

# BURNING ISSUES

Walkerburn News Issue Seventeen - July 2003

## Walkerburn Community Computer Project

The 4 Community computers situated upstairs at the HB club are set up with Internet access ready for the residents of Walkerburn to use. So if you want to surf the net to find a bargain holiday or to send e-mails, or just to use the computers to write a CV or an official letter, then come down to the HB club and check out the facilities.

There are some conditions of use that anybody using the computers has to abide to, and these are printed in the blue folder in the Computer Room. Also in the folder are useful hints and tips of how to get started on the Internet and how to set up your own hot mail account so you can send and receive e-mails from the Walkerburn Computers.

To assist in monitoring and evaluating how successful the project is and to ensure we comply with the H&S regulations of the HB club, anybody wishing to use the computers will be required to sign in and out. The signing In and Out book is located with the key to the Computer room and is available from any HB member of staff. The Computer room will be available for use the same hours as the HB Club- namely between noon and 11pm every day.

For the safety and security of all who use the Computer room, CCTV monitors have been fitted although it is expected that the Computer room will prove a popular and valued asset to the village.

To cover running costs and ensure that the project remains viable/sustainable after initial funding stops, the following charges will apply:

<b>Internet Access</b>	<b>£1 an hour</b>
<b>Colour copies of any printed A4 page</b>	<b>20p per side</b>
<b>Black &amp; White copies of any printed A4 page</b>	<b>10p per side</b>

The HB club staff have kindly offered their help in collecting the money, so please hand it to them, and they will pass it on.

## Computer Open Day

Another 12 Computer novices successfully completed the 10 week introductory course 'New Opportunities in Computers' run by Mike from Education Works in June. It is intended to run the same course probably on a Monday in September.

To find out more details about this course and to put your ideas forward of what other computer courses you would like to see being run from the Community Computers there is an Open Day at the HB Club on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August (more details of the Open Day will be advertised in the HB club and Post Office ). Please come along to talk to the tutor who will be running the course and meet some of the people who have successfully completed the course who will be able to answer your queries and give their opinion.

Denise Hanks

## Editorial

Congratulations to the Festival committee for another very successful Summer Festival.

The newsletter group were able to purchase a Digital Camera as part of our "Awards For All" grant. The festival provided us with an ideal opportunity for our first foray into the world of digital photography and a few of the results are printed in this edition. We are still getting to grips with the technology so the transfer to this newsletter is not yet worthy of a Pulitzer Prize but we will improve. If you want to see all the photos they are stored on the computers at the HB Club – see front page article.

Our apologies for the typing error in the last edition regarding our email address. Due to problems with the printing of this we have changed the address.

The new e mail address:  
[walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)

The deadline for all contributions are 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, either by e mail or in the post box or hand your article to any of the Burning Issues team listed below.

A quick reminder of Who's Who at BURNING Issues HQ.  
Cathie Sutherland (Chairperson)  
Joan Pigge (Vice Chairperson)  
Jane Gaze (Secretary)  
Donna Allen (Treasurer)

## !!! REMEMBER !!!

### WEEKLY

Mon: Guid Fettle exercise class in the Village Hall starts promptly at 9.45am.  
Tues: Crusaders for 8-11 years, 6.50pm –8.05pm  
Wed: Crusaders for S1-S3, 7.00pm-8.30pm  
Thurs: Youth Club 7.00pm in the Village Hall  
Fri- Touch Rugby and Mini Training Sessions at the Rugby club, 7pm  
Sun: Table Tennis 7.00pm in the Village Hall

### JULY

Mon 21<sup>st</sup>: Community Council Meeting 7pm in Village Hall  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup>: Church Guild Coffee Morning in Walkerburn lower church hall 10.30-11.30am.  
Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>: Rugby Training nights recommence at the Rugby club, 7pm  
Tues 29<sup>th</sup>: WAVE meeting at 7pm at the HB Cub

### AUGUST

Wed 20<sup>th</sup>: Computer Open Day at HB Club – details to follow  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rugby Club Summer Ball  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup>: Open Festival Meeting at HB Club – details to follow  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup>: Midnight Fever. HB club

### 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  
The Last Century Antiques & Books  
Ian Jenkins, MSP  
Brian Lees Promotions

Jeremy Ballantyne Marketing  
Wind Farm Action Group  
HBMI Social Club  
Film Fun Video  
DCB Welding  
The George Hotel  
Anne Barbour  
Mollie McIntosh  
Leslie and George Thornton  
Rathburn Chemicals



## WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL REPORT

The Festival Committee would like to thank the Sponsors, Patrons, Helpers and the people of Walkerburn for supporting the Summer Festival. All the events were well attended from the inspiring Church service to the informative Health and Fun day on Saturday. Walkerburn's first ever Rideout on Tuesday was a great success thanks to the co-operation of the landowners, and the organisation of the ride out committee. The weather, had been perfect until the Friday when it 'rained' on our Fancy dress parade, BUT this didn't deter Walkerburn turning out to support the event. The pictures published in the Peeblesshire proved that everyone appreciated the imagination and effort made by those dressing up, as were the burgers skilfully cooked and served by the team in the Festival Hut.

Special thanks go to Walkerburn Primary School for putting on an excellent show at the concert and Festival Lad Jamie Brown who performed his duties well. But probably the most memorable event was the triumphant Walkerburn Football team beating Innerleithen 1-0 in the Paul Cup- hopefully setting the trend for the future. Congratulations!!

The Festival has been run for the children for many years, and they certainly enjoyed themselves this year, but it was nice to see adults participating in the fun, with the Quiz night on Thursday proving very popular and extremely competitive!

The Burning Issue team were covering the Festival with their new Digital camera bought from their Awards For All grant. A few of the photos are included in this month's edition of BI, however we couldn't include them all. They are held in a folder named '2003 Festival' under ' My Pictures' within 'My Documents' loaded on the first computer as you enter the Computer room at the HB club. You can print a copy for 20p per photo, please give the money to HB staff.

Next year is Walkerburn's 150th anniversary and the Festival Committee are already thinking of possible new events which could be added to ensure it is truly memorable for all ages. However the committee want your suggestions of what you would like to see included in next years Festival, as well as hearing your views of what could have been done better this year. To do this the Festival Committee are holding a 'Greeting' meeting on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August at the HB club, everybody is welcome. But if you can't attend and would like your comments to be heard then you can write your comments/suggestions and give them to any member of the Festival Committee (Colin Kerr, Denise Hanks, Jill Frazer, and Harvey Lothian)

Festival committee



## School News

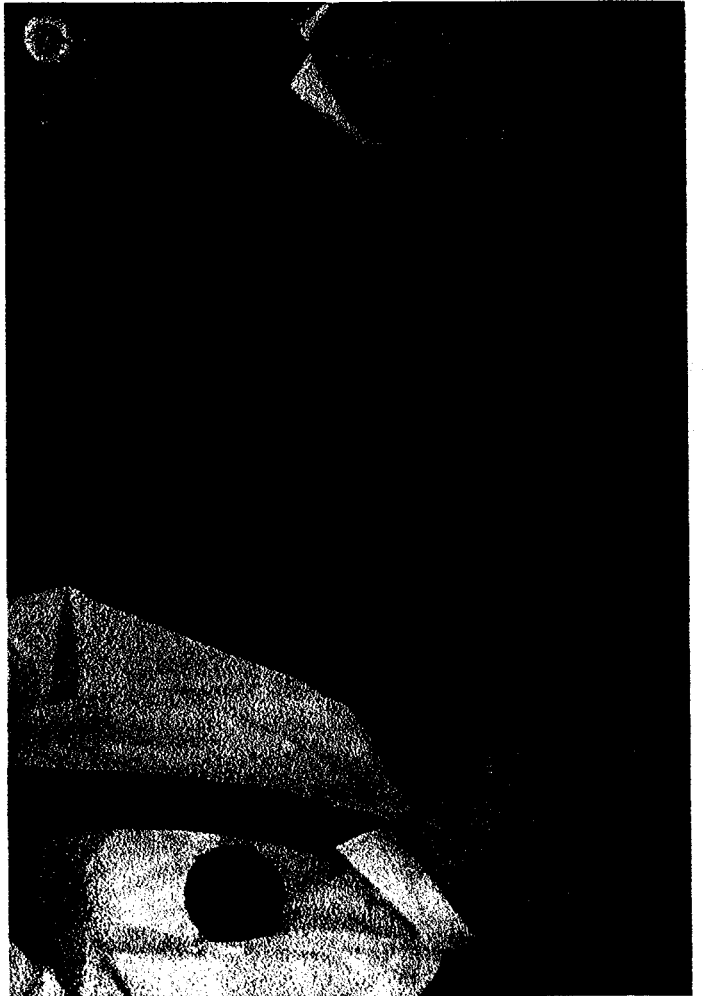
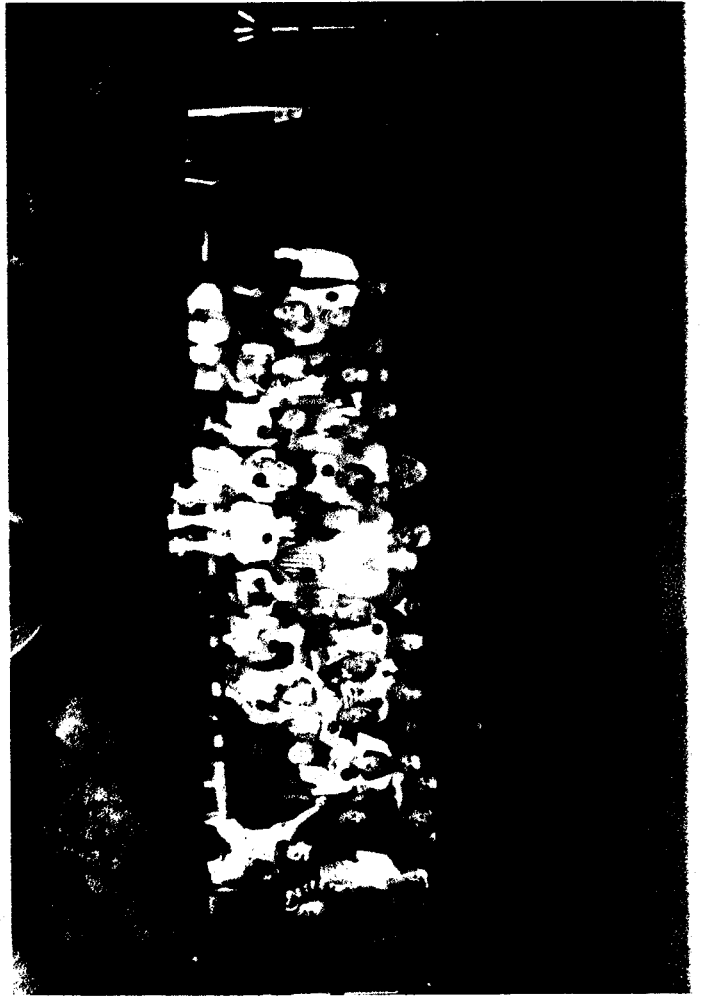
A very busy summer term has finally come to an end and everyone is looking forward to a well deserved rest over the summer holidays. We would like to thank Gillian Fryatt of the Moorfoot Runners for running the 10K Road Race at Peebles Beltane Festival and raising money through sponsorship for our school funds. She raised a total of £230, which is wonderful! Thanks to everyone in the village who sponsored Gillian and particularly all at Rathburn.

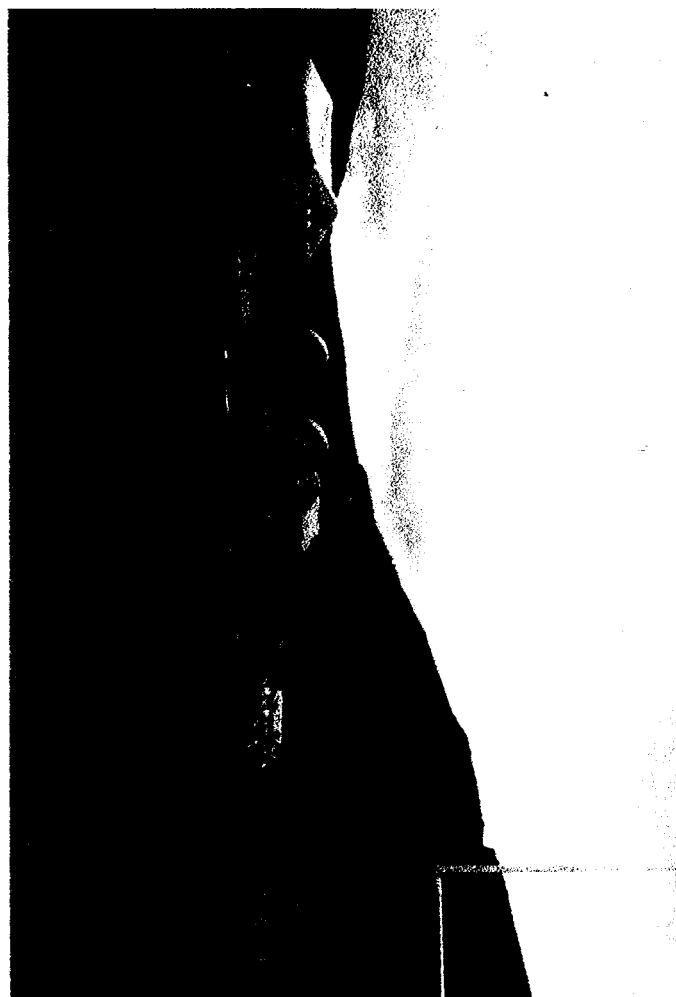
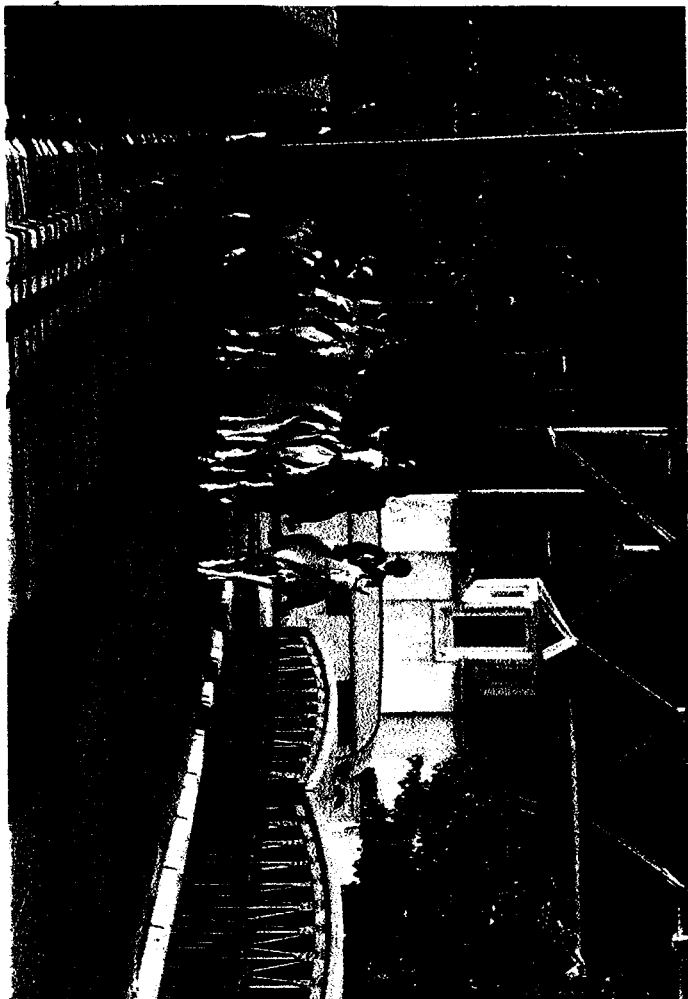
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June saw a great turnout of parents and guests at our Awards Presentation. We said a fond farewell to our Primary 7's as they move on to Peebles High and each was presented with a French dictionary as well as a "Book of Memories", made by everyone at the school, to keep as a souvenir of their time with us. We acknowledged Jamie Brown, Festival Lad and Steven Fleming, Essay winner, while Josh McLeod was awarded the David Anderson Memorial Trophy and Willie Bauld Medal for Sportsmanship. Claire Lees was recognised for her artistic flair with the Art Prize and Steven Blackwood won the ICT prize. We also said goodbye to our Nursery Teacher, Carole Roberts, who left to take up a new Principal Teacher position in Midlothian. We wish all of them good luck in the future.

The presentation was followed, in glorious sunshine, by a barbecue at the rugby pitch. Children and grown ups enjoyed a burger, ice cream and lots of sweets, plus a bounce on the bouncy castle, this and the burgers and buns were provided by the Festival Committee for which we are very grateful. Thanks too to Jamie's Mum and Dad, Lynne and Peter for being the chefs and to all those who helped on the day.

School re-opens on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August. In the meantime, we all hope you have a lovely summer break!







## Walkerburn Community Council Meeting

It is hoped that the following report is a fair and accurate summary of the AGM and CC meeting.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June –7pm at the Public Hall

The AGM of Walkerburn Community Council was well attended with all of the new councillors taking up their positions with only 1 apology received from the 9 council members. Apologies were sent from Councillor Garvie.

Chairman Mollie McIntosh went through the Chairman's report, which highlights what the WCC were involved in 2002:

- AMEC wind farm application, there was a meeting with Ettrick Walkerburn Innerleithen and Traquair Community Councils to discuss the proposal. Following much debate with the people of Walkerburn the Community Council have written a letter of objection to the application.
- Restoring the County War memorial in Peebles
- Repainting of the Village signs.
- Parking in the High Cottages following complaints received from local residents.
- Abandoned cars, the police have been contacted.
- Speeding through the village, lots of complaints received and the Traffic Police have been contacted. Councillor Purves added that she had raised this issue in her official capacity and will continue to pursue it.
- Walkerburn's 150th Anniversary next year- the festival committee will start planning events and have proposed a Summer Ball.
- Waste Paper recycling Bin – this has been refused by the Borders Council due to lack of finance.
- Holylee accident black spot- after a spate of accidents on the same stretch of road, the Roads department came and scoured the surface. Councillor Purves added that the road is going to be resurfaced in the autumn 2003.
- The pavement between the George and the Post Office has been repaved following accidents, which were reported to the Community Council
- Police were asked by the Community Council to attend future meetings to keep up to date with what is happening in Walkerburn.

Treasurer-John Gebbie produced the Financial Statement, which showed the main expenditure of 2002 as the Memorial Gardens. Councillor Purves commented that the Community Council should have received payments from Borders Council and that she would take the issue up on behalf of the CC.

The Chairman went onto to announce the retirement of John Gebbie and read out the letter of resignation from Mags Henderson, the Chairman expressed thanks to both John and Mags for their hard work whilst serving on the CC.

It was proposed that Steve Harrison should be co-opted onto the Community Council. This was passed.

The process of electing the Office Bearers for the forthcoming year took place with the following results:

Chairman- Mollie McIntosh

Vice- Chairman- Mary Daykin

Treasurer- Steve Harrison

Secretary-Following a discussion of how the Community Council should operate to cope with the anticipated increase in workload predicted in the forthcoming year, due to Scottish Borders Councils plans to pass more responsibility to local communities. There was a suggestion that a full time secretary who was not on the Community Council but could manage the correspondence sent to the CC would help. All members of the CC approved the idea. As there was no other business the AGM was closed.

### There followed a Community Council meeting.

The minutes from May's meeting were circulated and passed.

Steve Harrison updated the council on the Calor Gas Community Award and suggested that Walkerburn enter in all 5 categories. He will progress the application.

The Walkerburn Clear up was a great success with 20 bags of rubbish being collected. Colin Kerr added that 5 motorbikes, half a car and other large metal items were removed from the Tweed as part of the Clear Up initiative. Councillor Purves has undertaken to try and clarify what land is privately owned and what is council owned so that any abandoned cars etc can be dealt with quickly.

The positions of where a new litterbin should be placed were discussed, options include: Recycling centre, Bus stop on the Peebles Rd and the HB club

The CC discussed how resident's views could be collected, with the idea of a box at the Post Office being the most popular.

Planning application for 7 new houses in Tweedholm Ave was discussed, and although the new development was welcomed there was concern that the additional houses may further exacerbate the parking in the area.

Janice Cambridge, Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Housing Association is attending the next CC meeting to advise the CC what can be done with any problems regarding properties under the control of her organisation.

### Correspondence sent to the CC included:

Scottish Borders Resource Centre are Touring the Borders and visiting Walkerburn on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Scottish Natural Heritage plan to extend the SSSI status to the River Tweed and have sent the information to the CC for comments. Colin Kerr agreed to read the information and report back at the next Community Council meeting  
Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7pm at the Public Hall with Janice Cambridge attending at 8pm.

Denise Hanks

## THE RETURN OF AMEC - THE BATTLE FOR THE MINCH MOOR CONTINUES

Amongst much PR generated by AMEC, that after consulting with Walkerburn residents they were returning with revised plans that 'addressed our concerns' AMEC held an exhibition on 30<sup>th</sup> June at the Public Hall. Intrigued by this statement, and ever hopeful that AMEC may have got the message and moved their offending wind turbines off the Southern Upland Way and out of sight of Walkerburn, a fair few W.A.G ites turned up to see what was on offer.

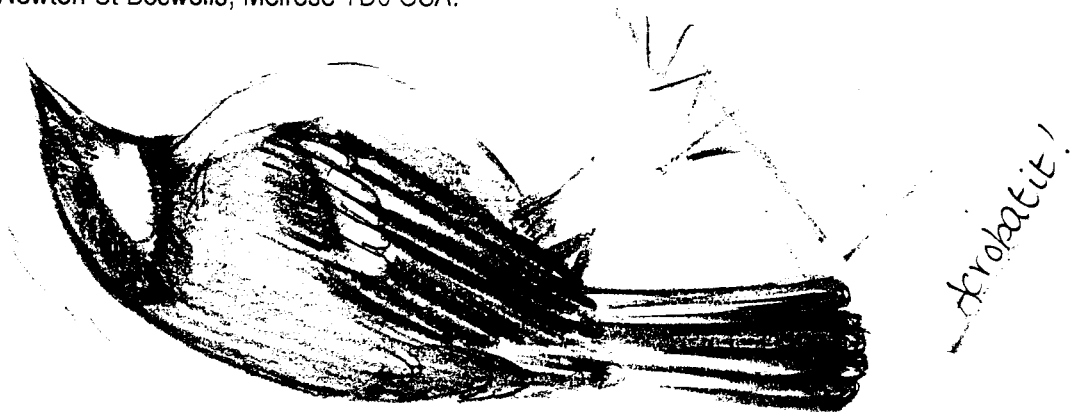
Needless to say we were disappointed as AMEC had not changed their initial planning application one jot! So much for consultation and listening to our views.

Still in true David and Goliath spirit the next day brought great news that the Tourist Board had seen sense and 'slammed' the Minch Moor site saying it would "destroy" the unspoilt countryside and introduce an "industrial development to an area which is of high scenic value". At last, people are waking up to what the majority of us living in Walkerburn have known and been saying all along.

With new wind turbine sites being proposed in the Borders every week, it appears that the Borders Council are using the Minch Moor site as the 'test bed' for reviewing the process of assessing the suitability of sites. The Minch Moor site is unlikely to be considered by the Planning Department until September so there is still plenty of time to bombard the planning department with letters of objection from concerned residents. We really do need as many letters raising different concerns from as many different addresses as possible, if we are to stop this planning application.

Possible reasons for objections are held in a folder called 'Wind farm objections' on the Community computers at the Computer room at the HB club and anybody wanting support or help in accessing the information or writing can phone me on 870200 (between 7pm and 10pm most evenings) to arrange a mutually convenient time. The letters are also on the Walkerburn website [www.Walkerburn.org](http://www.Walkerburn.org). Once again the address to send any letters is: Head of Development Control, Scottish Borders Council, Newton St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.

Denise Hanks



## Nature Notes

### July Wildside

Although a lover of wildlife and birds in particular, I must admit an aversion to certain members of the crow family; crows and jackdaws. I realise they have their place in the great scheme of things but I'm sure it doesn't involve scattering everything from my bird table and shredding my bins! The two members of the crow family I do like are jays and magpies. Jays I have seen along the back road on the way to Clovenfords but for magpies I needed to go further afield until maybe now. I hear they are moving north in the Borders and have advanced as far as Galashiels. I shall keep a lookout here in the 'Burn and would be interested to hear of any sightings.

With the recent balmy weather, the plants are growing fast and the air is buzzing with insects and it's a joy to watch the young birds on their family outings to our garden. I haven't seen blue tits at all which is apparently a national thing this year so it's not just that they've left me! We do, however, have a very comical great tit family. The fledglings' antics at the feeders and fat balls, in the tree, keep me amused and as yet they are far from perfect at their take off and landing procedures. One in particular landed on what it must have thought was the bottom of the fat ball only to slowly slide down and fall off it's sibling's tail.

Birds particularly like the lawn just after it's been mown and dinner is disturbed and we've had both song thrush and blackbird families visit ours. Worms are apparently drawn to the surface by vibrations, whether of feet (birds or human) or the mower, thinking that it's raining. You can watch the parents tilting their heads to listen for worms on the move under the earth, then diving forward, pulling one out and 'folding' it up to feed to their young. Goodness, children can be such hard work can't they?



## Book Reviews

A Simple Life and If My Father Loved Me  
by Rosie Thomas

I discovered the writer Rosie Thomas by chance, when a readers' group I belong to suggested we read a Welsh author. Not wanting to re read Dylan Thomas, I discovered the wonderful Rosie Thomas on the library shelves.

"A Simple Life" concerns the life of a successful, English academic couple living in the USA with their two children. Acquaintance with the rebellious, adopted, teenage daughter of their neighbours leads to the mother developing an overwhelming desire to find and see the Downs Syndrome daughter they gave away for adoption 15 years before. This has been a no-go, emotional area during the marriage of the English couple. How the wife's search affects the whole family and others makes an absorbing read. Rosie Thomas writes about people you can actually care about.

Her latest offering "If My Father Loved Me" relates how Sadie comes to terms with the death of her father. He had been a distant and preoccupied figure in her childhood, which was very difficult for her, as her mother died when she was young. The story is set in contemporary London, where she lives as a divorcee with two children among a close group of friends. The course of a long hot summer in the capital affects all their lives. Themes touched on are romance in middle age, difficulties in raising children, city life and bereavement.

A "sorry to reach the last page" novel. I cannot recommend it too highly.

Ann Watt

## Walkerburn Innerleithen Partnership

### AGM Report

The AGM for WIP was held at the Innerleithen Memorial Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The election of office bearers for the coming year was held with John Birks and George Thornton being appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Marlene Borthwick accepted the position of Secretary on behalf of TAVO. Marlene has been covering the position of Walkerburn Innerleithen Project Worker until both new funding was confirmed and a new worker appointed. It will be this new worker who will in future act as Secretary to the Partnership.


All three assessment groups gave a brief summary of their work so far. Roger Rankin of the Rural Resource Centre issued an invitation to W.I.P. to be part of a Seminar being held in September about Vibrant Communities. The meeting finished with a presentation by Marion Oates from the Scottish Tourist Board.

Meetings of W.I.P. are held quarterly and everyone is welcome to attend. The date, time and place of the next meeting will be advertised in Burning Issues.

Remember the funds available to W.I.P. are for projects within the Walkerburn Innerleithen area and if we don't use it we lose it. Do you have any ideas to improve wither or both communities if so contact TAVO to get more information and assistance with your ideas.  
Cathie Sutherland

### Saying for the month

Friends are quiet angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly



WAVE

WAVE continues to meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the HB Club. Remember everyone in Walkerburn is considered to be a part of WAVE and therefore are more than welcome to attend meetings when they can. There was a slight deviation to the normal routine for the month of June due to the Festival and the meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

Good news from the Village Hall in that they have successfully passed the first two assessment stages for their lottery grant to add additional facilities onto the hall. The third stage is personal visit to the village taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. The Community clear up was very successful and thanks were expressed to Sara Keepence for all her hard work as co-ordinator and the people that rallied around to help

Other good news from the meeting is that TAVO have been successful in obtaining funding for a Project Worker for Innerleithen and Walkerburn for three years for 15 hours per week.



## Sunday at the Club

Its Sunday this could be my day  
I'm really in the mood to play  
Phone Jock and book in right away  
Get down the road without delay

The usual gang are all prepared  
To win "the Flyer" nothing spared  
First down I'm off and take a chance  
Towards the final I advance

I'm sitting where I want to be  
With Gorgeous George in front of me  
But then I stumble no two's no four  
And once again I'm out the door

A grateful loser  
P McGill - to all at the HB Club

## The Walkerburn That They Don't See

The crusted clouds sit above the hills showing glimpses  
of blue

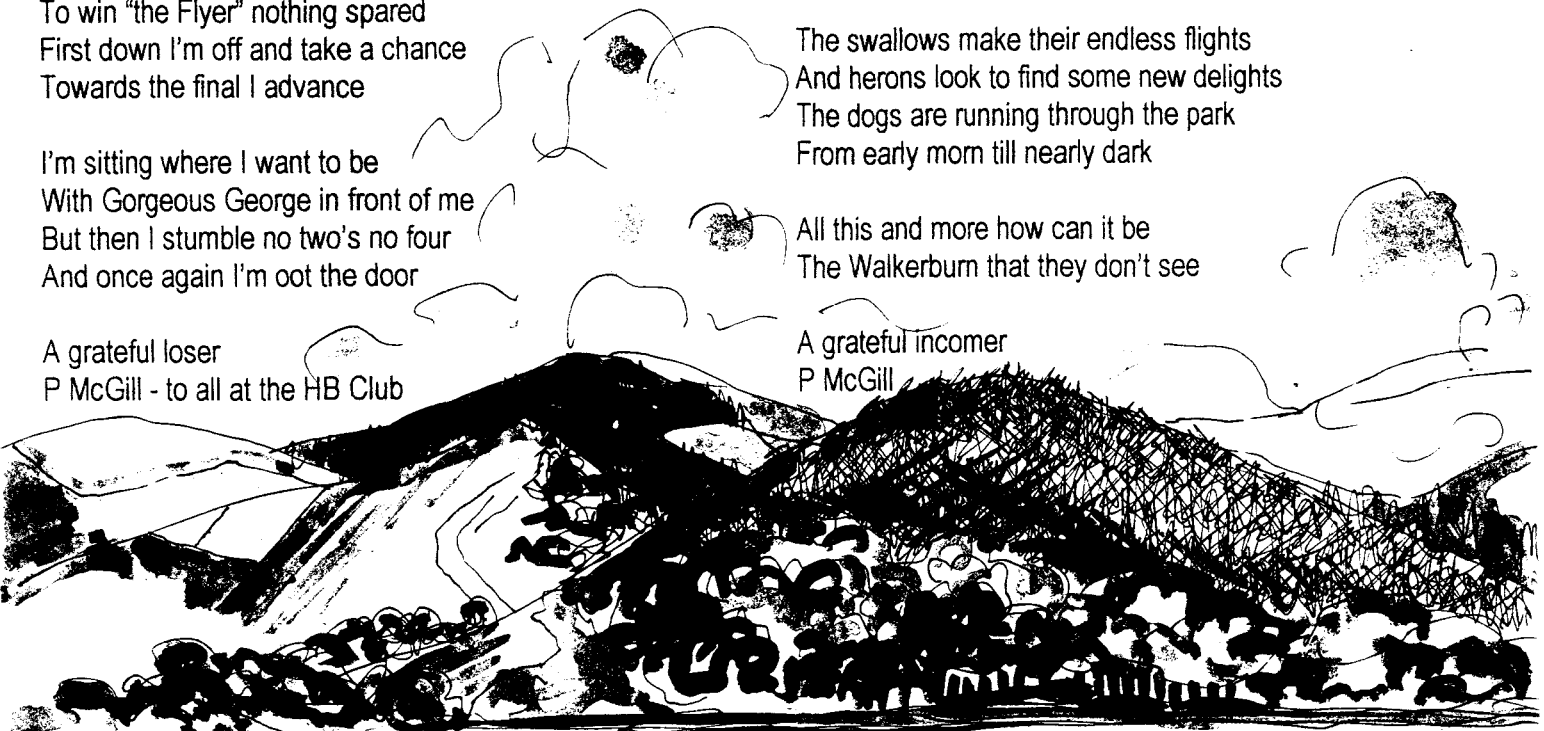
Its Midsummers Night and what a view  
The river sits unmoving and clear beneath a warming  
breeze

Sheep lie untroubled oblivious to time and all at ease

The swallows make their endless flights  
And herons look to find some new delights  
The dogs are running through the park  
From early morn till nearly dark

All this and more how can it be  
The Walkerburn that they don't see

A grateful incomer  
P McGill



## Rugby Club News

The Annual General Meeting took place on 29th June at the Clubhouse together with the Election of Office Bearers for the 2003-2004 season. Touch Rugby continues at 6pm every Friday night. Training restarts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Tuesday 22nd July at 6.30/7.00 - 9.00

### Events

20th September: BT Challenge Cup 1st round - Whitburn vs Trinity Accies

23rd September: Walkerburn Rugby Club Annual Ball. Tickets are now available at £20.00 each. Book your tables of up to 12 friends now it promises to be a great evening! Phone 01896 870 762

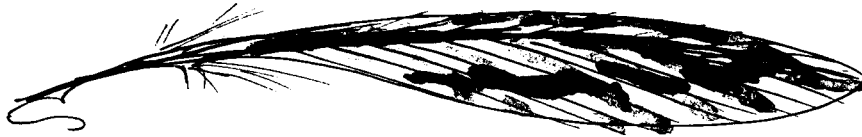
## Judo

Innerleithen & Walkerburn Judo Club will be holding a Summer School extravaganza during the Games Week at Innerleithen Community School from Friday - Sunday 17th - 20th July we will be having guest instructors from London, Newcastle and Carlisle joining us. This is an ideal time to come along and try judo. You can join us for one day or for all four days. If you like it, then why not join the club? The cost of the event is just £12 per day (or four days for the price of three), adults or children and the price includes a packed-lunch. We are also planning to have a barbeque on the Saturday evening. The course runs from 10am to 4pm each day. We are also having an introduction to aikido session on the Saturday morning, 10-11.30 just £4. In judo we learn how to throw our opponents to the floor, arm locks, strangles and hold downs. It is a martial art with a combat sport element and can be seen as a self-defence (come and try goshin jutsu on the Thursday afternoon, 2-4 just £5) or a way of life: either way it can keep you fit and is fun. Ideal for all ages and sizes. The club is affiliated to the British Judo Council and is run on traditional lines, with Dave Hammond, 1<sup>st</sup> Dan black belt as instructor.

Contact Dave for further details on 01896 870 686



# 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 but unstoppable*

Audrey who takes the session of "Guid Fettle" is away for a 6 week much needed break but the zestful members did nit want to stop the activity for the summer.

Nicola of Healthy Living has received the services of Amanda who will lead our endeavours for a month starting 9.45 am Monday 14th July until Audrey returns to us on 17th August.

Excited squeals of success greeted news of weight loss after seeing Nicola who advises those interested in healthy eating with a weekly weigh in after our session of exercise.

Many thanks to Audrey and Nicola for the help and enjoyment they have given us and wishing Amanda nerves of steel as she faces the challenge of the fiercely fit fifties (and sixties) of Walkernburn. Why not come and join us for £1.00 a week? It's fun.

Joan Pigge

## *School Concert - "Keep Walkernburn Tidy"*

What short memories the children of Walkernburn have. Not 10 minutes after singing "Bin it, Bin it" the floor was covered with sweet papers and empty juice cans. Come on "Keep Walkernburn Tidy" remember the song each time you throw litter down.

Concerned Resident

## *O.A.P's*

We all enjoyed our Day Trip to Kirkcaldy on 11th June, excellent lunch at Dysart in the Royal Hotel (we can recommend it) and we had beautiful weather. Our next outing is to the Pantomime on 10th December

Mary B

## *Coffee Mornings*

Many thanks for advertising our coffee mornings in July at the Church. Unfortunately the time printed was 10.30 - 11.30. This should be 10 - 11.30 and I would be grateful if you would amend this in the next issue of "Burning Issues". Many Thanks

Mae Pearce

Apologies for this printing error from the Editor

## *Thank You*

Gillian Fryatt would like to thank everyone who sponsored her for the 10K Beltane race in aid of Walkernburn Primary School. Thanks also to the children who collected door to door sponsorship we raised £230.00!! and a special thank you to everyone at the school for the lovely flowers and card I really appreciated them.

Gillian

Please find enclosed possible additions to "Burning Issues". I moved here three years ago and feel it's about time I gave something back for the happiness it gives me living here.

P McGill

These additions can be found on p9 of this edition - Editor

The Burning Issues Team would like to thank Ken and Susie of Caimbrae for their generous donation of desk and drawers which will make production of the Burning Issues much easier in the future... especially the photocopying and collation stage. No more back aches!! We are all very grateful!