

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: September/October 2026

Mondays	Walkerburn Baby and Toddler Group. For more info, please contact Jasmine Aquilina on 07922 613890	10.00am – 11.30am
Tuesdays	Youth Club, except 29 th September and 27 th October	6.30pm-8pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council – 15 th October	7.00pm
Thursdays	Citizens Advice Bureau and Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club Wednesdays 24 th September, 8 th and 24 th October.	10.00am-12.00pm
Saturdays	Borders Art Collective Open Studios Art Trail 26 th and 27 th September	10.00am-3.00pm
Sundays	ITW Church Services – 20 th September and 18 th October 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 SHOW REPORT 2026

Walkerburn Vegetable Association held their 142nd Annual Show in the Public Hall on Saturday 5th September 2026. When the Hall opened to the public in the afternoon it was busy with people wanting to find out how their exhibit had fared and to view the exhibits. We had a very full Preserves and Baking Section which was quite a challenge for the judges. The Fruit and Vegetable tables were full including the “Wonky Veg” and “How do you get a purple cauliflower?”. Always competitive was the Craft Section with some beautiful quilts. Many plants were displayed in the Flower Section along with excellent chrysanthemums and dahlias. In the Junior Section we had some imaginative items, decorated shoes, limericks and paintings. The octopus won the “Animal from Vegetable” prize.

VILLAGE COFFEE CLUB



Just to remind everybody, the **September/October dates** for the fortnightly Coffee Club and Citizens’ Advice sessions in the village hall **are the 24th September and the 8th and 22nd October.**

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible **between 10.00am and 12.00 noon** each alternate Thursday. Come along and enjoy good company and free teas and coffees, as well as delicious home baking! All welcome.



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FOOD HUGS LUNCH CLUB

Food Hugs Lunch Club is back in every Tuesday in the HB Club. We hope to see familiar faces as well as some new ones)

WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15th July 2026 Walkerburn Public Hall

Members Present: Mr Kerr (Chair), Ms Brodie, Ms Neville, Ms Sedgwick, Mr Thornton, Mrs Thornton, and Mr Wilcox.

Ex Officio Members: Cllr Pirone, and Cllr Tatler

Chairman’s Introduction.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the second meeting of 2026/2027 Walkerburn and District Community Council.

Apologies and Notices.

Apologies received from Ms Aquilina Ms Daykin and Cllr Douglas.

No notices

Formal Acceptance of the Code of Conduct.

All members have now signed the Formal acceptance of the code of conduct.

Presentation by Jillian Scott Local Area Co Ordinator SBC

Jillian Scott outlined the role of the LAC team within the community. We learned how they have adopted an early-intervention approach, which is a widely used model nationally and abroad, to support disabled people, children, older adults, and those with mental health needs to build local connections and lead independent lives. They have a wide remit and also work with Community Councils, and clubs and community drop-ins as well as helping others set up community groups. They adopt a prevention strategy. You do not need a formal referral, and the team can be contacted directly.

Jillian’s remit covers all of Walkerburn, Innerleithen and part of Peebles.

Open Questions from Members of the Public. Nil.

Police Business. There were no questions on the June Police reports.

A request by a resident was made regarding the issue of an unruly local housing authority tenant and if the Community Council can help in the situation. CC will make an inquiry with the housing association and report back.

The Community also expressed its thanks for the help given by our local Police during the recent Walkerburn festival.

June Minutes and Matters Arising. Mrs Thornton proposed approval of the May minutes, seconded by Mr Thornton. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

Matters arising:

13b Broken drain covers close to pissoir still not repaired. (Update: drain cover has now been repaired.)

13c Peebles Road resurfacing will commence on Monday 24th August for approximately 10 days.

13d Verge at High Cottages has been cut back, hopefully this will help sightlines.

13f The Walkerburn book is eligible for neighbourhood funding as the monies gained are for a charity not an individual.

Correspondence. All correspondence has been circulated.**Planning**

a. **General.** Mr Thornton reported that 1 planning application was still current: Retrospective application for 2 containers on the ground to the south-west of Station Cottage, for the drying of wood. No objection to this from community council.

b. **Windfarms** Concerns have been raised by various communities regarding the grid connection or lack of information supplied by developers when submitting a planning application. This is a crucial part of the application and we will continue to reach out to find answers. Responsibility for this is with SPEN.

c. Alexandra Park Playpark: SBC has proposed renewing and upgrading the playpark and moving it to a bigger and better location within the park. Funds have been allocated and it is considered that this is actually a cheaper alternative than trying to upgrade the existing play area. It is hoped that work will start in the Autumn of this year. There will also be more benches and tables for public use. Councillors will be engaging fully with residents and carrying out consultations. They will also be speaking to SBC about including a covered shelter for young people.

d. The Hall has negotiated a grant of £3000 and the addition of two parking spaces to allow SPEN to replace the existing sub-station with a newer and better one. This will not have any adverse effects on local residences.

Report on Planning for Tour de France 2027

Ms Daykin will be submitting an updated report. Emma Guy is now helping and will submit a bid on behalf of WDCC when the fund opens. Organisations have been consulted and been on Facebook twice. The sub group do not want to be involved in parking as they feel this is the responsibility of SBC.

Report on Place Making. The Chair thanked Ms Brodie for her excellent summary of progress to date on the community questionnaire which she had circulated. Ms Brodie reported that she and her sub-group would be continuing to work to increase community involvement in the process. Chairman also thanked Ms Aquilina for on-line set-up help and noted that she and Councillor Pirone have added an on-line version to assist with children's consultation. There was a discussion local housing problems. As Walkerburn falls within an Area of Multiple Deprivation, SBC have a need to address these issues and the Place Plan is an important vehicle for this.

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

A detailed agenda has been prepared. Chairman is liaising with Duncan Machell, Parade Commander. Mrs Purves is handling necessary paperwork. Wreaths will be ordered and will be collected from Edinburgh by Mr Thornton. WDCC will also order Lord Lieutenant's wreath.

Stewards will have walkie-talkies for communicating. Basic lunch, with tea/coffees will be provided. WDCC will allocate £400 for this.

Mr Thornton will prepare a booklet with the Order of Service and speak to clergy to establish format. Piper and bugler, wreath-layers and photographer will be contacted.

Walkerburn Website

Mr Thornton informed members that a Community Council grant to Walkerburn Newsgroup has enabled renewal of the village website for the next five years.

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

- a. A resident at High cottages is asking what's happening with the railings inside of the ladder. Cllr Tatler reported that the repair will be £400 and the unpaid workforce will complete the job. Chair thanked Cllr Tatler for his input.
- b. An application for gravel removal above the Tweed Bridge has been submitted to the landowner for approval.

Reports by SBC Councillors.

- a. Cllr Tatler reported there will be a consultation event regarding the proposed new playpark and upgrades to the area in the Public Park for residents to attend.
22nd August 2026 10.00-14.00.
Funding opportunities through the Fallago windfarm for the removal of the walkway and replacement with a tar path due to flooding issues.
He mentioned that there is on-going discussion at SBC regarding provision of help for bus travel to families and needy people.
- b. Cllr Pirone confirmed that resurfacing work in Peebles Road is due to commence as planned. Also, there will be a Community Consultation meeting in Peebles Burgh Hall on 25th August between 8.00pm and 10.00pm. There will be a detailed discussion on “what do communities want?”. Chairman will attend.

Chairman’s Closing Remarks:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Date of Next Meeting. 16th September 2026 starting at 7pm in the village hall.

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WILD SIDE

That's summer over for this year! We can now look forward to everything Autumn has to offer. The cooler, damper evenings have certainly brought the slugs and snails out in force. Thanks to the dog we've discovered how difficult it is to get snail and slug slime out of a carpet. What his interest is in them, we do not know but he keeps bringing them in. Gets a huge row every time but obviously doesn't remember in between. I remember from my Uni days how many parasite larvae go through molluscs as part of their life cycle, so I'd rather he didn't eat them.

The plants are the obvious ones to suffer, but at least they are at the end of their season now, on the whole. For some there's very little left. Still, clear-out time is upon us. In the veg line, we've only onions left to harvest. The cauliflowers succumbed to drought and we lost the lot between that and cabbage white butterflies, of which there are lots still about, taking advantage of the late buddleia blooms.

On 14 April 2023, JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) began its intrepid voyage towards Jupiter, a mission that intends to uncover any secrets hiding beneath the surfaces of three of Jupiter's Moons - Ganymede, Europa and Callisto.

However, JUICE isn't able to zip straight over to the Jovian system, and will need to swing by the Earth and Venus to get a boost from their gravity. The first of two Earth flybys by JUICE will take place in September 2026, with JUICE coming within 9,000 km of our planet.

In 2026 the *Autumnal Equinox will occur on 23 September at 1.06am BST* when the Sun will illuminate the northern and southern hemispheres equally, and day and night will be roughly the same length.

The full Moon closest to the autumnal equinox, which usually falls in September, is popularly called the "Harvest Moon. It is thought that this name was used by historic Europeans because the light of the Moon helped farmers work late into the night harvesting crops. In 2026 the *Harvest Moon will be on the night of 26 September*.

Autumn migration has been steadily building through August, with increasing reports of typical early autumn migrants such as Green Sandpiper, Greenshank, Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtail. I noticed swallows and martins gathering on the last weekend in August but haven't seen any since so I think they may well be on their way south. I used to see sandpipers on the Tweed every year but they don't seem to come here anymore.

I've seen a field hare going into a field over a bit of fallen dike along the back road, and a golden eagle high over the village near Tweed bridge.

My annual journey north this year was very disappointing as far as wildlife was concerned. No dolphins or whales not even a seal and certainly no red squirrels or crested tits, I'll just have to have another trip to the seaside while the weather is still half decent.

Look out for fungi at this time of year, both on the ground, and on tree trunks, some of which are quite spectacular.

Just to annoy you....only 85 days until Christmas!



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WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

Bowls:

As the nights draw in and the green is slowly becoming too soft to play on, we take a fond look back over the past season and a pleasant anticipation of some winter events in the clubhouse. We will be holding a prize-giving evening at the beginning of November and some social evenings around Christmas and Burns Night.

The next season promises to be even better than this one, as we welcome new members and include a calendar of competitions.

We still have the final rounds of the Wapinshaws each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to be completed and both the Men's singles Cup and the Championship trophy finals have yet to be settled. If they are half as close and exciting as the Ladies' Final, it will be a pleasure to watch them.

The Ladies' final was a long and very close-fought contest, with Janice coming out just ahead of Carol. Well done both of you – and congratulations to Janice.

Besides the excellent clubhouse and facilities and the lovely setting, all the games have been a tribute to the friendliness and sporting behaviour of which we are rightly proud.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Petanque:

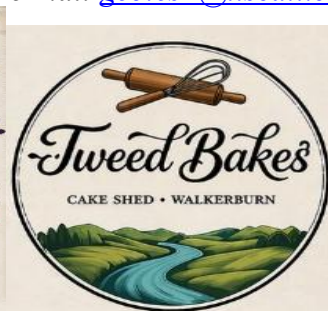
The Petanquers have the luxury of being able to play on through the winter months, albeit at the slightly earlier starting time of 1.00pm every Friday. And, of course, members can come along at any other time to practice or to enjoy a game with friends.

As always, there is a hot cup of tea or a warm coffee available on cold afternoons!

The club participated in a strong and very competitive league throughout the summer months. Although we have often been up against much stronger opposition, we have always acquitted ourselves well. Congratulations to all the team!

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

(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.



BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS:

Please submit any articles, letters or other material for the October issue by the end of September

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