



BURNing Issues



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Published by the Walkerburn News Group

ISSUE 204 - APRIL 2021

EDITORIAL

It is very satisfying to be returning to a more relaxed way of life in the village, albeit still some way from being completely normal.

For instance, we have just learnt that Home Basics will re-open on Monday 26th.

We would like to reiterate what Denise says in her 'New Shed' article and remind our readers that our Post office and shop need your custom now, more than ever. Eric and Mags have been a great help to many of us throughout the past year and it is only fitting that we should repay them by 'Shopping Local'!

BURNing Issues, thanks to a generous grant from SBC for a new copier, will continue to be published monthly.

We would like to thank everyone for the support we have had while we were 'off-air' and to acknowledge the help of our advertisers and sponsors who have continued to support us.

If anyone has any notices or comments for us to print, please let us know by the end of the month preceding publication.

Please email us at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com or telephone 01896 870251.

WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - 2021 ELECTIONS

Nominations are sought from residents interested in serving on the Community Council from June 2021 for three years.

The Community Council acts as a link between the community and public bodies such as the Council and the Scottish Government. It is used as a sounding board on a broad range of policy issues. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm in the Public Hall and members are expected to attend most meetings each year. In addition, there are seminars and training opportunities which are voluntary.

Anyone over the age of 18 who is a registered voter and is interested in the future of Walkerburn and District can apply. You must be willing to give some time to read papers, to listen to comments from other residents, to think about

issues and to carry out some basic research if necessary (home or work access to the internet and email is an advantage). Above all, you must be willing to take decisions in the general community interest, without prejudice, and to sign up to a code of conduct.

Please ask the Community Council Secretary, Lesley Thornton - telephone: 01896 870251 or email: wccsecretary@walkerburn.com for more information and a nomination form. Completed forms can also be left in a sealed ballot box at the Post Office.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 30th April 2021.

Dogs and Sheep

Once again, we are approaching the lambing season and all dog walkers are reminded that dogs MUST be kept on a lead at all times if there are sheep present where the dog is being walked.

Nearly all sheep will be heavily pregnant and easily distressed at this time of the year. They are likely to panic at the sight of dogs and can easily lose an unborn lamb.

Already, there have been incidences of dogs that are not on leads chasing sheep in the fields near the river. Only a few days ago, the farmer just happened to be passing as a flock of sheep were being chased by a large dog and, fortunately, the owner was able to regain control of the dog before any serious injury was caused. It is understandable that owners

are sometimes unaware of how serious these situations are and anyone who is out with a dog near sheep or cattle needs to exercise extra care. Please keep dogs on a lead. The penalties for owners of dogs that worry animals are severe. Also, cows can be extremely aggressive when dogs are present, especially if they are with their calves. Please take extra care to avoid such a situation.

If you see a dog chasing sheep, please call local Police on tel. 101.

WALKERBURN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

It's great to have Burning Issues popping through the door again – it's a sign that life is slowly returning to normal, and we can start to think about planning our activities again. Once we have all had our vaccines and the restrictions are eased, we will see what we can organise for members during the summer. In the meantime, everyone still take care and keep safe.

Best wishes from Mary and Anne

BURNing Issues Contributors

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



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Walkerburn Bowling & Petanque Club News

First of all, some good news!

The bowling season at the club will start with a 2pm ‘bowl-off’ this Saturday by Tom Hardie, our president. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and meet us. (Please wear a pair of smooth-soled shoes if you would also like to have a game.)

It won't quite be ‘service as normal’ because, as with all sports, the Covid restrictions continue to severely curtail any League activities at the club. Fortunately, the guidelines from Sports Scotland SBC have been very helpful and supportive for both the Bowls and Petanque sections.

The green is looking good and we also have plans to enlarge the Petanque piste area to accommodate a growing membership. Fortunately, although clubhouse access is severely restricted, this should not be a major

inconvenience as the new open-air gazebo shelter will compensate for that inconvenience.

We are trying hard to increase the membership of both sections by extending a friendly welcome to new and former members – young and old. No previous is necessary and both games can be enjoyed by anyone. This is a great amenity for the village and we hope that more and more people will join us to make use of the wonderful facilities that we have for bowls and petanque. We have equipment available to suit all ages.

We will keep everyone updated with the progress we are making in future issues of **BURNing Issues**.

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

Local Elections Thursday 6th May

Walkerburn Village Hall 7am to 10pm. Don't forget to cast your vote for our Local Councillors.

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): TIMETABLE FOR EASING RESTRICTIONS

To end with some good news for everyone, the current time-table for the easing of Covid restrictions in Scotland has been revised this week and so we hope that this reminder of the update will be useful.

The main points of interest are set out below;

The Covid-19 restriction on travelling around Scotland is to be lifted from Friday 16th April, while people are to be allowed to meet up in larger groups outdoors.

People will be allowed to meet in groups of up to six adults from six households in outdoor settings.

And they will be permitted to travel across Scotland to do so, as long as they do not stay overnight.

Other restrictions are expected to be eased from **26th April** with shops, pubs and restaurants likely to reopen on a restricted basis.

Restrictions on travel from Scotland to other parts of the UK are also expected to be lifted from 26 April and people should be able to meet indoors again in small groups from the middle of May.

The first minister said this meant she could confirm a "very significant re-opening of the economy" from **26th**

April, when the whole of Scotland will move into **level 3** of the Covid-19 restrictions system.

It means that people will be allowed to travel across Scotland from Friday of this week, and meet in groups of up to six adults outdoors.

This will allow reunions of families and friends.

It means shops will fully reopen and hospitality businesses will be allowed to operate fully outdoors, and on a restricted basis indoors.

It is expected that the whole of Scotland to then move to **level two on 17th May** - allowing people to meet up indoors - and to level one and then zero in June.

Also, some changes will be made earlier than originally planned in an effort to boost people's mental health and wellbeing.

Please be carefull and continue to act responsibly as the Corona virus will still be present among us, albeit that it is now more manageable.

NEW SHED UPDATE

The new shed, funded by a grant from the RRR Fund (Response, Resilience, and Recovery Fund), is in place by the side of the hall.

We are very grateful to Tracy who built the shed and generously gave her time free of charge. Tracy has designed it so it fits perfectly into the corner of the village hall and makes the best use of the space. It has allowed us to separate the food from the non-food items, and so looks less cluttered.

Even though there is more room to display more food, we are mindful that we don't want to compete with the post office which has been a life line for many people over the past year during the pandemic. Eric and Mags have supported Food HUGS by having a collection box for

people to donate money for our FareShare membership. So we ask everyone to use the shed responsibly. Use it if you need it, but please support the post office when you can. If possible, buy something from them to pop into the shed too.

We are very lucky to still have a post office and shop in the village so we must use it so we don't lose it!

Thank you for all the suggestions of what we should call the new shed, we will announce the name on Walkerburn Community Development Trust FB page.

Denise Hanks, Food HUGS

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular monthly public meetings will resume on Wednesday 16th June at 7pm in the Public Hall (AGM followed by monthly meeting).

In the meantime, members are working by email and telephone. Please contact any member to raise any issue. (Details can be found on the Walkerburn website and on the Post Office and village Hall notice boards)

Currently, the Community Council is still in discussions regarding the Scawd Law Wind Farm, the '40 mph' issues on the back road, and the Forestry plans for West Bold. Residents will be updated as soon as there is any more news.

We are pleased to be able to notify residents that a request for an electronic speed notification sign at the approach to the village from the Innerleithen end has now been agreed by SBC. Previous signs have been

temporary and have not functioned properly. This new and improved sign will be very welcome.

Also, please read the article on nominations for election to the Community Council. Three members are standing for re-election, but the Community Council is always looking for residents to become new members. Younger members (18 years and over) are especially welcome. The deadline for submitting completed nomination forms must be submitted before Friday 30th April.

Please ask the Community Council Secretary, Lesley Thornton for more information and a nomination form; telephone 01896 870251 or email wccsecretary@walkerburn.com

Community Action Policing Team

The Community Action Policing Team was launched in the Borders with the aim of tackling local issues across the area. The team provides a dedicated community resource which will specifically target issues such as antisocial behaviour and on-street parking. <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities>.

email: saferrcommunities@scotborders.gov.uk

Please let your Community Council know about specific problems so that the Action Team can be informed.

April Wild Side

April has finally arrived.

As I look out from the computer this morning, we have blue skies, bright sunshine and frosty grass in the shadow of the garden hedge – yes, that touch of reality, that it still isn't warm! It's just April after all but what a month April promises to be. We already have a few bumblebees about and of course, more bees of various species will follow but this is the month when we start to see butterflies and moths again. We've seen a tortoiseshell already and one of the next butterflies we see might be the Orange Tip. Only the male has the easily distinguished 'orange tips' to his wings otherwise both are white with pale greeny grey underwing markings. Indeed, the female is often mistaken for one of the other whites, especially the Green-veined White or Small White.

The species has a wide range of habitats which include country lanes, hedgerows, riverbanks, woodland margins and rides, and damp meadows. The species will also turn up in gardens. This butterfly does not form discrete colonies and wanders in every direction as it flies along hedgerows and woodland margins looking for a mate, nectar sources or foodplants i.e., lady's smock/cuckoo flower or garlic mustard. The caterpillars are also cannibalistic in that they will eat other butterfly eggs including orange tip eggs.

The main event for April must be the birds' breeding season. For the next couple of months, we will have our own birds breeding plus the migrant birds arriving to start a family. The blue tits in particular are looking splendid ready for their 'dates'. Give them a few weeks and they will look very different and positively tatty in some cases. That's what raising a family does to you-leaves you a bit frazzled, don't we know! I love seeing the fledglings being shown the ropes in the garden though. My highlight in recent years being the young woodpeckers being shown how to use a peanut feeder and seeing them fall out of the tree then have to start all over again! This year we've had plenty woodpecker activity with both males and females visiting. They seem to be very partial to the 'suet block' (or 'fat square' in my language.) We've recently seen a pair of siskins on the feeders again too so it must be Spring and the goldfinches and long tailed tits are regulars once more. As always, the house sparrow 'colony' is very active and I'm hoping my new special sparrow terrace of 3 nestboxes will be put to good use. I've added 3 roosting pockets to my nestbox collection so one of them might be used for nesting too. You just never know!

Like the birds, enjoy the milder weather.

Scottish Borders Council's Parks & Environment Service

Thank you once again to all individuals and community groups who took part in the initial consultation for the Scottish Borders' first Food Growing Strategy.

After being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic last year, we're pleased to say the Strategy has now been presented to Council and fully approved.

Our initial consultation emphasised clearly to us the fantastic community growing projects already taking place across the Scottish Borders, and we're excited to start developing this even further.

As part of the new Council budget, additional resources are being directed towards ensuring this Strategy is delivered and community food growing projects are supported.

A dedicated page for Community Food Growing is now live on our website and can be found on the SBC website by searching under "Community Food Growing".

This page includes links to the overall Community Food Growing Strategy and to an interactive web map detailing the community growing projects that the general public can get involved in.

Ruth Parker

Customer & Communities - Scottish Borders Council

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