



## WALKERBURN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

**On a slightly grey morning, a large gathering of Walkerburn residents and military veterans assembled at the village War Memorial for the annual Act of Remembrance which was conducted this year by the Reverend Canon Cedric Blakey assisted By Mrs Shirley Bean.**

Mr Duncan Machell, who led the Parade, and Mr Colin Kerr read from the War Memorial the 72 names of Walkerburn's Fallen of the two World Wars.

Piper Bruce Hamilton played music whilst residents gathered before the ceremony and played the lament 'Flowers of the Forest' during the Act of Remembrance. Last Post and Reveille were played by Bugler Stuart Whiteford from St Ronan's Silver Band. Mr Robin Wilson played an accordion accompaniment for the hymn and the National Anthem.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale by Mrs Mary Coltman, Scottish Borders Council by Councillor Julie Pirone, Walkerburn and District Community Council by the Chairman, Mr Colin Kerr, The Royal British Legion by Mr Paul Lucas, the Ex-Service Men and Women of Walkerburn by Mr Colin Grahame, The Church of Scotland by Mrs Evelyn Grahame, and three members of the Brownies

representing the youth organisations.

As always, the Community Council is most grateful for the assistance given by Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland in arranging and managing the necessary road closure to allow the Act of Remembrance to take place. Huge thanks are also due to the stewards: Lesley Thornton, Devon Leslie, Gill Jones, Shani Sedgwick and Mary Daykin, who all made sure that everyone attending was kept safe. (The recent acquisition of radios, courtesy of a grant from Scottish Borders Council, proved very helpful and will greatly assist in the future management of incidents such as flooding.)

Afterwards, the Community Council welcomed everyone to the Public Hall for a community lunch and a chance to browse a display of photographs of the men and women of the village who have served in the Armed Forces since World War 1 to the present day.

## SPEN A72 WALKERBURN ROADWORKS

**PMK Civil Engineering Limited are working on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks and are notifying residents of excavation works that will take place within the A72 roadway through the village**

During the duration of the works in Walkerburn it is inevitable that local disruption will be encountered.

*It is thought at present that the excavation works will reach the outskirts of Walkerburn near the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November, and it is thought that the works will take around 6 weeks to clear the town, depending on ground conditions encountered. All works will cease on the 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> December and return on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.*

During the undertaking of the works, to allow safe traffic management and to keep the road open, all residents

living along the A72 will need to seek alternative to the road parking until the works and traffic restrictions have passed their property.

If at any time you need any assistance regarding access and egress to your property, please approach any of the workmen for assistance.

If you have any queries regarding the roadworks, please contact PMK, telephone no. 0141 632 9009

**\*NB - Works directly in front of your property should take 7- 10 days maximum**

## BORDERS ART COLLECTIVE FAIR

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 there will be an art/craft fair in the village hall. Artists and artisans who have participated in the various workshops will be selling and displaying their work.

**Time 10am – 1.00pm. Admission free**

*(Teas and Home Baking for sale & Luxury Christmas Hamper raffle.)*

The Borders Art Collective was established in Walkerburn in 2022 by local artist Peta Trousdell. Her vision was to introduce art, in its various forms, to the local community and beyond. Supported by Helen McIntyre and Charlie Trousdell numerous workshops have taken place both in the Village Hall and the Bowling club.

**The workshops have proven very popular, with participants attending from all over the Borders and Edinburgh. For more information check our website - or see Facebook/Borders Art Collective.**

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## PROBUS CLUB MEETINGS

**Probus Club of Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair is always ready to welcome new members.**

Any retired person living in Peeblesshire who is interested in attending a wide variety of stimulating talks is welcome to come to our meetings at the Vale Club in Innerleithen.

*The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday mornings of the month between October and April. Doors open at 9.45 am for a 10.30 start.*

The 19th November talk will be by Bruce Keith on the subject of: 'Scotland Beneath the Surface'

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Club Secretary at [probus.sec@gmail.com](mailto:probus.sec@gmail.com) or by phone on 01896 830 166. The Club's website can also be accessed at [www.probusborders.org](http://www.probusborders.org).

### FAMILY CONSTELLATIONS PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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In person and online sessions. Contact me for more information: Ana Guerreiro

Email: [yanaguerreiro2@gmail.com](mailto:yanaguerreiro2@gmail.com)

Phone number: - 07391375373 -

Facebook: Family Constellations Therapy - Instagram: @familyconstellations\_therapy

### WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

**The club is as busy as ever. The Petanquers have made the most of the mild Autumn weather to turn out for Friday afternoon games and to play inter-club matches.**

Congratulations on a fine win against strong opposition when they played Inverleith.

The club grounds are looking a lot better as ongoing work continues throughout the year. Many thanks to Donny Campbell for end of season work on the greens and to Kenny Confrey for the fencing and to Craig at Glendinnings for delivery of the gravel for the paths.

Lastly, we are grateful to Bill Nicholson for running the twice-monthly 'Bonus Ball' competition. And congratulations to the more fortunate among our members who have been lucky enough to win on more than one occasion! Please continue to support us and add your contribution to our list of players.

Unless there is really adverse weather, the weekly informal Friday afternoon 'drop-in' Petanque sessions will continue at the earlier time of 1.00pm Petanque games will continue throughout the Winter months. It is increasingly popular and new members have commented on how pleasant it is to play at Walkerburn.

Please come along and meet the 'Petanquers' each Friday afternoon and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards. Members also have access to the club every day to practice or to play with friends.

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](mailto:geoles2@tiscali.co.uk)



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**WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL.**  
**Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16th October 2024**

**Present:** Mr Kerr (Chairman), Ms Daykin, Ms Sedgwick, Mr Thornton, Mrs Thornton, Mr Waller, Mr Wilcox, Mrs Purves (Secretary), Cllr Pirone.

**Apologies and Notices.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Douglas and Tatler, Ms Jones and Mrs Horsburgh. No new notices.

**Presentation on Walkerburn Rugby Club.** The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Thoms, the President of Walkerburn Rugby Club. Mr Thoms began his presentation by thanking the Chairman and Members for allowing him the opportunity to explain the Rugby Club's plan for recovery after the near collapse of the Club earlier in the year. He reminded everyone that the previous Club Committee had felt unsupported and had been unable to undertake the traditional Sevens Competition. The news that the Club might fold had galvanised the rugby community in the Borders and far beyond. As a result, locals, the rugby community and strong backing from the SRU, had helped a revitalised committee put on a very successful, though delayed, Sevens Competition. A total of 10 teams participated but many more had expressed an interest in playing in the future. He pointed out that Walkerburn's rugby field was one of the best around, there was a good club house, the HB club was supportive and Walkerburn had a wonderful reputation as a place for clubs to visit, play and be welcomed. Mr Thoms went on to explain that there was poor availability of players everywhere in Scotland, not just in the Borders, but the SRU and Clubs were all trying to find ways to encourage young players into the game. The new committee was now looking at ways to keep the Club sustainably funded including considering some form of Festival of Rugby to run through the year, possibly linking into the expansion of the women's game, enhancing the appeal of the club house for community use and increasing co-operation with all Walkerburn organisations. He hoped that the famous Burns Supper might be resurrected as well as other social events run with other community groups. Mr Thoms expressed his pride in the Club and his determination to re-establish the Club on solid ground but stressed that this must be a committee and community effort.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thoms for an invigorating talk and asked members if they had any questions. Everyone expressed their satisfaction that the Club was back on track and hoped that it would continue to flourish. There was some discussion about how the Club could also help the wider community, particularly in helping restore the SBC recreation ground, and Mr Thoms promised to meet on site with WDCS representatives to see what was being planned.

**Open Questions from Members of the Public.** A resident brought up the issue of the lack of action taken by the residents at 1 Park Avenue who had expanded their garden into Alexandra Park and had subsequently been advised by SBC that they must return to their boundary. The secretary will alert SBC Parks to the problem.

**Police Business.** There has been no direct contact with the Police since August and it was agreed that Cllr Tatler should be asked to raise this with the Police.

**July Minutes and Matters Arising.** Mr Waller proposed acceptance seconded by Ms Daykin. The Minutes were passed, and the Chairman asked the secretary to run through matters arising. Matters Arising:

Item 6e. SBHA Issues. Mr Waller reported on a convoluted exchange of emails with SBHA. He had sent in photographs of the broken railings in Jubilee Park and had pointed out that the track around the Caberston Road drying green had always been maintained by SBHA including the erection of 'no parking' signs. He would press again for some action and report back in November.

Item 8d. Hedge on Caberston Road. The hedge had been cut back drastically and was going to be replaced by more suitable planting (hopefully beech)

Item 10. Issues raised with FLS. Briefing note sent to Members.

Mr Wilcox ran through the results of the meeting. Everyone welcomed the news that FLS intended to add road use timing restrictions to their contracts. All agreed that drivers had been more considerate but that pressure must be maintained. There was some dismay at the predicted HGV figures for 2025 which were, in most cases, considerably higher than this year which itself was much higher than 2023. However, all that can be done is to press SBC to apply for more funding from the timber roads funds. Cllr Pirone asked whether there might be extra funding for bridge repairs and all agreed that this should be pursued.

Item 11a. SPEN Work on A72 Traffic Management Issues. There is a proposal by Cllr Tatler that all 3 Councillors approach SPEN re Caberston Road/D83/2 repairs. Cllr Pirone confirmed that this would happen but in discussion she also asked that businesses which would be most heavily impacted especially by extra traffic on Caberston Road should write directly to SPEN. Mr Kerr promised to bring this to the notice of the Manager, Rathburn Chemicals.

Item 13a. Bench at A72/Caberston Rd junction. This will be replaced in spring.

*(Secretary) Afternote: The bench has been replaced.*

Item 13b. Signage at Recreation Ground (known as "The Playing Fields", south of the river.) The secretary reported that the usual 'paper' signs re dog dirt had been put up at the main entrance, but it was clear from residents' comments that much more needed to be done. The roadside fence and dyke are disintegrating, the pedestrian entrance nearest the Bowling Club is a mess, the main gate has long since disappeared and cars are now driving over the field. The open litter bin is being abused by wildlife and humans, there is no dog bin, and more and more trash is being left in the field. All agreed that it was time to make sure that the Recreation Ground was properly reinstated and maintained especially since many more groups were using it for children's sport. The Chairman directed that the secretary should seek a meeting with SBC Parks department to discuss options and it was also suggested that funding routes be discussed, since WDCS could access relatively quick help with items such as fencing. Afternote: Meeting arranged for 30th October.

Item 13c. Extra Dropped Kerb on A72. Mrs Thornton reported that the disabled resident who had requested this had been delighted with the solution proposed by SBC that a dropped kerb be installed opposite the old mill entrance. (There may be a delay due to SPEN works.)

Item 13d. Road surfacing Materials. The secretary reported no progress and asked that the item be held over until November. Agreed.

### **Correspondence.**

List circulated to Members. The following items required decisions:

Item 3. Parking Problems. SBC officers very unwilling to attend any meetings. Their view is that they have already made it clear that there is no cash available to make new car parks anywhere and Walkerburn has the problem that there is no land available that is not on the flood plain. Note circulated to members at Item 16. It was suggested that we must face facts and be honest with residents. All agreed that any complaints/suggestions about parking should be dealt with discretion, but residents must be made aware of the facts.

Item 5. Parks Problems. The secretary noted that most of the points raised in this correspondence had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting, but all agreed that thanks should once again be sent to the Parks team led by Mr Johnstone and to the new Manager for a fast and helpful response to questions.

Item 6. Potential problems on back road because of SPEN works on A72. Already noted that Councillors will write to SPEN.

Items 8 and 10. Note about FLS meeting circulated. Already dealt with under Matters arising.

Item 11. Quiet Roads Questions from Road Safety. As expected, members and residents who regularly walk or cycle on these roads have seen no change since 40 mph signs removed from the Walkerburn to Peel section of D82/83 and still consider that this part of the road does not require any speed restriction or additional signage. The most common comment from residents who have answered survey questions has been that the money would be better spent on road resurfacing and cleaning passing places since some cyclists and motorists will not use these because they are so muddy. Members noted that signage has already been erected on the Walkerburn- Innerleithen section, much to the annoyance of some residents who feel it is encouraging drivers to drive too fast. Members agreed that there might be a case for erecting signage on this part of the road because there is one long straight section where 40 mph might not be dangerous, but frequent walkers tend to disagree since it is often vans and the uplift that drive at over 30 mph. The Chairman directed the secretary to answer the questions posed in accordance with the majority views.

Item 13. Request for Comments on Retrospective Planning Application. Mr Thornton covered this in the next item.

### **Planning**

a). Retrospective Application for Holylee Lodge alterations circulated to members. No objections. (Secretary to action response).

b). Mr Wilcox had circulated a briefing note which he summarised briefly. We had still not received the promised update to the Environmental Statement from Fred Olsen Renewables (FORL) for Scawd Law but we have been told by Clovenfords CC that this has been delayed whilst legal advice is sought on the idea that there could be an agreed planning condition which would allow FORL to deal with the eagle issue as well as the peat issue before building began thus obviating the need to remove turbines 7 and 8 to meet objections. SBC has asked for a further delay to their submission to March 2025. There are still strong objections from both RSPB and MOD and recent eagle movement suggests that two pairs are now well established with a third pair looking at nesting sites. Interestingly the scientific birding community seems more and more convinced that the Scawd Law area and the Moorfoots as a whole are the best area for eagles in the whole of the Borders. There is serious opposition to the introduction of bike trails in the Windlestraw/Scawd Law area since eagles and many other rare species are easily spooked by human activity such as mountain biking and, as Mr Wilcox pointed out, recent advances in electric mountain bikes bring the Moorfoots within easy reach of even unfit mountain bikers if there are trails built or even tracks to wind turbines. There followed a general discussion with members agreeing that WDCC must remain constant in its opposition to this particular wind farm application and remain in touch with the Eagle Project.

### **Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, 10th November 2024.**

Mr Thornton confirmed that all the arrangements for the service are now in place with a finalised version of the Order of Service being prepared for printing. He had agreed with the new Lord Lieutenant that Mrs Mary Coltman would represent her and lay her wreath. He and the secretary will ensure that all is ready by the end of the month. Mr Wilcox had procured the wreaths and gave the WDCC wreath to the Chairman along with that for the Lord Lieutenant's representative. He handed the ex- Servicemen/Servicewomen's wreath to Mr Machell. Mrs Purves confirmed that all arrangements for the road closure were in Place. Ms Daykin and Mr Leslie will act as road closure stewards and Mrs Thornton, Ms Sedgwick and Ms Jones (if available) will act as stewards at the War Memorial. After the service, soup,

sausage rolls, cakes and biscuits, tea, coffee, soft drinks will be available in the Hall where Mr Machell will have provided a display. This is available for all in the community whether or not they have attended the service. The Chairman will assist Mr Thornton and Mr Machell to move plastic chairs from and to the Hall so that seating is available at the War Memorial for those who need it.

### **Reports by Members.**

a). Apparently, there was a video made at the opening of Alexandra Park. Everyone is asked to try to find a copy for the village archive. Mrs Thornton will chase Beltane Studios to get the plaque properly cleaned.

b). A resident had suggested putting a self-closing hinge on the pedestrian gate into the Park at the Tweed bridge. All agreed that this was not a safe option given use of the gate by children and parents with prams. No further action.

c). A resident has complained about a tree in the Park and will be told to contact the Tree Officer at SBC if they felt the tree was dangerous.

### **Reports from SBC Councillors.**

Cllr Pirone highlighted growing concerns about the lack of detail given to date by SPEN on the cross-border connection plans. She has asked that the timing for comments be extended since there is very little time to allow residents a proper opportunity to scrutinise the plans. In discussion all agreed that:

a). The current preferred route brought up a number of issues, not least the fact that it looks as if one steel tower would be on top of a house! SPEN admit that the route has been chosen as a result of a desktop map exercise, but it is difficult to judge impact when there are no visualisations provided and some parts of the route look impossible.

b). At present, the route crosses the Tweed at a highly sensitive point in terms of landscape/fishing and then cuts the skyline on the Southern Upland Way.

c). No one has given any sensible explanation for the route chosen. Given that the English side of the connection is still not known, it seems premature to start taking about preferred routes north of the Border. There seems to be an assumption that the new Gala North station is in the right place to act as a hub for the cross-border route, but we have no understanding of why this assumption is being made. The route comes from the north and there are already many objections from people in Angus and further north as to the proposed routing there. Many of our residents are questioning the rationale behind routing the line through relatively unspoilt countryside rather than down the major arteries on the west or east of the country. There

seems to have been virtually no consideration given to other routes through farmland or to upgrading existing pylons. It feels as if there may be a tie-up to potential new wind farm development in this area.

In spite of claims to be consulting communities, the short response time for objections and the failure to advertise adequately show that there is no intention to engage in real consultation.

d). All agreed that we need more information and that we must communicate with other CCs on the route to coordinate a meeting with the SPEN team. Chairman and Secretary to organise.

**Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 20th November.

The November meeting will be on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in the Public Hall.

***Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues they want to discuss with Councillors or the Community Council.***

### **NOVEMBER WILDSIDE**

Now that Hallowe'en is past, we have less than eight weeks until Christmas.

But this is still Autumn and a sunny autumn day can be lovely. In past years we have often had a sprinkling of snow by now but, fortunately, not yet this year. A couple of plants that we associate with the Christmas season are very attractive to wildlife at this time of year - holly and ivy. Head outside on a sunny autumn day and look out for insects busy on Ivy flowers, humming and buzzing as they collect the last pollen and nectar of the season.

Ivy, unlike most other plants, flowers in autumn making it an extremely valuable source of food for many insects. Only mature plants, more than 10 years old, produce flowers, and you can spot these plants by their oval leaves. Younger plants have the lobed leaves that we more typically associate with Ivy. The flowers themselves are

not particularly flower-like, being ball-shaped structures made up of lime green nodules each with pollen-smothered stamens. But their honey-like scent is a clear sign of this flower's bounty, as far as insects are concerned.

Holly has lots of myths and folklore associated with it, but Holly trees were often used as boundary trees planted in the hedgerows to prevent the passage of witches, who were known to fly along the tops of hedges. There is a lot of folklore to do with trees and shrubs that link to warding off evil spirits and witches, so would be connected to both Hallowe'en and Christmas. Ash was once burned to ward off evil spirits and silver birches were known by Druids as the 'goddess tree' as it had the power to ward off evil spirits. If you had a staff made of blackthorn wood, it would ward

off those evil spirits too.

Holly trees were traditionally known for protection from lightning strikes, so were planted near a house. In European mythology, holly was associated with Thor, God of Thunder. In Scotland, it was the Rowan tree that was planted near houses as protection against witches and enchantments, and on farms to protect livestock. An Elder tree would even keep the Devil away! Folklore suggested that holly wood had an affinity for control, especially of horses, and most whips for ploughmen and horse-drawn coaches were made from coppiced holly. One of my granddads was a ploughman with horses so I wonder if he had a holly whip? Most of these ancient beliefs had been surpassed by then however but may still have been useful in itself.

Thrushes and blackbirds enjoy the holly berries and due to the seeds then being spread in the birds' droppings, the trees can extend their areas of growth. As well as birds finding food in the fruits of plants. So do some small mammals and for some finding food is a matter of life and death, in just having energy to stay warm as the

temperatures drop. The abundance of natural food sources begins to wane as winter approaches, so your bird table will likely be getting much busier in November. All of your regular garden visitors will flock in to feast, so make sure you keep your feeders clean and full! One rather exotic-looking species to look out for this month is the Waxwing. These beautiful reddish-brown birds are not much bigger than a Starling, but their punk-rocker crest makes them really stand out. Every few years, large numbers of Waxwings make the crossing, in what is officially termed an 'irruption'. You'll sometimes spot an individual bird or small flocks in Rowan trees or Hawthorn bushes, even in quite urban locations like supermarket car parks. Quite a few Waxwings have already been spotted in Britain this autumn, so fingers crossed we'll see them locally...

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*The last of this year's Supermoons is due on November 14th and we have two meteor showers to look for: the Taurids on 4th/5th and the Leonids on 17th/18th.*

### WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: November/December

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please note new contact: [enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk)

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Mindful Yoga For more info, please tel. Sue Cotterill on 07983 167075 or email <a href="mailto:reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com">reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com</a>	6.00-9.00pm
Tuesdays (weekly)	Youth Club (except for last Tuesday every month)	6.30-8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting – 20 <sup>th</sup> November	7.00pm
Thursdays	Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club and Citizens Advice Bureau – 28 <sup>th</sup> November and 12 <sup>th</sup> December Pilates Classes with Meg Riley	9.00am–12.00 noon 6.00 – 8.00pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service – 15 <sup>th</sup> December Table Tennis	2.00pm 6.00-8.00pm

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### PEEBLES SHIRE FOODBANK COFFEE CLUB

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Please come along and support this very worthwhile asset to our community and bring a friend or family if you wish.

This is a new Coffee Club where you can get **free** hot drinks and cakes and enjoy meeting others in a warm and friendly environment.

Also, the Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau will be on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

**Next ones are on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

*Contacts: Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel 01721 721722 - Peeblesshire Foodbank Tel 01721 588654*

### WALK IT WALKERBURN

**Walks every Monday except the first Monday of the month when we travel further afield.**

**Meet in Alexandra Park by the swings at 10.00**

