



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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WALKERBURN RUGBY CLUB



After the shock announcement about the club facing closure, many supporters and well-wishers from the village and other parts of the Borders have rallied round to ensure that the centenary '7's' tournament will still take place. Many thanks to all the people who have come forward to lend support!

Gates will open at 11.30am. Parking is available next to the club, just past the entrance to the Primary School and there will be a £2 parking charge which will be 'cash only'.

Entry to the Sevens is £5 and is also 'cash only' with under 16's getting free entry.

The bar will open at 12.00 with both cash and card payments available.

Tea, coffee and home baking will be available from the kitchen in the clubhouse and there will be a

selection of food vendors offering a wide variety of eats.

There is a raffle taking place on the day, £1 per ticket. Prizes include a signed 'Edinburgh Rugby' Strip.

We also have a couple of special guests appearing - Darcy Graham and Mark Bennett of Edinburgh and Scotland Rugby.

* * * * *

Please come along and support us on this historic occasion.

WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL

On Saturday 4th May Rachel Woodcock was declared Festival Lass and Bailey Hunter was declared Essay Winner for 2024.

All of us on the Walkerburn Festival Committee congratulate Rachel and Bailey and wish them a very happy Festival week.

We raised the grand total of £275.65 towards the Summer Festival. Thank you to everyone who attended the Coffee Morning. It was greatly appreciated. It was lovely to see the village come together to enjoy the morning. From everyone on the Walkerburn Summer Festival Committee we wish you all a very Happy Festival Week. The date for the upcoming Festival week is 23rd to 30th June.

Jack Ewart

WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

WVA held its Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th May in the Public Hall.

There was a wide selection of plants, individual flowers, colourful trays of bedding plants, geraniums, pansies, marigolds and petunias on sale. We also had many types of vegetables, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beans etc. The Cake and Candy table had jams, marmalade, cupcakes, shortbread, truffles and tarts. Something for everyone!

The raffle had a number of prizes, the main prize being the bag of groceries. Thanks to all who contributed generously and bought tickets.

We would have liked more support for the event and hope that there will be a bigger attendance next time. You do not have to be a gardener to come to the coffee morning, have a chat with friends over coffee and biscuits and have a chance to win a prize at the raffle. The baking table would also tempt you.

The money we have raised at goes towards the running of our Annual Show which takes place in the Public Hall on 7th September 2024. We hope to see you at the Show.

Irene Cotter (Secretary)

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

The Community Council has decided to hold a Litter Pick on Sunday 2nd June at 2.30pm. Can all volunteers please meet outside the Public Hall at 2.15pm where they will be provided with pickers, gloves, high viz vests and black bags. Once they have finished the pick, there will be light refreshments in the hall.

We hope people will volunteer to help to keep the village looking tidier.

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WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held in Walkerburn Public Hall on Wednesday 17th April 2024

Present: Mr P Waller (Chairman), Mrs L Thornton (Secretary), Mrs S Horsburgh, Mrs P Purves (Co-opted), Mr G Thornton, Mr M Wilcox. Councillor Douglas, Councillor Pirone, Councillor Tatler.

Apologies Ms G Jones, Mr C Kerr, Ms M Daykin, Ms S Sedgwick.

Police Business

i. The monthly Tweeddale East Area Police Report had been distributed to members. No incidents were reported in respect of Walkerburn in the past month.

ii. However, subsequent to this report being forwarded, there has been one serious incident of dogs worrying sheep in a field on the riverbank resulting in the death of one sheep and serious injury to others. Apart from the financial loss to the farmer, the cruelty involved in this incident is appalling. Sheep are wary of all dogs and all dogs may instinctively chase sheep. Especially at this time of year, dog owners should not take their dogs into fields with livestock.

Livestock worrying is against the law and as a dog owner you may be fined for your dog's actions. Landowners are legally allowed to protect their livestock, which means they can injure or kill any dog that is worrying or about to worry livestock. If a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. Owners of dogs that attack or worry livestock can be fined up to £40,000 or even sent to prison for up to 12 months.

Members also noted that there had been a worrying increase last year of people picking up lambs to take photos and of children chasing lambs in fields. Both practices are very cruel and can lead to the death of lambs.

iii. The Community Action Team (CAT) is active in the Tweeddale area. If needed, the CAT can also be directed to other areas locally. Residents are asked to call '101' whenever possible to report incidents, especially concerning anti-social behaviour.

March Minutes.

Proposed: Mrs S Horsburgh - *Seconded:* Mr M. Wilcox

Matters Arising.

i. Primary School Garden: The garden shed and the small greenhouse are being updated and built up. The Community Council strongly supports this project and members expressed thanks for the excellent local support, including generous funding from the Rotary Club, Glenmorangie, the HBMI Club and the Walkerburn Community Development Trust. Thanks also to Colin Kerr and his team of helpers from Walkerburn.

ii. Cyrenians Support: The SBC Neighbourhood Fund support for the regular Thursday afternoon Cyrenians has been used to pay for the use of the village hall for several weeks. This has been a well-run and successful project and the funds have been administered by the Community Council. This funding has now come to an end and, as required by SBC, a concluding report and accompanying receipts and documentation has been submitted. The Community Council support of a similar nature will not be needed for any similar activities that may be arranged.

iii. Energy Development in Scottish Borders: A letter was received regarding future Energy Development in the Borders Region.

iv. Borders Festivals and Events letter: A letter was received concerning a proposed survey of Borders Events and Festivals by Marion Dodds. Secretary has forwarded this to the Festival Committee.

v. Problems with log lorries: Since last month's meeting, WDCC's secretary has received a reply from Brian Young at SBC to a request for a meeting with James England to see problems at first hand. Brian Young has discussed our concerns with James England, who has agreed to respond to the points we raised and who feels that such a meeting with a few members of the CC to discuss these concerns would be useful.

This will be arranged.

Correspondence

The correspondence list for 20th March to 17th April 2024 had been circulated to members.

Items of note were:

- i. Email dated 21st March from Stuart Moir, Senior Structural Engineer, Roads Service, SBC, giving us an update on the plans for Jubilee Lane Footbridge. They intend to replace the existing bridge with a new glass reinforced plastic bridge. This will require some rebuilding work of the walls supporting the bridge and north approach path.
- ii. Email dated 21st March from Hannah Lacon, Community Engagement Officer, SBC thanking those who attended the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting, which she said was a really positive meeting with lots of good discussion. One of the items was Flood Group for Tweeddale where Colin Kerr provided an update on the activity of the Group.
- iii. Email dated 25th March from Peter Finnie, Public Affairs, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) regarding "SEPA launch consultation on review of areas most at risk of flooding across Scotland". He also informed us that they will shortly be communicating the "Official Statistics on Waste from All Sources. He also mentioned the designation of Potential Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) is a SEPA science and evidence-led process and communities can respond to the *Consultation on PVAs via Citizen Space* until 24 June 2024. *Read SEPA's 2024 PVAs consultation. Find out more about Local Flood Risk Management Plans.*
- iv. Email dated 25th March from Colin Kerr letting us know that the email from Peter Finnie had been forwarded to him by Cllr Douglas. Colin wanted us to know that he has some real concerns with this consultation as the Tweeddale PVA focuses on Peebles and there has been very little discussion regarding the area around Walkerburn, even though SEPA acknowledges that we are within the 1 in 75 flood range. He will keep us updated.
- v. Email dated 28th March from Mike Wilcox regarding the Report on S36 Petition to SBC and Greystone Knowe Wind Farm and sending us an interim report before the March meeting whilst we await the SBC minutes on both the Petition decision and the Planning Committee decision on Greystone Knowe. He is also seeking agreement out-of-committee that he should write to both our MP and MSP to bring them up-to-date on ScawdLaw/GreystoneKnowe and the S36 Petition.
- vi. Email dated 28th March from Clare Malster, Participation Officer, SBC confirming the 2024/25 Community Council Annual Support Grant and the process for drawing it down.
- vii. Email dated 1st April from Peter Finnie, Public Affairs, SEPA, informing us that some CC's have found that because the consultation on Potential Vulnerable Areas (PAVs) is online it is difficult to consider it collaboratively. In order to enable discussion of the PAV consultation at a future meeting he attached a copy in Word.
- viii. Email dated 10th April from James England, South of Scotland Timber Transport Officer informing us that our letter to Brian Young had been passed to him and that he noted our concerns. He thinks it would be useful for a few members of the CC to meet with him to discuss these concerns.
- ix. Email dated 10th April from Brian Young, SBC informing us that he had discussed our concerns with James England and he agreed to respond to the points we raised. Brian thinks a meeting with James would be beneficial.

Planning

- i. There was one application since the last meeting:

A Planning Application has been received in respect of an extension to a dwelling house at 2 Park Avenue. This will consist of a single-story rear extension replacing an existing garage.

There were no objections from members.

Scawd Law Wind Farm Application Update

The website is being updated, but there were no new developments to report. However, members were very concerned to hear that presently there are a very considerable number of Section 36 Applications in the Scottish Borders region being lodged with the local planning department.

2024 Community Council Election

This will be co-ordinated by Secretary and Mrs Purves.

There are two vacancies for the 2024-2025 election period.

Members will try to encourage as many new candidates as possible to apply to become a member. It was also pointed out that applicants can be elected as co-opted members on a more informal basis if they have particular useful skills that would be of benefit to the community.

Application forms can be obtained from the WDCC website, the SBC website, or from the WDCC Secretary.

The 'Peeblesshire News' will be asked to include election details and notices will be on the village notice boards.

Secretary confirmed that the ante-room in the village hall has been booked if a ballot for candidates is needed.

Reports by Members

- i. Tweedholm Avenue Arson Damaged Property: Following the arson attack two years ago, the damaged properties are at last being fully renovated
- ii. Pensioner's Memorial Bench: The bench has been ordered and Campbell Johnstone will be asked to install it.
- iii. Litter Pick: Members agreed that it would be better if the litter pick was arranged for later in the year. The date agreed on is Sunday 2nd June at 2.20pm. SBC will be informed and details will be circulated in the community.
- iv. Obstruction Outside HB Club: Log lorries and other large vehicles are having difficulties negotiating the sharp bend in Caberston Road as vehicles are parking outside the HB Club and reducing the necessary turning circle area. Members agreed that there is a need for 'No Waiting' signs. This is also causing wide-bodied vehicles to encroach onto the grass verges on the south side of the road. Members will look into the possibility of erecting protective bollards.
- v. Walkerburn Rugby Club: Members reacted to the very recent news about the demise of the Walkerburn Rugby Club by expressing their dismay and offering their support. The 'Sevens' tournament at the end of May would have been the 100th and members urged that there should be as much support as possible to fulfil this event.
- iv. Alexandra Park Benches: The four old wooden benches in the park are now in very poor condition and need to be repainted as soon as possible. Campbell Johnstone will be asked for advice on the possibility of this being done. Councillors advised that the SBC 'Small Grants Scheme' and the 'Community Pay-back' scheme could also be approached for help.
- v. Proposed Bus Shelter: Members were advised that the Pensioners' Association' had hoped to pay for a bus shelter to be erected on the North side of Galashiels Road, opposite the village hall. Unfortunately, the pavement at that spot is too narrow for any structure to be erected.
- v. Traffic Problems on the Back Road: There was serious disruption to traffic on the back Road recently after the closure of the A7 because of a traffic accident. Police response to the incident seemed negligible and the lack of any convoy system or traffic control resulted in a chaotic snarl-up of vehicles. This type of incident is not infrequent and members urged that there should be a better liaison between the Polce at Galashiels and at Peebles to get a more co-ordinated response in future. Councillor Pirone agreed to discuss this with Police.

Reports by SBC Councillors

a.) Councillor Pirone mentioned three issues:

- i. She was pleased to be able to say that SBC have allocated £2 million for improvements to the A72. Unfortunately, the restricted budget did not allow for improvements to smaller roads, including the Back Road.
- ii. She also said how sorry she was to hear of the problems that have beset the Walkerburn Rugby Club. She has spoken with the SRU, SBC and other interested parties to ascertain what support can be given.
- iii. She also mentioned that the survey into 'Live Borders' and into how they might be supported is still ongoing.

b.) Councillor Douglas mentioned one issue:

He mentioned that seven items have been forwarded to the Inspector responsible for investigating concerns about the S.36 Application Process so that he can make recommendations for improvements. More information will be available on the SBC website. Members welcomed the news that this was being looked into.

c.) Councillor Tatler mentioned two issues:

- i. He mentioned that the 'Pump project in the village had been slightly put back because the contractors had been delayed on their current works.
- ii. He also gave an update on the Chambers Institute Trust upgrading project. The next phase is going ahead and details of its progress will be available on the SBC website.

Any Other Business.

- i. George Hotel Community Buy-out: A question was raised about the possibility of a 'Community Buy-out' grant being applied for to purchase the George Hotel. However, it was pointed out that, as discussed at the March meeting, an offer has been made by a private buyer and a Planning submission completed. The Community Council had strongly supported this Planning request and expressed relief that the empty building would again be occupied.
- ii. Walkerburn Festival Committee Programme: The Festival Committee had mentioned that would have difficulty in affording the printing of a programme sheet for this summer's festival. However, the 'Burning Issues' committee are willing to do the printing at a reduced cost. Members agreed that the Community Council would contribute £30 towards this expense.

Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.00pm. *Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues they want to discuss with Councillors or the Community Council.*

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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: May/June

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	6pm-9pm
Tuesdays (weekly)	Youth Club (except for last Tuesday every month) 21/5, 4/6, 11/6 and 18/6	6pm-8pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council AGM and Monthly Meeting 19/6	6.30pm-7pm
Thursdays	You Can Cook.	3.30pm-5.30pm
Fridays	14th June WDCC elections in the meeting room (provisional booking)	2pm-8pm
Saturdays	Borders Arts Collective Workshops (limited spaces available) 18/5. For more info: https://bordersartscollective.co.uk 8/6 and 15/6 Remembering Together Memory Books. For more info: www.ticketsource.co.uk	8am-12.30pm 9.30am-2.30pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service 19/5 and 23/6 Table Tennis	2.00-3.00pm 10am 6pm-7pm

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

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MAY WILDSIDE

This next month will hopefully see a big improvement in the weather as temperatures rise and rainfall hopefully lessens although we've been lucky compared to some parts of the UK.

There is a huge difference in shrubs and trees and even the grass looks greener, so the rain we have had has benefitted the plants. Soon, more trees will be blossoming and in full leaf. We've lots of flowers to come on our rowan and our pink hawthorn. There is a lovely bright pink hawthorn in Alexandra Park off the riverbank path downstream near the 'Gala' end and a couple in the electric substation off the north side of the bridge.

Hawthorns are one of the trees that are great to plant in your garden as they are quite small and can be kept quite small. Most wild hawthorns have white blossom which age to a kind of creamy colour. They are fantastic for wildlife. Lots of insects feed off the blossom, nice and prickly for safer nests for birds and they produce lovely red haws to feed birds in the winter - blackbirds, thrushes, waxwings and the visiting 'thrushes'; redstarts and redwings. Their common name of the May tree comes from the fact they flower in May and support hundreds of different wildlife species with its flowers, leaves and fruits. It is one of the blossoming native trees recommended for gardens by the Woodland Trust.

One of their recommendations would require quite a sizeable garden i.e. wild cherry which is stunning with white blossom and shiny, striped bark. Its fruits are edible and are loved by birds and small mammals. There are lots of these along road edges and field margins across the Borders, blossoming as we speak alongside blackthorn shrubs which will later produce sloes. Lots of hedges contain blackthorn and it is

more usually a bush rather than a tree. Heralding the start of summer, the rowan will come into blossom. Rowan flowers herald the start of summer and its berries are a rich source of autumn food for birds just like the hawthorn. Another popular fruit for wild birds and humans who enjoy making wines and cordials is the elder with its clusters of creamy white flowers for elderflower cordial followed by shiny black berries in Autumn for elderberry wine.

Another recommended small tree/shrub with good wildlife potential is the guelder rose. Guelder rose blossom is especially attractive to hoverflies, while its red fruits are eaten by bullfinches and mistle thrushes. These and other native trees can be purchased from the Woodland Trust: (<https://bit.ly/3Yw91C9>)

Bumble bees and butterflies are on the wing and I'm hoping to see some fledglings soon. May is the big month for breeding birds. We have blackbirds in a large shrub in the garden again this year, I think, and the blue tits have shown some interest in one of the boxes. I'm still waiting for some of the house sparrows to take up residence in my 'sparrow terrace'. I've had some really good views of the little egrets this last month, on one occasion striding out along the ditch next to the bowling club. They nest up in large trees, like herons, so now that there's two egrets let's hope they can raise a family. It would be great to see little 'Little Egrets' striding out!

* * * * *

Thanks to The Woodland Trust and RSPB for info this month.

WALKERBURN BOWLS & PETANQUE CLUB

The Bowls and Petanque members have had a busy start to the new season.

The informal Wappenshaw games (at 2.00pm on Mondays and Saturdays and at 6.30pm on Thursdays) have started. These are open to anyone to drop in for a friendly game. Also, the team have won their first two Peeblesshire League matches against strong opposition from Peebles and St Ronan's clubs. Congratulations Walkerburn! Unfortunately, the third game, against Peebles I was postponed because of rain.

The Petanque section will have a team playing in an East of Scotland League throughout the summer months in addition to the regular Friday afternoon

games. The first game was away against a strong Penicuik side who managed to win against the visitors. This new league will be a chance for us to play against some experienced teams and we look forward to some hard-fought encounters. Best of luck, 'Petanquers'! All are welcome at these events. Please do your best to attend. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

For more details, please see the Walkerburn Bowls 'Facebook' pages, or contact George Thornton on either 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk

'WALK IT' WALKERBURN

Mondays 10 am Alexandra Park by the swings

Except 1st Monday of month 'Walk Away'. Book by text 07974 782016

In recent months, our small walking group have enjoyed a variety of gentle one-hour walks, most starting from Walkerburn to Glenbenna, Plora, Alexandra Park and the village or towards Innerleithen. Afterwards, we stop at the Caberston Café for a drink and chat.

The group is usually quite small and the speed is stroll rather than march and there are breaks when needed along the way. We enjoy the company, fresh air and views and always feel better for it. Walking helps both physical and mental health so if you'd like to, please come and give it a go.

For more information or to book in for Walk Away, call or text 07974 782016 Alice (Walk Leader)

