



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

Published by the Walkerburn News Group

ISSUE 258 March 2026

PEEBLESHIRE FOODBANK COFFEE CLUB

Walkerburn Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 noon every 2nd Thursday.



April	May	June
9th - Bowling Club 23rd - Village Hall	7th - Bowling Club 21st - Village Hall	4th - Village Hall 18th - Village Hall

Free hot drinks and cakes and enjoy meeting others in a warm and friendly environment. Please come along and support this very worthwhile asset to our community and bring a friend or family if you wish. Also, the Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau will be on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

(Due to Hall unavailability, Coffee Morning on 9th April and 7th May will be in the Bowling Club)

Contacts: Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel 01721 721722, Peeblesshire Foodbank: Tel 01721 588654

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.

WALK IT WALKERBURN



We will continue with our regular weekly Monday walks at 10.00am. Meet in Alexandra Park by the swings.

One hour of easy walking, followed by a coffee at Caberston Café, if wanted!

We look forward to you joining us for a healthy 2026!



**HOME
BASICS**

furnishing people's futures

Home Basics - your local furniture reuse charity.

We collect good quality furniture and working electrical white goods free of charge, or you can deliver to our depot.

Open to all Monday-Friday 10-4, Saturday 11-2.

Unit 7, Tweeddale Mills East, Walkerburn

01896 870455 **www.homebasics.org.uk**

Company Ltd by Guarantee 234746 : Registered Scottish Charity SC 033827



WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

AGM at 2.20pm on Sunday 12th April in Clubhouse.

Winter is 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!

Petanque continues each Friday afternoon, with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

The Bowls section will be emerging from hibernation in the latter part of April – depending on the weather! The committee will be deciding the dates of various competitions and we look forward to a good turn-out and plenty of enjoyable games. The date of the President's 'bowl-off' that will mark the official opening will be notified in next month's Burning Issues.

After the A.G.M. in the clubhouse at 2.30pm on Sunday 12th April details of the new Bowls season, including the Club Tournaments and mid-week Wappenshaw, will be confirmed.

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.

Bonus Ball: There are still a few places available in the fortnightly 'Bonus Ball' competition. The 'Lucky Number' pay-out has been carried over from the past couple of Saturday draws because the number has not been taken up or has not been paid up to date. This means that a very worthwhile roll-over has accumulated. If you already have a number, please check that it is paid up. Do contact any member, or see our Facebook page if you would like to enter.

We are always keen to welcome new members to both the Bowls and the Petanque sections. Do come along and give it a try. You can make use of the club's equipment if needed.

Members also have access to the club every day to practice or to play with friends.

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: March/April 2026

Mondays	Walkersburn Baby and Toddler Group. For more info, please contact Jasmine Aquilina on 07922 613890	10.30am – 12 noon
Tuesdays	Youth Club	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkersburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting – April 18th	7.00pm
Thursdays	Citizens Advice Bureau and Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club – 26th March and 23 rd April	10.00am-12.00pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service – 5 th April –Easter Service in Alexandra Park ITW Church Service – 19 th April Table Tennis	8.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please note new contact: enquiries@walkersburnvillagehall.co.uk

BORDERS BOILERS

Gas & Oil Heating Engineers
Installation, Service & Repair



Contact:

David

01896 870735

or

07904119264



MIKE LITTLE

DOMESTIC PLUMBING & REPAIRS

TEL: 07927 344 184

WILDSIDE

Spring is very nearly with us so hopefully that will see the end of rain every day- we surely deserve some Spring sunshine. There are tiny flies on the wing again which is good news for the wee birds like blue tits. There is a big call to stop putting out bird feed and encouraging the birds to find natural foods so that, amongst other reasons, they don't become dependent on humans feeding them. Well, I'm sorry Mr Packham etc. who advocate this, but I'm sure my feeding the birds will have saved a few over the years and birds aren't totally stupid. If there's fresh insect food available, they'll go for it. None of this allows for my mental health and the pleasure I get from feeding the birds and seeing them up close.

Having spent Autumn away from home and with only a few scabby grey squirrels to watch from the window along with mainly members of the crow family, I make no apologies for taking pleasure in feeding garden birds.

There'll be some birds nesting already, there have been reports of blackbirds and robins already incubating eggs. It's reported that the cuckoos have started their move north but it'll be more like early April before they make it here. I've set myself a couple of tasks for this year, one being to swat up on bird biology because I never covered birds in any detail during my education and they reckon you're never too old to learn!

New research suggests badgers are one of the main threats to the survival of red-listed ground-nesting birds including lapwing and curlew, and that the risk of nests being predated increased during cold or dry weather when their staple diet of earthworms is less accessible. Their main predators remain foxes and corvids (crow family) but evidence gathered from camera traps shows badgers to be culprits too. Certainly, their numbers must have increased as they have become a much more likely sight here than they ever used to be. A badger used to be a rare sight, dead or alive, but nowadays roadkill alone shows how their numbers have increased. A trip to Galashiels or Edinburgh shows several dead badgers on the roadside and sadly most people's view of a badger will be a dead one.

Pine Marten are being spotted locally, which is good news for the Red Squirrels as Pine Marten are known to predate the Grey variety because they can't elude the Martens as easily as the reds due to them being heavier and less agile in the tree canopy. More about Red Squirrels and the work being done to help them can be seen on 'Tweeddale Red Squirrel Network' Facebook page.

Now I'm glad to be back amongst my garden birds and I'm going to feed them and enjoy watching them. I hope many of you will join me and continue feeding them. I'm hoping to see lots of fledglings before too long. The annual National Nestbox Week ran from 14th-21st February. I feel we have plenty now so there are no new additions this year and hopefully some will soon be occupied.

In our night skies we had a Planetary Parade/Alignment on 28th February (Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune) in the southern sky and there was a Total Lunar Eclipse (Blood Moon on March 3, when the moon appeared a blood red colour. After that, we'll be back to meteor showers starting with the Lyrids which will be visible from 16-25 April, peaking on 22 April.

Although it's far from one of the most active yearly meteor showers, the Lyrids can still dazzle - some meteors have bright dust trails that glow in the sky for several seconds. What's more, at the shower's peak on the night of 22 and morning of 23 April the Moon will be just before its first quarter phase, so won't cause too much light pollution. The Lyrids originate from Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which does a lap of the Sun once every 415 years. It's the oldest recorded meteor shower still visible today, having first been recorded in 687 BCE.

(Thanks to RSPB, Royal Observatory, Greenwich)



"SUZY'S SPOTLESS SOLUTIONS"

Laundry services with convenient drop-off and pick-up options in Walkerburn, Innerleithen and surrounding areas.

Small bag £15, Medium £28, Large £42. Monthly special: £70 for 4 pickups/drop-offs. Also offering home cleaning services including weekly cleans and deep cleans. Flexible scheduling to suit your needs.

Contact: Phone: +44 7361 347 436 - Email: suzannadickman@yahoo.com -

Instagram: @suzysspotlessolutions. - **Website:** <https://suzysspotlessolutions.com>

WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18th February 2026

Pre Meeting:

SPEN representatives gave an update on progress towards the installation of a secure, underground domestic electricity line from Peebles to the Yair. Nine residents attended this meeting. In summary: the main infrastructure work is complete with the only major work remaining the underground cable under the Tweed at Yair Bridge and the new substation in Walkerburn; the system should be up and running by Autumn 2027. This is very welcome news since it will mean an end to the short but irritating outages currently experience with the overhead lines north of the Tweed. South of the Tweed properties and businesses will also benefit to some extent because there will be greater redundancy in the overhead system which should mean fewer and shorter outages.

Chairman's Introduction: The Chairman welcomed everyone especially members of the public, PC Beaumont and Mr Chris Faulds from the Peeblesshire News/Border Telegraph.

Present: Ms Daykin (A/Chairman), Ms Aquilina, Ms Brodie, Ms Sedgwick, Mr Thornton, Cllr Douglas, Cllr Tatler and Mrs Purves (A/Secretary).

Apologies and Notices: Mr Kerr, Mrs Thornton and Mr Wilcox. No notices

Open Questions from Members of the Public: Nil at the start of the meeting, but the A/Chairman asked a resident who arrived late if they wished to ask a question. The question concerned an issue which had arisen concerning a link being built with some connection to an unknown wind-farm. The resident was directed to Mr Wilcox for assistance.

Police Business: There were no questions on the December or January Police reports, but PC Beaumont covered both some general policing matters and some particular incidents. He reported a rise in anti-social behaviour in Innerleithen with destruction to both the community garden and the toilets. His colleague had managed to identify some of the perpetrators although in one case an illegal electric bike was identified in a house which the police could not legally seize although he noted that many people were hopeful the law would change on this type of seizure. He went on to say that efforts to catch speeding motorists in Walkerburn had not resulted in any prosecutions but had definitely had some deterrent effect. The intention was to run spot checks from time to time. He reported on the success of a bike marking scheme and said that he hoped to offer the same service in Walkerburn and Clovenfords soon. Members thanked him for his informative report.

December Minutes and Matters Arising: Four factual corrections to the Minutes were agreed. Ms Daykin proposed approval of the December minutes as amended, seconded by Ms Sedgwick. The Minutes were passed unanimously. There were no matters arising which were not dealt with in the Agenda The secretary noted that because of the length of time since the December meeting, Mr Kerr had agreed with the Burning Issues team that the February minutes would be included in the next Burning Issues.

Correspondence: The A/Chairman noted that Peebles CC was supportive of the WDCC views on Scawd Law, Cross Border Connection and Flood Prevention. No other issues.

Planning:

- a. **General.** Application for a dwelling house at West Bold steading still in progress. .
- b. **Scawd Law Wind Farm.** Note circulated to Members by Mr Wilcox. Scawd Law application should be taken by SBC Planning Committee at 2nd March meeting. Strong objection from RUN, formerly Soth of Scotland Eagle Project backed up by SBC Officers to latest attempt by developer to prove that the wind farm would be benign. MOD remains opposed but under huge pressure to change their stance. Very recent decision by Court of Session to overturn ECU planning permission for Wull Muir Wind farm helpful as was decision to reject application for Scoop Hill Wind Farm for similar reasons to those which we are putting forward to reject the Scawd Law Application.
- c. **Cross Border Connection Update.** Note circulated to Members by Mr Wilcox reminded everyone that the SPEN selection of Threepwood as the location for the new super sub-station called 'Gala North' was not officially laid down by either Scottish or Westminster governments and seems to be driven by a desire to make it as easy as possible for SPEN to make money by connecting to wind farms such as Scawd Law along the route, In view of this, the Border Alliance felt that efforts must be made to persuade SBC to

reject the planning application for 'Gala North'. There was general agreement that the proposed route appeared to give maximum environmental damage from start to finish. The current route plan also causes huge damage to water systems at Thornielee, and the developer has still not come up with any real plan to alleviate this problem. Mr Wilcox will continue to represent WDCC on the Borders Alliance.

Update on School/Nursery Issues: Note circulated to Members. Parents of children at Nursery had received a letter explaining that there would be no change in provision for 2026/2027. The note explained the criteria used in reaching this decision. A question was raised as to whether it would be possible to buy-in to the Nursery for a 2-year-old. The secretary was instructed to write to Cllr Pirone to seek a definitive answer.

Update on Place Making: Ms Brodie reported that a strong subcommittee had been established and the first meeting on 10th Feb 26 had gone well with some basic planning completed. She was in touch with the Innerleithen Place Making group and with SBC. The A/Chairman expressed congratulations to Ms Brodie and the sub-committee for an excellent and well organised start to the process which will now be a monthly meeting agenda item.

Flood Update: Summary Note circulated to Members by Chair including information on letter sent to stakeholders re Peebles flooding. In answer to a question, it was pointed out that the whole tenor of the Chairman's approach and that of the Chairman of Peebles CC was to seek a fully joined-up approach to flood management on the Tweed and the main tributaries. Small, incremental tasks might be undertaken such as removing the gravel bank above the bridge to protect the bridge from damage, but major works must begin up-river.

Update on Openreach Progress: Note circulated to Members. The problems being caused by some poor behaviour by Go Fibre workers was reported. Cllr Tatler suggested that the Chairman write to himself and the other Councillors seeking their assistance. The A/Secretary will prepare a draft for the Chairman.

WDCC Elections and Co-options: Note circulated to Members. The A/Chairman remarked that there continued to be difficulties in persuading people to apply to join the Community Council, especially younger people. She pointed out the benefits to the community of having an active community council and the rewards which people can gain by helping individuals and the community as a whole. All agreed to continue to seek out new people to join, and especially to find a new secretary.

Reports by Members: The following issues were reported by members:

There is help available from SBC for young people seeking employment, particularly young mothers, but ideas of how best to attract/interact with unemployed people are sought urgently. Ms Aquilina will pass on any ideas.

The pavement on the A72 from the eastern end of the village to the start of housing on the south side of the road was very overgrown and was almost impassible in places. No one seemed sure who owned the adjoining land although there was a view, which Cllr Tatler offered to check, that the land was owned by SBHA. Cllr Tatler offered to speak to the Parks Foreman to see if an exception could be made to cut back vegetation and clear the pavement although he pointed out that any WDCC member could do this directly. His help was gratefully received by all!

Evolve Gym is applying for a retrospective change of use. WDCC may be asked to comment in March. There was general agreement that this was an excellent addition to village amenities.

Potholes everywhere whether on the A72, the B709 or the D81/83 were beginning to cause expensive damage to residents' vehicles. Members understood the budget problems, but the situation was getting desperate, particularly on the B709 and D81/83. Residents are asked to start reporting all potholes on the SBC contact form because this is the best way to get action.

The Tour de France will pass through the village en-route to Galashiels on 2nd July 2027. This matter should be a regular agenda item since we should make every effort to 'sell' Walkerburn and perhaps raise some community funds through running a drop-in centre at the Hall etc. All ideas will be welcome and WDCC should probably set up a working group to raise funding and plan a programme of events around the Tour. Sadly, the pissoir beside Caberston Farm Steading is steadily deteriorating and as it is a listed building and one of very few examples left in Scotland efforts might be made to restore it. This will have to be examined further by members since the details of ownership and sources of maintenance funding are currently unknown.

Congratulations were due to everyone who helped or took part in the previous Saturday fund- raising coffee morning for the defibrillator and to all those who had helped with funding.

Reports by SBC Councillors:

a. Cllr Douglas started by explaining that members of the Planning Committee had been warned that they must judge planning applications for S36 developments must be judged on the information provided by officers.

It was pointed out that this statement has been made before, and it was challenged once again on the grounds that it was an undemocratic system which, while it might make life easier for officials, suggested that the views of residents could not be considered or relayed through their elected councillors. Everyone understood and accepted that members of the Planning Committee must be seen to be talking an evidential and unbiased view of all applications, but this did not mean that they should not read and consider community comments. Non-SBC Council Members agreed that WDCC would continue to make their view of applications known to the Planning Committee directly.

Cllr Douglas went on to note that the SBC Budget would be presented to the full Council on Thursday 19th February with an amendment being presented by SNP/Green Parties. The amendment would seek to lower Council Tax on main homes and raise it further for second homes/empty homes. He also felt that the issue of a tourist tax would have to be debated soon given the strains on the Budget.

Cllr Tatler briefed members on the Peeblesshire Charitable Trust which could offer grants to organisations looking after the health of the elderly or those with disabilities. He totally supported the need to start planning now for the Tour De France event in July 2027 since he felt that many people were underestimating the numbers of visitors we could expect. Finally, he reminded members that they could ask for the Unpaid Workforce to take on some maintenance tasks.

A/Chairman's Closing Remarks: The A/Chairman thanked everyone for attending and expressed a hope that all would continue to encourage residents with appropriate skills to come forward to help the Community Council

(Members of Public are welcome to attend and raise questions they may have)

(Members of Public are welcome to attend and raise questions they may have)

MD MOWERS

Garden Tools and Machinery Service and Repair
"A reliable and experienced Walkerburn-based business"

Mob: 07517 154 868

Email: mjdee1982@gmail.com



Walkerburn Local Post Office & Store

**28 Galashiels Road, Walkerburn
Local Shop and Post Office.**

Tel: 01896 870205

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.


Amazon parcels - Banking/Cheque Deposits - Travel Money Orders - all can be delivered to PO.

**Post Office and Retail Opening Hours:
Mon-Saturday 7am - 8pm & Sun 8am - 8pm**



"SUDS CAR WASH & VALETING"

The Mill Car Park, WALKERBURN, EH43 6AG

 **07908 129 367**

Car Wash, Valeting, Polishing, Window Tinting
"We also do MOTORHOMES!"

Closed on Wednesdays

BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS:

Please submit any articles, letters or other material for the April issue by the end of March.

Contact BURNing Issues at: walkerburnnews@hotmail.com