BURNing ISSUES

Walkerburn News – Issue Nineteen – September 2003

New Benefit for the over 60's

Following on from the Family Tax Credit the government are introducing a new benefit called the Pension Tax Credit for people over the age of 60. This new benefit comes into force on 6th October 2003 and is intended to give more money to pensioners on lower incomes. It replaces the Minimum Income Guarantee benefit currently available but for the first time this new benefit allows people aged 65 and over who have some savings or additional work pension income to get extra benefits.

Although you must apply for this benefit (unless you are already receiving the Minimum Income Guarantee in which case you will automatically be switched to the new benefit) the government are keen to get as many pensioners as possible to take this benefit up. There are forms to fill out but if you would find it easier to speak to someone you can phone the Pension Service helpline on 0800 99 1234. The line is open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. One of the staff will fill in an application form for you over the phone or call you back at a more convenient time to fill in an application form. They will then post the completed form to you so you can check it and sign it. The same help line will simply forward an application pack containing the information if you would rather do it yourself. If you have speech or hearing difficulties the text phone number is 0800 169 0133. You will need the following details when you phone:

- National Insurance Number
- Information about any money you have coming in
- Information about any savings or investments if you have any

Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern and the Council Welfare Rights Office can also provide you with either information or assistance if you require it.

An important point to make is that any Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit that you receive is not taken into account when your entitlement for this benefit is being calculated.

Remember if you are eligible to receive this benefit it is yours by right and any extra you may receive is better off in your pocket than in the Governments.

Walkerburn 150th Anniversary

A public meeting sponsored by the Community Council is to be held in the Village Hall
Monday 6th October at 7pm

This is to discuss proposals for the format and organisation of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Walkerburn.

Please come along and have your say and bring your own refreshments

Walkerburn Innerleithen Partnership

The quarterly meeting of the partnership is being held in the Council Chambers in Innerleithen
Tuesday 23 September at 7.30pm.

It is intended to have a short presentation by a representative of the East Tweeddale Paths Group

This is an open public meeting and everyone is more than welcome.

Editorial

Congratulations to the latest group of students who have successfully completed the computer courses being held at the HB Club. It is a tribute to a few enthusiastic people that we have got such good computer facilities within the village and accessible to everyone no matter their age or ability.

This is just one of the project ideas that have come forward through the WAVE group. Remember this group is a community group that is open to all and welcomes the input from everyone in the community both young and old. It is a great way of meeting others in the community and getting to have some input into what happens in Walkerburn.

The group meet on the last Tuesday of every month at the HB Club with the next meeting being on the 30th September at 7.00pm to which everyone is welcome.

Burning Issues will be holding its Annual General Meeting on 7th October at 7.30 in the HB Club Everyone is welcome, again remember this is your community newsletter and can only ever be as good as the input we receive from you the community.

The deadline for all contributions are 1st of each month, either by e mail to walkerburnnews@hotmail.com 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
Rugby Training 7pm at the Rugby Club
Wed: Crusaders for S1-S3, 7.00pm-8.30pm
Thurs: Youth Club 7.00pm in the Village Hall
Rugby Training 7pm at the Rugby Club
Sun: Table Tennis 7.00pm in the Village Hall

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th: Vegetable Show 2pm in The Village Hall
Mon 15th: Community Council meeting in Village Hall at 7pm
Tues 23rd: Walkerburn Innerleithen Partnership quarterly meeting 7.30pm Council Chambers Innerleithen
Sat 20th: Rugby Club Ball 7.30pm in the Clubhouse
Sun 28th: Community Walk to the Reservoir 12.30pm Caberston Farm Car Park
Tues 30th: WAVE meeting 7.00pm in HB Club

OCTOBER

Mon 6th: 150th Anniversary – Public meeting in hall at 7pm
Tues 7th: Burning Issues AGM 7.30pm in the HB Club
Mon 20th: Community Council meeting in Hall at 7pm

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,
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

How To Keep A Healthy Level Of Insanity

1. As often as possible, skip rather than walk
2. When the money comes out of the ATM, scream "I won! I won! 3rd time this week!"
3. Put your rubbish bin on your desk and label it "in"

Walkerburn Community Computer Club

This summer saw another 12 people successfully completing the New Opportunities Programme ran by Education Works at the Computer Club in the HBMI . That brings the grand total up to 20, since the start of this project in January.
After feedback from the open afternoon where Education Works and local people could discuss what they would like to do next, we are running 3 more 10 and 12-week courses starting on September 8th.
All 3 courses are full, but if you want to sign up to the next lot of courses which will start in January, please put your name forward by contacting Denise Hanks 870200.

The 3 courses that we are running from September to December are:

New Opportunities Programme
10 week course, 2hours per week- Cost £20. This course is designed for those with little or no knowledge of computing which gives an introduction to keyboarding, mouse skills, word processing, Internet, e-mail and spreadsheets.

Computing for Beginners
12-week course, 2hours per week – Cost £ 48(subsidised by Direct Grants)– A follow on course, which covers word processing, spreadsheets, database and an introduction to the uses of a PC.

Introduction to the Internet
10week course, 1 hour per week – Cost £30 (subsidised by Direct Grants). -A course designed specifically to get the most out of the Internet.

This year the Walkerburn Community Computer Project was awarded funding from Direct Grants which allows us to subsidise the cost of these courses, however we cannot rely on this for next year, so we do charge for all courses and Internet access so we can sustain the Community Computer facility in Walkerburn.
We have taken up a very generous offer from Jan (a computer guru) who is willing to be at the Computer room on Wednesday's 7pm- 8pm to provide practical support for most common computer problems or provide solutions on how to do specific things on your PC. The aim is for individuals to turn up with specific problems which hopefully Jan can show a solution to: examples could be if you wanted to learn how to print address labels or defragment your computer. Jan will start on Wednesday 17th September and the cost is £2 for the session. Please pay when you sign in at the HB club.

Community Computer Club Rules
We do have our set of rules for all users of the Community Computers, which are in the Blue File, and as guests of the HB club, we have to abide by their rules as well. This does mean that children 14 and under need to be supervised by an adult. The HB club have kindly agreed that due to the size of the room, the supervising adult can remain downstairs in the bar as long as they can be contacted by either their child or a member of HB staff.

THANK YOU
We would also like to thank very much Jock, Joan and the HB committee members for all their support with this project. Without which we would not be able to offer this facility in Walkerburn. The Community computers have been used widely by Walkerburn residents from 4 to 80, long may this continue.

Contact 870200

Community Walks

By popular demand Colin Kerr is planning to lead a circular walk from Walkerburn to Preisthope and onto the Reservoir on Sunday 28th September.

The total length of the walk is approximately 4-5 miles and although the first section of the walk is easy (Colin's words), the second part is much steeper and therefore harder.
Please wear appropriate walking shoes/ boots.

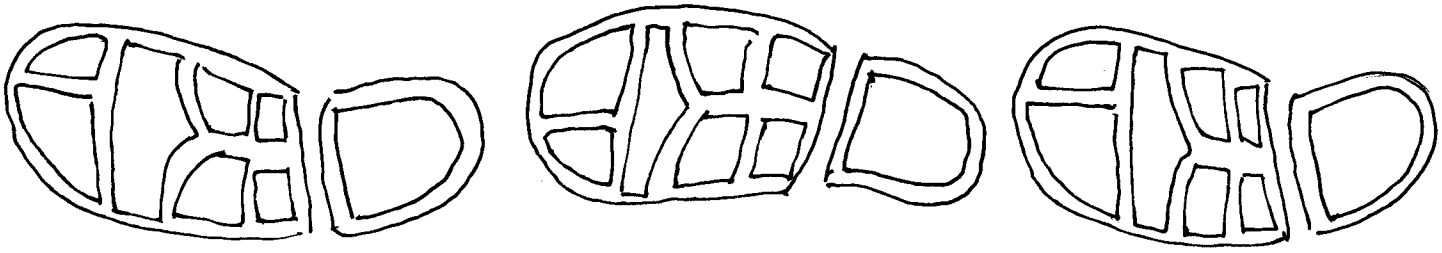
Anyone wishing to go on the walk should meet at the Car park at Caberston Farm on Sunday at 12.30. Bring your own picnic/ refreshments as there will be a 'pit stop' at the reservoir.

Contact Colin Kerr 870670 for more details.

Taking the idea of community walks one step further, Lesley Thornton is interested to hear from anyone who is interested in going for regular walks in the area. These will be both short and/or long depending on the interest.

She already has quite a few of the "Guid Fettle" keep fit class interested but is sure that there are more people in the village who would like to join them.

This is just a fun thing with no obligation on anyone and if you want to joins in give Lesley a ring on 870 251.



RUGBY CLUB NEWS

The rugby season is now under way and despite results that were not in the clubs favour there is still a lot to shout about. In the words of coach Chris Millar "I am delighted with the spirit, endeavour and attitude of the lads. The difference from last year, at this time is night and day."

Training Sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm – 9pm
Just turn up to start training. WE NEED A PROP FORWARD!!

Fixture list for September – kick off usually 2.30pm
13th Melrose 111 (home)
20th Trinity (away) BT Cup round 1
AUTUMN BALL – 7.30pm to 1.30am tickets 01896 870 762
27th Peebles 111 (away)

October
11th ?? BT Cup round 2
11th Moray House (away)
18th Liberton (home) followed by Disco in Clubhouse

Membership renewal is due and payable now Social Membership just £5.00, Pensioner only £1.00
You may ask for a membership form on 01896 757 607

The Club can be hired for other events and occasions contact Secretary on 870 762

THE MINCH MOOR WIND FARM - UPDATE

The walk on 31st August went ahead despite the lack of support of councillors from the development and building control committee. In fact the only councillor to join us was Patricia Purves and MSP Christine Grahame. Jeremy Purvis MSP, Michael Moor MP and local councillor Graham Garvie (whose ward the Minch Moor and Glenbenna falls within), declined our invitation. Christine Grahame fully supports our objection to the application and is lodging a petition with the Scottish Parliament, on our behalf.

Before embarking on the walk, the 40 strong crowd, watched a very powerful video featuring a Lincolnshire village that has already got wind turbines built. The residents biggest complaint was the noise, some likened it to being in a washing machine, others complained that they couldn't sleep. It is worth noting that the video was produced **after** the wind turbines were erected so the residents featured on it had nothing to gain in producing it. We still have the opportunity of influencing the decision and preventing the turbines being built in the first place. It is not to late to put your objections in writing and send them to: Head of Development Control, Scottish Borders Council, Newton St Boswells, Melrose TD6 OSA. Please send a copy to your local councillor, so they can follow it up.
If anyone would like to arrange to see the video, please call Colin Kerr or myself.

We have been so inspired by the power of the video made we are looking into the possibility of producing one to support our presentation to the Scottish Parliament. However this will cost MONEY, so please if you oppose the building of this wind farm on Minch Moor or believe that there should be a proper strategy when planning the site of wind turbines in the Borders before they spoil even more of our beautiful countryside, make a donation. Contact myself for how you can make a donation- 870200.

The next meeting will be in October (date to be confirmed) at the HB club. Sympathisers to the cause of stopping the Minch Moor wind farm application are welcomed to this and all other meetings.

STOP PRESS –MINCH MOOR MAKES THE TV NEWS

As a result of Christine Grahame lodging the petition with the Scottish Parliament, Borders News ran a 4 minute TV slot on Thursday 4th September which was repeated at 8am, 11am, 2.30pm and 6pm the same day. We are making a representation to the Scottish Parliament on the grounds that the proposed site is too close to the Southern Upland Way and in direct sight of Walkerburn. We also hope to raise the 'bigger picture' and request that the Scottish Parliament looks into the issue of planning procedures for proposed wind farm developments and their impact on valued areas of internationally recognised recreational countryside.

Denise Hanks-870200

Walkerburn Community Council Meeting - 18th August

Here follows notes taken at the above meeting.

John Purves was serving as interim secretary until the post was taken up on a permanent basis.

It was agreed that an information folder for the interest of residents be placed in the Post Office. To avoid blocking access to the Post Office counter, this folder could be requested from Pam to be read in a less crowded area. It might be possible to sign out the more lengthy documents. A notice would be put up to this effect. I heard no mention of the proposed "suggestion box".

Due to complexities involved, the draft "handbook" for the council had not yet been finalised but was in progress.

No more information was available regarding the 25th Anniversary celebrations for the Southern Upland Way.

Miss MacIntosh and Cllr Purves had met the new Police Inspector, Inspector McIver. He intended to visit each community council and then nominate an officer as a point of contact. With police numbers falling they were sorely stretched but when an officer could not attend a council meeting, they would be kept informed receiving a copy of the agenda and minutes.

The planning application for 7 houses to be built at the east end of Tweedholm Avenue had been re-submitted and the council's initial concern over parking would be noted when the revised plans were considered.

It was noted that the Scottish Rural Parnership could offer a potential source of funding for village projects in the future. Data on their funding would be passed to WAVE.

Steve Harrison was expecting a report on possible funding from a WAVE representative who was to attend the seminar in Edinburgh on 27th August.

Matched funding could be available to help pay for our 150th Anniversary celebrations. A street party and a village clock were suggested to commemorate the occasion which could be arranged in conjunction with the Festival Committee. Colin Kerr agreed to respond to the organisation seeking information on the walking, cycling and riding in the area.

Colin Kerr was hopeful of being able to attend 2 days of the Scottish Borders Rural Partnership conference 18th - 20th September. Funding for this to be sought. The SBRP was organising trips for foreign visitors who would spend an hour in Walkerburn on 19th Sept. It was suggested that this could take the form of their being given a brief history of the village and its current activities with displays in the hall concerning our local groups e.g. WAVE, Youth Group, Computer amenities, BURNing Issues etc.

Cllr Garvie spoke of efforts being made to retain the Borders as a whole in response to recent suggestions to re-arrange the constituencies as represented at Westminster.

Support was confirmed for Hawick's suggestion of a machine to remove chewing gum from pavements.

Applications for the Calor Gas Community Awards would be sent in by the end of the month. The council would stay aware of the actions of local groups over the next 12 months with a view to their being eligible for these awards next year.

The meeting was joined by Jeremy Thompson who spoke on the Tweed Valley Forest Park and the intended implementation of "Friends of TVFP". To clarify the position, The Forestry Commission was renamed Forest Enterprise and was now known as the Forestry Commission Scotland and was not part of the tourist industry although it provided a destination for visitors. The Forest Park gave a "backdrop" to the area and attracted visitors for various pursuits on the hills which in turn boosted local trade. It was becoming more involved with recreaton and timber was no longer its main objective. Local Terrain greatly affected the type of trees planted and the harvesting methods, plans for which were reviewed every 5 years. It was suggested that the Chief Executive be consulted at a future date to allow some input into future strategic planning for tree planting and harvest.

WIP had had 12 enquiries for funding but only one had met the criteria and had its application approved. This was for the upgrade of the pathway along the river bank between Caberston Rd., Walkerburn and Princes St in Innerleithen.

A sign for the top of Hall St., "Leading to Tweedholm Ave." had been requested but the signmakers were busy and it would be some time before this could be instated.

Leaflets will be distributed to all houses advising of Cllr Purves' surgery in the Hall 10.30 - 11.30 am on Saturday 6th Sept. when the time of the Friday surgery will also be advised. Future surgery times will appear in BURNing Issues.

There will be a Public Meeting in the Hall on Monday 6th October at 7pm to discuss ideas for Walkerburn's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

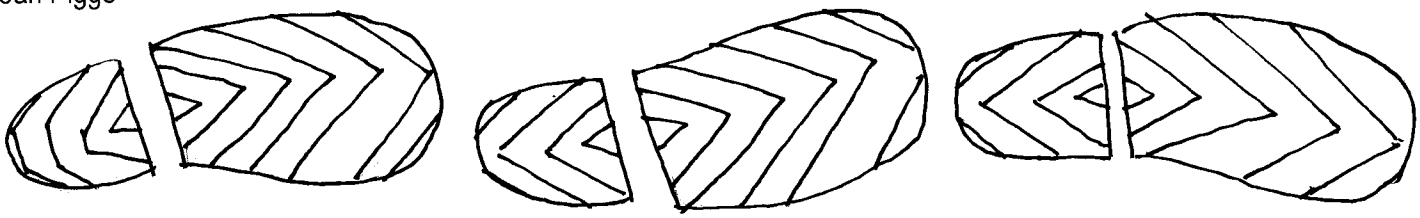
Joan Pigge E&OE

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.

WAG WALK - What a wonderful outing

I was "chauffeur driven" to Traquair where WAG supporters supplied refreshments with press cuttings and leaflets on view before we settled to watch an impressive video showing English misfortunes with wind farms.
With mobiles monitoring our progress from front, rear and base camp we sallied forth up a steep track to the Cheese Well in excellent weather and company. The views of the rolling Border Hills were spectacular and I was delighted to observe I did not find the sight of the turbines at Bow Beat 10 miles away, too intrusive.
Discretion being the better part of valour I did not continue with the others to the top of Minch Moor but continued down alone to where I knew Joyce's 4x4 was waiting to take the aged and infirm back to sea level. It was that path that impressed me most of the whole outing. A grassy path bounded by heather in bloom at the back of which stately pines rose on both sides. I stopped. No people, no chatter, no machines, no mobiles, only a tangible silence broken only by the contented busy hum of the bumble bees collecting their winter supplies as I recommenced my slow descent.
A bird sang, and then another, and then back to silence as the trees gave way to fresh views of the surrounding hills. I felt like and intruder into another world where a welcoming tranquility offered a new perspective on one's existence and a chance to recharge one's batteries before returning to the bustle and noise of so-called civilisation.
Feeling safe and at peace, only my thoughts disturbed me as they turned to a possible year of turmoil ahead tearing apart the homes of flora and fauna alike to conclude in the magical stillness and silence being lost perhaps forever to the sight and sound of turbines.
The drive down the hillside was glorious with fresh views at every turn in the track but I had left part of me up there in that special silent place and could not help wondering if, before long, it would no longer be there for me or anyone else to return to and find solace in a troubled world.
I am indebted to all involved with the organisation of that walk. We can but hope that the fervent plea for help carried on the gentle breeze will be heard and will not go unanswered.
Joan Pigge



Walkerburn Vegetable Association is proud to announce their 121st Vegetable Exhibition

When- Saturday 13th September
Where- Walkerburn Public Hall
Doors Open at 2pm

Silver collection at the Door
Teas and Coffee available.

This was a brilliant show last year, and well worth supporting!

Annual General Meeting for Walkerburn News Group

7th October 2003 at 7.30pm at the HB Club

An open invitation to any one interested in helping to produce Burning Issues or just showing their support for your village newsletter.

We are always interested in getting any help you are willing to give whether this is writing an article or giving us an hour or two of your time once a month. Any help is appreciated.

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Accomodation

"Hillside"
Bed and Breakfast
Tourist Board Four Star
Caberston Avenue
Walkerburn
Tel 01896 870 439

The George Hotel
Lounge Bar and Restaurant
Walkerburn
Tel 01896 870336

Antiques and Books

Last Century
Antiques and Books
Books bought and sold, of particular interest are local books on history, tweed mills, the Tweed also photographs and maps
Tel 01896 831759

Ceramics

Made for Life Ceramics
Hand Made Tiles
Frost Proof Garden Ceramics
Commissions Welcome
Tel 01896 870224

Engineering Services

DCB Welding Design
Engineering Services
Hall Street
Walkerburn
Tel 01896 870596
Mobile 07721 336594

Fencer

Jim Grieve
Fencing Contractor
Tel 01896 870335
Mobile 07790 919264

Household Goods

Home Basics (Tweeddale)
Registered Charity
Collection of furniture and household items to be redistributed in the Borders community
Tel 01896 830464

Laboratory Supplies

Rathburn Chemicals
(Walkerburn) Ltd
Laboratory Supplies
Tel 01896 870329

Marketing and Promotions

Jeremy Ballantyne Marketing
Textiles and Marketing Company
Tel 01896 870392

Brian Lees Promotions
Clothes shopping to your home
Club Embroidery
Tel 01896 870364
Mobile 07801 297806

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Paul Allen
Plumbing and Heating Services
11 Glenbenna
Walkerburn
Tel 01896 870492
Mobile 07971 097146

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Painters and Decorators
All aspects including Ames
Taping and Artexing
Tel 01896 830743

Wm Kenyon
Painter and Decorator
All Interior and Exterior Work
Ceramic Floors and Wall Tiling
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AS Mill
Watch and Clock Repairs
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Innerleithen
EH44 6HD
Tel 01896 833542
Fax 01896 833543

Social Club

Henry Ballantyne Memorial
Institute
Social Club
Tel 01896 870 267

Video & DVD Hire

Film Fun Video
Sale/Hire Video and DVD Films
Chapel Street
Innerleithen
Tel 01896 830465

If you would like to advertise in BURNing Issues please contact D Allen on 01896 870 492