



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY FIVE – AUGUST 2019

GET STARTED WITH REUSABLE NAPPIES

Change Works in Peebles is inviting residents of Tweeddale to drop in and find out about the benefits of reusable nappies and to test before you invest, with a heavily discounted starter pack.

Switching to cloth nappies could save you £800 and avoid sending 4,000 nappies to landfill over the course of birth to potty trained. Reusable nappies have changed a lot since their beginnings and today they're more absorbent, comfortable and kinder to your baby's skin.

Change Works in Peebles will be launching the reusable nappy starter kits on Wednesday 7th August, 10am to 12noon. Parents, carers and expectant parents are warmly invited to drop in and find out about reusable nappies over a coffee and cake. A starter pack, worth almost £50,

includes three types of nappies, accessories and an instruction guide is available for only £25. They will also be available to purchase at this price from Change Works in Peebles after the event.

To find out about more about the project, pop into the Change Works in Peebles hub contact the team on their Facebook page

www.facebook.com/ChangeWorksinPeebles.

E-mail peebles@changeworks.org.uk

or call 01721 7228103

WASTE RECYCLING PRESENTATION

At the request of the Community Council, Mr Stuart Dickson of SBC Waste Services gave a most interesting and informative talk and slide show about how waste is handled by SBC and what is and is not recyclable.

Members of the community were also present to listen to the presentation and to ask questions.

A detailed report of this meeting can be found at the start of the Community Council Minutes article.

However, we would like to highlight an important point raised by Mr Dickson:

He urged residents to ensure that NO FOOD WASTE is left in tins, jars, containers etc. put into recycling bins as the recycling machinery has no cleaning facility. Neglecting to do this contaminates not only those items but also the rest

of any load that is collected and the whole load will be sent to landfill waste. This results in considerable extra wastage. DIRTY ITEMS CANNOT BE RECYCLED.

Fuller details of recycling can be found on the SBCCconnect newsletter and on the website: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/464/what_goes_in_each_bin_or_bag

Note: There will be a special feature on recycling in a future edition of SBCCconnect.

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Trust AGM will take place in the Public Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th September.

All are welcome.

“Crafts4U” - WANTED

Volunteer required for regular Wednesday Morning shifts, 10.30am until 1.30pm, at local Craft Club.

Duties include providing basic craft support to Adults with Learning Difficulties and their Carers. Refreshments provided.

Please contact Jennifer Brown on 01896-833883.

WALKERBURN PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Please see information on the yellow flyer with this issue of Burning Issues.

Walkerburn 2020 Calendar

Once again the Development Trust will be producing a calendar for the village. If you have any photos which you think might be suitable for inclusion please send them to mail@walkerburn.com

Please state where the picture was taken and the month it was taken so that it can be used in the correct place in the calendar.

BURNing Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the September 2019 issue by the last day of August.

Thank you.



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Latest news on Facebook: Walkerburn RFC

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Walkerburn Bowls and Petanque

The Peeblesshire Bowls League season ended as we played our final match at St Ronans in wet and blustery conditions.



Despite the weather, we enjoyed an enjoyable evening and the green played surprisingly well after a day of heavy rain showers. A strong St Ronans team emerged as deserving winners and were generous in their appreciation of

how they had enjoyed all their games against us this season. Likewise, we can look back on some very enjoyable encounters with the teams we play against and we are pleased to have recovered from a slow and difficult start to end up strongly in a very good mid-table position.

We now move on to the remaining club tournaments of the season: The HBMI Triples on Saturday 24th August and the Open Pairs competition on Saturday 14th September. We invite everyone to come along and enjoy some good bowling and excellent catering.

Also, in addition to the regular Monday afternoon friendly games, the club tournaments are progressing well and there are still some very competitive ties to be played before the eventual winners emerge.

The club does, of course, a lot to the hardy Petanque members, who turn out all year round in all kinds of weather! As well as the usual Friday afternoon practice and friendly games, there are also a few dates to take a note of:

Monday 30th September will be an "Open Day" and "Come and Have a Go Day", open to all. Hopefully, weather permitting, there will also be a barbecue to enjoy. It will be a relaxing occasion for having a go at this friendly sport. And remember, children's equipment is always available on loan.

Two South of Scotland League matches are also scheduled for 4th September (away) v. Inverleith and 14th September (home) v. Glasgow.

Meanwhile, the landscaping work is progressing steadily, and we also want to thank grateful to Kenny Confrey for the excellent job he has done, and to Craig Glendinning for helping in the clearing-up process. We are also grateful to SBC Grants for a very kind offer to pay for the skip hire expenses involved in removing a large amount of excess rubble and debris.

Finally, following a day of hard work when members of both the Bowls and Petanque sections turned out to take part in a big tidy-up and weeding effort, a quick look around the bowling green reveals that they did a splendid job. Many thanks to everyone who made an effort to help.

For enquiries, please contact Secretary, Bruce McAlister on 01896-870620: brucemacalister@tiscali.co.uk or George Thornton on 01896-870251: 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 £5.00 per calendar year. Newcomers always given a warm welcome. Any queries, please contact Jenni Brown on 01896 833883.

Sheila Bertolino

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August Wildside

Hopefully you've taken part in the 'Big Butterfly Count' which runs to August 11th this year - so you might still have time if you haven't.

Just find a sunny spot outside and spend 15 minutes counting the butterflies you see. An ID chart is available online at www.bigbutterflycount.org where you can submit your sightings too, or via the free Big Butterfly app on your mobile phone. Butterflies are putting on a late show and we've seen more these last couple of weeks than in many a year.

There is a large influx to the UK this year of 'painted ladies'



from the continent, and certainly we've noticed them here for the first time. They are particularly fond of our lavender plants by the roadside which are loved by bees too. The buddleia plants are just coming into flower so

perhaps they'll get a late feed on those too.

The last huge influx of these butterflies was in 2008 when 11 million came and such a big arrival happens about every 10 years. There are also lots of white butterflies around this summer and yet I still haven't seen caterpillars. They must be here somewhere. I'm growing cabbages this year for the first time and I've made sure they're netted so they're not there. We do have a huge nettle patch and grow nasturtiums which are both popular some butterflies for caterpillar food. Just have to keep looking and enjoy watching them feed on the lavender and the buddleia.

Another insect we've seen and heard is the grasshopper, usually in the partly cut verges or field margins. I've always quite liked grasshoppers and think of them as

summer insects associating them with sunny days and long grass. I'm not going to join in the argument on grass cutting (or not) by the council other than to say it takes more than letting the grass and weeds grow long to increase biodiversity so I don't buy that argument. It's just penny pinching. Anyway, during part of my zoology degree I had to catch and release grasshoppers in a species count. Once caught, we had to paint a coloured dot on their back so that if we caught them again we didn't count them twice. Interesting, but very fiddly. Grasshoppers are surprisingly small in real life. The male can produce a buzzing sound either by rubbing its front wings together or by rubbing toothlike ridges on the hind femurs against a raised vein on each closed front wing. They are related to crickets and locusts but fortunately do not do the same damage as locusts.

We've enjoyed seeing baby blue and great tits and lots of young house sparrows but our highlight was seeing and hearing skylarks, relatively locally too. Another highlight was hearing the low chirr of a nightjar from the garden. We heard one a few years ago but it's nice to know they're still about. I'm on my annual foray northwards shortly. I wonder if we'll spot anything different?!

I've discovered the 'Peoples Trust for Endangered Species' whose work is based on scientific evidence gathered through surveys, which you can take part in. They award research grants to the most inspiring scientists worldwide. This evidence guides their conservation efforts and is shared through events and publications. They are currently doing 'garden', 'countryside' and 'on the road' surveys which include recording records of roadkill. Take a look at their website for details at <https://ptes.org>

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2019

Present: Mr P Waller (Chairman), Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson (Vice Chairman), Mrs L. Thornton (Secretary), Ms M. Daykin, Mrs J. Flynn, Mr G. Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary). Ex Officio: Councillor S Haslam.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present, particularly our new WDCC member, Jenny Flynn.

Apologies and Notices

Apologies were received from Ms Emma Guy, Mr Arran Houston, Mr Ian McVean, Councillor S. Bell, Councillor R. Tatler, and PC. Burnside.

Notices: Peebles Highland Games – Road Closures – Saturday 7th September.

Recycling Presentation by Stuart Dickson, Waste Services, SBC

At the request of the Community Council, Mr Dickson gave a most interesting and informative talk and slide show about how waste is handled by SBC and what is and is not recyclable. Several members of our community were also present to listen to the presentation and to ask questions.

Mr Dickson showed a sequence of slides to illustrate various aspects of recycling and was able to refer to numerous items that had been brought along by Community Council members and local residents.

He explained how necessary it was to reduce waste going to landfill sites. The current cost of landfill tipping amounts to a statutory charge of £88 per ton. Importantly, by 2021 there will be a landfill ban on household waste – although SBC has brought forward a ban in advance of this date and has stopped tipping since July 2019. A survey by Waste Services SBC had revealed that 60% of what is currently put into general waste wheelie bins is recyclable.

Statistics show that by 2020 the EU will recycle 50% of household waste. However, Scotland will achieve 60%. Also, by 2025, no more than 5% will be sent to landfill sites in Scotland and 70% will be recycled as useful compost waste. Currently, Eshiels centre has a Community Re-use Cabin to take items such as bicycles, useable furniture, household goods, garden tools etc. Increased use of these facilities is strongly urged.

A 'Deposit Return Scheme' is also expected to feature in proposed Scottish legislation.

Unfortunately, black plastic and non-stretchable/non-bendable plastic cannot be recycled. As a general rule, items made up of two or more different materials cannot be recycled; examples of such items are crisp and coffee packets. However, some multi-material items can be recycled if the different components parts are separated; for example, if the plastic windows on cardboard food boxes are cut off, then both the cardboard and plastic film can go into the blue bin. Also, Mr Dickson said that if the bin men discover that a large amount of garden waste has been put into general waste wheelie bins they will not empty these grey lidded bins.

Different areas have different procedures, but the sensors on equipment used by SBC contractors cannot process all types of waste items.

Importantly, Mr Dickson urged residents to ensure that NO FOOD WASTE is left in tins, jars, containers etc. put into recycling bins as the recycling machinery has no

cleaning facility. Neglecting to do this contaminates not only those items but also the rest of any load that is collected. This results in considerable extra wastage.

Chairmen and members thanked Mr Dickson for accepting their invitation to this meeting, for his presentation and for answering lots of questions.

Police Report by PC. Burnside - 14th June to 17th July: No incidents of note to report in the past month, but 1 non-reportable vehicle accident and 22 calls to this area. (Note: PC Burnside had intended to attend the meeting but was called away on Police business. This report was forwarded the next day)

June Minutes

Approval was proposed by Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson, seconded by Ms Daykin and passed unanimously.

Matters Arising from June Meeting:

i. Secretary to contact Brian Young, SBC Roads Officer to ask if a copy of the fatal accident report in respect of the recent fatal crash on the A72 near Holylee could be made available to WDCC.

Mr Thornton reported that he had spoken with Brian Young, who had advised him that there will not be a fatal accident report. However, a detailed investigation will be carried out by Police with a view to ascertaining whether blame might be apportioned to any of the parties involved and if there might have been a breach of Traffic Regulations. These reports are not circulated to the public.

ii. Secretary to amend members' contact details and send a copy to SBC and display copies on village notice boards. This has been done.

iii. Mrs Thornton reported that the damaged perspex on the bus shelter outside the public hall had been repaired. Members thanked Cllr Tatler for getting SBC to deal with matter so promptly.

iv. Similarly, SBC had carried out much needed repairs to the dangerous potholes in Tweedholm Avenue. Once again, Members thanked SBC for dealing with this matter so promptly – especially as the annual Festival Parade would be proceeding along this route.

v. Mr Waller said that the drains in Caberston Road outside numbers 20 and 21 had not been cleared and at this point the road continues to flood following heavy rain.

Correspondence 20th June to 17th July

Correspondence circulated to members – available on Walkerburn website.

Planning

There was one retrospective Planning Application in respect of a change from agricultural land to incorporate into garden ground, erection of garage and stables at Cedar Wood, Juniper Bank, and land East of Cedar Wood. Mr Thornton showed photographs and plans and members raised no objections to this application.

Annual Flowerbed Planting and Biodiversity Plans

With regard to e-mail from Cllr. Bell (item xii) 'Proposed Changes to bedding Plots in Tweeddale'. This was the first that he and other Councillors had heard of the detail of proposed changes in Tweeddale – though the

principle that there would be changes to the provision of managed borders by Council staff had been foreseen as a one of the consequences of the current budget which was agreed by Council in February. Whilst there are many affect areas in some communities – there is only one in Walkerburn. Members raised this issue with Cllr. Haslam. She explained that necessary cost saving has to be implemented and the Council's intention is to plant shrubs in beds to reduce maintenance costs. Walkerburn has two flower beds situated adjoining the 'wee man' statue and one at the start of Caberston Road, below the bridge. SBC will maintain them. Members agreed that this was a suitable compromise but also hoped that local volunteers or a local business might take it upon themselves to sponsor the upkeep of the flower beds. Members also agreed that they agreed with the biodiversity sites by the river in Walkerburn. The seeding of wild flowers on the uncut grass banking between the Ladder and Coffee Shop was also discussed.

Any future comments or queries should go to Neil Pringle at SBC. Email: npringle@scotborders.gov.uk

Other Business

i. Mrs Thornton expressed appreciation to SBC for supplying the attractive hanging flower baskets that brightened up the village considerably in time for the Festival Week.

She also noted that there was a letter from Mike Marsh, Access Ranger (East), concerning availability of Local community Path Maintenance Grants up to a value of £450 which can be applied for until 28th February 2020. (Pathway from A72 beside George Hotel descending to Park Avenue is a prime example).

ii. Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson congratulated the Hall Committee on their successful application for funding to repair the roof and thanked the Hall Committee members for all their hard work in achieving it. Also, thanks to everyone who voted for this project. Members all agreed.

iii. Mr Thornton pointed out that the Community Council should agree to arrange and fund the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony and reception which has been a great success in past years. Members voted unanimously to make similar arrangements this year.

Mr Thornton, as Treasurer, said that he will arrange for a second signatory for the Community Council bank account to be added to the approved list, in lieu of the resignation of Dr Henderson.

Mr Thornton also produced some interesting photographs taken on the main coastal road in Fife which illustrated a very cost-effective method of traffic calming – and one that could equally be applied to the A72 main road through Walkerburn. Instead of installing 'sleeping policeman' speed bumps on the road, the Fife Council had painted very life-like images of speed bumps on the main road. This would present no difficulty for vehicles such as HGVs or Buses to cross and is very easy and cheap to install.

iv. Ms Daykin asked that the Festival Committee be warmly thanked for all the hard work that went into making it another big success this year. She also echoed thanks to SBC for getting the road potholes repaired in time for the festival. Interestingly, regarding this, Cllr. Haslam pointed out that SBC keeps a diary of

all the Festival and Gala dates and has a policy of making last minute inspections of, and repairs to, all locations. Also, Mrs Thornton noted that eight volunteers had responded for a request for help from Martha Gibson and this had made a big difference.

Members thanked all people and all parties concerned.

Finally, Ms Daykin said how interesting she had found the recycling talk, but added that one other useful bit of information that people may like to know. Normally, black plastic plant pots have been non-recyclable. However, B&Q stores will accept all of these for use as recycling into useful objects. Please hand in any unwanted plant pots.

v. Mrs Flynn mentioned another example of attempted e-mail fraud and asked that residents be warned about it. In this instance, an e-mail request concerning a request for a loan of money, purporting to come from the Walkerburn Community Council, was a blatant attempt to extort funds. People should be aware that that the Community Council would never make such a request. It follows a common pattern whereby people often use someone's identity (commonly, claiming to be a friend or colleague) and concoct a sob story asking for temporary loan to help in an emergency, such as a stolen passport or airline ticket. Mr Thornton advised that the best place to report such attempted frauds was on-line at the National Fraud Investigation Office - NFIBPhishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk.

Reports by SBC Councillor(s)

Councillor Haslam asked, firstly, that a local press article stating that David Mundell MP was in favour of renaming Dirtpot Corner as 'Mollie McIntosh Corner' was his own suggestion and not one proposed by our local councillors as the council had other ideas in mind to commemorate Mollie. Also, the article incorrectly quoted her as saying that the council would be naming a room in Walkerburn Public Hall after her. That is being discussed and dealt with by the Hall Committee.

Cllr Haslam mentioned that there will be ongoing road resurfacing in the area – particularly along the A72.

She mentioned plans for a Borderland Regeneration scheme were being discussed, with a view to implementing a £20 million Growth Deal (of which SBC would contribute £2,500,000) to enhance the whole of the Tweed Valley from its source and onwards. This can be expected to bring many benefits.

Members agreed that this could be a bonus for our area. Finally, she mentioned that the Brodies Mill Bike Centre in Innerleithen was currently being assessed by SBC to look into its financial viability. Further information would be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Date of next WDCC Meeting

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th September at 7.00pm.

Note: Christine Grahame MSP has offered to attend a Community Council meeting to answer questions and to ask about problems and suggestions relating to Walkerburn.

Residents will be notified of the date and will be invited to attend and to raise matters of concern.

Chairman's Closing Remarks

Mr Waller thanked all for attending this evening's meeting.



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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: August/September

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

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

Date		Time
August		
Friday 16th	Walkerburn Summer Festival Prize Bingo	6.00-9.00pm
Sunday 18th	Church Service	10.00am
-	No Community Council Meeting in August	-
Monday 26th	Community Hub	10.00am-1.00pm
September		
Tuesday 3rd	Lunch Club	12 noon
Wednesday 4th	Rural	7.30pm
Saturday 7th	Walkerburn Vegetable Association Annual Show and Exhibition	2.00pm
Sunday 15th	Church Service	10.00am
Tuesday 17th	Lunch Club	12 noon
	David Mundell Surgery	4.00-4.30pm
	Walkerburn Community Development Trust AGM	6.30pm
Friday 20th	Walkerburn Summer Festival Prize Bingo	6.00pm

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

Mondays	Mindful Yoga	7.00 – 8.45pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi (<i>closed group</i>)	10.15 – 11.45am
Thursdays	Youth Club (<i>Starts again on Thursday August 22nd</i>)	6.30pm
Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm

Dates for Your Diary;

Friday 11th October: Twilite (Denise Ashwood) 7.30pm. Saturday 26th October: Community Fair - more info to follow

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Samaritans phone or text 116123 www.samaritans.org.uk

NHS 24 111 or 0845-242424 www.nhs24.com **St Ronans Health Centre** 01896-830203

Police non-emergency 101 **Police emergency** 999

Pollution Report Line 0800-807060 **Scottish Borders Council** 0300-1001800 **SB Alert** www.sbalert.co.uk

Contact BURNing Issues at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com