



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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GALA WHEELS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED

We have three vehicles - an accessible 11 seater minibus and two smaller 5-6 seater vehicles, specially adapted for wheel chair use.

We take groups and individuals from throughout Central Borders for outings, for shopping, lunch club, the theatre, swimming, rugby, riding for the disabled, visiting friends and family, hospital appointments, GP appointments or whatever they need. Volunteers can opt to drive the smaller 5/6 seater vehicles only, or all three vehicles including 11 seater minibus. You can drive as often as suits your circumstances. As a

volunteer you would receive full training and are supported by dedicated staff here at The Bridge. We hold regular MiDAS driving courses. If you are thinking of joining, please contact me on the contact details below.

* * * * *

Margaret Aitken at The Bridge on 01896 755370 or email margaret.aitken@thebridge.scot

VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

The Community Council are planning to hold a litter pick sometime in October.

Although our village is not as badly affected as some communities, there are still enough small bits of litter to make the area look unsightly and to also pose a health hazard.

There have been clean-ups in the past and a team of volunteers, including school children, regularly managed to collect several bags of litter for the Council to remove.

Volunteers will be given all the equipment, i.e. hi-viz jackets, gloves, pickers, black bags etc. and there will be a list of areas for each group to choose from. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will be provided at the end.

* * * * *

If you wish to volunteer, please contact Lesley Thornton at wccsecretary@walkerburn.com

WALKERBURN PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer months with the lovely sunny days (almost too hot!) followed by the much needed rain (almost too wet!!)

We are now planning our winter activities and our first meeting will be in the HB Club on Tuesday 11 October, starting at 2.30.

We are delighted to again welcome David McCallum, this time to show the slides "Japan at Cherry Blossom Time". I know many of you will welcome a second chance to view these, while, after hearing glowing reports about them, I am looking forward to seeing them for the first time. This will be an open meeting and visitors will be very welcome, as we will have tea and

biscuits and the chance for a blether. We would appreciate a small donation collection to cover refreshment costs etc.

Membership fees of £2 will also be payable from existing and, hopefully, some new members..

We look forward to welcoming a good turnout for this enjoyable afternoon.

* * * * *

For any further information please phone Mary on 01896 870246 or Anne on 01896 870757.

PROBUS CLUB

The new season of the Probus Club of Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair for 2022-2023 starts on 4th October at the Union Club in Innerleithen. Doors open at 9.45 am for a 10.30 am start.

The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday mornings of the month between October and April and are open to all retired people. Joan Rose is the President for this season with Martin Eldon serving as Vice-President.

The club provides an opportunity to enjoy excellent talks on a wide range of subjects in a friendly, sociable setting and offers a good way to keep the mind active!

It is always ready to welcome new members and further information can be obtained by contacting the Club Secretary at probus.sec@gmail.com or by phone on 01896 830 166.

The programme starts this year with the following talks: i) 'The Order of St John of Jerusalem - The Knights Hospitaller' (4th October); ii) 'Kazakhstan - a personal view' (18th October).

WALKERBURN FLOWER BEDS GROUP

On behalf of the village and our team of volunteers, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Michael Tomkinson from MNT Greens Ltd for generously donating some lovely plants. Echinacea, grasses. Hydrangea and some wall flowers have now been planted out in the village flower beds.

Michael has a wide variety of palms, trees, flowers, ferns, grasses and unusual plants which his company provides the TV and Film Industry with and which can also be seen at the outdoor cafe, The Trailhead in Innerleithen, turning it in to a lovely, outside dining, oasis experience.

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tweedtherapy@aol.com

WALK IT WALKERBURN

Gentle Walks Every Monday 10am Alexandra Park - by the playpark

Our small group have continued our walks and been lucky with the weather most days. It's been great to be out and looking at the lovely landscape in different lights and seasons. There always something different to see. Cheers us up every week!

We'd be delighted if you want to join us. Give it a shot!

Alice Pringle - Mobile or text 07974 782016



'Walk It' is the 'Paths for All' project in the Scottish Borders, supported by Scottish Borders

Council and NHS Borders. The aim is to help people become more physically active through providing low level and friendly led walks. We identify local routes suitable for most abilities. 'Walk It' walks are safe, social, low level, led and free. Walks are led by a first aid trained 'Walk It' Leader and are dementia friendly. You can find out more online by searching Scottish Borders Council 'Walk It'.

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The busy Walkerburn Bowls and Petanque Club summer season continues to make the most of the good weather.

Even though summer is officially over, there are plenty of Bowls and Petanque games still to be played.

The Bowlers have regular 'Wappenshaw' games at 2.00pm every Monday and Saturday and at 11.00am every Wednesday are still going strong. Anybody can join in, irrespective of any experience. Just turn up and enjoy a few ends in pleasant company. We can supply bowls and anything else you might need. Dress code is 'casual' – so there is no need to worry on that score! Just remember to wear flat soles shoes while on the green!

Friday afternoon Petanque games are increasingly

popular and more people are welcome to come along and join in. For the more competitively minded, there are also regular matches against other clubs. Our most recent game was against Moffat, who fielded a strong team. Unfortunately, we lost by 4 games to 2 but still had a very pleasant afternoon.

The club continue to follow the Bowls Scotland and Scottish Petanque Covid advice and is particularly well set up for members to be safe, with electronic monitoring and adequate disinfectant available.

For more details please contact George Thornton on 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk

WALKERBURN RUGBY BACK IN BUSINESS



After a summer of hard work Jim Grieve and his coaching team can now move forward from weeks of evening training sessions to a season of regular fixtures in the Edinburgh Reserve League.

The team of volunteers have improved the facilities and the pitch is looked splendid. Alan and his mower have transformed the pitch into a first class playing area – not forgetting the players who mucked in to cart away a huge amount of grass cuttings! How good it has been to see Peter Hope down at the club again, helping to lay out the lines once more with the able assistance of Phil Lees.

We wish them all the best for a successful season and hope the as many people as possible will join in to support the club. We hope to be able to provide regular reports on the games ahead.

ART IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Community Art Group

Mondays 10.00 to 12.00am alongside Walk In coffee mornings in the Village Hall

Everyone can be creative, come along & join in & play with art & ideas.

Share skills - Drawing, Painting, Collage, Decoupage and maybe Clay work Sculpture etc.

There are some basic materials at the Hall, or bring your own.

Have a coffee/tea, meet friends & enjoy!



COUNCIL TAX REBATE CONCERNS

Council Tax and Water Services Bill 2022/23



Date of Issue: 19-MAR-2022
Account No: 0146374362

Telephone: 0300 100 1800

Property Address:
WALKERBURN

Did you get your £150 Council Tax Rebate which should have been automatically paid to all Bands A-D householders in April of this year?

A resident has pointed out that he only recently realised that he did not receive his payment. Thanks to help from Councillor Pirone, he was able to discover the reason was because there was an error in the SBC property records and the house in question was not flagged up for an automatic payment. Somehow, it was listed as requiring the owner to request a payment.

This may be an isolated incident but, in case this has happened to other householders and has gone unnoticed, we have been asked to bring it to the attention of anyone in EH43 post code area who falls within rates Band 'A' to Band 'D'.

If you think you are affected, please call SBC on the number listed.

THIS BILL IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY - THE AMOUNT DUE WILL BE COLLECTED UNDER THE DIRECT DEBIT INSTRUCTION ALREADY LODGED.

This property is in Valuation Band A effective from 01-APR-22

Charge	Period of Charge	Amount (£)
COUNCIL TAX	01-APR-2022 to 31-MAR-2023	861.02
WATER CHARGE	01-APR-2022 to 31-MAR-2023	147.60
WASTE WATER CHARGE	01-APR-2022 to 31-MAR-2023	171.36
PAYMENTS		-150.00

WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Wednesday 15th June 2022

Until a new Chairman could be elected after being Proposed and Seconded by members, S.B.C. Councillor Douglas took the chair.

Members Present: Mr. P Waller (Chairman), Mrs. L Thornton (Secretary), Mr. G Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Ms. M. Daykin, Mrs. S Horsburgh, Ms. S. Sedgwick, Mr. C. Kerr (Co-opted), Mr. M Wilcox (Co-opted) Mrs. P. Purves (Co-Opted), Mrs. Irene Ogilvie-Wilson. Councillor Douglas, Councillor Tatler

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs. H. Maniam, Mrs. H. McIntyre, Mr. M. Wilcox and Cllr. Pirone.

Minutes of 2021 A.G.M. Proposed: Mr. P. Waller - **Seconded:** Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson

Chairman's Report 2021-2022: It is pleasing that during the last year we have managed to have actual meetings rather than virtual ones. During this period, we have been busy. **Roads & Footpaths:** The new 40mph limit was applied from the village boundary to Old Caberston. The 20mph limit within the village seems to have been welcomed by most residents. It has certainly been welcomed by WDCC members. There are now speed signs at both ends of the village. Jubilee Road and Park Avenue have been resurfaced and in places the pavements have been repaired. For several years the Community Council has worked hard to have the much-needed resurfacing of Tweedholm Avenue included in S.B.C.'s schedule of works; S.B.C. has agreed that this resurfacing will be done in the current financial year. The fence along High Cottages has been repaired. The bridge over the old lade has been repaired.

Soon a section of Peebles Road will be resurfaced and in the hope of reducing the speed of vehicles 20mph roundels will be painted on the road.

Also: In November 2021 Remembrance Sunday was observed and thanks go to Colonel and Mrs Purves for organising the ceremony. Sadly, because of Covid restrictions the Public Hall could not be used for the display of photographs and for the provision of refreshments.

We continue to keep a close eye on the proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm, and we welcome residents' views on this development. We await Fred Olson's official application which we will study carefully before deciding whether WDCC supports or opposes the proposed wind farm. Thanks go to co-opted member Mike Wilcox for his involvement in this complex matter.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, the 'Planning for the Future' action plan was abandoned.

Earlier this year we complained to SPEN about the power outages (both lengthy and brief) that had occurred. We were informed that SPEN have plans to improve the resilience of the power lines between Yair and Peebles and that, in the longer term, there will be an underground line linking Yair, Walkerburn and Innerleithen.

We are still waiting for the Health and Safety Executive's report on the Rathburn Chemicals explosion and fire which occurred on 10th January 2020.

In April the Ukrainian Refugees Assistance Sub-committee was set up by WDCC, its Chair being Colin Kerr who was co-opted onto the Community Council. Also, Mrs Patricia Purves kindly agreed to be co-opted to assist with administrative and secretarial matters. The riverside fence east of the bridge has been repaired.

To counter the threat of flooding a new sandbag store has at last been placed in Caberston Road near the bridge. Also, the sandbag store outside Caberston Café has been repaired.

On 29th May, in conjunction with the Great Borders River Clean, there was a litter pick concentrating on the area around the bridge.

One Bike Repair Station and one Cycle Loop will soon be placed at the Caberston Road end of the multi-use path, and one Cycle Loop will be put outside the HB Club.

Continuing Issues: Becoming a 'No Cold Calling' community.

The on-going problem of dog mess (on Tuesday 21st June Rose Hogg, SBC's Dog Training Officer, will be in the Public Hall from 7.00pm to answer questions and discuss strategies to address the dog mess & bad behaviour issues).

In certain parts of the village car parking remains a problem. Also, there is still a problem of some vehicles being driven too fast, especially along Peebles Road and Galashiels Road.

Thanks:

I would like to thank the Community Council's members for the work they have done over the last year. Special thanks go to Lesley Thornton, (our Secretary), George Thornton (Minutes Secretary and Treasurer) and Mike Wilcox (lead on the Scawd Law Wind Farm proposal).

After several years of hard work as a WDCC member, Irene Ogilvie-Wilson has decided to stand down. Thank you, Irene, for the diligence and integrity you have displayed during this time.

Also standing down is Helen McIntyre and I thank her for the work she has done for our community.

Stuart Bell and Shona Haslam have stepped down as SBC Councillors and on behalf of WDCC. I thank them for the support and advice they have given us over many years. With their assistance, we have been able to build up a good working relationship with SBC and I would like to thank the various departments who have helped the village throughout the past year.

Thanks go to S.B.C. Councillor Robin Tatler for his sterling efforts on our behalf and a '*Well Done*' to Robin for his re-election!

Finally, welcome to our new S.B.C. Councillors – Julie Pirone and Marshall Douglas - and 'thank you' Marshall, for chairing the start of this A.G.M.

Treasurer's Report 2021-2022: Mr Thornton reported that Income and Expenditure had been similar to previous years, except that the Community Council had incurred less expenditure on Hall bookings during the Covid lockdown period, and there was no Remembrance Day lunch in the village hall.

Bank Account: Opening balance: £879.57 - Closing balance: £508.42

Grants: Treasurer mentioned that in previous years the Community Council has paid a Secretary's remuneration and a grant to 'Burning Issues' monthly newsletter for publicising Community Council activities and Minutes. The Secretary's Remuneration has been £400 and the Burning Issues grant has been £100. Treasurer recommended that these remain at the same level for the current year. He asked this be agreed by members.

Proposed: Mr. P. Waller - **Seconded:** Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson

The Community Council will continue to organise the Remembrance Day occasion and purchase a wreath. It is to be hoped that there will, once again, be a lunch in the village hall for residents. That will be dependent on S.B.C. guidelines nearer the time. This will be discussed at a forthcoming monthly meeting.

Community Council 2022 Election Report: Secretary confirmed that there had been 4 applications for the 5 vacant posts. Three of these were members seeking re-election and the fourth was a new member. The Returning Officer, Dr. Henderson, had therefore determined that was no need for a formal ballot.

Dr. Henderson had also said that it was disappointing that there had only been one new application and hoped that this would improve in the next year. However, Secretary pointed out that there were three members who had been co-opted because of their expertise in specific situations and was confident that there were other residents who would also be able to assist if required. Dr. Henderson was thanked for his help.

Election of Office Bearers

Acting Chairman then asked for proposals and seconds for the election and re-election:

- i. Chairman – Mr. P. Waller **Proposed:** Mr. G. Thornton - **Seconded:** Ms. M. Daykin
- ii. Vice-Chairman – Ms. M. Daykin **Proposed:** Mr P. Waller - **Seconded:** Mrs. S. Horsburgh
- iii. Secretary – Mrs. L. Thornton **Proposed:** Mr P. Waller - **Seconded:** Mrs. S. Horsburgh
- iv. Treasurer/Minutes Secretary – Mr. G. Thornton **Proposed:** Mrs. S. Horsburgh - **Seconded:** Mr. P. Waller
- v. New Member – Mrs. S. Sedgwick **Proposed:** Mr P. Waller - **Seconded:** Ms. M. Daykin

Formal Incorporation of New Community Council: Acting Chairman declared that the new Community Council was formally appointed and handed over to the new Chairman, Mr. P. Waller.

Formal Agreement of Code of Conduct: All members and co-opted members were given copies of the Community Councils' '*Code of Conduct*'. They all signed an agreement to abide by those rules.

Appointment of Auditor for 2022-2023: Last year's Audited Accounts are available for inspection. The new accounts for this year are ready to be audited. Treasurer pointed out that, as in past years, it is necessary for an auditor to be proposed and seconded and asked that Mr. Harrison again be asked to carry out the audit.

Proposed: Mr P. Waller - **Seconded:** Ms. M. Daykin

Date of Next AGM: Secretary informed members that next year's meeting would be on 23rd June 2023

Chairman's Closing Remarks:

Chairman thanked Councillor Douglas for conducting the start of the meeting and thanked all who had attended. He looked forward to another successful year of achievements.

Burning Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the October issue by the end of September. Thank you



Borders Boilers

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David: 01896 870735 or 07904119264



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Borders Storm Emergency Helpline 01835 826549

SBC 0300-1001800 or 01896-752111 for out of hours emergency help

NHS Covid status 'phone: 0808-1968585 (10.00am to 6.00pm)

Gas 0800 111999

Police Non-Emergency 101 Emergency 999

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

Scottish Borders Council 0300-1001800 www.sbalert.co.uk

Pollution Report Line 0800-807060

Electricity SBNetworks 0800 0929290
In Instances of Power Cuts Call 105

Scottish Water 0800-0778778
www.scottishwater.co.uk

St Ronans Health Centre 01896 830203

Childline number is 0800-1111

NHS 24 Tel 111 or 0845-242424
www.nhs24.com

Floodline 0845-9881188
www.sepa.org.uk/flooding

Community Action Policing Team <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities>.
email: safercommunities@scotborders.gov.uk

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

WHERE TO GET HELP WITH FOOD

Tweeddale: Food Hugs - Walkerburn Peeblesshire - Swap & Share Shed - Innerleithen Foodbank - Peebles - Food Foundation - Peebles - Tweeddale Youth Action - Peebles

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL September/October

Mondays	'Walk In' Coffee Morning including Community Art Group and Massage Mindful Yoga	9.30 - 11.30am 10.00 - 12.00 7.00 - 9.00pm
Tuesdays (fortnightly)	FoodHUGS Lunch Club and Craft on 20th September, 4th and 18th October	12.30pm - 3pm
Wednesday 21 st September	Community Council	7.00pm
Thursdays	Table Tennis	6.00 - 9.00pm
Saturdays	Limited Spaces available but for Art workshops to be held on 1st and 8th Oct. Borders Youth Group Performance 15th October (<i>details tbc</i>)	
Sundays 18th Sept & 16th October	Table Tennis ITW Church Service	6.00 - 9.00pm 2.00pm

Please note: There are private bookings on October 12th, 13th and 14th

For booking enquiries or to request a booking form, please contact walkerburnpublichall@gmail.com

Home Help With Jodie

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RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE TAKEAWAY

Every Friday from September 16th
OPEN 4.30PM UNTIL 9.30PM

DELIVERY CHARGES:

Innerleithen £1.50 Walkerburn £3.00
Minimum delivery £10.00 Cash or card payment Collection also available. Menu on Facebook .
Cafe Contact number: 07506 919 333

SEPTEMBER WILDSIDE

Autumn is just about with us again and some of the trees are already showing signs of Autumn colour.

Some trees have yellowing simply due to the relatively dry summer season but many are beginning to get their Autumnal tinges. I'm talking, of course, about deciduous trees (i.e. those that lose their leaves in Winter) as a way to preserve water within the plant. The trees that form the majority of what we call 'woodland' as opposed to 'plantations of conifers' that keep their needles (modified leaves) year round. The latter are not great supporters of wildlife but are just as useful in carbon capture so still form large plantations. Fortunately nowadays, it is recognised that mixed planting has its value in better supporting biodiversity rather than just the forestry industry and investors pockets.

Another sign of the season is seeing the combine harvester appear and watch the cereal crop fields being harvested. The majority of wildlife just gets out of the way. By now they're used to our seasonal behaviours on farmland. With the fields cut, they become more visible again at this time of year.

We get a clearer view of a barn owl hunting or a hare running in the field. Those rooks and crows we have plenty of, get a clear run at the bugs and spilled seeds. The majority of the swallows, martins and other summer migrants are away back to southern Europe and Africa and we have a brief spell before we welcome the migrants from the North: Redwings and fieldfares, bramblings and many ducks, geese and swans - some of which spend the winter around the UK coast. Our own populations of robins and some of our more common garden birds are bolstered by

migrants from the north. Redwings and fieldfares are commonly known as winter thrushes and I've written about them in previous years.

Don't overlook our own Song Thrush which is, unfortunately, on the red list of birds these days, i.e. Birds of Conservation Concern and is a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, although one of least concern. It is a very 'smart, bird in appearance, approximately 23cm in length with a wingspan of 34cm and common in gardens and parks. It is a familiar bird, brown above, with a white belly covered in black, drop-shaped spots. The song thrush is smaller and a warmer brown than the mistle thrush, and lacks the white eyestripe and red flank patches of the redwing. Most importantly, and as its name suggests, the song thrush is a great singer with a beautiful, loud song with repeating phrases. We've been lucky enough to have had a family raised near us (sharing the redcurrants with the blackbirds) and I see them most days at the moment. Song thrushes feed mainly on earthworms but will take slugs and snails, the latter which they 'bash' on a stone (known as a thrushes' anvil) to open and get at the meat. So if you find a stone surrounded by bits of snail shells, you know there's a song thrush about as this behaviour is peculiar to this bird. They will also take fruit and at this time of year they can be seen eating berries such as cotoneaster, hawthorns and rowans. It looks like there will be plenty of these again this autumn/winter which is a good thing for all these thrushes - and for any visiting waxwings.

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WCDT E-Bike Hire

Want to use your car less? Want to get more outdoor exercise? Fancy hiring an e-bike for a month? WCDT has 8 e-bikes which village residents can hire for £20/month. We can provide a helmet and lock with the bike which has good panniers on it. We just ask that you take good care of the bike and ensure it is kept secure while you have use of it. Interested?

Contact: Emma on 07519 603121, tweedvalleyemma@gmail.com

Non-residents can hire the bikes for £20/day and £10/day per additional bike.

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