



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION SHOW

The Walkerburn Vegetable Association Annual Show will take place on Saturday 9th September in the Public Hall. Doors open at 2.00pm.

Items for the show can be brought to the hall on the Friday evening from 6.30-8.30pm and on Saturday from 7.30-10am when the judging starts. There are sections for vegetables, flowers, fruit, preserves and bakery, crafts and our junior and nursery entries. Teas and coffee are

available during the afternoon along with the raffle. Schedules are available in the Post Office and Caberston Cafe.

We hope you will be able to support the show and look forward to seeing you there.

Walkerburn Calendar 2024

This year seems to be going very fast and we're still waiting for summer, but that won't have stopped the photographers amongst you. Now is the time when photos of Walkerburn and the surrounding area are needed for next year's calendar. Images should be in landscape orientation and be at least 3MB in size to be included.

Please send any images you think might be suitable for the calendar to mail@walkerburn.com

Thanks in advance, the calendar is an important fund raiser for the Development Trust.

WALKERBURN PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

We will be holding our first meeting on Tuesday 10th October and the membership fee of £2 is due to be paid then.

New members will be made very welcome.

President: Mary Baillie - Tel: 01896 870346 Treasurer: Anne Kenyon – Tel: 01896 870757

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Those of you who overlook or walk across Jubilee Park beside the allotments will have seen that the grass has grown a lot this year. After a no-mow May, the weather and some health problems in the small team of volunteers meant that the grass was not kept as short as in past years. Thanks to those residents who did their bit to help, but we could do with more people willing to go out for an hour or so once in a while and either strim or use a mower in order to keep the grass under control.

If you are reasonably fit, and have some time when you could do something for your community, please get in touch with Ian via mail@walkerburn.com

You can do as much or as little as you like, but anything will help. Thanks in advance

WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

After a warm and sunny summer last year, this season has been beset by variable and unpredictable weather.

Heavy rain caused us to postpone the Johnstone Triples at the last moment. Despite this, and although we have not fielded a team in the Peeblesshire League, membership is on the increase and we have enjoyed many enjoyable games.

We rounded off August with the annual Rotary Club evening competition.

This year, for the first time, both teams were mixed and, as ever, this was a most pleasant occasion. Thanks to everyone who took part. Unfortunately, Club President Tom Hardie, representing BOTH clubs, was unable to play because of injury but still presided over the scoring and the festivities afterwards. We all wish Tom a speedy recovery.

Next up is the Peeblesshire League Triples competition, which we are hosting this year. This will be followed by an Open Pairs competition on Saturday 16th September. There are still some places available.

There are still some 'in-house' trophies to be paid for – including the George Hotel Quaich and the President's Trophy.

Just to remind anyone who is interested, Petanque sessions are held every Friday at 2.00pm. Bowlers meet every Monday and Saturday at 2.00pm and each Wednesday at 11.00am for friendly games.

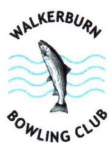
As always, we extend a warm welcome to all Walkerburn residents and invite them to try their hand at bowls or petanque – or both! Non-members can also enjoy a few practice sessions before deciding whether to join. We can supply all you need for Bowls or Petanque. Dress code is 'casual'.

The HBMI club will be welcome guests when they take advantage of the club facilities to host a 'friendly' welcome to bowls' competition on 9th September.

The club also 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 and do not hesitate to enquire if you would like to know more.

* * * * *

For more details, please contact George Thornton on 01896-870251 or e-mail goles2@tiscali.co.uk



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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: September/October

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

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Mindful Yoga For more info, please tel. Sue Cotterill on 07983 167075 or email reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com	1800-2100
Tuesdays (weekly)	Youth Club	1830 - 2000
Wednesdays	Community Council Meeting 20th September	1900
Thursdays	Cyrenians Community Pantry and Cook Club Citizens Advice Bureau in Ante Room (Fortnightly)	1530 - 1730 1530 - 1730
Friday	8th September – Vegetable Show – Hall open for entries	1830 - 2030
Saturdays	9th September – Walkerburn Vegetable Association Annual Show and Exhibition. (Hall Open for entries: 7.30am to 10.00am)	1400
Sundays	ITW Church Service 17th September Table Tennis	1400 1800 - 2100

PEEBLES & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Appointments available at Walkerburn Public Hall, Thursdays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.
Call: 01721-721 722 for an appointment.

Homeless Charity in Scotland/Cyrenians

Please join us if you would like to participate in a 'prepare and share' session with the Cyrenians Cook Club on Thursdays in Walkerburn Public Hall from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

Children are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised at all times.

For more info, visit: <https://cyrenians.scot>

Weekly: – Every Thursday 3.30 pm till 5.30 pm in the Walkerburn Public Hall, _

You can see the latest updates regarding our pantry schedules on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Please contact us at vickisealey@cyrenians.scot or call: 0131 554 3900

This project is funded by Scottish Borders Council.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Borders Storm Emergency Helpline 01835 826549	Pollution Report Line 0800-807060
SBC 0300-1001800 or 01896-752111 for out of hours emergency help	Electricity SPNetworks 0800 0929290 In Instances of Power Cuts Call 105
NHS Covid status 'phone: 0808-1968585 (10.00am to 6.00pm)	Scottish Water 0800-0778778 www.scottishwater.co.uk
Gas 0800 111999	St Ronans Health Centre 01896 830203
NHS 24 Tel 111 or 0845-242424 www.nhs24.com	Samaritans phone or text 116123 www.samaritans.org.uk
Scottish Borders Council 0300-1001800 www.sbalert.co.uk	Floodline 0845-9881188 www.sepa.org.uk/flooding
Police Non-Emergency 101 Emergency 999	MAK Locksmith (24hour Service) 07926 559296

Community Action Policing Team <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities>.
email: saferecommunities@scotborders.gov.uk Please let your Community Council know about specific problems so that the Action Team can be informed

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WALKERBURN PUBLIC HALL AGM

The Walkerburn Public Hall AGM will be held in the hall at 7pm on **Wednesday 27th September 2023**.

All residents are welcome and we hope that as many as possible will attend.

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

Draft Minutes of the A.G.M. held in Walkerburn Public Hall on Wednesday 21st June 2023.

Members Present: Mr P Waller (Chairman), Ms M Daykin (Vice Chair), Mrs L Thornton (Secretary), Ms G Jones, Ms S Sedgwick, Mr G Thornton, Mr M Wilcox, Mrs P Purves (Co-opted). Councillor Douglas, Councillor Pirone.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs S Horsburgh, Mr C Kerr and Councillor Tatler.

Minutes of 2022 A.G.M

Proposed: Mrs. P. Purves - *Seconded:* Mr. P. Waller

Chairman's Report 2022-2023:

Roads:

- i. WDCC members welcomed the 20-mph speed limit in Walkerburn becoming permanent.
- ii. The road in Tweedholm Avenue was resurfaced.
- iii. To assist wheelchair users, drop kerbs have been installed at various points around the village.
- iv. In Hall Street pedestrians have benefitted from the handrail that has been placed on the west side of the street.
- v. We have requested the painting of white lines at the corners of Hall Street in the hope of discouraging unsafe parking of vehicles.
- vi. Around the village (e.g., in Hall Street) clearer road signs have replaced worn out ones. There remain some signs that need to be replaced. Special thanks go to Mary Daykin for her long-running and determined campaign to get street signage improved.
- vii. 'CARE, PEDESTRIANS CROSSING!' signs are to be erected in Peebles Road on either side of Ladder crossing point.
- viii. It is planned that sections of Peebles Road will soon be resurfaced.
- ix. We have repeatedly drawn SBC's attention to the problem of damaged drains in Caberston Road.
- x. Some repairs have been made on the back road, but patches are already crumbling. There is concern about the lack of verge cutting, which may be good for the environment, but is making this road dangerous for all its users – drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.
- xi. At certain points in the village vehicle parking remains an issue.

Alexandra Park:

- i. Following WDCC requests, the boardwalk at the eastern end of the park has been repaired.
- ii. One old lime tree at the bridge end of the park has been partly pollarded.
- iii. A silver birch tree that was in imminent danger of collapse was removed by SBC personnel.
- iv. We are investigating sources of funding to pay for the renovation or replacement of the plaque marking the official opening of the park forty years ago.
 - A temporary repair was made to the path damaged by flooding.

On-going Park Projects:

- i. Getting the benches repainted.
- ii. Getting the flood-damaged paths repaired properly.
- iii. Getting the steps to the east of the boardwalk repaired.
- iv. Getting permanent official-looking 'CYCLISTS DISMOUNT' notices put at the narrow section of path at the bridge end of the park.

Flooding:

We are extremely concerned about the Tweed flooding, especially after the tragedy that occurred last January. We have called for flood gates to be installed at the bridge, a flood defence wall erected at the electricity sub-station in Station Road, the gas pipe to be moved from the upstream side of the bridge to the downstream side, dredging of the shingle

'beaches' in the river and various other measures to be taken. Co-opted WDCC member Colin Kerr leads for us in this matter.

Remembrance Sunday:

A highlight of the year was the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony, which was well-attended and went like clockwork. Our thanks go to Colonel and Mrs Purves and the volunteers who organized this event; also, to those who provided the excellent lunch in the Public Hall.

Scawd Law Wind Farm:

After months of research and discussion, WDCC members unanimously agreed to oppose this proposal. (See Item 10 in WDCC Minutes of the May meeting). I would like to thank Mike Wilcox and Patricia Purves for all the work they have put into this matter.

Mast At Little Minch Moor:

For several reasons (see Item 9 of May minutes) WDCC have decided to oppose the planning application to erect a 25-metre mast at Little Minch Moor for relaying mobile signals. (Innerleithen CC has also objected strongly).

Coronation Weekend:

In May, WDCC sponsored a series of events during the Coronation Weekend. Our thanks go to the volunteers who organized these events in the Public Hall and H.B. Club.

Miscellaneous:

- i. In October WDCC organized a village litter pick.
- ii. The Community Council has liaised with SP Energy Network about plans for on-going resilience work in and around Walkerburn which will be completed in 3-4 years.
- iv. A Cycle Repair Station has been installed on Rathburn Chemicals land in Caberston Road. Our thanks go to Rathburn Chemicals and in particular Alison Mackenzie.
- v. WDCC has supported WCDT's cycle pump-track project, which a poll showed was supported by many residents.
- vi. We are still trying to address the issue of 'NO COLD CALLING'. It is a time-consuming and bureaucratic procedure to become a 'NO COLD CALLING' community. Meanwhile we are investigating the option of obtaining laminated 'NO COLD CALLING' cards for residents who want to display them on their property.
- viii. The Health and Safety Executive's report on the Rathburn Chemicals explosion and fire (10th January 2020) has still to be issued. We are aware that very significant safety improvements have been made at the factory.
- ix. Warm Hubs: the Public Hall, H.B. Club and Bowling Club have been designated for emergency use and have been supplied with equipment such as gas heaters for use during power cuts.

Thanks:

I would like to thank the Community Council's members for all the hard work they have done over the last year. Special thanks go to Lesley Thornton (our Secretary), and to Patricia Purves for the assistance and advice given to Lesley and other WDCC members; also, I wish to thank George Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Mike Wilcox (lead on the Scawd Law Wind Farm proposal) and Colin Kerr (lead on flooding issues).

In addition, I would like to thank our SBC councillors – Marshall Douglas, Julie Pirone and Robin Tatler - for the support and guidance they have given us over the last twelve months.

Finally, I want to thank the hard-pressed personnel in various SBC departments for the work they have done in Walkerburn and District.

Treasurer's Report 2022-20223.

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 lock-down period. He also pointed out that WDCC had paid for the hire of the Hall for the Remembrance Sunday lunch run by FoodHugs.

Bank Account:

Opening balance: £508.42 - Closing balance: £527.30

Grants:

During the past year we have received 4 grants in addition to our normal SBC operating grant.

- i. A grant for £400 from Walkerburn and Innerleithen Rotary Club
(Paid after 31st March 2023 - Recorded in 2023-2024 accounting period)
- ii. A grant for £1,000 from a source which wishes to remain anonymous towards the provision of heaters, emergency stoves and lights for the three designated Warm Hubs.
(The two grants totalled £1,400 and all the money has been spent. We are planning to arrange a PR exercise to publicise Rotary's kind grant with a photo shoot in the Public Hall.)
- iii. A grant for £500 from SBC towards the Coronation weekend events. This has been spent with all receipts sent to SBC.
(Paid after 31st March 2023 - Recorded in 2023-2024 accounting period)
- iv. A grant of £4,160 from SBC Neighbourhood Support Fund towards Hall bookings to cover the expense for hosting a weekly Cyrenians pantry and cook club.
(This has started but is currently on hold because of a problem the Cyrenians are facing after a delivery van was totally destroyed by fire. The agreement between ourselves and the Hall Trustees and Management Committee is that we will be given a regular invoice for £80 per visit from the Hall when Cyrenians are running and we will transfer money in arrears to the Hall account. We will submit regular reports to SBC on the progress of the Cyrenians scheme.)
Treasurer thanked Mrs Purves for her help in securing the grant and loans to the community council.
The Community Council will again organise and fund 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. This will be discussed at a forthcoming monthly meeting.

Election of Office Bearers for 2023-2024:

The Chairman noted that all office bearers were willing to continue to serve and asked members to agree the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary should remain in post. This was agreed unanimously. The Chairman then asked members to consider continuing the co-option of Mrs Purves to assist the secretary and Mr Wilcox in view of the increasing workload. All agreed.

Chairman thanked the Returning Officer, Dr. Henderson, for his help.

Formal Incorporation of New Community Council:

The new Community Council of 9 members and one co-opted member was formally appointed.

The new Community Council consists of:

Chairman – Mr. P. Waller

Vice-Chairman – Ms. M. Daykin

Secretary – Mrs. L. Thornton

Treasurer/Minutes Secretary – Mr. G. Thornton

Member – Mrs. S. Horsburgh

Member – Ms. S. Sedgwick

Member – Ms. G. Jones

Member – Mr. C. Kerr

Member – Mr. M. Wilcox

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.

Inspection of Accounts for 2022-2023:

Last year's Accounts have been inspected by Mr. Allin Hoggarth and signed.

Treasurer asked that Mr. Allin Hoggarth again be asked to carry out the inspection for the next accounts.

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

Date of Next AGM:

Secretary informed members that next year's meeting would be on 19th June 2024

Chairman's Closing Remarks:

Chairman thanked all who had attended. He looked forward to another successful year of achievements.

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date of Next Monthly Meeting - Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.00pm.

SEPTEMBER WILDSIDE

Hopefully, at the end of August you caught the Orionids meteor shower.

Sadly, I did not but the Draconids are at the start of next month (October) so I will be sure to look out for them. This is a minor shower of only about 10 meteors per hour but it's best seen early evening, instead of early morning like most showers. It runs annually from October 6-10th, peaking on the 8th/9th this year. It emanates from the eighth largest constellation, Draco which is in the Northern sky near the Great Bear and Little Bear (Plough and Little Dipper). The constellations were named in the 2nd century under Roman rule hence all the Latin names. And Draco means 'dragon' - as Harry Potter fans might already know!

Before that on September 29th, we have another Supermoon, the last for this year, also known as the 'Harvest' moon for obvious reasons. The Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the September or Autumn Equinox (23rd) each year and this year, as the moon will be located on the opposite side of the earth as the sun, its face will be fully illuminated and at its closest to earth so will look larger and brighter than usual.

Back to earth now, and all around us we can see the first signs that Autumn is approaching. Although there can be several causes for tree/shrub leaves changing colour, such as insect or animal damage, viral or fungal infections, nutrition or moisture disruptions, the annual change is slowly becoming visible as the cooler weather takes over and the amount of daylight drops.

We may still have some higher temperatures to come but generally temperatures are dropping. There was a great flurry of insects towards the end of August with dozy wasps

and bees feeding up from the last of the summer blooms and butterflies and moths doing the same. There seems to be lots of swarms of tiny flies hanging about now. I have no idea what they are, besides rather annoying, but they will serve some purpose.

At least the insectivorous birds can get a late feed, although most of the swallows and martins have departed but I've noticed more bats about as the darkness comes in earlier.

This year is another great year for tree fruit with hawthorns, rowans and others being very heavy in fruits. This used to be seen as a sign of a bad winter coming but it really reflects a successful Spring for pollinators so, however you look at it, it's great food for winter birds and other animals, from our own blackbirds and thrushes to the visiting thrushes like redwings and of course waxwings.

The collective name for the fruit and nuts produced by trees and shrubs is known as 'mast'. The term comes from 'mæst', an Olde English word for nuts of the forest trees that have accumulated on the ground, especially those used as food for fattening pigs. When a particular woodland tree species produces a lot more fruit or nuts than normal, it is known as a 'mast year' and Oak trees tend to have significant mast years every 5-10 years.

In the UK the last mast year was 2020, and the initial 'recovery period' after masting normally takes 1 or 2 years, so we might begin to see acorns this Autumn, although it will probably be many years before the next mast year.

Whatever; enjoy the season!

Walkerburn Post Office & Store

Local Shop and Post Office Shop for all your daily essentials including wines & spirits, tobacco, milk & bread, crisps & snacks, confectionery, groceries, and non-food essentials. We get fresh rolls and pies delivered daily from the bakery in Innerleithen, readymade sandwiches and cakes delivered 3 times a week.
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BORDERS ART COLLECTIVE

The Borders Arts Collective was founded in Walkerburn in 2021 by Peta Trousdell to bring together artists and makers from the Tweed Valley and beyond.

It is now run by a group of local women as a collective, and supported by Helen McIntyre as treasurer. We are a voluntary, not-for-profit, organisation.

Our aim is to make the arts accessible for all – by organising artist-led, inclusive, diverse and affordable workshops, classes and events to be held in the local area. And to promote mental health and well-being. We hope to inspire a community of people to make new social connections, learn new skills and find inspiration for new

artistic projects and initiatives. Whether you have a passion for art, music, sculpture, crafts, drama, there is a place for that here.

Next events:

- 1) Pastels - Workshop on Saturday 23rd September at Walkerburn Public Hall between 10am and 1pm
- 2) - Botanical Drawing on Saturday 7th October at Walkerburn Bowls Club between 10am and 1pm.

For more details email peta@bordersartscollective.co.uk

BORDER YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

Border Youth Theatre Group is returning on Saturday 14th October in the Hall.
Details to follow in next Burning Issues.

APOLOGY

A letter published in the July edition of BURNing Issues caused offence to some residents in the village. This was not the intention of the newsletter group and we are sorry for any offence caused. However, the group cannot be held responsible for the views expressed. It is for this reason that our policy about publishing articles was posted in the August issue. We hope that a line can now be drawn under the matter.

Home Help With Jodie

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH SHOPPING, DROPPING AND COLLECTING YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS, CLEANING, RESPITE CARE? CALL US OR EMAIL US ON
07407 301 121 Jthomson15@hotmail.co.uk

BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS

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



Contact BURNing Issues at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com