



BURNing Issues



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ISSUE FIFTY - JUNE 2006

WALKERBURN SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Festival week will begin on Sunday 25th June and programmes will be coming through your doors this week.

The poster advertising the Festival Ceilidh, with the Andrew Stoddart Band, on Saturday 1st July is in the post office and tickets are available from Robin Cowan.

If you want to know more, come along to our last meeting to prepare for the big week, to be held at the HB Club on Sunday 18th June at 7.00pm. Alternatively ask any member of the committee who are: Harvey, Jill, Donna, Sheila, Robin, Joan, Trish or Colin.



GALASHIELS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Anyone who's been in Galashiels lately will know that work on the new road system and the two new supermarkets (Tesco and Asda) is moving ahead quickly but there have been disruptions and there will be lots more before everything is finished.

Eventually, it will be possible for through traffic to use the Inner Relief Road across a new bridge and there will be more car parking and pedestrian access linked to the new stores.

The new bridge over Gala Water is expected to be finished later this month. At about the same time, the Currie Road car park, the new roundabout and the link to the Health Centre should be complete. The next stage will see the demolition of the Station Brae Bridge, construction of a pedestrian crossing and a new bridge over the line of the proposed railway link, installation of traffic lights at the Ladhope Vale-

Currie Road-Stirling Street junction. Part of Currie Road between the entrance to the Abbotsford Arms Hotel and 90 metres west of the access to Langhaugh Industrial Estate will be closed from 19 June with an alternative access to this area over the new Gala Water bridge.

An exhibition showing all aspects of the development is on display at 11 Market Street, Galashiels, during normal office hours and you can get more information on the web site at www.scotborders.gov.uk/council/specialinterest/GalashielsInnerReliefRoad/index.html

Youth Project Copper Collection

Congratulations to all the members of the youth project wh have been busy saving their coppers. The grand total of £164.04 was collected and has been donated to the Borders Cancer Centre.

HB Club Annual Boat Race

This is to be held on Sunday 2nd July with prizes for the Best Looking Boat and the Fastest Boat.

Judging will start at 1.30pm and it will cost £1.00 per boat. The Race will be followed by a BBQ at the HB.

We Are 50!

The next **BURNing Issues** production meeting is on Tuesday July 4th, in the Vestry at 7pm. As ever, anyone interested in the work of the newsgroup is very welcome to attend.

If you have any news, events, letters, articles, etc you would like included in July's edition please submit these by the production meeting date.

As you may have noticed we have reached our half century. Thanks to all those who have helped **BURNing Issues** reach this landmark - and here's to the next 50!

WALKERBURN RUGBY CLUB

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



Walkerburn RFC 200 Club May 2006 Winners

£50	196:	C. McCudden
£10	22:	J. Fraser
£5	150:	K. Henderson
£5	73:	T. Anderson

RUGBY CLUB NEWS

The WRFC Annual dinner was an event enjoyed by some 80 guests in the fine rugby Clubhouse. A big thank you to all who made the evening such a success especially to the Speakers who were all very humorous, Ronnie Tolmie, Nigel Brown, Chris Bell and Drew Moore. To Andy Thoms, President and Scott McIntosh, Captain, thanks for splendid speeches and also to the Ladies committee and Players and Committee for arranging what has been one of the best nights at the Burn.

The Annual awards were presented in the course of the evening;

Players Player: Chris Bisland

Most Improved Player: Cammy Young

Steve Maul medal Young Players Player of the Year: Scott Linton and Mark Linton

Captain's Cup: Scott McIntosh

The Brunton Cup: Paul Lindsay

Runners Up: The T-Birds and Peter J. Hope.

Chris Bell presented Scott McIntosh with the Borders District shield which the Club won this season

Everyone loves a bargain! A Car Boot Sale will be held on WRFC pitch on Sunday 11th June 11am - 3pm. There will be a Barbecue and other refreshments available in the Club house and Car Booters are able to pre book on 01896-870762. Cars only will be welcomed, no heavy lorries in order to protect the playing surface. The charge will be £6 per car, payable at the gate 3.00pm Team Photo shoot booked for all players.

AGM for WRFC Sunday 18th June 7pm All Welcome.

Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers.

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions for next season - for further information contact Ian Millar on 01896 757042;

Rugby Co-ordinator, Fixture Secretary, Vice-President, Membership Secretary. The club would like to thank the individuals who have carried out these duties during the past season.

Family Touch Rugby has started again 7.00pm Fridays. Open to all ages, male & female. All

welcome. Contact Scott McIntosh Stuart Ramsay or Grant Fraser for further details.

Wednesday 28th June 7pm WRFC v Walkerburn Bowling Club in a Friendly match. Teams of three.

Saturday 1st July

2.30pm. Festival Touch Rugby Family Tournament, hosted by WRFC. Enter your team of 5 players including Male, Female, over 35, child indeed any combination of these in your team. Join in the Fun! Join in Rounders for those who play a round ball! Entries to Scott McIntosh on 07779-772105.

Refreshments and Barbecue.

7pm Festival Ceilidh and Supper in Village Hall. Delicious menu by WRFC and great Band!

Training restarts on Tuesday 25th July 7pm. Join a great club, learn new skills, keep fit, make friends!

Jersey Sponsors! For only £30 next season you can sponsor a team jersey - yours to keep at end of 2006-7 season (the jersey ,not the player!) Contact Ian Millar on 01896-757042

Club Memberships are soon due. Forms in Club House and from Secretary. 01896-870762 200 Club monies for the chance of a great return on only £12 a year. Pay to JockAnderson.

Painting Help required! We need to paint our new storage container and the club changing rooms during the close season. Contact Ian Millar when you can help! Every little helps! 01896-757042

26th August Sat 1pm Sports Pentathlon Taster Event.

Advance Notice for youngsters to learn about which clubs and organisations offer what in this area.

For P3 and upwards at Innerleithen Victoria Park - Sports include Introductions to Rugby, Soccer, Cricket, Tennis, Bowling, Fly Casting, and more. Contact Gail Thoms on 01896-754342.



Members of the local Healthy Living Network Steering Group and staff from Borders Healthy Living Network, recently met with Mr Tony Taylor, Chairman of NHS Borders, at the village hall, to discuss the benefits of Walkerburn's Healthy living activities.

Everyone agreed that it had been a great benefit to the village over the past three years, in helping all ages access healthy activities without having to travel further afield, as is usually the case. As the original funding comes to a close next March, we are all keeping our fingers crossed that more funding will become available to continue the work in Walkerburn. Mr Taylor at least went away with a good impression of people's commitment and enthusiasm for the project, and we hope he will convey that to the powers that be when funding allocations arise.

The Smoking Cessation group is up and running but it's not too late. If you'd like to join the group you would be very welcome – give Nichola a call on 07748 320108 to leave your name or ask for more information. We have also had a food hygiene course running over two evenings so that more local organisations have trained volunteers and are able to

incorporate healthy living in their activities.

All the regular groups are on, at least up until the summer holidays, for some. Individual groups can give you timings or call Heather or Nichola. Don't be shy about signing up for any of the activities on offer. It's never too late to change those bad habits into good ones! Remember Nichola Sewell, the local Healthy Living project worker, is available most Wednesdays at the Healthy Living office in the Village Hall. Just drop in and see her for a chat, a coffee and for any health advice or information. Information posters are also displayed regularly at the Post Office, Village Hall, School and other local places so remember to look out for them. If you need any other information about any Healthy Living activities on offer or have any queries, give me, Sheila Horsburgh, a call on 01896 870235 during school office hours or Heather Lothian 07747 757434.



June Wild Side



What a brilliant month May was for spotting wild life! All weathers brought out all kinds of plants, flowers and creatures as spring finally arrived.

The cherries both cultivated forms, bird and gean, (wild cherries), have been a picture in blossom. The chestnuts are covered in their familiar candlestick flowers and the sycamores are a permanent buzz with bees collecting nectar and consequently spreading pollen.

All sorts of insects have been on the wing including the mayflies with their three- day blitz, and lots of different butterflies. Some of the 'baddies' are also out slugs and snails, greenfly and the weeds; they are a-growing!

A plant supposedly becoming rarer in Britain is the bluebell but a trip along the back road to Caddonfoot and beyond would question this judgement. In the shady glades near Elibank, the forest floor is awash with blue and the views, particularly down towards the Tweed, are a true spectacle. It has been discovered that it is trampling rather than digging up (highly illegal anyway) that kills the bluebell off, through them being then unable to produce food to swell the

bulb. So, it is better to stay on the roadside and admire.

As for bird activity, all are busy. I heard the cuckoo on the tenth but only once since and have heard and seen far more swifts this year than usual. Swallows, martens and swifts are often in a feeding frenzy, swooping low over fields and the river. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone occupies our nest box this season so I will just have to wait for families to visit the garden. Both woodpecker parents have been frequent visitors so I am hoping I will be able to watch their wee ones antics too, in the not too distant future.

We've also a large hedgehog visiting occasionally so hopefully the slug population will be kept in check. You could help by setting 'beer traps' with all that beer you *won't* be drinking at Festival. Wonder if hedgehogs like beer flavoured slugs?!

Cheers to a sunny, fun filled June!



Walkerburn SCHOOL REPORT



Time flies when you are busy! At the beginning of the month primaries 5-7 visited the computer suite at Melrose to find information about the river Tweed and to present it in a poster form, importing pictures to enhance their text.

Primaries 3 and 4 have been swimming every Friday, thoroughly enjoying it but also making good progress with their lessons. The class is divided into swimmers and non-swimmers so that everyone gets suitable teaching to help them to develop.

At the Festival coffee morning on Saturday 6th May, Jade and Shiree Robertson were introduced to the village as Festival Lasses for 2006. No doubt you will have read about them in the Peeblesshire News and Southern Reporter. It was also announced that Sarah Laing was the essay prize winner. Once again our grateful thanks to Mr Waller, from the High School, for marking the essays.

On 15th May a musical duo from Newfoundland came and gave a workshop to the children, demonstrating a range of instruments and encouraging them to join in with rhythms and choruses. This was a very worthwhile event that the region paid for.

This term we have had a lunch club for the primary 7 pupils. Each week two children help to prepare lunch for the rest of the class. The children were involved in planning the menus, which are all based on healthy choices. We are very grateful to Mrs Brown, Mrs Sewell, Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Lothian, for teaching the children how to prepare food hygienically and present it in an appetising manner.

There are a number of sporting events this

term; a team of footballers from primaries 5-7 represented the school at a 5-a-side tournament at St Ronan's (no medals but good sportsmanship), a number of children flew the Walkerburn flag at the county sports in Peebles. The girl's relay team brought home a silver medal.

As part of their project on the river Tweed Primaries 5-7 went burn dipping with Susan Kevan, from the ranger service and discovered that the burn is full of invertebrate life. Also, members of the Tweed Commission came and demonstrated 'electric' fishing! The fish are attracted to an electric beam which stuns them and makes them easy to catch and examine. So we learned that there are trout, salmon, sticklebacks and lampreys in the burn. Primaries 1-4 visited Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, in connection with their project on early man and had a very enjoyable day. Mrs Montgomery has returned from her maternity leave and is very happy to be working with the children again.

Forthcoming events include:

- A 'Green' day on Monday 19th June when the children will select from a variety of workshops before embarking on a village tidy-up, for festival week. If you would like to be involved please contact the school.
- Sports day is planned for Tuesday 20th June and will involve all the children from nursery to primary 7.
- A barbeque on the Rugby field, on the evening of Thursday 22nd June at 5:30. If you would like to join us please let the school know for catering arrangements.

We are looking forward to Festival Week, and hope the sun shines for us all.

Stroll Back in Time

Join Laura, Project Co-ordinator of Walk-iT and SBC Archaeology Officer Rory McDonald on an Archaeology Walk Wednesday 21st June 2006 and take a trip back in time. Explore the industrial past and then cross over the River Tweed to discover a Medieval Tower House and the Iron Age Settlement of Plora Craig. Meet at Walkerburn car park at 7.00pm for an

easy to moderate walk of 1.5 mile lasting until approx 9pm.

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes and children and young people under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

For further information contact Nan or Bill on 870 586

Walkerburn Community Council

Report provided by Denise Hanks

Christine Tucker has resigned from the WCC and the chairman thanked her for her contribution over the past years.

Open questions - Q: Was there any progress on Tweedholm Avenue road by the new development?

A: Cllr Purves had spoken to SBC enforcement officer and asked why the road and pavement hadn't been repaired if SBC have taken the bond off the developer. The long running saga is holding up repairs to the pavement in Tweedholm Avenue.

Q: The wall by the old mill is breaking up is there anything that can be done? A: Cllr Purves will ask whether SB Local can patch the wall to make it safe.

Q: Can Walkerburn expect hanging baskets this year and if so when? A: Cllr Purves thought that they would be arriving soon, but added that there had been budget cuts.

Police Business - The new Inspector had been in position for a week, but there was no police presence. The secretary agreed to write a letter welcoming the new Inspector and noting that there had been no police representative at the CC meetings for several months.

Planning Applications - West Bold Farm - building application had been rejected by SBC.

Application for two dwelling houses on Thornilee Farm had been received. After discussing the application, WCC decided to reject the application on the same grounds that they had rejected a previous application, ie. it was ribbon development.

Caberston Farm proposal - SBC had thanked WCC for their comments on the Caberston Farm development, which would be passed onto the Reporter. The whole process to objections to the Local Plan would start at the end of August and due to the number of objections would not be finished until sometime in the New Year.

Correspondence - Nominations for the Antisocial Awards Scheme to be received by 30th June.

Scottish Borders Community Councils network have sent notification of the AGM and asked if anyone wanted to join the committee. After a discussion it was agreed that unfortunately no one could attend the AGM.

Elder Voice has offered to talk at a Community Council meeting with a Q and A session afterwards. It was agreed that the WCC would liaise with the OAP and Evergreen groups for a date.

Jeremy Purvis had written asking that the WCC support a petition to increase the funding for Citizens Advice Bureau. All members agreed to circulate petitions to obtain signatories.

An invitation to a conference by Digital UK on 25th May was received where the implication of transferring from analogue to digital TV system would be explained. No one was available to attend.

Draft responses to the Aging Population Survey and the Community Engagement strategy were

circulated amongst the members.

The report on Plora Wood submitted by Mr Kerr had been well received and a reply sent which said that the views expressed in the report would be taken into the Plan. There would be no bike or horse trails allowed only walkways, as Plora is a SSSI site.

Members Report - Environmental Challenge Project Mr Kerr reported on the meeting held at Darnick Village Hall where the four communities (Bowden, Gorden, Darnick and Walkerburn) that entered the challenge gave presentations on what had been achieved. All communities came to the same conclusion that the 'Challenge' was not just for a year but should be continued indefinitely to preserve the environment and history of the communities. Mr Kerr was willing to act as the environmental liaison point for all groups within Walkerburn to collate their ideas for the future and develop an action plan for Walkerburn. If this was achieved then Walkerburn may be eligible for further funding by SNH etc.

Election results - Cllr Purves reported that eight nomination forms had been received, but by the closing deadline only four nominations had remained. The four people duly elected were: Mr Kerr, Mr Purves, Dr. Henderson, and Ms Meikle.

AGM and nominations for Office Bearers - The AGM date was set for 19th June and the draft agenda was circulated with the intention of being published one week in advance of the AGM. All members were reminded that nominations for office bearers were to be considered.

A motion was proposed and carried that the WCC should be allowed to co-opt extra members who had experience to offer, whenever needed.

Councillors Report - None

A.O.B - A letter from Dr Cumming had been received, which thanked everyone involved in the retrieval of the seat outside the surgery and a new greenhouse for his garden in Arran. He also expressed his enjoyment working with the communities for the past 32 years.

TAVO AGM is on 7th June and anyone can attend, and they are looking for nominations for the Executive committee.

It had been brought up by a local resident that the carpark at High Cottages was looking a mess and the bushes were overgrown. It was agreed that SB Local would be asked if they could trim the banking.

Cllr Purves volunteered to replant the planter at the entrance of Walkerburn and it was agreed that WCC would provide the money for the plants.

A letter had been received from the Festival Committee asking if the WCC would agree to fund two sashes for the twin Festival Lassies, Mr Kerr agreed to determine the cost and liaise with the Festival Committee.

Date of next meeting and AGM - 19th June 2006, 7pm at the Public Hall.



Jasmine Come Home!

Some readers may have seen my request for information about a Tabby Cat who had been lodging since Christmas in the old coal cellars behind where I live. After a month of no news, and learning from Mary, our local cat enthusiast, that Cats Protection would collect a stray cat, I got in touch with that organisation. I was delighted with the service which that charity offers.

To cut a long story short, a trap was lent to me and when I had enticed puss into the cage, Cats Protection came to collect the cat. Seeing Puss had a collar and that she liked her head scratched, the collar with her details swiftly moved from neck to hand. Her name was Jasmine. The telephone number from Galashiels was phoned but the owners had moved away. Never mind, a London address

was forthcoming and a letter sent. Highly delighted owners responded at once with the news that Jasmine had strayed while on holiday in this area two years ago. They had moved to London a year or more after that. Then as we know Jasmine settled in Walkerburn last Christmas. As she had not gone wild and was not thin, I suspect someone had been helping her with food on her travels.

The last I heard was that her owners were coming up to collect her. Quite a story, which to me points out the value of having a collar with contact details on you cat or an identichip which is checked for on stray cats. Before this I had been unaware of just what a great job is done by Cats Protection.

And how did I find her in someone else's coal house? I followed the direction of the nose of my cat chasing dog Pooky.

Success was all down to team-work!

Joan Pigge

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.

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LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Accommodation

● The George Hotel
Lounge Bar and Restaurant
Walkerburn
Tel 01896 870336
georgehotelscotb@aol.com

Antiques and Books

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Doctors Surgery

● St Ronans Health Centre
Buchan Place
Innerleithen
01896-830203

Engineering Services

● DCB Welding Design
Engineering Services
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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 for distribution in the Borders community
Tel 01896 830464

Laboratory Supplies

● Rathburn Chemicals Ltd
Laboratory Supplies
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Tel 01896 870 267
● Walkerburn Rugby Club
01896-870762
secretary@rugby.walkerburn.org.uk

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Sale/Hire Video and DVD Films
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