



# BURNing Issues



[www.walkerburn.com](http://www.walkerburn.com)

[walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)

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## “YOUR COMMUNITY - YOUR VOICE” EVENT

A well-attended public consultation drop-in event in the Public Hall on Saturday 22nd February was organised by the Walkerburn Community Council.

The theme centred on 'What Is Happening in Walkerburn and the Adjoining Tweed Valley'. There was a variety of most interesting displays by different groups, including stunning visuals and descriptions of eagles and the depictions of visual impact by the proposed cross Borders power line, all of which made a big impression on the many people who called in for a look. Visitors were invited to share their views on what is wanted and needed for the village in future. This will help the local community to access funds for agreed improvements and to make their thoughts known about what they had seen. Many useful ideas and suggestions were forthcoming and the organisers want to thank everyone who attended. The Walkerburn and District Community Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this community event and to the visitors and to the ladies who provided an excellent lunch and refreshments. The Hall Committee is also very grateful for the money contributed to Hall funds by the sale of the lovely photographs which were displayed by David McCallum.

### WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING AND BOOK MARKET

**Saturday 22nd March from 10am to 12 noon**

The Hall is running a coffee morning and book sale to celebrate National Village Halls Week. We will have tea, coffee and cakes. There will also be a raffle. Donations of books, raffle prizes and home baking will be very welcome. Please support your village hall.

*If you need anything picked up, please contact us at: [enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk)*

### SHEEP WORRYING

**This year's lambing season is nearing its busiest period on the farms around Walkerburn.**

Expectant ewes are very nervous as they are near to giving birth and new born lambs are frail and excitable at this time of year. We have been asked to remind dog owners and dog walkers to take extra care to keep their dogs under tight control. However well behaved a dog may be, the sheep will still panic at the sight of a dog and have a tendency to stampede. Every year this results in many still-born lambs.

**We have already been informed by Police that there have been instances of dogs that are worrying and even attacking sheep. PLEASE keep all dogs under control and report instances of pets that are not being constrained. The Police contact telephone number is 101.**

### WALKERBURN COFFEE CLUB

**27th March, 10th, 24th April, 8th and 22nd May – Thursday, every fortnight, 10am to 12pm**

Please come along and support this very worthwhile asset to our community and bring a friend or family if you wish. Sponsored by Citizens Advice Bureau and run by volunteers, the Coffee Club is a community café offering **FREE** hot drinks and cakes and you can enjoy meeting others in a warm and friendly environment. The Coffee Club is for everyone in the community, whether you'd like advice or just a cuppa! *Contacts: Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel 01721 721722. We're also on facebook - 'The Coffee Clubs' - follow our page for the latest information!*

### 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.*

**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).**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: March/April

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	Youth Club – Check Facebook for when it is in the Hall	6.30-8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting – 19th March	7.00pm
Thursdays	Free Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club and Citizens Advice Bureau – 27th March, 10th and 24th April, 8th and 22nd May – Thursday, every fortnight – Pilates Classes with Melanie Riley - 3rd April onwards	9.00am–12.00 noon 6.00 – 8.00pm
Saturday	22nd March – Walkerburn Village Hall Coffee Morning And Book Sale	10.00am to 12 noon
Sundays	ITW Church Service – 20th April Table Tennis	2.00pm 6.00-9.00pm

## WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

**Club AGM on Sunday 30th March at 3.00pm. All are welcome.**

**The winter is slowly coming to an end and our thoughts are turning to the warmer summer days.**

The Petanque players have braved winds and cold weather and still managed to turn out regularly each week – as well as playing occasional matches against other clubs. Well done to everyone who has taken part!

The clubhouse has also welcomed various local groups to use its facilities, including the Borders Art Club and our local Home Basics. We are delighted to be as involved as possible with our local community.

Also, David Adamson hosted another of his popular “Quingo” Charity Quiz evenings on 7th March. Everyone enjoyed a very pleasant social occasion and we raised £100 for the Margaret Kerr Specialist Palliative Care Unit at Borders General Hospital! Thanks to all who took part.

Bill Nicholson still has few vacant places in the twice-monthly ‘Bonus Ball’ competition. Please contact any member, or see our Facebook page if you would like to enter. Congratulations to the more fortunate among our members who have been lucky enough to win! Please continue to support us.

The Bowls section will again be entering a team in the Peeblesshire League, starting with an ‘away’ match at Peebles on Tuesday 29th April.

‘Petanquers’ continues each Friday afternoon, with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards. Members also have access to the club every day to practice or to play with friends.

Details of the new Bowls season will be available next month and Club Tournaments will be confirmed at the club AGM on Sunday 30th March at 3.00pm.

**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 AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting Held on 19th February 2025**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Pirone, Mrs Horsburgh, Mr Leslie, Ms Jones and Mr Wilcox.

**Notices:** None (The secretary asked Councillors if something was amiss in SBC Roads since there had been an

unusual dearth of roads notices but, apparently, they have also been aware of a fall-off in notices.)

**Police Business:** The Police Report for January had been circulated. Everyone agreed that there was a need for more active deterrence of speeding motorists and Cllr Tatler agreed to keep up pressure.

**January Minutes:** Ms Daykin proposed approval of the January minutes, seconded by Ms Sedgwick. The Minutes were passed.

**Matters Arising:**

a. Item 7d. 50 mph Trial. Cllr Douglas reported no further action, but the matter had been raised with the Scrutiny Committee, and Clovenfords CC had also raised concerns.

b. Item 9c. Potholes and Mess along Caberston Road. The situation has not changed, and little can be done to repair the road until the major SPEN works on the A72 are finished. SBC Roads have promised road repairs/drainage repairs early in 2026 and Councillors promised to keep pushing for this. All agreed that, as the weather improved, there must be more active and regular cleaning of the road. (Chairman to take this up with PMK).

c. Item 9g. Rugby Club Rubbish etc. Much of the rubbish has been removed and more clearing is promised. However, the Chairman of the Rugby Club appeared to believe that the Club has some priority right to use the field. This has been checked thoroughly with SBC and there is no priority right for the Club. Historically, the field was part of a series of 'playing fields' which included a cricket pitch on the present field, with hockey and football fields beyond. The aim is to make the Playing Field accessible and suitable for all types of recreational use, with further development planned.

**Correspondence:** List circulated to members. No immediate actions required.

**Planning:**

a. General. Mr Thornton reported that FLS had applied for permission to build a logging track in Thornielee forest but there had been no objections.

b. Wind Farms. (The secretary read Mr Wilcox's report) Mr Wilcox had organised a meeting with the Peebles CC Planning Representative and the Chairman but was unable to attend at the last minute. The secretary stood in for him and reported that it was clear that they understood WDCC concerns about Scawd Law and the Cross Border Connection. Mr Wilcox will keep them up to date. (WDCC had agreed to act as 'banker' for the Cross Border Alliance and Mr Wilcox will act as their Treasurer.)

The secretary then explained that she had taken the opportunity to discuss with the Peebles CC representatives the consultation on non-financial support for Community Councils since it had been agreed that, for Tweeddale, Peebles would take the lead with WDCC providing back-up. In summary, it was clear that Peebles CC shared our concerns about banking, IT and random SBC consultations as well as agreeing with our view that Tweeddale CCs should try to be more communally cooperative with possibly a regular 'WhatsApp' meeting for chairs/secretaries. Members agreed that the secretary should pursue this further with Peebles CC and others. (Action: Secretary)

**Update on Public Consultation Event 22nd February 2025:**

a. Name of Event would be "Your Community: Your Voice"

b. As agreed previously, this is a consultation event for WDCC so although clubs etc were welcome to put up small posters, there would only be one club stand, and this was for the Craft Club given their recent flood costs. All agreed that it made sense for the Festival and Hall to have stands since both needed more consultation with the community to help set their direction. The secretary noted that the Arts Collective also wanted to gauge opinion for future courses, and everyone agreed that they should be "squeezed in". SBC Families/Employability would also be in attendance.

c. Ms Daykin reported that the Publicity campaign was successful to date with the Peeblesshire kindly giving free publicity under two headings and posters having been put up everywhere locally. She went on to outline the final effort to get people involved.

d. All catering was in hand and Mr Peter White was playing a major role in helping in the kitchen, with 2 volunteers providing soup and WDCC members who could bake, baking.

e. A contact list for clubs etc had been prepared for the day.

Afternote: A revised contact list will be published by Burning Issues.

**Reports by Members:**

a. There are concerns at the growing use of electric bikes, scooters and trail bikes on the Pump Track. Further signage was discussed but the general feeling was that people who misuse the track should be reported to someone but to whom? Everyone agreed to consider whether a request for a local ordinance of some kind specifically banning powered vehicles from the pump track would help residents and the Police to control misuse. (To be discussed further)

b. There has been another spate of incidents between pedestrians and HGV/PMK drivers on Caberston Road with abusive language being aimed at concerned pedestrians. It was agreed that the Chairman would send a formal letter of complaint to PMK.

Afternote: Letter sent and PMK have been monitoring speeds. Police have also helped by having a presence with a speed gun and FLS have warned all contractors. This has helped in the short term but has to be monitored by everyone involved.



## "SUDS CAR WASH & VALETING"

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c. There are a number of complaints about untidy areas which could possibly be tackled by the Unpaid Work Team: WDCC will continue to try to get their help with path maintenance in particular.

d. Thanks to the Parks Foreman for his quick response to the broken steps on the wooden walkway in Alexandra Park.

e. The Chairman expressed appreciation to Councillors for their funding of 2-way radios for flood/resilience groups generally in Tweeddale. The Walkerburn test sets had already proved how useful these systems were in emergencies.

### **Reports by Councillors:**

a. Cllr Tatler reported on his recent useful meeting with Ch Insp Fletcher to discuss the problems of back road diversions when incidents closed the A72. Consideration is now being given to 'flip-up' signage on the A72 so that Police called to an incident could quickly activate a one-way west to east system on the back road as one part of a diversion with the other east to west diversion being routed to the A7. More to follow but members were supportive. Cllr Tatler went on to report good progress in the Chambers Institute re-design and to explain the work being carried out on future funding and organisation of Live Borders. In answer to a question, he explained that the Eastgate funding had been separate from Live Borders funding and that nothing had yet been decided about this, but he asked everyone to keep in mind the very tight financial constraints and the need to provide for Arts funding throughout the Borders.

b. Cllr Douglas noted that the next Area Partnership meeting was scheduled for 25th March in the Burgh Hall, Peebles. He explained that the system of Area Partnerships was under review and echoed Cllr Tatler's remarks about funding constraints. He reported that Peebles High School's new buildings should be ready for opening in September with the old school being scheduled for demolition by the end of 2026. The Chairman asked if it would be possible for Community Councillors to attend one of the group 'tours' of the new school and Cllr Douglas promised to suggest this. Finally, Cllr Douglas reminded everyone that the SBC cross-party budget for the next year was very tight and everyone should expect to see less availability of funds for good causes.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 19th March 2025 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.)*

### **MD MOWERS**

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### **Burning Issues Contributors:**

***Please note: Remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the April issue by the end of March.***

***Contact BURNing Issues at***  
***[walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)***



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## **MARCH WILDSIDE**

**I know that it is, scientifically speaking, Spring and there are lots of snowdrops etc in flower just now, but it still feels like winter with some very cold winds!**

Nevertheless, I have primroses just showing colour in their flower buds and the birds are starting to pair up, ready for their breeding season. There are a pair of Little Egrets working the ditch on the south side of the bridge and, of course, the oystercatchers are very vocal. I take it the egrets will be looking for frogs in the mud as well as any other tasty muddy morsels. It would be great if they were a pair and managed to raise a family here.

The woodland birds we see in the trees locally or that visit our gardens will soon be paired up and raising a family. We have a pair of nuthatches that visit our feeders regularly so I’m hopeful they’ll bring baby nuthatches here later in Spring. Nesting usually starts in late April and they raise two broods a year. Nuthatches tend to occupy a hole in a tree particularly old woodpecker holes but ‘mud’ up the hole to make the opening smaller. Typically, six to eight eggs are laid, with the chicks hatching after around two weeks. Fledging normally occurs after around three to four weeks. So, I’ve plenty of time yet. By then, I should have my summer bedding!

If all the birds that visit the garden, raise young and bring them here, we’ll have a great selection of small birds. I like seeing the parents “training” the young to use the feeders. It doesn’t usually take them long to learn, but it’s so much easier to keep pestering mum and dad. Familiar to all parents!

Anyone who reads this column regularly will know I feed the birds all year round to some degree, and I take great pleasure in seeing them close up in our garden. Many people put food out for birds, but fewer provide a regular supply of clean water. Birds need water for drinking and bathing. Birds get the liquid they need from their food, and by drinking. Many insectivorous birds get most of their water from food, while seed-eating birds have a dry diet and they need to drink more.

The simplest way to provide water is a bird bath, essentially a dish of water. Dirty bird baths can be at least as serious sources of disease as dirty bird tables. Allowing pathogens to accumulate in the water will risk the birds’ health, and some can be transmitted to any pets and other wildlife that drink from the bird bath. Give the bath a thorough clean every week or so as you clean your bird feeders and tables. Scrub it well to remove algae and other dirt. You can use diluted household disinfectants, white vinegar or cleaners specifically formulated for bird baths, but make sure that you rinse the bath out thoroughly to remove any traces of chemicals. Since there is a small but real risk of infections like salmonella being transmitted to people, always exercise good hygiene when cleaning bird baths, just as you would do with feeders. Always clean the bird bath outdoors using separate brushes/cloths, wear gloves and wash your hands when finished. Remember then to refresh water daily. Bird baths are particularly important during the winter, when natural supplies may be frozen, and in dry conditions that occur mainly during summer. In freezing conditions, birds will become more dependent on water provided in gardens, since many natural sources of water are frozen over. It can be difficult to stop a bird bath from freezing in winter, but the following ideas may help. A light ball, placed in the water, will be moved by even a gentle breeze and will keep just a small amount of water ice free. I use plastic ducks but family dogs like to steal them just as much as they love balls! You could line the bath with polythene so you can just lift out the ice easily and put fresh water in. Alternatively, as a last resort, use hot water to melt the ice but never use additives such as antifreeze or glycerine as this can destroy the waterproofing and insulating properties of feathers, or may even be toxic.

*Hopefully we won’t have to worry too much about frosts for that much longer although my husband remembers frost in June so I won’t be out with my summer bedding just yet.*

## **Walkerburn and District -Useful Contacts for Information March 2025**

**Allotments:** Allin Hoggarth, 07985 319009, Email: [allin225@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allin225@hotmail.co.uk)

**Archery:** Redgauntlet is a field archery club shooting in Elibank Forest and at Langlee Community Centre. Contact is [keithjallen51@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keithjallen51@yahoo.co.uk)

**Borders Arts Collective:** Helen McIntyre, Mobile: 07368264322 Email [helenmcintyre26@gmail.com](mailto:helenmcintyre26@gmail.com)

**Bowling and Petanque Club:** George Thornton, 01896 870251.

**Burning Issues:** Lesley Thornton, 01896 870251 Email: [walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)

**Citizens Advice Bureau:** 01721 721722, Richard Callaghan, (makes appointments in Walkerburn)

**Coffee Club:** Village Hall every second Thursday morning, Jenni Jones 01721 721722

**Craft Club:** Dawn Rodger, 07791 538343, 01896 870458 Email: [drodger7@aol.com](mailto:drodger7@aol.com)

**Festival:** Dawn Rodger, 07791 538343, 01896 870458 Email: [drodger7@aol.com](mailto:drodger7@aol.com)

**FoodHugs:** Lunch and activities every second Tuesday in HB Club, Sharing Shed at Hall, [foodhugswalkerburn@gmail.com](mailto:foodhugswalkerburn@gmail.com)

**Henry Ballantyne Club,** Caberston Road: Chris 07494272371 or call in at the Club on Caberston Road. Everyone in the WDCC area can become a member for a small fee.

**Home Basics:** Jools Burke, 01896 870455, [www.homebasics.org.uk](http://www.homebasics.org.uk)

**Pilates:** Mel Robson, Hall every Thursday evening 07970927345

**Post Office:** 01896 870205 Mr Manoj Kumar

**Probus Club:** [probus.sec@gmail.com](mailto:probus.sec@gmail.com) [www.probusborders.org](http://www.probusborders.org).

**Public Hall:** [Enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk)

Phone number for emergencies Cat Worsey 07582431713 [Catworsey@outlook.com](mailto:Catworsey@outlook.com)

**Rugby Club:** Andrew Thoms (Club President), [andrew@tris-uk.com](mailto:andrew@tris-uk.com) and [walkerburn7s@gmail.com](mailto:walkerburn7s@gmail.com)

**School Secretary:** 01896 870235 Heather Shepherd

**Table Tennis Club:** David Barbour, 07721336594

**Walkerburn Vegetable Association:** Allin Hoggarth, 07985 319009 Email: [allin225@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allin225@hotmail.co.uk)

**Yoga:** Sue Cotterill 07983 1670775 [reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com](mailto:reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com)

**Youth Club:** 07715 493268

**Walkerburn and District Community Council** (see noticeboards for member details)  
email secretary at [walkerburncouncilsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:walkerburncouncilsecretary@gmail.com)

**'Walk-It' Group** (meet on Monday morning for a short walk): Alice Pringle, 07974 782016

### **Churches and Islamic Worship:**

Innerleithen, Traquair & Walkerburn Church of Scotland, Rev Fraser Edwards, 01896 490742,

St Andrews Scottish Episcopal Church, Innerleithen, Mr Robin Wilson, 07974414881

St James Catholic Church, Innerleithen, Father Tony Lappin, 01721 720865

Baptist Church, Victoria Street, Galashiels, 07761 691103, [admin@galashielsbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@galashielsbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Islamic Worship: Borders Islamic Society, [info@bordersislamicsociety.org](mailto:info@bordersislamicsociety.org)

### **Updates to Contact List**

*If you have a contact to add or want to change details please contact WDCC secretary*

### **Walkerburn Post Office & Store 28 Galashiels Road, Walkerburn**

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