



BURNing Issues



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SCHOOL'S IN!

As the new term begins at Walkerburn school, we welcome two new members of staff: Mrs. Sanchez and Ms. Murray, both nursery nurses. The former to work in the nursery and the latter in the infant classroom, whilst Mrs Bell is on maternity leave.

Mrs. Sanchez has extensive nursery experience both in the Scottish Borders and also in Spain, where she undertook Montessori training. She is enjoying working in a small community based school. Ms. Murray has recently moved from Elgin and has settled in well.

"The work has been very interesting," she says, "the children are all lovely and I am thoroughly enjoying myself"

We have welcomed five new primary 1 pupils, who have quickly adapted to school life.

We are very busy at school as usual, with a variety of additional activities on offer. In September most of the primary 6/7 pupils will be going on a residential to Dalguise in Perthshire, to spend a week participating in outdoor pursuits. This same class (including the primary fives) will also be visiting the St Andrew's Arts Centre to work on art and drama connected to their topic Australia mind travel can be very life enhancing! They always have a very worthwhile experience at the centre.

Jodie Black and Georgia Hill have been chosen to be our new Junior Road Safety Officers and they start with an induction day at the Tait Hall in Kelso shortly. Congratulations to them both.

Other events include a 'Walk to School' week in early October to promote healthy living. We are also joining the 'Eco-School' movement. At our November in-service day we will be considering ways in which the children can become involved in a variety of green projects, both at school and in the community. This is an advanced warning as we are keen to involve as many people in the community as possible, and tap into local expertise as well as volunteer support. On that theme if you have a morning or afternoon spare and would like to work with some of the children we would love to hear from you.

Below is a quote from a letter sent recently to the parents, as there was a rumour going around the village that the school was due to close. This is not true.

“ Dear Parents

It has come to our attention that following a report in a national newspaper recently and due to some children leaving our school, there is considerable concern amongst parents and the community that our school is earmarked for closure. This is not the case.....

Our school has always had a fluctuating roll, which generally reflects the population of the village as a whole. We have just had an exceptionally large Primary 7 class move up to Peebles High School and a small Primary 1 intake, which has led to a considerable drop in pupil numbers and consequently the loss of a teacher. We, like everyone else, hope this will be only temporary. With several empty properties in the village and a proposed housing development, we are looking forward to welcoming more families to the village and more children to our school.....

Our classes may be of composite years but the class sizes are still smaller than many at larger schools and we have wonderful auxiliary support with our additional needs and classroom assistants.....

Walkerburn Primary School has always provided a good all round education and will continue to do so. We are obviously a small rural school and are likely to undergo a 'review' as is Scottish Borders Council policy with all small schools in the area, but our school remains viable and central to village life...'

We are confident that the whole village community will continue to support us. ”

Walkerburn News Group Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 5th at 7.00pm
in Walkerburn Church Vestry
(enter from back of church)

The AGM will feature a treasurer's report and the election of office-bearers and anyone who is interested in the newsgroup is very welcome to attend, plus the production meeting which will follow. Additional assistance is always very much appreciated in the production of **BURNing Issues** which normally involves one short meeting each month and a few hours during the week of production.



Borders Healthy Living Network

Just a note to keep you up to date with what's happening with the Healthy Living Network in Walkerburn at the present time. Following a summer break for many groups, all are re-opened and ready to welcome new members. All activities are provided free of charge so come along and join in.

Fresh fruit refreshments provided at all groups.

Healthy Living Network welcomes Heather Lothian as the local co-ordinator. She replaces Brenda Lambert who left us earlier in the year and also runs local exercise classes.

As you will see, a busy woman!

Here are all the details;

Mondays 9.30 - 10.15am at the Village Hall

Fitness Group with Heather Lothian

Open to all, contact Mary Baillie 870246.

Mondays 1.30 - 3.00pm at the Village Hall

Tai Chi with Ian Naylor

Open to all.

Mondays 6.00 - 7.00pm at the Village Hall

Junior Dance Break/Street Dancing with Amanda Glasgow

Open to Boys & Girls aged 8 - 12 years.

Mondays 7.00 - 8.00pm at the Village Hall

Senior Dance Break/Street Dancing with Amanda Glasgow

Open to Boys & Girls aged 12 - 18 years.

Tuesdays from 6.45pm at the Village Hall

Exercise to Music with Heather Lothian

Open to all aged 16+.

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.00pm at Walkerburn Church Hall

Tai Chi with Pat Weedall

Open to all.

Last Tuesday of each month 10.30am

Village walks with Nan & Bill McClure

Meet at Alexandra Park

Open to all 17+, contact Nan & Bill McClure 870586.

If you need any information about anything on offer or have any queries, or maybe suggestions for Healthy Living activities, give me, Sheila Horsburgh, a call on 01896 870235 during school office hours.



New Opportunities Fund
LOTTERY FUNDED



Minister Visits Walkerburn

MSP Jeremy Purvis and Cllr Purves recently hosted a visit by Scottish Minister Tom McCabe to Walkerburn to discuss the possible transfer of a small government unit to the village. Walkerburn has been on the list of relocation sites for Scottish Office workers for some time and Jeremy Purvis has been constantly badgering Ministers for action. As well as bringing some welcome development to the village, it is always possible that the arrival of a government office would attract more small service industry businesses with good employment opportunities.

It's still early days, and there are no firm plans, but Mr McCabe liked the look of the village and took a keen interest in all our local problems from lack of affordable family housing through parking and speeding traffic to the need for better youth facilities.

HB Club

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS:

Saturday 24th September 9pm - late ACE OF CLUBS

Saturday 8th October 8.30pm - late BIG H DISCO

There is to be a fund raiser for the festival in November. Details are still being finalised but will be announced in next months Burning Issues

The Club will be showing all the Scotland World Cup qualifying games as well as all the Champions League games. Everyone Welcome!

Don't Dump Your Old Car - The Council Will Remove it at No Charge

To apply to have an unwanted car removed, the owner should complete and return a request form available at Council area offices in Hawick, Galashiels, Peebles and Duns and on the SBC website.

For more information, please contact: Ken Jones, Environmental Health Manager. Tel 01451 364 706. If you know of an abandoned car, then please report it to the Council office at Peebles: 01721 720153, to a Community Councillor or to Cllr Purves 01896 870468. Abandoned cars will be removed once the legal process of establishing ownership is complete.

Pensioners

Monthly meetings begin on 11th October at 2.30. Please note the meetings are on 2nd Tuesday of each month. Old and new members welcome.

Anyone wishing to go to the Pantomime on 7th December please give names to Mae Pearce or Mary Baillie.

Home Energy Advice

The Council's Home Energy Advisor will be visiting Walkerburn on Monday 21 November to give a presentation at the start of the Community Council meeting. Why not come along to the Hall at 7pm to get some hints on how to save money and the environment by making your home more energy efficient?



Kerbside Recycling

Coming soon to Walkerburn and Innerleithen

Most people will be aware that the Council is changing its refuse system to improve the amount of rubbish which is recycled. The new system is already in operation in Berwickshire and parts of Selkirkshire and is slowly being rolled out to all areas. You should start seeing more and more information in the Press and you will get an information leaflet from the Council before the new system starts here.

I thought it might be helpful to give people a little advance warning. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

The new system is very simple. Households will be given a year's supply of lilac recycling bags for cardboard and paper. A year's supply of clear bags will be provided for cans and plastics. In addition, everyone will get either a green lidded bin for garden waste or a home composter. Finally everyone will have a grey lidded bin for general waste.

Once the system is in place, extra rubbish left outside bins or bags will not be collected though it will still be possible

to arrange for special collections of bulky items. Don't worry if you already have a wheeled bin you can use a special council sticker on it. And don't worry if you have nowhere to put bins or would find it physically difficult to use them, the recycling team will visit to make an assessment of the best service for you. More information is available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/recycling

Cllr Purves

Telephone: 870468

Email: ppurves@scotborders.gov.uk

Home Basics

Re-Using Furniture etc
to Help Disadvantaged
in the Community

Tel: 01896 870355

Walkerburn Summer Festival Extraordinary General Meeting

14th September 2005
at Walkerburn Village Hall 7.00pm

*Items to be discussed:
To ratify the constitution of
Walkerburn Summer Festival,
to change the financial year end
and bring forward our AGM.*

DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

Walkerburn Community Development Trust Ltd.

Community Development Trust wishes to become properly representative of the whole community - individuals and organisations - in the EH43 postcode area.

Although proposals based upon a costly though flawed feasibility study for a "community mall" development on the currently derelict site of the former woollen mill proved abortive, the Trust is hoping to become involved in projects designed to improve the quality of life in and around the village, with a view to making it a great place to live, work and play. Projects currently under consideration include a reduced-cost group insurance scheme for local organisations and clubs, community pathway developments and a housing needs assessment.

Membership is open to all local residents aged 16 years or over, and costs only one pound. If you would like to support the Trust's ambitions for Walkerburn by joining or have any comments to make, please don't hesitate to contact any of the following :-

CHAIRPERSON

Sara Keepence
Scrogbank, Walkerburn, EH43 6DE
Telephone : 01896 870 560
e-mail : Chair@Walkerburn.com

TREASURER

Denise Hanks
Stoneyhill, Galashiels Road, Walkerburn, EH43 6AA
Telephone : 01896 870 200
e-mail : Treasurer@Walkerburn.com

DIRECTORS

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Telephone : 01896 870 688
e-mail : magsandally@onetel.com

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
Ltd., The Vestry, Galashiels Road, Walkerburn, EH43 6AA
Telephone: 01896 870 522



WALKERBURN RUGBY CLUB

www.rugby.walkerburn.org.uk
secretary@rugby.walkerburn.org.uk
www.sru.org/sites/walkerburn-rfc



Wildcats Fixtures
September
17th v Berwick A
18th v Duns A
October
2nd v Biggar/Broughton A
16th v Duns H
30th v Haddington A

Walkerburn Wildcats

Every Saturday 09.30 - 10.30am P3 - P7 Boys & Girls welcome, Joining Free, just show up at WRFC
We are into our second year now and have successfully built up the numbers. The Wildcats strip is cool! Our great success comes from The dedicated commitment of senior players i.e. coaches who volunteer to help out these young future players for Walkerburn.
Gail Thoms, head coach, believes we have a great success and excellent backing from Walkerburn Club members. Matches are played throughout the season against other Border teams and in April there is a grand Tournament held at WRFC



The Wildcats coaches with some of the young players.

**** IT'S GETTING NEARER! ****

Last post for surface mail to the Southern Hemisphere for Christmas is early October.

DON'T PANIC!

Walkerburn Greeting Cards

A selection of Walkerburn greeting cards is still available.

These are suitable for any occasion, with all proceeds going towards the funding of **BURNing Issues**.

To purchase any of the cards, please contact Cathie Sutherland, or any of the BURNing Issues team.

Walkerburn Midis

Starts 1st September, then every Tuesday 7 - 8pm
S1 upwards Boys & Girls welcome, Joining Free, just show up at WRFC
We are now setting up a Midi Section which will be run by David Howitt and David Johnstone. With help from everybody we wish them every success.
Rugby is a wonderful game where friendships are made for life. You may train hard to reach personal fitness, and compete fiercely on the pitch against your opponents, but after the game the camaraderie and respect for other players is unique. Come along to Caberston Haugh and give rugby a try!

Senior Team

Training Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 - 9pm.
Just turn up. A great way to keep fit and to join a friendly club.

Questions? Phone Ian Millar on 01896-757042

Senior Fixtures

September
17th v Jed Juniors at 3pm BDS H
24th v GalaYM at 3pm BDS A
October
1st v Dick Vet at 3pm EDL H
8th v Lasswade at 3pm BT Cup H
15th v Heriot Watt EDL at 3pm A

Walkerburn RFC 200 Club August Winners

£50	63: Iain Robertson
£10	115: R. Kurowski
£5	112: I. McLennan
£5	66: S. McCormick

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September Wild Side

Autumn is definitely with us now, with that tell tale 'nip in the air' in the mornings and some of the trees showing at least a hint of autumn colour.

So comes my favourite time of the year and a great time for spotting all kinds of plants and animals. There is an abundance of fungi this year both on the ground and on dead wood, as a wander through Flora Wood will reveal, and with the heavier dew, it's easy to spot spiders webs thankfully still catching plenty of the midges that the bats and my hand miss!

Talking beasties, I haven't noticed as many common wasps as usual. They live in nests of up to 2000 individuals with a queen, workers (females) and drones (males) just like bees and this is usually the time of year when they become a nuisance and we really notice them. Up until now the workers have fed the grubs in the nest on other insects and have been to our benefit keeping garden pest numbers down. In return they receive a sweet, sticky saliva reward. Now is the time that larger cells are made for drones and

the queens which will leave the nest, mate and the queens will hibernate over the winter. With no grubs left, the workers have to go looking elsewhere for their 'sweets' and bother us. If you grow apples, you're bound to have a few, but for some reason, their numbers seem to be down this year.

There are still plenty butterflies around and bumble bees and I'm preparing for the cooler seasons by trying my 'bug house' again for overwintering ladybirds and lacewings. Last year we made it from hollow stems with a wooden frame and the sparrows took it to bits. This year it's a bundle of hollow stems, suspended from a tree, and held together with string and rubber bands. Hopefully the rubber bands will keep it tighter and harder to dismantle. But, if you see any sparrows bungee jumping, you'll know where they got their equipment!

Walkerburn Community Council Meeting

Report provided by Denise Hanks

Open Questions from the Public

Someone raised that the planter by Caberston Road had stones missing from it, Cllr Purves hoped to get this fixed.

Police Business - The police were not present, however Mr Kerr reported that the police had not contacted him re the Festival Hut fire despite assurances they would within 7 days from the last WCC meeting. Cllr Purves has asked for reports from the police and Fire brigade but had not received them by the time of the WCC meeting, but would be following it up.

Matters arising

Seminar on SB transport on 3/9 there was nobody available from the members present that could attend. Cllr Purves stressed that it would be an important seminar as the whole transport strategy within the Borders would be discussed i.e. trains, buses and roads.

Home Energy Advisor has been invited to the November WCC meeting.

Planning Applications - The WCC's response to the planning dept. of SBC re the proposed application in Thornylee was circulated. Cllr Purves advised the WCC that there had been objections received from residents.

Correspondence

Children's Advisor Committee has a vacancy for an administrator. The position is a voluntary position and would be approximately a day's work a month. The vacancy would suit someone with a social work/education background or someone from a family background with life experience of a tough upbringing.

Invitation to the WIP AGM and funding evening on 24th August at the Memorial Hall, Innerleithen.

Training programme for Community Councillors is being arranged by SBC and the secretary would be taking bookings from the members at the October meeting.

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(continued from page 5)

from the members at the October meeting.

Invitation for the WCC to attend the Royal Navy Recruitment team at Mansfield House on 21st September.

SBC Community Councils Network Annual Seminar in October, this would be discussed at the September WCC meeting.

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 13th November The chairman reported that arrangements with the church, police and piper/bugler were well underway. The members then discussed whether there should be an after service hospitality at the Village Hall similar to last year. Everyone agreed that there should be and that the WCC should cover the cost of it. It was agreed to ask for volunteers to help with the catering arrangements. The secretary proposed that to mark the event a second wreath should be purchased by the WCC to be laid by a Walkerburn ex service person. This was agreed.

Reports from SBC Councillors

Safer Routes to School Project - Cllr Purves informed the WCC that the '20's Plenty' signs were up around the school and had been well received, and there are still more to go up. Also there was progress with the raised pavement as the residents who would be affected by its construction had been contacted and their support given. However there would not be a crossing from High Cottages across the A72, as it was not deemed as a busy road by SBC.

Cllr Purves also informed WCC that the raised walkway from Alexandra Park to Tweedholm Avenue should be started in September. However the pathway from Alexandra Park to the garages was being delayed due to objections from SEPIA and SNH due to the closeness of the path to the Tweed, which has been awarded special status.

Cllr Purves reported that SBC had received requests for more 30 mph signs to be located around The George in attempt to slow the traffic through the village, she said she would follow up the request.

Cllr Purves went onto to say that the whole Tweeddale area was under increasing pressure from developers, but as of yet there were no changes to the Local Plan. However there were plans for Walkerburn for up to 100 houses and for plans to develop the opposite side of the river. She advised the WCC that they would need to think hard about what vision they had for Walkerburn in the future and what additional amenities there should be.

Cllr Purves also reported that a Development Plan between the owner of the Mill site and SBC was happening and that they were working together to a solution.

AOB

Tweedholm Avenue Site was raised again and Cllr Purves committed to writing yet again to the Directors of Roads and Planning asking for their plan of action for the September meeting.

Date of next meeting - Monday 19th September 7pm at Public Hall

Letters to the Editor

Mighty Midge Comes to Town

Walkerburn has this year been invaded not by wasps, clegs, ladybirds or various creepy crawlies- but by the dreaded midge.

The little blood sucking beast of insect family Ceratopognidae, usually associated with bracken infested camping grounds and hill walkways to our north, came to town with a vengeance; on occasions driving indoors evening- time picnickers, barbeque enthusiasts, fishermen and hardy gardeners alike.

Perhaps the bank-to-bank floods of last winter swept in larvae from further afield and coupled with windless balmy evenings created large hatches to descend on the unwary.

On more than one occasion out came the midge net usually reserved for holidays in the Trossachs or summertime trips to Sutherland.

Up to this season we considered Peeblesshire an almost midge-free zone. Normally prevailing westerly winds funnelling along the Tweed Valley possibly kept the pests at bay.

Perhaps Bin Laden and his cohorts thought that midges would make a great secret weapon and has done the dirty on us to drive away the hundreds of tourists who used to visit or pass through the region and keep a smile on the faces of our Band B ladies.

Maybe there is strength in the rumour that chemists have recently made a small fortune in selling midge repellent and fly spray, and to further boost sales established midge farms in their back gardens.

Was the local white van man seen running a northsouth shuttle service transporting midges on a catch and release scheme, and then been handsomely paid by said midge repellent manufactures.

In truth, little is known about the goings-on in Walkerburn, unless we might ask Jock. Does he know anything about this midge business?

Once bitten.

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.
walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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