



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

Published by the Walkerburn News Group

ISSUE TWO HUNDRED AND ONE – MARCH 2020

COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCY

There is a vacancy on the Community Council which may be filled on a temporary basis until the next election. Anyone living in the village, over the age of 18 and on the voters register, is eligible and will be very welcome. If you would like to be considered for the temporary vacancy, please contact the Secretary (Mrs Lesley Thornton, 35 Peebles Road, Walkerburn Tel No. 01896 870251) for an application form. An election for the vacant post and the rotational posts will be held this year and will be publicised in 'BURNing Issues' and 'The Peeblesshire News'.

Tweed River Clean-up

Walkerburn was one of the venues for the big 'Tweed River clean-up' on Leap-year Saturday afternoon when local volunteers (including two intrepid helpers on mountain bikes!), led by organiser Tom Rawson from Melrose, scoured the river banks for litter. They collected several bags that were taken away for disposal. Afterwards, everyone warmed up with tea and biscuits which were served in the Bowling Club. Many thanks to all the helpers and to the Bowls & Petanque club.

Late Night Bus Service from Galashiels and Peebles

This matter has been raised with local community councils and SBC, youth groups and other interested parties. They need to know if there is a demand for this service support in order to present a case for it. If you haven't done so already, please help by completing the short questionnaire at the end of last month's 'Burning Issues' or on your e-mail copy and dropping it off at the post office in Walkerburn by 14th March. Many thanks.

Walkerburn Summer Festival

Our Easter Egg Hunt is being held at Walkerburn Rugby Club at 2.30pm on Saturday 11th April. There will be a prize for the best decorated egg. There will be a disco and a BBQ. Entry: £2.00. Donations of foiled eggs would be appreciated.

Dogs Trust Road Show

The Dogs Trust is holding a Roadshow on Monday 23rd March 2020 from 11.00am to 3.00pm in the Village Hall. Look out for the posters on the Hall and PO noticeboards. One of the things they are offering is to chip dogs for free and Dog Trust representatives will be happy to answer any dog-related queries. Please come along and support this worthwhile charity.

HB Club

Please note that the club is available for all kinds of functions. Non-members always welcome. To book, please contact Mags Henderson on 07715-493268.

Walkerburn Pensioners Association

Meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If you would like any further information on any of our activities, please contact Mary or Anne on either 01896-870246 or 01896-870757

BURNing Issues by Email

Some of our readers who have previously received the monthly 'Burning Issues' by e-mail copy may be experiencing problems receiving it – or may have changed their e-mail address. If so, please let us know and we will ensure that you receive it in future. Also, it would be a big help if as many people as possible opted to receive an e-mail copy rather than a paper copy. The e-mail copy also comes as a full colour edition. Please contact us at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com or phone 01896-870251. Thank you.

BURNing Issues Contributors

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



**WILLIAM KENYON
PAINTER & DECORATOR**

All interior, exterior and floor tiling work undertaken to the highest standard.

Telephone/Fax 01896 870757

We are offering 10% off labour costs for any interior work before the end of April.

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

“Would You Like To Improve The Way You Feel?”

TWEED THERAPY CENTRE

(Est. 1994)

(Free Consultation)



**HYPNOTHERAPY | MASSAGE
REFLEXOLOGY**

Sue Tickner MNSPH.; Dip TM
Walkerburn EH43 6AF
01896-870440 or 07771934965
tweedtherapy@aol.com

Wonderful Inclusive Walkerburn

My reasons for writing this article are as follows - to celebrate and acknowledge my grateful thanks to all those in the past and those who are currently involved in leading/managing the various Clubs in Walkerburn.

I am confident in believing that many of us do greatly appreciate the amount of time the committee members sacrifice to keep the Clubs running so well.

Thanks to all those people for helping us “*give a hand in true friendship of togetherness*”.

We also need to be very grateful for the ongoing support we receive from Glendinnings, Rathburn, the Rotary Club, and the George Hotel to name but a few and all the many friends and supporters.

May I encourage fellow villagers to join a club of their choice. What a blessing that Walkerburn is a ‘Village of Clubs’!

Without the zeal and active engagement of all of us, Walkerburn would be a dull place, and what would life be without places for joining together in human fellowship? Loneliness and lack of social contact can affect our health and wellbeing. Conversation is a basic human need and our clubs offer the opportunity for companionship. There is no doubt that talking to each other, sharing memories and laughter makes all the difference. True happiness comes from our connection – sharing common interest with other people.

When my wife and I moved to Walkerburn (Village) from Edinburgh (City) 19 years ago, we were a bit apprehensive as to how long we would be seen as “incomers” before we were accepted as members of the village. It was a pleasant surprise to realize that within six months we were accepted as members of the village.

How did this come about?

We were pro-active in joining some of the village activities. The Church was out first port of call. We were warmly welcomed and made many good friends.

I was impressed in the work that the Walkerburn Community Development trust undertook on behalf of the village. After some time I was invited to join the Board of the Trust. I found it a privilege to work with many talented and highly skilled people.

As someone who had never played bowls before, it took some courage when I decided to become a member of the Walkerburn Bowling and Petanque Club. I was welcomed and I was given regular coaching. I have gained some skills and enjoy bowling. The experience that I enjoy is the great comradeship and the banter, before, during and after each game.

I also joined the Sunday Table Tennis Club. It was another activity that promotes fun and friendship.

I have focused on our Clubs. However, not all our village organisations are called “Clubs”. I am very mindful of the vital role of the Community Council, the Burning Issues, the Vegetable Association, the Walkerburn Pensioners Association, Home Basics, the Lunch Club, Tai Chi, the Youth Club and others play in the life of the village.

Thank you all for your commitment to the wellbeing of our village. Don’t be afraid to join in!

Mani Maniam

Walkerburn Church Guild

Advance notice of forthcoming meeting - Tuesday 24th March 2020 – A.G.M.

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY CRAFT CENTRE

‘CRAFTS4U’

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.

March Wildside

So this February has been one of the wettest on record and hasn't it been apparent, with lakes rather than puddles appearing in fields all over the place.

My mum used to say 'weather for ducks' and it was literally so as they enjoyed having access to underwater grass.

There are signs of Spring though with the swelling buds on the trees, bulbs through the ground and there are also reports of frog spawn so it must be just round the corner. I'll just be glad of warmer weather where the winds won't be as biting and being out in the garden will be a pleasure. I've still got some cutting back of old dead growth to do. I'll take it as once there are insects about in numbers, it's time to get on.

The garden has been interesting in the mornings (even for our old dog) as we've had a brightly coloured cock pheasant feeding under the bird table on what must have been dropped by the smaller birds. He soon flies away when the curtains move, but the dog can still smell him which seems to make him happy judging by the wagging tail!

You'll perhaps remember how my attitude to sparrows has changed over the years and I've come to like them and their comical antics in the garden. Almost two sides of the garden are hedges and the main house sparrow colony spend a lot of time in the bottom hedge. Last Sunday, there was an awful

commotion and I looked out to see a female sparrowhawk drop neatly out from the bottom of the hedge. She had no 'prize' in her beak or talons on this occasion but now she knows the sparrows are there no doubt she'll be back especially if she goes on to nest nearby. The following day I looked out of a side window to see a smaller, greyer male sparrowhawk sitting on the rock at the end of a flower bed. They are very handsome birds and I do like seeing them but I don't want them decimating the smaller garden bird populations. I know that it's natural and I don't have a problem with it but, according to the RSPB, they take about a quarter of fledgling birds in the breeding season and that seems rather a lot.

It will be interesting to see which nest boxes are used this year, if any. The newest one we put up last year, which saw a blue tit family successfully raised in it, has been visited already by great tits so perhaps it's on their shortlist for this year, we'll see. Just need to plan the garden now so that we encourage enough insects for them to feed on...but where's that warmer weather?!

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2020

(Full Minutes are also on the Community website)

Present: Mr P Waller (Chairman), Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson (Vice-Chairman), Mrs L. Thornton (Secretary), Mr G. Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary). Ex Officio: Councillor S. Bell, Councillor R. Tatler.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present, especially members of the public whom he informed that their opportunity to raise issues of concern is during Item 3 'Open Questions'. Thereafter they are very welcome to remain and listen but, as is the normal practice at such meetings, if they wished to make any comment or ask further questions it would have to be at the discretion of the chairman.

On a more sombre note, he expressed the sad feelings of the Community Council on the recent death of Roly Brett, who had served as a community councillor for a number of years and offered condolences to Mrs Brett. A one minute silence was observed before the meeting then continued.

Apologies

Ms M. Daykin, Ms E. Guy, Councillor S. Haslam, PC Burnside

Notices

Notices for various road closures were read out:

- i Tweed Avenue, Peebles – 24th February for 3 weeks
- ii Channel Street, Galashiels – 1st March for 5 days
- iii Market Street, Galashiels to Channel Street - 10th and 11th March
- iv A72 Neidpath Castle – 16th March for 9 days

Open Questions

Following the recent fire at the Rathburn Chemical Works, a number of residents were present at the meeting and those present each voiced their concerns about the incident.

In particular, they queried whether subsequent investigations into the cause would be thorough enough and asked when the outcome of Health & Safety Executive investigations would be known. There was also concern over whether these findings would be made public. The Chairman was asked whether or not the Community Council planned to arrange a meeting at which Walkerburn residents could discuss the explosion and the safety of the chemical works. The Chairman said that soon after January's incident CC members had agreed that a special open meeting should be held once the Health & Safety Executive's report and recommendations had been issued. Members had felt that before holding a meeting it was best to await the release of hard facts. When the meeting is held residents, representatives from Rathburn, SBC councillors and officers will be invited to attend.

One resident described how traumatic the incident had been for her family and was concerned whether it would be safe for her family to live in their home. She also wanted to know how long it would take for any findings to be made known. These fears were acknowledged and the chairman assured those present that the Community Council would do all it could to keep residents informed of all findings and reports. The Chairman pointed out that the Health and Safety Executive's investigation is still ongoing. Naturally, it is frustrating that there was so little information available at present, but there will be an inevitable delay before more information is forthcoming. It was not possible to know just when this will be. However, all the facts will be made known as soon as they were available.

It was suggested that there was a growing feeling among residents in the vicinity of the works that the risk of a further incident was too great and that Walkerburn had become an unsafe place to live. In reply, Community Council members acknowledged that the issues raised were very real and that all the CC members who were present tonight also lived in the vicinity of the works and shared the same concerns. They will be doing all they can to see that Walkerburn is a safe and pleasant place in which to live.

It was pointed out that not everyone in the village is hostile to the presence of the chemical works. Many people, particularly older residents, consider that the problems associated with having the chemical works sited in its present position have been outweighed by the benefits that Walkerburn has gained. The chairman pointed out that it is reassuring to note that Rathburn employees tend to work there for many years - indeed decades - and this would hardly be the case if employees considered the factory to be a dangerous place.

The Chairman thanked the emergency services for all that they had done. He also pointed out that H&S and SBC officials were at the site the day after the incident of Friday 10th January and had decided that work at Rathburn could recommence on Monday 13th. Workmen and specialist clearance teams had been given access to remove all debris.

In response to a query as to whether the Community Council's proposed special open meeting would be well publicised, both the Chairman and the Secretary said that it would.

During the meeting in the HB Club on January 20th it was suggested that a serious incident involving Rathburn had occurred in 2006 and that other mishaps had happened, but had not been reported. In fact, the chemical works has been operating for more than forty years and there have been only two serious accidents (i.e. January's fire and a boiler explosion in 2001). The incident in 2006 was a minor and non-dangerous leakage from a waste overflow into the Walker Burn.

A resident asked why asbestos was present in the roofs of Rathburn buildings. It was pointed out that asbestos is widely used in buildings and is safe under normal circumstances. It only becomes dangerous when fractured and dispersed in small pieces.

At this point in the meeting Dr. Alison Mackenzie came into the Hall, having been unavoidably delayed on her journey to Walkerburn. The Chairman welcomed her and thanked her for making the long journey in such dire weather.

Dr Mackenzie was able to give an update on events to date.

There have been several visits to the works by the Health & Safety Executive's personnel. A team of five H&SE experts from Manchester has been present for the past two days. They will take back their findings and submit a detailed report as soon as possible.

Dr Mackenzie also pointed out that Rathburn Chemicals had itself appointed H&S experts who have carried out detailed inspections and subjected the site's safety systems to intense scrutiny.

The initial view of authorities was that it was safe for the company to continue to operate – but with certain caveats. This has resulted in some of the usual work on site being discontinued until reports are forthcoming.

Initial recommendations have pointed to the need for more automated systems to be introduced, which will result in better and more fail-safe controls (such as automated cut-off mechanisms) being used.

Dr Mackenzie apologised to residents for the distress and inconvenience caused and she remained after the meeting to speak with those present and answer any further queries they might have. She assured everyone that there will be no cover-up. H&SE's findings will be made available and she assured everyone that Rathburn Chemicals will do all that is asked of it.

December Minutes

The Minutes were proposed by Mr Waller and seconded by Mrs Thornton.

Matters Arising from November Minutes

i. Secretary again checked the wooden walkway and steps recently and found neither had been repaired. Also, the steps up on to the banking east of the walkway have yet to be replaced.

ii. Secretary was asked that, because we distribute the minutes in Burning Issues and on the Walkerburn website, was it necessary to put them on Facebook? It was agreed that was unnecessary.

iii. Questionnaire regarding late buses at weekends has been attached to last page of Burning Issues and a box left in the Post Office for completed copies. Ms Guy has been too busy to date to circulate a 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire. It is hoped that this matter will be on the March agenda at Clovenfords C.C., to which Tim Stevenson (SBC Bus Officer) has been invited to speak. Mr Thornton will attend the meeting and report back.

Matters Arising from December Minutes

i. Councillor Bell will speak to SBC regarding damage to the memorial bench at the foot of the triangle on the back road. As SBC were working in the vicinity, he will check whether

they were responsible. It is hoped that it will be replaced under the Small Grants scheme, if necessary.

ii. Innerleithen and District CC Meeting on 3rd February. Cllr Bell reminded us about the agenda item on SP Networks presentation and Q and A session. Treasurer and Secretary attended this meeting.

v. Secretary contacted Lesley Smith of Forestry and Land Scotland re Ashiestiel and West Bold management plans and an event will take place in the Public Hall on 7th April from 3 to 7pm. Secretary will let Clovenfords Community Council know.

Correspondence;

18th December 2019 to 19th February 2020.

All e-mails already circulated to members – full details on web site.

Planning

One Application was submitted this past month:

Installation of an oil tank on land south east of RJ Hall workshop, Glenbenna. (Ref: 20/00103/AGN).

This will be situated away from residential dwellings and in a safe and secluded location. Members present raised no objections to this construction.

Reports by Members.

i. Chairman reported that Mr Rawson has been in touch to say that Walkerburn is included in the next River Tweed clean-up at 2.00pm on Saturday 29th February. Although this date would not be suitable to use as part of our village spring clean, which is proposed for later in the year, volunteers will be asked to also help out on this date.

Members agreed that Walkerburn does not suffer from the same levels of litter dumping as other areas along the Tweed, but agreed that the village needed another clean-up and should combine a river litter pick on the same day. A date for this Spring clean-up (possibly late April or early May) will be discussed at the next meeting.

i. Chairman mentioned that the drain beside the back road triangle is again blocked and causing flooding. This has been an on-going problem and again needs attention.

Next the Chairman reported that the drain/sewer at the north end of Caberston Road (near the bench) is permanently overflowing and water is pouring down Caberston Road. He wondered if the burn needs dredging at this point.

The Chairman had also been asked to raise the issue of the gas pipe positioned on the upstream side of the bridge. Recent flooding had brought a lot of heavy timber which might have ruptured the pipe. Particularly hazardous had been the lashed together timbers, formerly supporting the banking about a mile upstream, which had been torn lose during the floods.

Finally, the Chairman also mentioned that SBC roads department had forgotten to remove 'Road Closed' signs from the back road after carrying out repairs recently.

ii. Secretary reported that she had publicised a request for residents to come onto the Community Council on a co-opted basis to bring our numbers up, as two members had resigned. To date, she has not had a reply. Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson said that she would speak about it later in the meeting..

Secretary also reported that she had spoken to Mill owner to express concerns about the tree growing in the middle of the old mill building. This will be removed when the owner's "cherry picker" is available to give an elevated access.

Secretary mentioned that although we have a sandbag store at the Café, we should ask for a second one. Members agreed that this should be placed in the HB Club carpark.

iii. Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson made a statement about her concerns for the future of Walkerburn's Community Council. She expressed disappointment that recent efforts to recruit new members, particularly younger persons, had been unsuccessful. She pointed out that we are three members short of our quota and if one additional member had been unable to attend this evening's meeting there would not have been the necessary quorum.

Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson said that the majority of present WDC members could hardly be described as being in the first flush of youth and their availability to serve long-time on the Council is limited. She added that the Council does not have great power, but does function to bring the concerns of the people of Walkerburn to the attention of SBC councillors and officials. She feared that if new members did not come forward, and existing members stepped down, WDC might be subsumed into Innerleithen Community Council.

In reply, Councillor Bell said that if we didn't have enough members to operate as a Community Council, we would not be subsumed into Innerleithen Community Council.

He also mentioned that if we contact Hilary Scott, she would put an article in the Peeblesshire News.

Reports by SBC Councillors.

i. Councillor Tatler confirmed that the next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership will be held on Tuesday 24th March 2020 in Peebles High School. The meeting is scheduled for 4.00pm as it is hoped that this will be more suitable for younger people to attend. However, as this may also prove inconvenient for adults who are working, there will possibly be a second meeting following on from this one at 6.00pm.

He reported that the theme of the January 14th meeting at Eddleston Village Hall was the Environment. He was very pleased that youngsters from Walkerburn had again attended an Area Partnership meeting. He thanked them for their contribution and how pleased he was to see them. Members agreed.

In response to a question about the works at the A72 end of Caberston Avenue and High Cottages, he pointed out that this was part of the requirements contingent on the planned

development at the top end of Caberston Avenue. Following discussions he and Councillor Bell had with concerned residents some months previously, this was work being carried out to enable better access from the main road and to improve the existing parking facility. Members agreed with Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson when she observed that the view at the junction with the main road had been improved considerably.

ii. Councillor Bell thanked members for earlier mentioning issues that he had wanted to discuss. Separately, he mentioned that, as chairman of the Audit Scrutiny Board at SBC, members and residents may be interested to know that this committee will be assessing carefully various issues such as grass cutting and bio-diversity, responsible dog ownership, Police Action team performance and CCTV benefits, 20mph street orders and traffic calming, and council resources for roads and white-lining.

Any Other Business.

Secretary reported that a meeting was being arranged by Forestry Scotland to advertise proposed tree planting schemes at West Bold and Ashiestiel. This will be on Tuesday 7th April in the Walkerburn Village Hall from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Mr Thornton pointed out that this would drastically alter the views across the hills to the south of Walkerburn and urged residents to attend in order to air any concerns they may have. Councillor Bell asked that secretary also inform Clovenfords Community Council as this also impacts on their area.

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7.00pm in Walkerburn Village Hall.

Residents are invited to attend and to discuss any relevant issues they may have.

"TENT FOR HIRE" GARDEN PARTY - OUTSIDE FUNCTION

6 metres Frontage x 4 metres Depth
£50 per day, plus £20 Build/Dismantle
(Local Delivery)

Brian Lees – Walkerburn
Tel: 01896 870364
Mob: 07801 297806

Sheila Bertolino



OIL PAINTINGS RESTORATION & CONSERVATION

I am based in Walkerburn and specialise in the Restoration and Conservation of Oil Paintings on Canvas and Panel. Contact me for professional advice and help.

Estimates Free

Phone: 01896-870492 Mobile:
07817064050

E-Mail: sheilabertolino17@yahoo.co.uk

"HAIR AT HOME"

Val Smart
Mobile Hairdresser
07852 302 755
23 Years Experience



Thank you for supporting Home Basics your local re-use charity

Quality furniture and household items
Collection and delivery service available



HOME
BASICS

furnishing people's futures

www.homebasics.org.uk

Open 10am-4pm Mon to Fri and 10am-1pm Sat

Supporting vulnerable people locally
Minimising waste and preventing landfill

WALKERBURN
01896 870455

HAWICK
01450 363974



Registered Scottish Charity SC033827



Colin Wilson IT Services

Making your IT work for you

Peebles

m: 07548 152919

e: cwilson.itservices@gmail.com

Windows PC and laptop service & repairs,
Replacement laptop screens.
Windows reinstallations, Upgrade, Virus removal.
Home collection and delivery.

Qualified Hardware Service Technician



MD MOWERS

"Garden Tools and Machinery Service and Repair"
A reliable and experienced Walkerburn based business
Mob: 07517-154 868 e-mail:



mjdee1982@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: February/March

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
March		
Sunday 15th	Church Service	10.00 am
Tuesday 17th	Lunch Club	12 noon
Wednesday 18th	Community Council	7.00pm
Saturday 21st	Easter Coffee Morning in aid of the Hall	10.00-11.30am
Monday 23rd	Dogs Trust Roadshow	11.00am-3.00pm
Tuesday 24th	Guild AGM	2.00pm
Friday 27th	Prize Bingo	7.00pm
April		
Wednesday 1st	WI AGM	7.30pm
Tuesday 7th	Lunch Club Forestry and Land Scotland Ashiestiel/West Bold Management Plan Information Event	12 noon 3.00-7.00pm

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

Mondays	Mindful Yoga	7.00 – 8.45pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi	10.15 – 11.45am
Thursdays	Youth Club	6.30pm
Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm

'Rab's Cabs'
Your Local Taxi Service
Airport Service available – any hour!



Phone Rab:
01896 870573 - 07749 382665

Mike Little Plumber



Phone: 01896 870 655 or 07927 344 184

Contact **BURNing Issues** at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

