

BURNING ISSUES

Walkerburn News – Issue Fifteen – May 2003

Walkerburn Computer Stars



Pictured above are six of the eight Walkerburn residents receiving their certificates for successfully completing the "New Opportunities in Computing". They are from left to right: Helen White, Jake Melrose, Sandra Notman, Jill Fraser, Mike Joplin (Tutor from Education Works), Joan Flemming, Jennie Dixon (Educations Works) and Ann Fraser with Mike. Congratulations on sticking with the 10 week course and being the first to use the new Computer Room at the HB Club.

The second "New Opportunities in Computing" course is up and running and the additional evening class on Wednesday evenings is full. By the end of the summer it is anticipated that 20 people will have successfully completed the course.

We are planning to hold an open day in August with Education Works and Walkerburn residents who want to either enrol on the beginners course or would like us to run an advanced or more specialised courses. The idea would be to start these courses in September, so if you have any suggestions on what Computer courses we should be running look out for the announcement of the open day in the Burning Issues.

The whole Community Computer project would not have got off the ground if it wasn't for the determination of Mags Henderson, the support of the HB Club, and the funding from Direct Grants, many thanks.

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Monday 19th May

Time: 10am – 2pm and 4pm – 8pm

Place: Public Hall

There are 4 vacancies so everyone may vote for 4 candidates only.

All residents who are on the electoral role can vote

The 5 candidates are:

Steve HARRISON

Colin KERR

Helen PATERSON

John PURVES

Christine TUCKER

Counting of votes will take place in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Rosetta Rd, Peebles on Tuesday, 20th May 2003 at 10.00am.

All candidates were given the opportunity to submit a 100 word 'manifesto' of why they were standing and what they would do if they were elected onto the Community Council. So read their entries on page 3 and make up your mind.

Editorial

Welcome to issue 15 of your local newsletter, the months seem to pass very quickly as soon as we have delivered one newsletter it is time to start on the next one! If you would like to help in any way with B.I. get in touch with any member of the team all listed below.

This month we have some "green" reports. We also have the remaining creative writing contributions from local primary school pupils, Have you enjoyed reading them; feel inspired to lift a pen yourself? Then don't be shy - your news, views, prose or poetry will always be welcome, it is particularly interesting to receive responses to published articles- remember B.I. is your forum.

Did you all manage to use your votes recently? Whatever your political 'colour' it is good news for the 'Burn that our newly-elected councillor is truly local. Congratulations to Patricia Purves who has pledged to do her best for Walkerburn.

Are you aware of the Community Computer facility in the H.B. club? If you would like to find out more Denise Hanks (phone 870 200) can help. The first group of students have recently graduated from the 'New Opportunities in Computing' course. Tutor Mike Jopling makes it so much fun and it's a lot easier than you might think. If you haven't already bought one 'The George' still has raffle tickets for sale, proceeds to B.I. fund, we always welcome financial support to keep production going. Happy reading!

A quick reminder of Who's Who at BURNing Issues HQ.
Cathie Sutherland (Chairperson) 870 470
Joan Pigge (Vice Chairperson) 870 696
Jane Gaze (Secretary) 870 224
Donna Allen (Treasurer) 870 492
E mail cathiesutherland@tiscali.co.uk

!!! REMEMBER !!!

WEEKLY

Mon: Line Dancing Walkerburn Rugby Club 7pm-8.30pm (starts 7th April) adults £2, kids £1- contact Wullie 870488
Tues: Crusaders for 8-11 years, 6.50pm -8.05pm
Wed: Guid Fettle exercise commences 23rd April at 9.35am at Village Hall
Crusaders for S1-S3, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Wed: Ballroom and Sequence classes start 23rd April at 2pm-4.30pm at the Village Hall. Contact Alex or Derrie on 01968 660812
Thurs: Youth Club 7.00pm -9.00pm Village Hall.
Sun: Table Tennis 7.00pm in the Village Hall

MAY

Sat 17th: Race Night in support of WAVE HB Club 7.30pm
Sun 18th: Rugby Club Car Boot Sale, Rugby Club grounds, 12 – 5pm
Mon 19th: HBMI AGM, HB Club, 7pm
Sat 24th: Rugby Club Annual Dinner, Village Hall
Sat 31st: Festival Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10am

JUNE

Sun 1st: Duck Race 2pm on the 'Burn. In support of Walkerburn School. £1 a duck. Cake and Candy, Sideshows, Stalls and refreshments
Sun 22nd- Sat 28th: Walkerburn Festival – programme to follow

AUGUST

Sat 23rd: Rugby Club Summer Ball – details to follow
Sat 30th: Midnight Fever, HB Club – details to follow

Thanks to our Sponsors

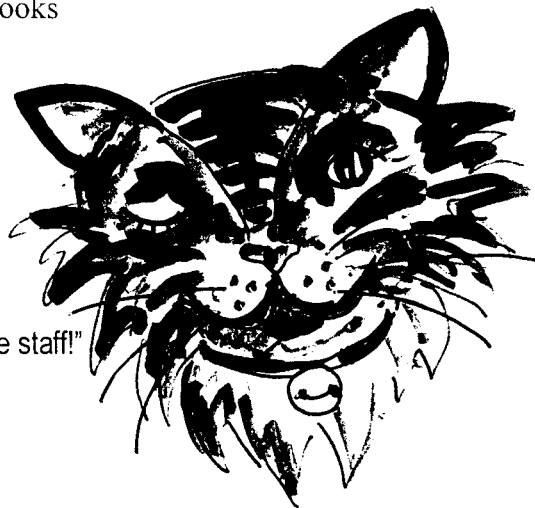
Paul Allen Plumber
Hillside Bed and Breakfast
Wm Kenyon Painter & Decorator
Jim Grieve Fencing Contractor
HS Mill Watch and Clock Repair
Made For Life Ceramics
I Denholm Painter & Decorator
Molly McIntosh
Walkerburn Parish Womens Guild
The Last Century Antiques & Books

Jeremy Ballantyne Marketing
Wind Farm Action Group
HBMI Social Club
Film Fun Video
DCB Welding
The George Hotel
Anne Barbour
Ian Jenkins, MSP
George and Lesley Thornton

Thought for this month

Heard on Radio Four:

"Cats don't have owners, they have staff!"



Candidate Statements – Community Council Election

Helen Paterson

I have lived in Walkerburn for forty five years. I have served on the Community Council for a considerable time and have been secretary for the last five years. Over the years we have tried to represent the views of the community on a number of issues. I was very involved in fund raising and the subsequent unveiling and dedication of the new soldier on our War Memorial. If I am re-elected I hope to continue working for the good of the community and make sure that Walkerburn gets a fair deal from Scottish Borders Council or any other authority

Christine Tucker

Although I have lived in Walkerburn all of my life, I only recently started to attend Community Council meetings, being co-opted onto that committee late last year. I do feel that there are a lot of issues needing attention in the village. I know that the Wind Farm is the front at the moment, and for a lot of people is a priority, but there are of course a lot of equally important issues, to my mind, that for a long time have been ignored and need to be addressed, so that Walkerburn can regain a good community spirit and get the respect from the outside that the village deserves. I would like to be part of a committee that would help to achieve this. Thank you, Christine Tucker

Steve Harrison

I moved into the village in December 2001 and since then I have to say how overwhelmed I have been with friendliness and the spirit of everyone I have met in Walkerburn. It is on the basis of these attributes that I have tried to integrate into Walkerburn life and to help wherever I can in defining and achieving the goals of our community. To that end, I have been a member of the Community Council since last September and I am also an active member of both WAVE and the Walkerburn innerleithen Partnership. Through these activities I have made a number of contacts in the various governing authorities that directly influence the solutions to the problems we face in Walkerburn. That is why I am keen to continue to help and build on the successes we have already achieved. I too want the best for our village and our community and just like Colin and John I believe the Community Council needs a strong core of motivated, competent people. Colin, John and I are agreed that if elected we will work as a team for the good of Walkerburn. Everybody will have 4 votes on 19th May. Please ensure that 3 of them are for KERR, PURVES and HARRISON and let's get things sorted for Walkerburn! Yours sincerely, Steve Harrison

Colin Kerr

I have been a local for all my life and have seen many changes in Walkerburn, some good and unfortunately many bad. Walkerburn needs a strong voice in these changing times, someone who will listen to what people have to say and represent them to the best of their abilities. I am involved with many local groups, Summer Festival, School Board, East Tweeddale Pathways Group and WAVE. So I can bring a variety of experience in different backgrounds to help our village become more successful in future years. I want what is best for the village and I think that we need a strong vocal voice at the heart of the community. Myself, John Purves and Steve Harrison have agreed that we want to stand as one and be that voice. Everyone will have 4 votes make sure they are for Kerr, Purves and Harrison. Yours sincerely Colin Kerr

John Purves

Thank you for the opportunity to use this space to tell my fellow Walkerburnians what has prompted me to stand for the Community Council (WCC) and to say what I hope to achieve if elected. When I returned to Walkerburn last year after my Army service I was appalled to see the extent to which the village had deteriorated in the intervening years. I began to attend WCC meetings as a member of the public and my concerns deepened. The Community Council seems merely to react to events. Papers and letters are looked at by the chairman and the secretary but seldom read by anyone else. Information from Scottish Borders Council and other agencies is simply not being passed on to the community in a timely or considered manner – sometimes Scottish Borders Council is to blame but sometimes the Community Council seems to lack urgency and Walkerburn continues to be 'dumped on'. What is needed is a new and proactive approach to the problems facing our village and an end to the 'too difficult' approach, which seems currently to exist. I want the best for our village and our community. I am prepared to listen carefully to people and to represent their views. I am **not** prepared just to accept what is dished out by the Council or anyone else with no regard to the rights and needs of Walkerburn folk! I believe the Community Council needs a strong core of motivated, competent people such as Steve Harrison, Colin Kerr and myself. I have discussed my concerns and what needs to be done with Steve and Colin and we are agreed that if elected we will work as a team to force much needed change for the good of Walkerburn. Everybody will have 4 votes on 19th May. Please ensure that 3 of them are for HARRISON, KERR and PURVES, and let's get things sorted for Walkerburn! Yours sincerely, John Purves



SNOW

One day I was walking in the hills near Walkerburn when something fell at my feet. I looked up at the sky and drifting slowly to the ground was snow. I ran down the hill and down the road till I got to my house. I told my big sister Becky that it was snowing. Becky loved the snow. Every time it snowed she would make snowmen and have snowball fights with her friends Alison, Rhianna and Sinead. One day when there was snow drifts Rhianna, Alison and Becky all went out and made snowmen. I went sledging. I had not been there for 5 minutes when Robyn came. We went back to my house and met Ainslie, another of my friends. After that it snowed again and Robyn, Ainslie and I went out to build snow angels. Alex is another of my friends. She made a massive snowman taller than me! The snowman was thin with a stripy black and red scarf and a yellow hat. The snow was really bad and the snowplough had to come out as it was really icy on the roads but the snowplough cleared the snow away.

We got ready for school and then played in the snow that was in the playground. Ainslie fell over on the ice twice. So did I. Robyn is lucky. She did not fall over once. Sadly in the morning the snow was all melted even the snowman was gone. All that was left was wet sludge. I was really sad.

by Christine Horsburgh

Once upon a time there was a boy and girl. Their names were James and Holly. They lived in a house far away in the forest. One day James looked out of the window and there was about 100 inches of snow. Then he ran through and said "Holly wake up the snow is about 100 inches deep". Holly got up and looked out of the window. "Wow" she said. Just then James said "Get your winter clothes on, we're going out to build a snowman". When they were finished they had a snowball fight. After they went in James made a pot of tea. They noticed Jack the snowman had moved. They went out and Jack took them to the North Pole.

They met a man with his polar bear. Then the man said "Hi". He said "My name is Thomas. I live at the North Pole." Soon it started to get dark so Jack decided to go home. The next day the sun came out and Jack melted. "Last night I had the weirdest dream about the snowman" said James. Holly said "What was in your dream?" He said "Jack came in the house to get us up and take us to Grannys but we did not want to go. It was too early in the morning. You were crying and so we played tig"

by Ryan Gilchrist

This is how it began. Lee and me were playing my Xbox. I looked out of my window. I said "it is snowing!" Lee said "let's make a barricade" I said "Let's have a snowball fight." Lee said "OK".

We had a snowball fight after we had built our barricade. I said "do you want to make a snowman?" Lee said "OK". We built the snowman and then we went back indoors because it was freezing outdoors. Lee and me saw the snowman move, so we went back out to the snowman. We both thought the snowman was real. It grabbed us quickly and it took us to Spain. Me and Lee both said "Wow!" It was brilliant. We jumped off the snowman into the pool. The snowman was melting in the heat so we had to go home. The next day when Lee and me woke up, I looked out of the window but the snowman had melted.

by David Meldrum

I was excited, I had been waiting for ages. My family and I were going to the French Alps. I didn't want to go at first but when my mum said I could get skiing lessons, I changed my mind. We had been waiting for three years. Two weeks of the three years I didn't want to go because it would be cold plus I wanted to go to Florida but my mum said "No way!" When I was a child my mum said "I'll take you to Florida one day" but she never has. I was not too happy when she said we were going to France.

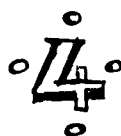
I was first out of the car. "Hurry up!" I shouted. "Everyone ready?" said Mum. We all nodded and away we went to France.

When we arrived at the airport, my Mum said "put your luggage on the desk". I noticed two men who looked like the poachers on the news. I didn't pay attention to them because I didn't want them to be suspicious.

As we boarded the plane I saw them take the seat in front of us.

... to be continued

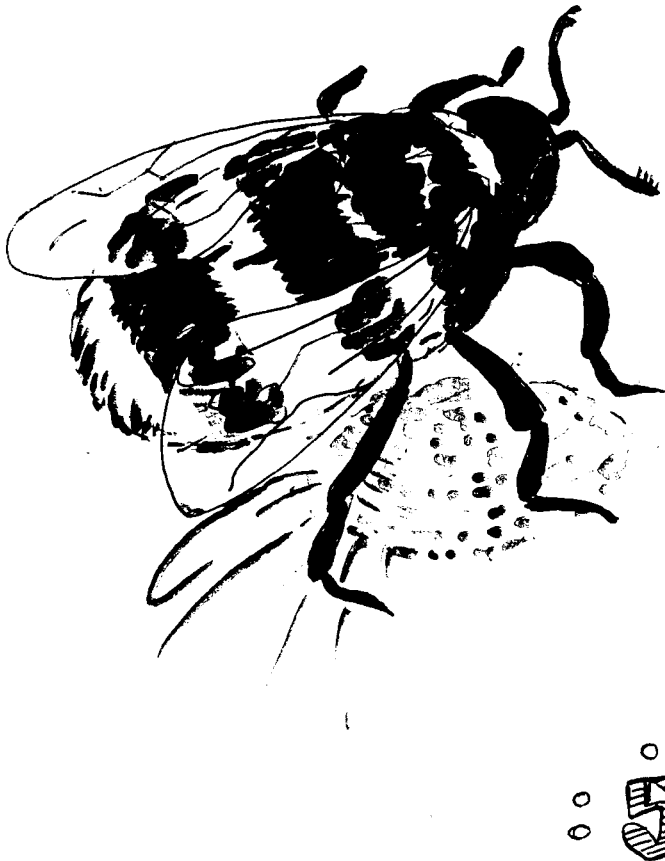
by Josh McLeod



Nature Notes

The Wild Side - May

The swallows and martens first showed their presence on 23rd April so they have appreciated the better weather too. The warm spell also brought out many of our insect population with the colourful butterflies out warming up in the sun. I think one of my favourites is the Peacock butterfly, aptly named with its eye-like wing markings. It's one of our residents which over winters as an adult in concealed places such as cellars, attics or sheds, emerging when the weather warms up in Spring. Unlike most of us, they like stinging nettles. Another lover of nettles is the Tortoiseshell and this also overwinters. It is perhaps more common than the Peacock with more complex markings in shades of brown, red and orange with a tiny patch of blue at its outer wing. Red Admirals overwinter in Southern Europe and North Africa but arrive about April to spend the summer here. It seems incredible enough that birds migrate but to think of the size of a butterfly; it's almost unbelievable. Other insects on the wing now, include the Bumble Bees. I am always pleased to see these and although larger than a honey bee, don't seem to pose the same threat. The two common ones are the Red Tailed Bumble Bee and the Buff Tailed Bumble Bee. Their names tell us how to tell them apart! Bumble bees live in small colonies in a hole in a meadow or rocky crevice. This nest would be the size of a mans hand when complete and would contain 80 to 150 workers (somewhat less than the 60,000 of a honey bee!) The colony lasts just one season with only the queen hibernating through the winter after mating in late summer. Soon to appear no doubt, will be the midges. Bet you're itching to see them!



WALKERBURN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

GAMES

April –August

Mini-rugby and Tag Rugby – Watch for Posters giving more details

SOCIAL

The Clubhouse is open for Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons and evenings when home games are played.

Sun 18th: Car Boot Sale, 11am-4pm @ £6 a car space, Buyers a donation. Lunches, Teas and Bar available in Clubhouse.

Sat 24th: Annual Club Dinner

Walkerburn Table Tennis Club News

Walkerburn Table Tennis Club is now in its third year of existence and has a core membership of around a dozen players, both male and female. However the members are keen to develop a junior section with a view to strengthening the overall future of the club.

As an affiliated member of the Scottish Table Tennis Association the Club intends to run the youth section in conjunction with the guidelines of the National Association and adopt their Child Protection Policy.

All interested youngsters, boys and girls, between Primary 7 age and 15 years old, are invited to attend an informal playing session on Sunday 25th May at 6.00pm at the Public Hall. This will enable the Club to establish the level of interest, and then plans for weekly sessions can be made. However to maintain a mixed youth section on a regular basis the Club need some extra assistance from the fairer sex, so if you are a mum, a granny an auntie an older sister (over 18) or just a responsible adult with an hour or two to spare on a Sunday evening, don't be shy; please phone Club President David Barbour (01896 870285) or Club Secretary Colin Fulter (01896 830684) to volunteer your services. You don't have to be a player, just be on hand to cope with any wee problems that may arise. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Low Flying over Walkerburn

Do you have any concerns about the RAF low flying exercises over Walkerburn and the surrounding area. John Gilbert is the contact for the area in this matter and can be contacted on 01387 381 156. John is happy to provide information or give talks to Community Groups (eg School, Council, Rotary etc) on the subject.

Walkerburn Community Clear Up

Saturday 14th June

WAVE and the Walkerburn Community Council are organising a 'fun' clear up of Walkerburn on Saturday 14th June from 1pm to 4pm. It is hoped that lots of you will support this event and pick up rubbish to help ensure that Walkerburn is looking its best for the Festival week.

The council are providing volunteers with gloves, bin bags and safety jackets and, depending on the support we get, it is hoped that we can tackle the rubbish left at the entrances and exits of our village which doesn't do Walkerburn any favours. Afterwards there will be tea and cakes at the Public Hall by way of thanking those volunteers!

Please support this event by turning up at the Public Hall on Saturday 14th June at 12.45 wearing stout shoes or boots and /or by pledging cakes/savouries etc to feed the deserving volunteers.

Please contact Sara Keepence on 870560 or Denise Hanks on 870200, who are co-ordinating the event, to pledge your time or cakes.

Scottish Borders Rural Partnership

Reproduced with permission of TAVO from their quarterly Newsletter 'Centre Point'

Help to Go Green

Communities in the Scottish Borders that want to get involved in improving their environment by reducing the amount of waste currently destined for landfill sites, can get help and support from the Rural Resource Centre. Gillian Barrie, the RRC Waste Minimisation and Energy Fieldworker can provide free, specialist advice and support to groups wanting to help tackle our growing waste problem.

Have you thought about creating a mini-recycling centre in your village, starting a community composting scheme or even producing a recycling directory for your local area? If so, then contact Gillian for further advice and support. Information on how to get your idea off the ground, how to gather wider support and how to fund your project is available. There are lots of other innovative ways to reduce waste and to recycle, so if you want to know more or if you want help with a specific project, please contact Gillian Barrie on 01835 824 125 or email: rrc@sbrp.org.uk. Specialist help is also available for energy saving and renewable energy projects.

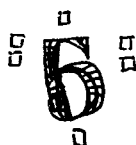
You can get around!

Local Solutions to Rural Transport Problems

Come along to hear how local groups have overcome their transport problems, on Saturday 7th June, 9.30am – 1.30pm, at Langlee Community Centre, Galashiels. For more information contact Suzanne Nugent, Rural Resource Centre, on 01835 824 125 or email rrc@sbrp.org.uk

Anyone for Yoga??

Anyone who would be interested in attending Yoga classes in Walkerburn, please contact Jane on 870224



Walkerburn Primary School PTA

Duck Race
Sunday 1st June

from 2.00pm
on the 'Burn opposite the
school
only £1.00 a duck

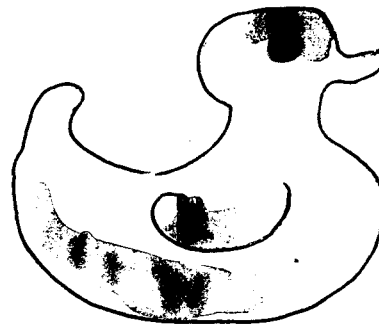
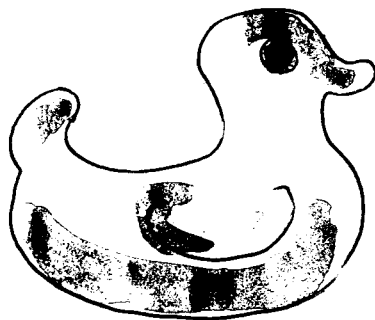
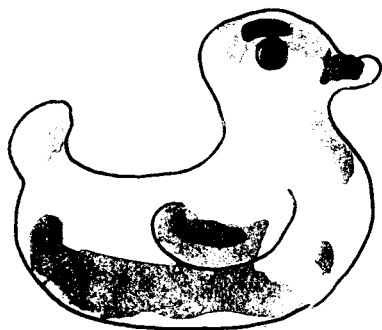
Cake & Candy
Side Shows
Stalls
Refreshments

Come along and have some fun

You & Your Community Millennium Awards

Have you ever had an idea that could make a difference to both you and the people in your community? Don't know how to get funded? These awards could be the answer, they are small Lottery grants, ranging between £1,000 and £2,500 which enable individual people to put their own bright ideas for community projects into action.

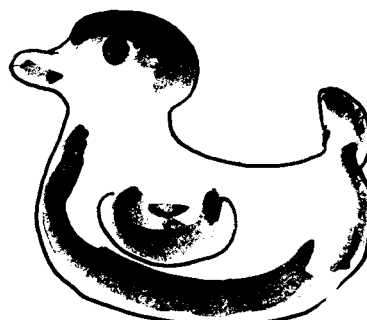
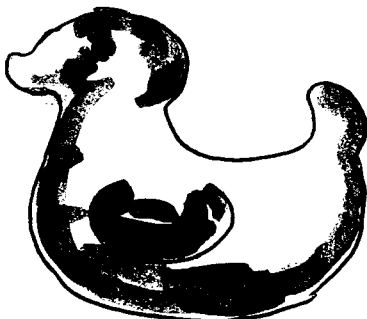
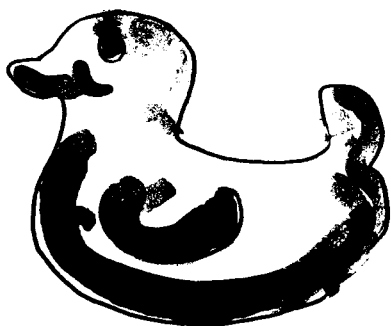
If you are aged over 12 and have an idea that you think fits the bill you can apply for an Award. Applications cannot be accepted from charities or constituted groups, but if you want to work with other people you can make a joint application of up to 10 people in total. Call the Scottish Community Foundation and they will explain what to do. Whether you want to make an individual or joint application **ring them first** to find out more and to tell them your big idea. Call 0131 524 0320



IDEAS WANTED – MONEY AVAILABLE

The Walkerburn Innerleithen Partnership are waiting for your ideas. There is £180,000 available for small projects in the area split into three different categories – Community, Tourism and Business, and Small Scale Infrastructure.

Do you have an idea that you would like to see taken further that would have economic benefit to the community and improve either the appearance of the village or the appeal of the village to tourists or tourism in general. Maybe it is something that would provide the opportunity for employment within the community. Perhaps you would like to develop something in connection with Innerleithen. If you have any ideas that you want to take forward please contact Marlene Borthwick at TAVO who has agreed to act as an initial contact for anyone wanting help with either assessing the idea or receiving and completing the necessary application forms (sorry but as we all know the EU is the bureaucrats best friend especially when it comes to paperwork and rules) Remember the money is there to be spent and must be used within a specific timescale



THE BATTLE FOR THE MINCH MOOR HAS BEGUN

Despite verbal and written objections to AMEC to their proposed Wind farm site on the Minch Moor, the planning application has been submitted. For those of you who missed the Planning notice published in the Southern Reporter and The Peeblesshire, the AMEC planning application can be viewed at Economic Development and Environmental Planning Scottish Borders Council Area Planning Office, Rosetta Road, Peebles, and the Innerleithen Library during opening hours. The planning application in total is made up of 4 Volumes. WAG has put summaries of these volumes in the computer room at the HB club and in The George.

Volume 1- A non technical summary available free of charge to anyone from AMEC Wind, Bridge End, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 4NU. Tel 01434 011300

Volume 2- Environmental Statement - £100 for paper copy or £30 per compact disc from above address.

Volume 3- Figures and Visualisations

Volume 4- Planning Statement.

Officially 'concerned residents' have until 16th May to lodge an objection to the planning application, (although WAG has asked for an extension to this deadline and it is hoped that this will cover all residents). Written objections should be sent to Head of Development Control, Scottish Borders Council, Newton St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA. Please don't worry since you can still send in an objection up to the end of June.

A guide to support anyone wishing to object has been placed in the Community Computers located in the Computer Room at the HB club and in the George. Helpful typists will be in the Computer room at the HB club on Thursday 22nd May from 2pm to 8pm.

Possible grounds for objection include:

- A huge increase in traffic through village and past the school. Remember turbine blades and other machinery will have to be replaced over the 25 years for the very big vehicles will have to access for 25years
- The adverse effect on tourism and house prices
- The effect on the Southern Upland Way, bad for all those who enjoy walking, cycling and riding.
- Visual effect on residents who will have to see the turbines 24hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, for the next 25years!!!
- Noise and shadow flicker- other communities at similar distances with smaller turbines say they are noisy, disruptive and your quality of life suffers.
- Disruption to the back road for 12 months

Please if you think the Minch Moor and the Southern Upland Way is worth saving, and you do not want to see it desecrated by fourteen 327foot turbines, you NEED to get involved and write a letter of objection. We do not want to regret any decision made NOW that will have a detrimental affect on the quality of life that we enjoy NOW and for the next 25years.

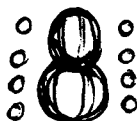
Denise Hanks

The Broken Leg by Joe Lothian

One windy day I was flying a kite. I was running and running. I ran and ran and ran. I went in front of a big tree. A strong gust of wind came and hit the tree and it fell down on my leg. It broke my leg. I tried to phone the hospital but the tree had landed on my mobile. After quite a time my mum and dad came. They saw me and jumped out of the car. They ran towards me and picked me up and put me carefully in the car. My mum and dad took me to hospital. The hospital mended my leg but the wind blew my kite away and I never saw it again.

The Day I Helped Santa by Emma Blackwood

On a very, very windy day I was taking my dog for a walk. Suddenly the wind was so strong it blew me and my dog off our feet. We flew to the North Pole and we saw Santa and his elves there. I helped Santa get ready for Christmas. I wrapped presents with the elves and then we put them on the sleigh. Santa took me all around the world with him and we delivered the presents. When we had finished Santa took me home again and my mum and dad wondered where I had been. "On a very weird trip", I said.



Letters to the Editor

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit or omit letters. Views expressed attach only to the writers. All submissions must include a full name, address and telephone number. This will be withheld by request to the editor.

Over 50

Come and join the Guid Fettle Group to keep in trim and have a laugh at the same time. After the first 8 week trial period members found the weekly tone up indispensable and restarted the group on 23rd April. We now meet on Monday mornings at 9.45am in the village hall. Cost about £1 to cover Audrey's fees. With the better weather it is hoped that we may also organise walks in the local area. Hoping to see you there.

Joan Pigge

Tales from the Waterside (allegedly)

O dear I fear the 'Laird o' the Waterside' got his feathers ruffled from the twa legged vermin roamin about the waterside in February wi thir dugs. Ye ken it niver fails tae amaze me about the water the 'elixir of life' a constantly moving energy force, calm and serene one moment and a raging torrent the next, like ourselves ever moving through the complexities of life. Some folks dae like tae ken whit's hapenin, ye ken folks dinae like change, but they are accepting o'it. On the other hand some folks choose tae ignore it and get left behind. Whit harm wid it have done the 'Laird' tae inform the community before his tree chopping a' fencing programme got underway, perhaps he could have showed us a wee model just like the windfarm folks. Ah'm the first tae admit that the lade is looking guid, did the Laird allegedly get away wi building his brig before building permission wis granted? Aye pair Brian done aw the ground work and has never been seen again. It's a pity the 'essex boys' oops sorry (too much sky tv) 'sussex boys' didn'a finish whit they started. Big muckle holes doon the waterside (tae think o' they pair dug walkers in the dark), and tae think o' the glorious weather that has gone before us perfect conditions fur working outside. The fishing hut is looking kind o' unfinished and drab. Its about time the 'Laird o' the Waterside' started putting his money where his mou is and tidy his act up. Ah'm sure oor local lads wid ha gien ye value fur yer cash and would hae finished the job by noo! I dinae think its cause yir English they charged ye overly but slave labour went oot the windae years ago. On the subject o' the trout fishin ony o' the fishermen ah ken use the flea and take pride in their selection o' the right kind o' flea that will tempt the trout frae the depths o' oor lovely River Tweed. A've nae doubt the wee laddies get up tae these antics wi worms dangling at the end o' muckle hooks but yer average trout fishermaun takes his chances wi the flea.

Yours respectfully, Local worthy gone fishin (wi the dug)

Nature Notes

I always enjoy reading the nature notes, thank you to the author. Here are some answers / observations.

Hares: I normally see plenty of hares above West Bold. This year I have just seen one above Woodend. This is normally a regular visitor at dusk and seems to be patrolling the boundaries. I think it sees off any rabbits that try to move into its patch. It is large and brown, I don't know what a mountain hare looks like.

Curlews: There seems to be more of these by the Tweed this year perhaps because of the dry weather or the fact that there are more ploughed fields.

Bird Food: The siskins are back again and eating the peanuts.

Thank you, Anne Elmes

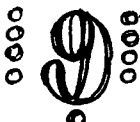
Thank You

6 Caberston Avenue, Walkerburn EH43 6BA

Please may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has sent me congratulations and good wishes on my election as Walkerburn's Councillor? I repeat the promise I made before election that I shall represent everyone in our community to the best of my ability, and I shall work hard to benefit Walkerburn.

As Burning Issues goes to press, I still don't know what shape the new Scottish Borders Council will take so I can't report any real progress from my first week as Walkerburn's councillor! I have begun to find my way around the bureaucracy and have arranged a briefing with the Lottery Fund Officer who is currently considering the bid for funding to improve the Hall. I have also taken the opportunity of being the 'new girl in town' to ask lots of questions so I am beginning to learn how best to operate in our interests. I will submit a short information note to Burning Issues each month to keep everyone up-to-date with what's going on. I'll let everyone know the details of my new Council contact numbers and surgery times and places. In the meantime, if anyone wants to get in touch please write, use the e-mail info@patriciapurves.org.uk, or telephone 07976 276803.

Yours sincerely, Patricia Purves



Walkerburn Summer Festival Update

Sunday 22nd June – Saturday 28th June

Although the full programme of events planned for the Walkerburn Summer Festival will be published in next month's edition of the Burning Issue, here is a taster of what there is to look forward to

Sunday 22nd June

Church service with Silver Band followed by the laying of the wreath at the Wee Man.

Sports Day including the Pole Cup at the Rugby Club

Disco

Monday 23rd June

Walkerburn School Concert at the Public Hall with the Piping in of the Festival Lass or Ladd

Tuesday 24th June

Walkerburn Ride out

Football tournament

Barbeque

Wednesday 25th June

Fun Night at the Park

Thursday 26th June

Quiz night at the HB club

Friday 27th June

Fancy dress parade and Torchlight procession

Saturday 28th June

Activity Day promoting Healthy Living for all

The Festival week is always a busy time for the committee and we are always grateful of anyone who has any spare time available to help the committee in the run up to or in the week of the festival, please contact Colin Kerr – President of the Walkerburn Festival, or any committee member (Denise Hanks, Jill Fraser, and Harvey Lothian). Alternatively come to the next meeting at the Festival Hut (Alexandra Park) on Sunday 18th May at 7pm.

Denise Hanks

Festival Coffee Morning

Saturday 31st May 10.00am until 11.30am at Walkerburn Public Hall

What better way to spend a Saturday morning than coming and supporting your local Festival in raising funds and having a bit of fun and a chat at the same time

There will be something for everyone, to hopefully entice you to part with your cash. So if food is your particular passion then the very popular Home Baking, Popcorn, Candyfloss and Pancake stalls will appeal to you. If you like a bit of adventure then the Treasure Hunt could be right up your street and for those who get a thrill from the unknown Opportunity Locks, Lucky straws and Eric's Balls may get your adrenalin pumping! And if that wasn't enough we have the all important announcement at 11.00am of who will become the Festival Lass or Ladd of Walkerburn 2003!

If the excitement is all too much then you can calm down with a cup of coffee/tea and biscuit and a chat.

All this entertainment available at your doorstep for the bargain entry price of 50 pence!!

To make sure you don't miss this event, members of the festival committee will be coming round your door in the next few weeks selling tickets to the coffee morning. Please be generous and continue to support your Walkerburn Festival

Bouncy Castle for Hire

The festival committee have a Bouncy castle available for hire. Anyone wishing to hire please contact Colin Kerr on 870670 for terms and conditions.

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