am
Wednesday 15th	Walkerburn and District Community Council	7pm
Thursday 16th	Youth Club	6.30-8.30pm
Saturday 18th	Walk the Walk Coffee Morning	10.00am – 12 noon
Sunday 19th	Church Service	10.00am
Tuesday 21st	Lunch Club	12 noon
Saturday 25th	OAP Coffee Morning	10.00-11.30am
April		
Saturday 1st	Walkerburn News Group Community Fair	10.30 – 1.00pm
Tuesday 4th	Lunch Club	12 noon

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm
Mondays	MindfulYoga	7.00 – 8.45pm
Wednesdays	Tao Chi	10.15 – 11.45am

Please note: Hall Rental charge for up to three hours use is £18

www.walkerburn.com

If you want to know What's On at the village hall, who to contact about a particular local group, or want a number for a local decorator, the community website is the place to go.

If your group is not on the local contacts list, please send details to mail@walkerburn.com.

If you want to advertise an event in the village you don't have to wait for the next issue of Burning Issues, but can send information direct to mail@walkerburn.com for posting onto the what's on page.

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