



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Time is running out ... applications to join the Community Council either as an elected or co-opted member must reach the Returning Officer by 25th May.

It really is important that we maintain a strong community Council for Walkerburn and District otherwise there is a danger that we get swamped by the needs of Peebles and Innerleithen.

To give YOU a taste of what we do ...

At present, Sue Brodie is leading a small but strong team developing ideas for the future. The Chairman, Colin Kerr, is leading the Tweeddale initiative to take pro-active measures for flood prevention. Jasmine Aquilina keeps a keen eye on all matters concerning our children and Mike Wilcox makes sure our voice is heard loud and clear on all matters concerning SPEN's cross border connection and renewable developments. Planning applications are scrutinised carefully to make sure that there is no downside in them for the wider community, local paths are maintained and improved, support is given to local groups seeking to develop new enhancements for the community and always we try to improve the life of the community without regard for party politics.

Being on the Community Council widens YOUR knowledge of how the Council and Government work and gives YOU a chance to make a difference.

If you would like more information, please speak to any of the existing members or email the Chairman on cjkerr66@gmail.com

FINAL WALKERBURN 7'S 30th MAY



Walkerburn Rugby Club's last ever 7s will be taking place on May 30th at the most picturesque ground in rugby, Caberston Haugh. Mark it in your diary and we'll see you there. Gates will open at 11.30am. The bar will open at 12.00.

Parking is available next to the club, just past the entrance to the Primary School and there will be a parking charge, which will be 'cash only'.

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.

Please come along and give this historic Borders Club the rousing send-off they deserve after 101 great years!

WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION VEGETABLE Coffee Morning

My thanks to everyone for your help in making the Coffee Morning sale a success.

Financially we were slightly down on last year but after all costs are settled we boosted the show's funds by £383,70.

Thanks again for efforts of all who attended on the day, and to the baking, the various stalls, the donations and everyone's good humour! And congratulations to the winners of the splendid raffle.



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PEEBLESHIRE FOODBANK COFFEE CLUB

Walkerburn Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 noon every 2nd Thursday 21st May, 4th June, 18th June
10.00am to 12 noon

Enjoy Free hot drinks and cakes and a chance to meet 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 7th May will be in the Bowling Club)

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

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: May/June 2026

Mondays	Walkerburn 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	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting –20 th May and 20 th June	7.00pm
Thursdays	Citizens Advice Bureau and Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club – 21 st May, 4 th June, 18 th June	10.00am-12.00pm
Fridays	Willow Plant Support Workshop – 22 nd May. Contact: Evelyn -evejardinearts@gmail.com or 07375 662702	1.00pm – 4.00pm
Saturdays	Festival Coffee Morning – 16 th May	10.00am – 12 noon
Sundays	ITW Church Services –17 th May and 21 st June Table Tennis	2.00pm 6.00pm – 9.00pm

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

WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION VEGETABLE SHOW 2026

Our 141st Annual Show takes place on **Saturday 5th September** in the Public Hall.

The Vegetable Association is the oldest organisation in the village run by a small committee and we are always keen to welcome new members. We also have a group of volunteers who help us set up the hall on Friday for the show and dismantle the tables on the Saturday evening.

Perhaps you would like to help? (for more information, please contact Allin Hoggarth allin225@hotmail.co.uk or 07985319009).

Schedules are available from the Post Office or from the Cafe. The show is open to any and all regardless of where you live; there is no need to pre-register, just join the association when you come to set out your exhibits.

Your membership allows you to enter as many classes as you like (although only one entry per person in a class).

A reminder:- all exhibits must be received in the Hall by 10am on the day of the show.

We are also open on Friday evening to receive exhibits.

Doors open to the public at 2pm on the day of the show where you can see who has won.

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WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16th April 2026

Present: Mr Kerr (Chairman), Ms Katrina Malone (Minute Taker), Ms Aquilina, Ms Brodie, Ms Daykin, Mr Wilcox
Ms Sedgwick, Mr Thornton, Mrs Thornton, Cllr Douglas, Cllr Tatler.

Chairman's Introduction. The Chairman welcomed everyone especially members of the public.

Apologies and Notices. Cllr Pirone. No notices.

Police Business. The monthly police report was received and shared.
Following a resident's complaint about parking issues at the bottom of Hall Street as it leads into Tweedholm Avenue. The Chair will ask our community police to investigate and provide feedback.

March Minutes and Matters Arising.

Ms Daykin proposed approval and seconded by Ms Aquilina of the March Minutes. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

Matters Arising.

- a) Item 13. Overgrown Footpath on A72: Councillor Tatler mentioned that the pavement has been partly cleared and ongoing discussions are taking place regarding the remaining section.
- b) Pissoir Ownership and Maintenance: Ms Daykin explained that the Pissoir is part of Caberston Farm Steading and she is consulting with the owners about maintenance, as well as seeking funding for its refurbishment.
- c) Item 6 Community Council scheme changes; no action needed.

Correspondence.

- a) All correspondence was shared with members; no concerns were reported.
- b) The Walkerburn Summer Festival extended an invitation to their upcoming coffee morning, and it was agreed that Walkerburn Community Council would participate by reserving a table to highlight its activities.

Planning

- 1. General
- 2. SBC planning officers are managing the enforcement notice; Community Council members should not comment unless requested.
- 3. Application to replace wooden workshop at carwash: No objections, members support.
- 4. Replacement of fire-damaged houses
- 5. No objections, members support.
- 6. Cross Borders connection & Scawd Law update: Refer to Mr Wilcox's brief.

Update on Place Making. Ms Brodie reported the working group finished the survey and will distribute it at community events.

Tour de France 2027

The Chairman noted that Stage 1 will arrive from Edinburgh via the B709, continue along the A72, and pass through Walkerburn to Galashiels. Ms Daykin is the community representative, consulting with 'Go Tweed' about funding and participation.

Playpark Upgrade. The Chair will meet SBC Councillors and other representatives online; £89,000 is allocated for the upgrade.

Reports by Members. Members reported the following issues:

1. The Glenbenna residents' access road has been upgraded, and the residents are satisfied with the improvements.
2. The minutes from the Community Council are currently not being sent for posting on the website as they used to be. Mr Thornton confirmed that this was happening and will contact the resident about it. There is also an issue with the village website: WCDT paid for it, and the domain name registration expires in July (costing about £120 for two years). It is hoped that hosting can be arranged at a much lower price. Additionally, a member suggested there may be support available to redevelop the page if permitted by the hosts.
3. Plans are underway to design and place information boards detailing the history of the mills in Walkerburn soon.
4. Progress continues slowly on reprinting the Walkerburn History Book. A resident, with the help of the Village Hall committee, applied for funding for a reprint of two hundred copies, seeking £500 toward a total cost just under £800. There remains a funding gap of £300.
5. The issue of road markings at the junction of the multi-use path and Caberston Road was raised by a resident. Councillor Tatler will investigate this matter.
6. Concerns were brought up over locked gates at Caberston Farm. The Chair will meet with the owners and provide an update at the next meeting. There was a note that livestock had wandered off after a gate was left open. Members were reminded there is only one right of way through the fields, and the public should act responsibly when crossing.
7. The works on Peebles Road are not yet finished, and the 'No Parking' signs were put up in error. Because of a delay.
8. Mr Wilcox will attend the Community Council Energy convention meeting in Lauder and report back.
9. Upper Caberston Fishing has been planting trees along the riverbank, an effort that deserves recognition and appreciation.

Reports by SBC Councillors.

1. Cllr Tatler to check bike rack installation for playpark.
2. Paint bus shelter in Walkerburn colours.
3. Update on Burgh Hall Peebles.

Date of Next Meeting. 7.00pm, Wednesday 20th May 2026.
(Members of Public are welcome to attend and raise questions they may have)

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!

'WalkIt Further' also offers a more varied range of walks on the first Monday of the month.

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



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WILDSIDE

And so we come to May and all that it holds.

It's the last month of Spring, a big month for breeding and fledging in the case of birds. The cuckoo has arrived because we've heard its familiar call from across near Plora Wood, on the back road. There's lots of blossom on the trees and shrubs and many buds of promise.

No doubt you've begun mowing the lawn unless you partake in 'no mow May'. A no mow regime to promote wildflower growth and produce nectar-bearing flowers for the bees and other pollinators. Or perhaps you're like us and prefer to have pots or a patch of wildflowers for the bees. No Mowing is just too messy for our liking!

There are already lots of bees on the wing. We've had some big bumble bees visit and a few peacock butterflies. Orange tips are about too.

It's great to see as many sand martins nesting in the riverbank again this year, it used to be that the bank across the river from the school was heaving with them and the air above the school was home to screaming swifts. I haven't seen or heard those yet, but of course there aren't the nest sites that there used to be. Now my children are long away from the school, I'm not near there very often.

There are lots of rabbits in the fields but I can't say I've seen a hare in quite a while. It's even longer since I've seen a deer but they will have gone up to higher pasture no doubt.

Further afield, there's been lots of dolphin and whale activity off the coast and off more northern coasts a walrus has found his way to the Scottish seaside. He's been named 'Magnus' and his adventures are followed on the internet, particularly facebook, where there's been some very amusing footage of him 'rolling' into harbours. Perhaps you've seen him on the news. They think he's about 7-8 years old and is in his wanderlust phase. They're not common in British waters but not unheard of. By the time I go up north on my summer holiday, he'll no doubt be back in Norwegian waters or somewhere in the Arctic Ocean. Still, who knows?

Closer to home, there's still time to enjoy the blossoms, be it on cherries, hawthorns etc. And keep your eyes open to nesting and young birds. Maybe you'll enjoy the young rabbits - but not as much as the cat that's been killing them along the waterside. They're leaving a lot of evidence so they can't be too hungry, probably opportunistic killings by a well-fed cat doing it for sport. Just keeping his paws in so to speak! The bunnies will be replaced in a matter of weeks.

As time goes on, we will have more and more wild flowers, insects and other creatures to look for. May is a great time for bluebells so take a trip along the back road towards Elibank to be treated to a bluebell vision at the base of the trees at the edge of the woodland roadside.

SHEEP WORRYING

We have been asked to again 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. 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.

PLEASE keep all dogs under control and report instances of pets that are not being constrained.

The Police contact telephone number is 101



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WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

Bowls

The new Bowls and Petanque season is well under way, despite the mixed weather.

The Wappenshaw bowls games are open to all, including anyone new to bowls and it is a fun way to enjoy a friendly game and some pleasant conversation over tea and biscuits.

They are held three times a week and start at **2.00pm on Mondays and Saturdays** and at **6.00pm every Wednesday**.

It is pleasing to see the good turnouts and how enjoyable each game has been. It is also especially heartening that we have some new lady members. Hopefully, the weather will improve soon as we move towards summer and the colder Spring season gives way to warmer days!

Petanque

Petanque continues each Friday afternoon, with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards. The summer League is also under way and we must congratulate Walkerburn for winning a difficult match against Dunbar at the start of May. It is also heartening to see Petanque members showing off their skills at the Wappenshaw games!

We are always keen to welcome new members to both the Bowls and the Petanque sections. Do come along whenever possible and give it a try.

The club has Bowls and Petanque equipment free for anyone to use if needed.

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 just come along and introduce yourself any time there is a game being played. Alternatively contact George Thornton on either 01896-870251, on e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk), or ask any member.

Lastly, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all our sponsors and helpers who have done so much for us as we enter our 127th year!

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Mon-Saturday 7am – 9pm & Sun 8am - 8pm

BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS:

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

Contact **BURNing Issues** at: walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

