



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY – MAY 2017

WALKERBURN HALL APPEAL

The WPH Management Committee and Trustees would like to thank everyone who responded to the Hall Appeal with offers of help, suggestions and very generous donations.

We hope you are having fun with our Word Quiz - all entries to be returned by the end of May. Please keep your ideas coming. For those of you who may wish to donate directly to the Hall Appeal on a one off or a regular basis our bank details are as follows: sort code: 80 09 33; Account: 00922161. A programme of events is being put together which will be advertised in the near

future and all Comments or suggestions are being followed up.

Our first event is a coffee morning on 10th June with the theme "Tiaras Teas Coffee and Crowns" and there will be a prize for the best crown/tiara (home-made by the children).

We look forward to seeing you all then.

Dogs and Sheep

Most of our readers will have seen reports of sheep and lambs being injured because owners have not kept their dogs under control.

Obviously, this only applies to a small minority of those who walk their dogs. However, we have been asked to point out that all dogs should be kept on a lead when they are being walked across fields where sheep and lambs are grazing.

In particular, expectant ewes are more nervous than usual and will panic at the sight of dog running freely nearby. A case in point occurred very recently when a group of sheep standing between the river and the rugby pitch took fright when a dog approached. In the ensuing panic, some ewes rushed at the rugby fence and one

was badly injured as it struggled to get over the wire and then fell heavily onto the pitch. Three other sheep also scrambled over the wire and could also have been injured.

We have been requested to ask all dog owners and dog walkers to take extra care during the lambing season and keep your dogs on a lead at all time if you are walking anywhere near sheep.

Do remember that, although your dog may be docile and pose no threat to animals, the sheep do not know that to be the case.

Police Messages

Our local Police Officer has asked that people take care not to obstruct the pavements in Walkerburn when they put their bins out for collection.

This frequently causes a hazard to disabled persons and anyone who has to push a baby buggy or anyone carrying shopping bags. As we all know, it is not safe to have to step out onto a road to avoid a wheelie bin. The same applies to cars. In particular, the Galashiels Road and Peebles Road are a real danger. Park carefully and avoid blocking pavements. Also, there is an increasing tendency for drivers to ignore double yellow lines. There

will shortly be a purge on drivers who break the law in this way.

A further matter of considerable alarm has been the incidence of thieves travelling from outwith the area to target small businesses and homes. There have been several break-ins in the area. Police have asked for the public's help in reporting any suspicious activity. Just dial 101 and report your suspicions. All calls will be welcomed and will remain anonymous.

Walkerburn Primary School

"Duck Race On The Burn"

Friday 26th May 2017 at 12.30pm.

Ducks are on sale from the School Office, Caberston Café, The Post Office, The George Hotel and The HB Club
£1 per duck



WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL 2017 COFFEE MORNING
WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 13TH MAY 10.00-11.30am
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FESTIVAL PRINCIPALS
Table Top Sales, Home Baking, Raffles, Tombola

*To hire a Table (£5) please contact either
Martha Gibson 01896 831455 or Dawn Rodger 01896 870458*

Burning Issues Contributors

Please note that any articles, letters or other material for the June 2017 issue should be submitted by the last day of May.
Thank you.

WALKERBURN RFC TOURNAMENT



Saturday 20th May 2017

After an intermittent season, the annual Walkerburn Sevens on Saturday 20th May sees one of Scotland's oldest Rugby Clubs field a side once again, coached by James Grieve. This is an important step in rebuilding rugby at Caberston Haugh.

The tournament won by Gala YM last year, sees them return to defend their title against sides from across the Borders and Edinburgh by the banks of the Tweed in what is undoubtedly the most picturesque ground in Scotland, but the real story here is the return of rugby to Walkerburn. The tournament starts at 1:00 pm with the final scheduled for 6:15 pm.

Why not come and join us and support Borders grass-roots rugby with the added bonus of a great day out for all the family. Not forgetting the day will be followed by a disco starting at 7:00 pm.

Confirmed teams are Duns, Earlston, Gala YM, Haddington, Hawick Linden, Hawick Quins, Jed-Forest, Lasswade, Melrose, Peebles, Preston Lodge, RDVC, Ross High, St Boswells, Selkirk, Trinity Accies and Walkerburn.

For further information, including sponsorship details, please contact WRFC's Vice President on 07766910050.

Latest news on www.walkerburnrugby.org.uk

Facebook Walkerburn RFC

www.twitter.com/WalkerburnRFC

Walkerburn Bowling Club News

At last, the new season has started and President Tom Hardie, in keeping with tradition, played the first bowl of 2017 to start off to set it in motion.

Both the Petanque and the Bowling teams have played their first competitive matches. The 'Petanquers' were away to Langholm and acquitted themselves extremely well, despite a narrow loss. The club will be playing in the newly-formed Borders League and welcomes new team and social players. The Bowlers played away against West Linton on a chilly evening. The new format of three rinks of triples resulted in a win, a tie and a loss. The lack of match practice will, hopefully, be addressed as the Monday afternoon and Thursday 'Wappenschaws' commence. The green is starting to play well after the Spring scarifying and treating and members are reminded that it is open for their use to play friendlies or to practice.

New members are most welcome. We hope to be able to announce the opening of a new clubhouse before the Summer is finished, and thank all our existing members for their patience and support as the slow process of

surmounting Planning obstacles and waiting on the result of Grant Applications continues.

The Committee will continue to meet at 6.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month and will continue to work towards a full rebuild and refurbishment of the clubhouse, to be followed by resurfacing the Petanque pitch and replacing the damaged fencing alongside the road.

They would like to thank everyone who has helped for all their efforts to make the club a success.

Full details of the coming season can be seen on the Post Office and HB Club noticeboards, 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. Both places are updated as information is received. Anyone wanting more details can contact us on 01896-870251 or e-mail goles2@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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Walkerburn Old Age Pensioners Association

Walkerburn OAPs held their April meeting on Tuesday 11th April when arrangements for our trip on Tuesday 13th June were finalised.

We are going to New Lanark World Heritage Site and Visitor Centre where we will have a guided tour and then lunch in the New Lanark Mill Hotel, after which we will be able to visit the other attractions in the Heritage Site.

The coach will leave the HB Club in Walkerburn at 9.15a.m. with the usual stops in Walkerburn and Innerleithen, and make our way to Lanark. We will have a short coffee stop on the way. There are still a few places on the coach if anyone else would like to join us. It would be appreciated if everyone could let Mary or Anne know their choice for lunch and pay for their ticket

as soon as possible. Raffle winners were 1st Anne Kenyon, 2nd Beth Tocher and 3rd Mary Baillie.

Our next meeting, which will be our AGM, will be held in the HB Club Walkerburn on Tuesday 9th May at 2.30pm. Members are invited to attend and bring some new ideas and suggestions for the future of the association. We also require a Secretary to assist with the planning and organising some of our events. Membership fees are due at the AGM.

If you would like any further information, please contact President Mary Baillie on 01896 870246 or Treasurer Anne Kenyon on 01896 870757.

May Wild Side

Usually at this time of year I'm writing about the swallows and martins having arrived but this year as I write, I am yet to see a swallow.

The martins have arrived and can often be seen feeding over the Tweed but the swallows haven't made it here yet. To be fair, the martins probably wish they'd waited a bit longer. It's still pretty cold for many insects to be on the wing and although we've had little rain, sunshine hasn't been seen often either and insects need the heat to get going in the morning. On a sunny day, butterflies and bees abound but the small midge or gnat like flies aren't about in the numbers to feed flocks of birds. Yet. The birds are late nesting too. House sparrows are making home in our oldest tit box and I've laughed at the cock sparrow juggling a big fluffy white pigeon feather in his beak- I don't know how he sees where he's going. We've put up a new tit box so hopefully the blue tits will find that. The bird feeders are still quite busy. We have our visiting siskins and goldfinches back at the niger seed and nut feeders, a couple of greenfinches, great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatch and of course the great, blue and coal tits. Chaffinches and dunnocks feed under the feeders, clearing up dropped seeds and nut pieces and the blackbirds are busy digging in the lawn. The wee piles of moss they leave serves all the birds well for their nests.

I've noticed, on our travels, a lot of dead badgers at the roadsides and judging by size, some can only be young. As much as I would love to see badgers and alive, I certainly wouldn't want them digging up the lawn,

however much moss we had. Their earthworks are extensive. Nevertheless, from the number on our roads, badgers must be on the rise and spread. The British mammal with most problems is the hedgehog. Unfortunately, our garden is mainly blocked to try and keep rabbits out although I think as some still manage to find a way in, a hedgehog could if it wanted. We don't have wooden fences so I can't make a 6 inches square 'door' for them at the bottom of a plank by cutting a bit out and that would defeat the object with rabbits. "Hedgehog Awareness Week" was 30th April to 6th May, this year and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society are highlighting the danger of garden power tools especially trimmers which can maim or kill a hog.

Their general advice, to help hedgehogs is:

- * Ensure there is hedgehog access in your garden – a 13cm x 13cm gap in boundary fences and walls.
- * Move piles of rubbish to a new site before burning it.
- * Ensure vegetable netting is kept at a safe height.
- * Check compost heaps before digging the fork in.
- * Stop or reduce the amount of pesticides and poisons used.
- * Cover drains or deep holes.
- * Ensure there is an easy route out of ponds and pools.

Now May has arrived - so look out for warm sunshine and bluebells and listen for cuckoos!

Gardeners

Free Vegetable Plot Available, Contact Mary Baillie. Tel: 870246



"Tiaras, Teas, Coffee and Crowns "

**Walkerburn Public Hall Coffee Morning (In aid of Walkerburn Village Hall)
Saturday 10th June 2017 . 10-11.30 Admission £1 to include: Coffee/tea/biscuits
Prizes for the best homemade crown or tiara**

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 19th April 2017

(Full Minutes are also on the Community website)

Present: Mr G. Thornton (A/Chairman); Miss M McIntosh MBE; Ms M. Daykin; Mr. I. McVean; Mrs. I. Ogilvie-Wilson; Mr. D. Thomson; Mrs. L. Thornton (Secretary) Mr. P. Waller (Minutes).

Ex Officio: Cllr. S. Bell, Cllr. G. Garvie; Cllr G. Logan; P.C. Burnside.

Introduction

Miss McIntosh said that she is currently having difficulty hearing what people are saying and is also having trouble reading documents; accordingly, in the absence of Dr. Henderson, she has asked Mr. Thornton to chair this evening's meeting.

But first, on behalf of WDCC and Walkerburn residents, she thanked Councillors Bell, Logan and Garvie for all the excellent work they have done for us over many years and how they have involved themselves in village matters. She wished Cllr. Logan and Cllr. Garvie happy, healthy retirements, and she wished Cllr. Bell success in May's SBC's election. Mr. Thornton then took the chair.

Apologies and Notices.

Apology received from Dr. Henderson, who is on holiday in the USA.

Open Questions.

Mr. Ian Pennel expressed concern about the proposed erection of an open-air, high-level terrace behind the George Hotel. He pointed out that this terrace would be capable of accommodating up to forty-four people and would overlook nearby properties. Moreover, there was provision for three dog kennel units and Mr. Pennel was worried about guests' dogs barking, especially overnight. Next, Mr. Pennel said that the plans indicated the construction of banking alongside the 150-year-old wall separating his garden and George Hotel land and expressed unease that this banking could have an impact on the wall. He also said that he understood that the original plans had been superseded by amended ones, so the previous deadline for objections (31st March) has presumably been extended.

There followed lengthy discussion after which a majority of members voted that WDCC lodge an objection to this proposed terrace.

Police Business

PC Burnside had provided members with a police report covering the period 13th March to 18th April. No serious incidents had occurred in Walkerburn & District. There was one 'damage only' vehicle accident. There were breakings in West Linton and Innerleithen and PC Burnside urged business owners and residents to secure their properties and exercise vigilance. PC

Burnside also pointed out that it is an offence to not have dogs under control, particularly when around livestock, and owners of livestock can shoot any dog worrying farm animals.

March Minutes

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

Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Members regretted that negotiations between Mr. Caldwell and Post Office Ltd. have broken down. Cllr. Bell said that Mrs. Christine Grahame MSP is trying to get them re-started.

Regarding the 'Litter Pick', Mrs. Thornton said that Mr. Iain Weir needs to be on hand for access to the Resilience Shed. Cllr. Logan said that Mr. Hedley should be contacted if there is a problem with equipment.

Cllr. Bell reported that he and Mr. Thomson had investigated the need for parking bays to be painted at the Circle in Tweedholm Avenue East and they had decided it was unnecessary.

Cllr. Bell said that the repair of the bridge over the Lade should have been done on 7th April. Mr. Waller said this has not happened and Cllr. Bell undertook to investigate. (Following Cllr. Bell's intervention anti-skid boards were fitted on 21st April and new tarmac had been put down on 24th April).

Correspondence

Mrs. Thornton had supplied a Correspondence List covering March-April.

Email from Alex Hogarth, Business Gateway regarding two Business Master Class Events this spring. These are taking place in Galashiels Transport Interchange and are free.

An email received from Emily Gust, Temporary Parliamentary Researcher regarding "Village of the Year 2017 with Penelope Keith" This summer Penelope Keith and her team of judges will be visiting villages all across the UK to determine a winner, with £10,000 to be spent on the winning village up for grabs. The closing date for applications is 14th May 2017. *(Cllr. Bell said that this is worth applying for. Members agreed.)*

Email from David Torr, Acting Secretary, SBCCN, attaching the minutes of their meeting held on 22nd March 2017 at SBC Headquarters and the briefing documents from the presentations on Community Broadband and Scottish Borders National Park. Their next meeting is on 17th May. *(Mr. Thornton will attend this meeting)*

Email from PC Chris Burnside attaching the Police Report covering the period from Monday 13th March to Tuesday 18th April, 2017.

An email received from Mr. Ian Robertson regarding the new Multi-use Pathway, pointing out his fears that if cars go at more than 10 mph his grandchildren and neighbours' children may be at risk. *(See below)*

An email received from Mr. Colin Kerr regarding the new Multi-use Pathway, pointing out that young children and dogs run about on this path. He suggests that the Council should put in speed bumps and advisory signs. *(Cllr. Bell said that the construction of speed bumps is unlikely, but he will arrange for appropriate signage to be put in place.)*

Email received from Jason Hedley regarding "Scotland's Floral Gateway Competition and Community Awards 2017", asking if we wanted to enter and giving the different categories along with the closing date for entries etc. *(Members decided not to enter this year)*

Reports by Members

Mr. McVean said that Mr. Colin Beaton had assisted Ms Daykin in the cleaning of the bus shelter and should be 'mentioned in dispatches'.

Next Mr. McVean reported that there are potholes in Park Avenue which need to be repaired. Cllr. Bell undertook to report this.

Ms Daykin said that she attends Tweeddale Community Network meetings and will circulate minutes to members if relevant matters arise.

Ms Daykin said that the bench near the bus shelter on Peebles Road needed re-painting. Cllr. Logan said that this is on Mr. Hedley's 'To Do' list.

Ms Daykin asked why disabled parking bays on Peebles Road are half-width, meaning cars have to be parked partially on pavements. Members and councillors discussed this and agreed that it was because, at this point, the road narrows. However, drivers using these bays must ensure that they park in such a way as to leave room for wheel chairs and prams to have pavement access. Cllr. Bell said that a bill is being brought before the Scottish Parliament which, if passed,

will make it illegal in Scotland to park vehicles on pavements.

Mr. Waller said that there is a worsening dog mess problem in Alexandra Park. PC Burnside said he will bring this to the attention of the wardens.

Miss McIntosh asked if it is legal for wheelie bins to be left on pavements for long periods. In fact there is no law to prohibit this. It was suggested that if members consider it necessary they could have a quiet word with residents who have room on their property for their bins, but still leave them on the pavement for an excessive amount of time.

PC Burnside said that 30mph stickers can be attached to wheelie bins to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limit. He will investigate the availability of these stickers. ACTION: PC Burnside.

Mrs. Thornton reported that the phone kiosks in the village are not to be deactivated.

Mrs. Ogilvie-Wilson expressed her satisfaction on the excellent job done by Sustrans and SBC in resurfacing the Multi-use Path from Caberston Road to the bridge just beyond the fishing hut.

Reports by SBC Councillors

Cllr. Logan expressed dissatisfaction that Sunnybrae Lodge has yet to be put on the market, seemingly because SBC personnel 'have not had time to do it'. He will seek a prompt resolution to this matter.

Cllr. Logan regretted that the 'NO PARKING' sign below the Ladder has still to be repainted. He undertook to raise this, yet again, with SBC

Cllr. Logan reported that the potholes on the back road have been temporarily repaired. More permanent repairs will be done once the weather improves.

Cllr. Logan said that the gully above the bridge over the Lade is not draining properly. This task is also on SBC's 'To Do' list.

Cllr. Bell said that recently a Walkerburn resident had suggested to him that the 30mph speed limit should be extended on the A72 to the east of the village. Cllr. Bell thought this a very good idea because (hopefully) it would slow traffic at the two bus stops outside the village. The 30mph repeater signs would need to be positioned further down the straight. Members agreed this made sense and Cllr. Bell will take the matter up with the Traffic Department.

Date of Next Meeting

7.00pm Wednesday 17th May.



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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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL MAY/JUNE

Anyone interested in booking the Hall, please contact Win Pennel on 01896 870236

(Please note change of contact)

Date	Event	Time
May		
Saturday 13th	Walkerburn Summer Festival Coffee Morning (with announcement of this year's Principals)	10 – 11.30 am
Wednesday 17th	Walkerburn and District Community Council Meeting	7 pm
Sunday 21st	Church Service	10 am
June		
Thursday 8th	General Election Polling	
Saturday 10th	Coffee Morning in aid of Walkerburn Public Hall "Tiaras, Teas, Crowns and Coffees" Prize for child's best home-made Tiara or Crown!	10 – 11.30 am
Sunday 18th	Church Service	10 am
Wednesday 21st	Community Council Meeting	7.00pm
Sunday 25th	Church Service (Kirkin' Service for start of Walkerburn Summer Festival)	10.30am

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

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

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

 <p>Gym Bag Personal Training & Fitness Call Hilary Little 07412 388 993 for individual & group training</p>	<p>Rab's Cabs Your Local Taxi Service Airport Service available – any hour!</p>  <p>Phone Rab: 01896 870573 / 07749 382665</p>
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Contact BURNing Issues at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com