



BURNing Issues



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Published by the Walkerburn News Group

ISSUE 223 - DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

EDITORIAL

A very happy and Christmas and New Year to everyone in Walkerburn.

This is the last edition of what has been a rather strange year. 'Burning Issues' will be taking a break in January and starting again in February.

It seems as if everyone has been a little subdued after the Covid lock-down that preceded 2022. But life goes on, as it always will, and we have a lot to look back on and of which we can be thankful.

As always, thanks to all those who have helped others and cared for others, and thanks to everyone who has contributed to the wellbeing of our community. Long may you be able to continue to do so.

We look forward to 2023 and will welcome it wholeheartedly.

Best wishes to everyone.

THANK YOU WALKERBURN FROM POPPY SCOTLAND

Walkerburn raised a total of £214 23 in the Poppy Scotland Appeal Tins (plus a few foreign coins!). A donation of £20 was made to the Gurkha Welfare Trust by an individual resident and the OAP Association donated £35 to Poppy Scotland.

Many thanks to everyone who gave a donation and to the Post Office, Café, HB Club and Bowling Club for 'hosting' collecting cans.

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

A good turn-out of members on 26th November for a Petanque 'Melee' fun day made this a most enjoyable occasion.



Everyone present had an equal chance to compete for individual prizes as teams were mixed up after each game, which made for very entertaining and interesting competition as each round had a different outcome.

Well done to everyone who braved a cold but dry half day. And a big thank-you to Michel for organising everything.

It is a pleasure to see that the Club is up and running all year round, except in the face of extreme weather. The clubhouse itself is a warm and comfortable meeting place. As always, tea, coffee and biscuits are available. Just help yourselves!

Also, and we are hoping that we will be able to help Walkerburn residents throughout the coming winter by providing a warm hub if it becomes necessary.

Petanque continues throughout the Winter, whenever the weather is favourable, with regular friendly games at 1.00pm every Friday and a break for tea or coffee and a biscuit. If you would like a game, irrespective of any experience, just drop in and we can supply all you might need. Dress code is 'casual' – just wrap up warmly!

The club wants to encourage more community involvement, to include local organisations, adults or children. Please come along and take a look at what we have to offer.

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

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. Cheers us up every week!

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

Alice Pringle - Mobile or text 07974 782016

PLEASE NOTE: No walk on 26th December & 2nd January

Burning Issues Contributors

Please submit any articles, letters or other material for the February 2023 issue by the end of January.

Borders Boilers

Gas & Oil Heating Engineers

Installation, Service & Repair

David: 01896 870735 or 07904119264



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WALKERBURN FISHING



The 2022 Salmon Season has just ended on the Tweed and the story of the Caberston beat throughout has been one of very mixed and often difficult conditions with widely fluctuating water levels and wide temperature variations.

Despite this, the fishermen did well. A total of 55 Salmon were caught.

Having being held back for a long time by very low water, it was good to see that there was a good run of fish and that this year's spawning promises to be a very good one.

Finally, a few words of thanks to Steve for his hard work this year.

"A very happy Christmas to you all".

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

NHS 24 Tel 111 or 0845-242424

www.nhs24.com

Scottish Borders Council 0300-1001800

www.sbalert.co.uk

Police Non-Emergency 101

Emergency 999

Pollution Report Line 0800-807060

Electricity SPNetworks 0800 0929290

In Instances of Power Cuts Call 105

Scottish Water 0800-0778778

www.scottishwater.co.uk

St Ronans Health Centre 01896 830203

Samaritans phone or text 116123

www.samaritans.org.uk

Floodline 0845-9881188

www.sepa.org.uk/flooding

MAK Locksmith (24hour Service)

07926 559296

Community Action Policing Team <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

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL December 2022 - January 2023

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	'Walk In' Coffee Morning. Xmas break from 19th Dec, returning 9th Jan Mindful Yoga. Finishing 19th Dec, returning 9th Jan	9.30 - 11.30am 7.00 - 9.00pm
Tuesdays (fortnightly)	Youth Club returning 10th Jan.	6.00 - 9.00pm
Wednesday	Community Council Meetings on 18th Jan and 15th Feb.	7.00pm
Wednesday 25/1	Fred Olsen Renewables - Scawd Law Windfarm	1.00-7.00pm
Thursdays	Roller skating/Fitness Group returns in the New Year Kid's Skate Session (£2) Circuit Session (£3) Adult Skate Session (£3) Contact kel kel.archibald47@gmail.com for more info	5.00 - 8.00pm 5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.00pm 7.00 - 8.00pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service on 15th Jan & 19th Feb. Table Tennis	1.30 - 3.00pm 6.00 - 9.00pm

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please contact walkerburnpublichall@gmail.com

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Mr. P. Waller (Chairman), Ms. M. Daykin (Vice-Chair), Mrs. L. Thornton (Secretary), Mr. G. Thornton (Treasurer & Minutes Secretary), Mrs. S. Horsburgh, Ms. S. Sedgwick, Mr. C. Kerr (co-opted), Councillor Douglas, Councillor Tatler.

Apologies and Notices Mr. M. Wilcox, Mrs. Maniam, Councillor Pirone, Mrs. P. Purves (Co-opted).

Police Business Mr. Thornton gave a synopsis of the Scottish Borders Area Command Police Report for the previous month. Points to note were: Community Sergeant Update P.S. Corrinne Bird reported that the Community Policing unit have focused on dedicating resources and time to Peebles in particular over the month of October, to address the concerns and tension being raised within the community regarding the issues of anti-social behaviour.

As in previous months, local Policing Priorities have been:

i. Protecting most vulnerable: In October 2022 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 116 mental health related calls, around 27 missing person enquiries and approximately 65 domestic related incidents. Tweeddale East and West had 16 mental health related calls and 1 missing person enquiries.

ii. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

iii. Reducing acquisitive crime :

There was one reported crime in Walkerburn. On 20th October a quad bike and tools were reported stolen from Caberston Farmhouse, Walkerburn. Police enquiries are continuing and CCTV footage from the vicinity is being examined.

iv. Improving road safety : There were no accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.

v. Tackling serious and organised crime Protecting most vulnerable

Community Action Team Update:

Antisocial Behaviour P.S. Bird wanted to remind people that a single yellow line has the same restrictions as double yellow lines between certain hours.

Road Safety SBCAT have issued the following road traffic tickets this month; 1 x Careless Driving, 2 x No Insurance (with both vehicles being seized), 1 x Antisocial Driving Warning, and 6 other various traffic tickets (e.g. no MOT). Police are continuing to carry out static road checks in rural areas to deter and detect acquisitive crime

October Minutes Proposed: Mrs. S. Horsburgh, Seconded: Ms. M. Daykin

Matters Arising

i. Chairman received notification from Jade Turner (Chairperson, Walkerburn Public Hall Management Committee) to inform members that a date for a Hall A.G.M. has been arranged for 14th December at 7.00pm. New accounts are being drawn up.

ii. Chairman informed members that this year's Remembrance Sunday had been well attended and the ceremony at the war memorial had been very moving. It was both a solemn and a friendly occasion. Several residents had commented on how much they had appreciated the service.

Chairman thanked Colonel and Mrs. Purves, Mr. Thornton and others who had helped with all the necessary arrangements. These included the Reverend Taylor-Cooke for conducting the service, Colonel Purves and Mr. Kerr for help in reading out the names of the fallen, the musicians and the Police Service. Also, he expressed special thanks to Denise Hanks and all who had helped her to provide a very welcome lunch afterwards in the Public Hall.

iii. Secretary reported that she had spoken to Lee Young of Border Buses to point out the problem of bus drivers not stopping at the request stop located on the Galashiels approach to the village at the top of Jubilee Park. Mr. Young noted the problem and apologized for the problems that had occurred. There were some new drivers being trained for this route and they would be notified about this stop. Since then, a new bus stop sign has been erected a few days later. Members expressed their thanks to him for dealing with this problem so promptly.

iv. Secretary reported that she and Mr. Thornton had met up with Roddy Martin, supervisor of the Community Pay-back team, to point out access problems at the badly eroded steps to the East of the Alexandra Park raised footway.

They then walked along the multi-use path towards Innerleithen to see where trees and other vegetation was causing problems for walkers and cyclists by growing across the footway.

Mr. Martin was also shown the problem with vegetation growing in drainage spaces on the Tweed Bridge. This is preventing water from being able to drain properly off the bridge. Mr. Martin pointed out that this was a less urgent problem than the other two matters. Members agreed with his assessment.

Mr. Martin noted these problem areas and has reported back to give details of how his team can carry out this work. He will forward details of how much this will cost. Secretary thanked him for being very helpful.

She asked how this might be paid for and Councillors Marshall and Tatler asked her to forward any correspondence so that they could deal with this matter.

Scawd Law Update *Update from Mr. Wilcox (co-opted):*

The developer's agents are being exemplary in keeping in touch with us.

They held a Zoom meeting on 31st October with all the community councils involved, brought us up-to-date, answered questions and facilitated discussion amongst the group. The main points to note are: They hope to lodge a formal planning application with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) before Xmas – they are aiming for 21st November. This means that the consultation phase, and the opportunity for organisations and individuals to comment on the proposal, will start some time in January. Once the consultation phase begins then the clock is ticking and there will be tight deadlines for our comments although it is usually possible to ask for an extension. They do not have a timetable from Scottish Borders Council for when the Council will consider their response.

ii. They intend to hold information events and we have suggested that the Hall would be the best place to hold a major event since we are the community most impacted. The plan would be to schedule this for late January.

iii. We have asked for one complete paper copy of the application and for a memory stick.

iv. Advice has been given by NatureScot and Alan Fielding, an independent consultant, on bird matters. One of the eagles seen on the site has been killed by its mate. We have asked to see this advice and await a reply.

v. In answer to a question about bike trails, it was made clear that this was not part of the application. The ECU will only consider the windfarm application – bike trails will be a separate application. Only two attendees showed any interest in bike trails. Mention was made of the Pump Track in Walkerburn but, as we know, there can be no 'charitable contributions' from the company until after planning permission has been granted.

vi. They are, of course, aware of the Leithenwater proposal but believe that their project is well in advance.

The agents have asked for details of Burning Issues deadlines since they wish to advertise the project planning process. They are at the stage where they need to persuade people to support their project. There have been no changes to the project and our initial comments still stand: it does not look like a serious economic proposal unless the developer can expand into the Moorfoots/along the valley ridges – a ring of steel around the Tweed Valley.

ECU has agreed that WDCC should be a formal consultee on the Leithenwater application. Action Points: We need to find out more about the NatureScot report and Mr. Fielding. Would Sheila and Ian Horsburgh be willing to carry out some research into what is happening on the eagle front?

Reports by Members

i. Ms. Daykin: Firstly, Ms. Daykin reported on the recent meeting of the Tweeddale Area Committee and mentioned that Kenny Harrow of S.B.C. had forwarded minutes of the meeting. She gave a synopsis of what had been discussed:

* A 'Cost of Living' update from Citizens Advice Bureau.

* A discussion on the latest plans for the Chambers Institute and details of how members of the public can attend scheduled viewings.

* An update by Cric Carlton on 'Place Making' discussions and She stressed that plans must be written by communities themselves and not by consultants. However, S.B.C. can provide guidance on putting together plans which communities are needing. It was also stressed that communities with similar aims can and should liaise with each other and perhaps submit plans for joint ventures.

* She gave details of a number of different grants that had been awarded to local groups in Tweeddale.

(The minutes of this meeting have been distributed to members. They are also on the S.B.C. website.)

* Secondly, Ms. Daykin reported on the recent visit to the village by members of the Tweeddale Access Panel (T.A.P.)

* She accompanied them on the walk and pointed out that they are a 'not-for-profit' panel who are visiting local villages to make a note of access problems and take a look at local roads and pathways.

* They visited Peebles Road and noted that there are several 'Disabled' parking bays which are no longer in use and should be removed.

* It was noted that wheelie-bins were obstructing pavements in some places.

* A resident drew their attention to problems that residents encounter when trying to cross Peebles Road either leaving the ladder below High Cottages or else trying to return by that route. This is used by many pedestrians, some of whom are elderly and unable to cross the busy Peebles Road safely – despite the 20 m.p.h. limit, which is frequently ignored by motorists. A request was made for a pedestrian crossing to be installed, in the interests of safety. It was also pointed out that there is a precedent for lights being installed on the A72 because this has been done near to Neidpath on the busy main road.

* It was noted that there are branches obstructing the footway on the south side of Peebles Road opposite the High Cottages turn-off.

* The bus stops in the village are awaiting installation of the latest 'QR' code time tables.

* Parking on the pavements in Tweedholm Avenue is a real problem for pedestrians, who are often forced to walk in the road. In particular, this is a danger to children, and wheelchair users.

Mr. Thornton pointed out that one lady had complained that she was unable to access her own door because the entrance was blocked by a van.

Ms. Daykin mentioned that the T.A.P. group had also visited five other villages in the area.

Councillor Tatler asked that if residents are aware of or affected by obstructions they should contact the Police on '101'. All calls will be noted so that reports can be compiled for Police to take action.

Lastly, Mr. Kerr suggested that S.B.C. should examine whether a 'Priority Lane' might be helpful.

Thirdly, Ms. Daykin reported that a resident had complained about fly-tipping waste on ground to the East of the village and adjoining the Water Treatment plant. She was also given photographs of the rubbish and asked if Councillors would contact Scottish water to ask that they fasten their entrance gate more securely to prevent fly-tippers accessing that area. Mr. Thornton agreed to visit the site to establish on whose property the rubbish had been left.

Next, Ms. Daykin reported that there have been complaints that slabs have been abandoned on Park Avenue pavement for some months and had become a hazard. It was not known who had left them there.

Mr. Thornton agreed to visit the site and arrange for their removal.

Lastly, she asked whether anything was being done about the damaged wall at the junction of Caberston Avenue and Peebles Road.

Chairman mentioned that this had been noted and was being dealt with.

ii. Mrs. Horsburgh: Mrs. Horsburgh mentioned that there was an ongoing problem with cars parking close to the junction of Caberston Road and Galashiels Road and asked what could be done about it.

Members acknowledged that this had become a problem and Councillors advised that Police should be informed by 'phoning '101' or by email so that it could be noted. Offenders will be dealt with.

iii. Ms. Sedgwick: Ms. Sedgwick asked about access to the Public Footpath leading to Priesthope and the 'public Right of Way' past the steading. Mr. Kerr confirmed that the path had originally passed through the middle of the steading but the previous owners had allowed a footpath to be built along the west side of the buildings to avoid problems which might arise if walkers are walking through the middle of a working farmyard.

There is a sign indicating 'Public Footpath to Priesthope' and, although the steading gates can be closed they cannot be locked.

Councillor Tatler said that if gates are locked to deny access to public footpath then the S.B.C. Access Officer should be informed. Chairman and Mr. Thornton agreed to check that the gates are only tied back and not locked and will report back to Councillor Tatler.

iv. Mr. Waller: Mr. Waller raised the issue of firework displays in the village. Fireworks are being discharged over a period of several days in early November, added to which there is a problem with very loud explosions from modern fireworks that cause considerable distress to pets, livestock and wildlife.

It was agreed that this matter should be discussed further next Autumn and residents asked to notify neighbours in advance of any displays and to keep to their agreed timetables. Also, it was to be hoped that people might respond to a request to use fireworks which were less noisy, albeit these are sometimes more expensive to purchase.

v. Mr. Kerr: Mr. Kerr raised the problem of collapsed drains alongside the drying green in Caberston Road. This is mainly caused by heavy log lorries using the road. As a result, there is regular flooding and inconvenience and he asked Councillors to get the drains inspected.

Reports by SBC Councillor(s)

i. Councillor Tatler: Councillor Tatler referred to the Chambers Institute public viewings which Ms. Daykin had mentioned earlier and reminded members that there was a walk-around and architects meeting planned for the 14th November as well as another walk-around on the 27th November, prior to the Peebles Christmas lights switch-on and street fair.

One aspect of the planned renovation of the Burgh Hall is the removal of the suspended ceiling and opening up of the attractive original roof.

As the Institute is something that is a benefit to all the people of Tweeddale, the Beneficiaries Group are inviting people from elsewhere in the area to also get involved in progressing the future of the Institute. He hoped that residents of Walkerburn might also volunteer for this.

Secondly, he was pleased to say that the village 'walk-around' with him and Councillor Marshall, as well as Jason Hedley and John Currie of S.B.C. had been very informative and the issues that Ms. Daykin referred to had been noted and will be acted on.

Lastly, he was able to confirm that the re-surfacing of Peebles Road that was originally included in the Roads budget has had to be put back to the next financial year.

ii. Councillor Douglas: Councillor Marshall mentioned the work of the Police Community Action Team (C.A.T.) and said that it meets every month to task various issues relevant to Tweeddale Area. He asked that any relevant issues should be reported on the '101' telephone number so that they can be added to the statistics and relevant action taken. Referring to the obstruction issues, he pointed out that this was a good example of something of which the Police need to be aware. Lastly, he informed members that he is now part of a multi-party Executive Committee set up by S.B.C. that has been tasked to deal with all aspects of the Council's responsibilities and is working successfully. All three of the local Tweeddale councillors sit on the Budget Committee.

Any Other Business

i. Secretary reported that she had received a letter from Mrs. Maniam to say that she had, regrettably, to resign from the Community Council because of health reasons. Chairman said how sorry he was to learn that Mrs Maniam is unable to continue, and he will write to thank Mrs Maniam for her contribution to WDCC matters.

ii. Secretary reported that she will prepare an updated members list and circulate it. She will also inform S.B.C.

iii. Secretary reported that she will prepare a list of 2023 meeting dates and circulate it to relevant parties, including S.B.C. and Police.

iii. Secretary reported that she had received an email from Katrina Malone regarding a Planning Application for the proposed pump track in Walkerburn. The Development Trust were in a position to progress this request further and asked if the Community Council would assist them by making the application on their behalf. As this is a matter that concerns all of the village, and because there is precedent when the Community Council made an application for the Jubilee Park improvements, this would greatly assist the Development Trust. Also, the Development Trust would not incur any costs as the application would be exempt if handled this way. Moreover, in supporting this planning application WDCC would not be liable for any ongoing financial commitment to the pump track.

Members agreed to support the Development Trust in this matter and the Chairman will write to the Trust's Secretary to confirm this. Councillor Tatler said that he hoped funding would be in place once planning permission had been agreed and that the project might be completed so that it could coincide with the World Cycling Championships which are being held next year in Peeblesshire. Members agreed to this request and Chairman will reply to that effect.

iv. Councillors also gave a brief update on the proposed 'Destination Tweed' long distance walkway which is being planned. At present, the local area sections are expected to consist of part pathway and part back-road routes to complete a Walkerburn to Clovenfords route.

Mr. Kerr has worked with various pathway groups in the past and agreed to liaise on behalf of the Community Council.

v. Mr. Thornton mentioned that he was aware that the damaged river bank beside the walkway to Innerleithen has now been inspected by surveyors and Councillors confirmed that this was being looked into so that reinforcements could be put in place before damage encroached onto the multi-use path.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7.00pm**. Because the Wednesday 21st December 2022 scheduled meeting is close to the Christmas holiday period and usually a quiet time for Council business, this meeting will be postponed. However, if any urgent matters arise before the 21st December, this meeting will be re-convened. Residents are welcome to attend and to raise any questions concerning village matters.

	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

DECEMBER WILDSIDE

Not only has Covid19 reared its ugly head amongst humans again but amongst birds so has Avian Flu and it has serious consequences for our bird population.

It spreads very easily amongst domestic birds i.e. hens, ducks and geese and is a notifiable disease to DEFRA. It is also prevalent in wild birds although not a notifiable disease i.e. you do not need to notify DEFRA except

Call Defra on 03459 33 55 77 if you find:

- one or more dead birds of prey
 - 3 or more dead gulls or wild waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks)
 - 5 or more dead birds of any species
- You do not need to report any other found dead wild birds. Bird flu is not a notifiable disease in wild birds.

Right now, Avian Flu is killing vulnerable and rare wild birds right across the UK. In summer this year alone, the virus has killed tens of thousands of seabirds, including those in our key colonies of gannets, Sandwich terns, and great skuas. You may have seen some reports on the news about the Bass Rock colonies and the breeding colonies at St Abbs. One of the effects is fewer eggs are laid so fewer young produced. As the influx of migrant birds is now in full flow, including well known species such as robins, thrushes and blackbirds as well as geese and swans just to name a few the risk of infected birds is higher.

But what do we do if we find a sick or dead wild bird? Most importantly, do NOT touch it with bare hands, use protective gloves, and double bag dead bodies (along with contaminated gloves) and put in the general waste bin if they're on your land/garden. Then thoroughly wash your

hands and dig out some of that hand sanitizer! Some strains of bird flu can pass from birds to people, but this is extremely rare. It usually requires close contact with an infected bird, so the risk to humans is generally considered very low. In public spaces it's the Council's responsibility and you should report it to them at 'neighbourhood services' just as you would road kill –there is a form for completion online . Do not let your pets anywhere near a dead or sickly bird. On private land it is the landowner that is responsible for disposal and any necessary reporting. Sick birds can be reported to the SSPCA on 03000 999 999 here in Scotland. They may be able to help. This may include euthanasia and disposing of the bird if appropriate.

It is even more important then, to keep our bird feeders as clean and fresh as possible and especially bird baths.

Feeders and bird baths can be scrubbed clean with strong household disinfectant, rinsed very thoroughly then replenished with clean water or food once dry. A fresh water source raised above ground is also best so that rodents can't access it easily. When bird populations are on the move, it's important to do our bit in providing safe haven if we enjoy seeing them. Avian flu is part of the reason Christmas turkeys and other yummy birds are more expensive and less readily available this year. Whatever your Christmas dinner consists of be it nut roast or goose, enjoy, and lets all hope for a happier and healthier 2023!

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