



# BURNing Issues



[www.walkerburn.com](http://www.walkerburn.com)

[walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)

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## VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES WINTER MEETING

The Hall is owned by all the residents of Walkerburn and District and is run on their behalf by a Board of Trustees who delegate the day-to-day management of the Hall to a Management Committee.

The Trustees are: Colin Grahame (Chairman), Mags Henderson, Sheila Horsburgh, Mollie McIntosh, Willie Sommerville and Peter Waller.

The Hall Trustees held their winter meeting recently and amongst other matters discussed the possibility of raising Hall rents to cover the huge increases in utility bills which mean that the Hall is currently being run at a loss. Rents have not been increased since 2007, however, the Trustees felt that it would be better to try to be more efficient at fund raising rather than to raise rents at a time when many families are struggling to make ends meet.

The Hall Management Committee are running a

coffee morning on 25th February but the Trustees agreed that all residents should be reminded that the Hall is a registered charity and all donations, however small, are always welcome. Donations should be made to Walkerburn Public Hall Trust and can be given to any member of the Trustees or Management Committee – details are on the Hall notice board.

Could you help in running the Hall? Could you raise funds? Please speak to any Trustee if you are willing to get involved in keeping the Hall as a village asset.

**Come along and support the Coffee Morning on 25th February from 10am to 11.30am.**

### Walkerburn Village Hall Coffee Morning Saturday 25th February

With rising costs and improvements planned for the Village Hall, we are actively trying to fundraise this year and hope to have a series of events that will be supported by local people. We appreciate that the Village Hall is used by many groups and individuals but even with this income we struggle to break even.

Our first fundraising event is a Coffee Morning planned for Saturday 25th February 10.00-11.30am.

There will be the usual collection of stalls including Cake and Candy, Roll the Ball, Bottle stall and Raffle.

Tickets cost £1 or of course, you can pay on the day.

Any donations for the raffle, cake and candy, and bottle stall can be given to any of the committee members or handed in on the day.

We hope that many of you will come along and support us in raising money for your Village Hall.

***Many thanks from the Village Hall Management Committee***

## AIMup COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Planning Application notification relating to the community proposal for a mechanical uplift/tourist attraction on Plora Rig has been submitted. The AIMup group need your input and support. Come and tell us what you think.

Drop in Public Consultation sessions are being held in Innerleithen Memorial Hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb between 10am and 3pm and on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb between 5pm and 8pm.

For more information visit [www.aimup.org.uk](http://www.aimup.org.uk) or email [innerleithenaimup@gmail.com](mailto:innerleithenaimup@gmail.com)

### Logs for Sale

Walkerburn Community Development Trust has logs for sale for £5/barrow. If you are interested please contact Ian Ireland on 870287 to make arrangements.

### Walkerburn Pensioners' Coffee Morning

3rd March in Public Hall

10.00 - 11:30am

Tickets £1

*Home Made Biscuits*

*Delicious Coffee*

*Lovely Cakes for sale*

**Please come and support us.**

### PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE

Photocopy Service is available from Newsgroup Office.

**A4 cost 5p per side**

Contact Lesley on 01896 870251

Or e-mail us at [walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)



## Walkerburn RFC Season 2011-12

The 'Burn were disappointed recently to lose their unbeaten home record. At the time of going to print the club is about to enter the league's playoffs – watch out for the timetable of games at the Post office or Clubhouse.

The planning for the club's annual Sevens competition is well under way for 5 May with 20 team's invited to make a full afternoon's entertainment.

Club Annual Dinner Friday 27th April 2012 6:30 for 7pm for tickets contact the Club Secretary. Training

on Tues and Thurs nights is at 7pm. Led by Director of Rugby Iain Watson and forwards coach Colin Kerr. Any prospective player wishing to join training will be made welcome at the clubhouse, or you can phone Iain Watson on 07766-910060.

The Club is always ready to give a warm welcome to volunteers to help prepare the club for match days. Please contact Club Secretary on 01896 870 431.

For club bookings please contact the Secretary on 01896 870431 secretary@rugby.walkerburn.org.uk

To catch the latest news

www.walkerburnrugby.org.uk

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## February Wild Side

**Much to my delight, I have had stoats in the garden before, but recently, we were visited by a smaller relative, the weasel.**

Although they look similar to stoats, one way to tell the difference is that weasels don't have a black tip to the tail.

Weasels are adaptable little mammals living almost anywhere they can find cover and prey. They must eat every 24 hours to avoid starvation, so are active both day and night, alternating periods of activity with a few hours of rest. Weasels eat rodents, such as voles and mice for the most part, supplemented by birds or eggs when available. This weasel busily ran up and down the stone dike then into the hedge, rapidly followed by a flurry of birds emerging that must have had quite a fright. Weasels and stoats are members of the same family as otters, polecats and ferrets and are prone to the same diseases. Across the UK at present, canine distemper is rife in ferrets and is virtually 100% fatal in those unvaccinated so if you've got dogs or ferrets make sure you keep up with their jabs. Hopefully it will not decimate the population of its wild relatives.

We've seen more evidence of foxes round about recently, with the remains of 2 kills in nearby fields and the body of a dead youngster on a roadside, presumably hit by a car. It looked in perfect condition, actually a very handsome animal, but their presence is what puts me off most of keeping hens. I just couldn't bear the wanton destruction.

Spring must be somewhere on the horizon because the geese are on the move again and snowdrops are in bloom. We've seen and heard a couple of skeins passing over. By the river, the dippers are in good voice, their chattering echoing under the bridge. They're pairing up ready for the breeding season. The heron will also display courtship activity this month. In the male's courtship dance he stretches his neck up and then lowers it over his back, with his prominent bill signally pointing upwards. Back in the garden, it's nice to see siskins back occasionally and lots of tits and finches feeding. Plenty of blackbirds about this year too. We've two nuthatches coming and quite a few sparrowhawk visits, but only once have I seen him successful. All the songsters will become more vocal later this month as they announce their presence to potential mates and establish breeding territories. If the weather allows, frogs and toads will start to stir towards the end of the month too. Another big freeze is supposedly on the way, so they'll maybe have to let their thoughts turn elsewhere.

*If you see anything out of the ordinary or just have a wildlife question, I'll try to help.*

*Just e-mail [wildsider@sky.com](mailto:wildsider@sky.com)*

### SELF CATERING

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07801 297 806**

1 Caberston Road EH43 6AU

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07801 297 806 Or see Eric at the Post Office

**ALL PROCEEDS TOWARDS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
AND TO GIVE YOU A BETTER FESTIVAL**

## School Report

**January 13th was our 150th birthday! We marked the occasion with each staff member and pupil receiving a commemorative badge and a special treat of a Caldwell's ice cream!**

Celebrations continue over the next 18 months. Our first reunion at school is for our 60s and 70s pupils on Sunday 22nd April from 2-4pm. If you were here during those decades please come along! Badges are available for sale to the public through the school for £3 each.

Our Burns competition for reciting Scots verse was very successful and the children did very well remembering their lines. The winners were

- P1 Tiegan Hunter
- P2 Carys Hardie
- P3 Reece Hunter
- P4 Poppy Moffat
- P5 Rachel Anderson
- P6 Logan Ashworth
- P7 Daniel Murtagh

We then enjoyed our Burns lunch before burning off the calories with our final gymnastics session at St Ronans. Soon, we'll be practising for the Dance Festival.

We have lots to look forward to this month, besides the February break, starting on the 2nd with a Generation Science workshop constructing machines.

The P4/7 class are having a visit from the SSPCA and some of the pupils will be taking part in the Annual Schools Quiz night on 21st, run by the local Rotary Club.

We also have 4 weeks of Breakfast Club, running into March, in conjunction with Borders Healthy Living Network. This proved very popular last year and shows the children how to make healthy food choices and the importance of a good start to the day.



*Burns Winners 2012*

## Rural Round-Up

**At January's meeting we welcomed Julia Clarke to speak about her passion for all things 'antique' for an Antiques Roadshow inspired evening!**

Members were asked to bring in interesting items for her to talk about and she wasn't disappointed with all the trinkets that arrived for her perusal. Julia stopped short of actual valuations but she offered lots of background information on each item which members found very helpful.

Competitions on that evening were:

Cocktail: 1<sup>st</sup> H Shepherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Kubie

Prettiest Teacup and Saucer: 1<sup>st</sup> H Shepherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> H Patterson, 3<sup>rd</sup> C Rudram.

This month there was no speaker in attendance as the evening was used to set up the Winter Wonderland display for this year's Community Effort at the Bulb Show in March.

*Competitions were:*

Winter's Work: 1<sup>st</sup> L McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> A Watson, 3<sup>rd</sup> M Millar

Small Border Tart: 1<sup>st</sup> H Shepherd, M Millar, 3<sup>rd</sup> A Kubie

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm when Sarah Ewing will be coming to talk about how to make Easter eggs. Competitions will be a Decorated Hen's Egg and Empire Biscuits (x3). We will be having a final set-up of the Community Effort display so please bring any items that are required for this and orders and money will be taken for next year's calendars and diaries as well!

**Heather Shepherd**



## Healthy Living Group



### **CERTIFICATED ELEMENTARY FOOD HYGIENE TRAINING**

Please contact me if you would like a free place on the above course

We would particularly welcome any interested volunteers who would like to support any of our activities

Please contact me to book a place and to discuss what times would suit you best.

Nichola Sewell – Tel: 01896 824500 Mobile: 07748 320108

Health Improvement Lead - HLN (Tues pm, Wed, Fri pm)

Health Improvement Specialist - HLN & Inequalities

(Mon, Tues am, Thurs, Fri am)



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**WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 18th January 2012**

*Please note that the Full Minutes are awaiting approval and amendment and will be available shortly  
(Full Minutes are also on the Community website)*

**Present:**

**Members:** Mr G Thornton (Chairman), Mrs PS Purves CBE (Secretary), Mr R Brett, Mr E Lavender,  
Miss MM McIntosh MBE, Ms I Ogilvie, Mr JJ Purves MBE, Mrs L Thornton

**Ex Officio:** Cllr W Herd, Cllr G Logan

**Chairman's Introduction.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone including the team from Scottish Borders Council who would give a short presentation on the Resilient Communities initiative.

The team then gave a presentation on Resilient Communities Planning describing how the idea had first emerged and been trialled with particular reference to the plan produced by Yetholm Community Council. They stressed that the aim was to help people be good neighbours and not to replace any existing services. The idea has received broad support both in Edinburgh and at Westminster. They answered a number of questions and most people present seemed enthused by the prospect of launching a plan for Walkerburn and District. A draft plan has already been written with the help of the team and the next stage is to find some volunteers to do some further research.

The Chairman thanked the team for a most informative presentation.

**Open Questions.**

The Chairman invited open questions from members of the public.

a. A resident raised the problems being caused by the lack of adoption of the road at Tweedbank Court and of the messy common areas. Members were aware of the problems and the difficulty SBC seemed to be having in forcing the developer to carry out the remaining work, including the road plates on Tweedholm Avenue. The subject had last been discussed at the December meeting and Cllr Herd had produced some pictures of the plate

covers in Tweedholm Avenue as a result of his discussions with Roads Planners when he was assured that action was being taken. Cllrs Logan and Herd would follow this up yet again. Afternote: The developer of Tweedbank Court has again been reminded of the tasks to be completed before SBC can adopt the road and has apparently promised quick action. The Community Council has sought further clarification on the maintenance of the 'public areas'.

b. A resident asked that more action be taken to deal with the 'puddle' on the A72 in front of the retaining wall of Stoneyhill. This is a very long running problem which never seems to be dealt with satisfactorily – Cllr Logan promised to chase the roads department again to try to find a permanent solution.

c. The removal of one lamppost near the church was raised as an issue of road safety. A resident felt that the level of lighting at the entrance to the village from Galashiels was badly affected. Members did not share these concerns but asked Cllr Logan to find out why the lamppost had been removed.

d. The broken windows at Sunnybrae Lodge were causing concern. This had been reported. Cllr Logan will chase for action.

**Monthly Report from WCDT.**

Mrs Sutherland reported that the Trust was continuing to pursue options for the development of the green field above Tweedholm Avenue and had approached the owners, SBHA, to seek permission for a number of potential enhancements. She noted that the Trust hoped to enlist the co-operation of the Festival Committee, the school and all residents to

make sure that the village presented as attractive appearance as possible when the Olympic Torch passed through. All agreed that the aim should be to decorate the village throughout June to cover the Jubilee weekend, the Torch day and the Festival. Both the Trust and the WCC secretaries would liaise with others on how best to take ideas forward. Cllr Logan reported that several schools might be rendezvousing in Walkernburn on Torch Day with the children then being hosted by Clovenfords School.

#### **Police Business.**

PC Rogerson had submitted his report in advance but was able to clarify a number of points. He stressed again that the 3 parking spaces at Tweedbank Court were for general use, not just for residents of Tweedbank Court, and that a recently erected sign was not official. He explained that a recent period using a speed camera on the A72 had resulted in a number of motorists being warned about excessive speed through the village. Members were delighted that this exercise had been undertaken and several stressed the need to stop the very high speeds of some thoughtless drivers in the early morning and late evening. PC Rogerson also noted that some recent break-ins were still under active investigation.

#### **Planning.**

The Planning Committee reported no movement locally although the decision on the Broadmeadows Appeal was expected shortly.

***Afternote: Broadmeadows Windfarm Appeal has been rejected by the Reporter.***

#### **ITEM 9: Correspondence.**

The list had been circulated as usual. It was agreed that the secretary would pull together comments on

the draft SB Woodland Strategy paper from the Pathways Group, the Trust and members and circulate a draft before the 7 February deadline. Mr and Mrs Thornton and Miss McIntosh would attend the budget briefing for Community Councils and report back at the February meeting.

#### **Reports by Members.**

There was concern at the lack of lighting at the bottom of Jubilee Road. The secretary pointed out that this had been raised before but was almost impossible to solve because of the need to avoid light shining directly into people's houses or into the eyes of drivers. It was agreed not to take action at present.

#### **Reports by SBC Councillors.**

Cllr Herd reported on a recent initiative to install 'talking' litter bins in schools. There was no support from members who generally thought it an idiotic waste of money. He went on to report on the work of the community wardens, which was applauded by all, in tackling dog fouling. Cllr Logan reported on the next stages in attempts to solve the river bank erosion problem. Pricing of a possible scheme was underway with costs being potentially met by SBC and the landowner.

Cllr Logan also reported on moves being taken to save Peebles Sheriff Court

#### **Date of Next Meeting.**

Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm

*Date: January 2012*

*Mrs PS Purves (Secretary)*

*Mr G Thornton (Chairman)*

## **Police Report December 2011**

*This Police report covers the period from 13th December 2011 to 17th January 2012. A total of **12** calls have been made to the Police concerning the Walkernburn beat area. (See WCC Minutes as well for update)*

Reported crime: 1

Misc calls to assist other Forces/agencies: 2

Anti-Social Behaviour (noise/neighbour complaints):

0

Misc calls to assist public: 5

Road Traffic (inc accidents/livestock/obstructions): 4

On 1<sup>st</sup> January a call was received to an address at Tweedvale Place regarding a male shouting, swearing and kicking at the door of a property. On arrival of Police, the male suspect had gone but some damage was sustained to the door. A male suspect is still to be traced and interviewed regarding this incident.

There was one damage only accident.

I have been contacted by several residents regarding the three parking spaces within Tweedbank Court (just off Tweedholm Avenue). There appears to be some confusion over who can/cannot park here. I have made contact with Scottish Borders Council and these parking spaces are for general use on a "first come, first serve basis".

"Have Your Say" which saw the Police Contact van being utilised in the outlying towns of Tweeddale East was very successful and it is hoped to be repeated in the next few months.

**PC Craig Rogerson.**

Should any resident have information relating to any criminality in the Walkernburn area please either contact **Crimestoppers 0800 555111** or PC Craig Rogerson **01721 720637**.

*Information received is treated in complete confidence.*

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## Events taking place in Forests around Walkerburn for Feb/Mar

### February

11-12	Fetish Downhill	Traquair
18-19	Alpine winter Series Round 2	Traquair
25-26	Uplift Scotland	Traquair

### March

3-4	Alpine winter Series Round 3	
10-11	Uplift Scotland	
17	Mighty Deerstalker	Caberston/Traquair
18	Uplift Scotland	Traquair
24-25	Gravity Enduro	Traquair



**Home Basics is a registered Scottish Charity and social enterprise which supports families and people in need by collecting and refurbishing furniture and other household items donated by the public and reselling them at low affordable prices. All of our income goes towards maintaining the Charity and the premises at Walkerburn and Hawick, and also towards developing the services we offer.**

Both of our depots are staffed by valued and friendly team of volunteers which are supported by a small number of paid staff. Our volunteers are crucial to the success of Home Basics. We rely on them to staff the depots, assist with our administration and IT management, to sort donated items, clean and restore furniture, organise and manage the warehouse, test electrical items and help with furniture collections and deliveries. We also need volunteers to act as Charity directors and to bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and direction to the charity. Volunteers, in return for their time, energy and skills, are offered the chance to attend various training courses, develop their employability skills, improve their CV's and gain current references for employers. Not only those, but our volunteers meet new friends, make good use of spare time and have fun!

Could you spare a few hours each week? Home Basics can provide volunteering opportunities at both Walkerburn and Hawick and your volunteering

won't cost you a penny - we can meet all travel costs and expenses.

If you would like to volunteer or just find out more, contact our Volunteer Development Worker directly on 07974 561939, by email [vdw@homebasics.org.uk](mailto:vdw@homebasics.org.uk) or through our depots.



**Norman, Stuart, Noel and Dick  
(some of our Walkerburn volunteers)**

### **Walkerburn Depot**

Unit 7  
Tweedvale Mills East  
Walkerburn  
EH43 6AB  
[walkerburn@homebasics.org.uk](mailto:walkerburn@homebasics.org.uk)

01896 870 455  
Thursday 1000 – 1600  
Saturday 1000 – 1300

*To visit outside these times please contact us to make an appointment*

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### FOR YOUR DIARY

Advance Notice: "Queen's Jubilee 2012"

Walkerburn Celebrates on Sunday 3rd June

Community Lunch and Barbecue at the Hall - Put this date in your new diary!

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## Poppy Collection

With reference to the article in the December Issue, I wish to congratulate Mrs Purves on raising the sum of over £300 in her first year as organiser. However, I wish to make something clear. Over the many years of being organiser, the ex-servicemen's wreath was paid for by public subscription –

collecting cans in HBMI Club and Post Office, also I had a list of men who each year gave a donation towards this wreath. 2011 was the first year that this wreath was paid for privately.

**Mae Pearce**

### CHURCH SERVICES

#### ST ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INNERLEITHEN

Sun 12th Feb. 10.00am	Service and Communion
Sun 19th Feb. 10.00am	Service and Communion
Sun 26th Feb. 10.00am	Service and Communion
Sun 4th March 11.00am	Service and Communion



### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

#### INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN

Sun 12th Feb.	10.00am	Traquair Kirk
	11.30am	Innerleithen Church
Thur 16th Feb.	9.30am	Innerleithen Church Hall (Informal Communion)
Sun 19th Feb.	10.00am	Walkerburn Village Hall
	11.30am	Innerleithen Church
	4.00pm	St Ronan's House (Communion)
Sun 26th Feb.	10.00am	Traquair Kirk (Communion)
	11.30am	Innerleithen Church (Communion)
Sun 4th March	10.30am	Innerleithen Church

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**Walkerburn Community Council  
Meetings Schedule 2012**  
*Third Wednesday in every month at  
7.30pm in Walkerburn Public Hall*

18 January - 15 February - 21 March  
18 April - 16 May  
20 June (Annual General Meeting)  
18 July - 15 August\* - 19 September - 17  
October - 21 November - 19 December\*

*\*these meetings may be cancelled if  
business is light.*

**WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL –FEBRUARY/MARCH**

*(Anyone interested in booking the hall, please contact Mollie McIntosh at 01896 870234)*

Date	Event	Time
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Tues 14th	Ann Park – Fellowship, Friendship and Fun	10.00 am
	Zumba	7.30-8.30pm
Wed 15th	Walkerburn and District Community Council	7.30 pm
Thurs 16th	Youth Club	7.00-9.00 pm
Sun 19th	Church Service	10.00 am
	Table Tennis	6.00-9.00 pm
Mon 20th	Gentle Exercise	11.30-12.30 am
Tues 21st	Over 50's Lunch Club	12 noon
	Women's Guild	7.30 pm
Sat 25th	Fundraising for Hall Coffee Morning	10.00-11.30 am
Sun 26th	Table Tennis	6.00-9.00 pm
Mon 27th	Gentle Exercise	11.30-12.30 am
Tues 28th	Ann Park – Fellowship, Friendship and Fun	10.00 am
	Zumba	7.30-8.30pm
<b>MARCH</b>		
Thurs 1st	Youth Club	7.00-9.00 pm
Sat 3rd	Pensioners Coffee Morning	10.00-11.30 am
Sun 4th	Table Tennis	6.00-9.00 pm
Mon 5th	Gentle Exercise	11.30-12.30 am
Tues 6th	Over 50's Lunch Club	12 noon
	Women's Guild	7.30 pm
Wed 7th	Women's Rural	7.30 pm
Thurs 8th	Youth Club	7.00-9.00 pm
Sun 11th	Table Tennis	6.00-9.00 pm
Mon 12th	Gentle Exercise	11.30-12.30 am
Tues 13th	Ann Park – Fellowship, Friendship and Fun	10.00 am
	Zumba	7.30-8.30pm
Thurs 15th	Youth Club	7.00-9.00 pm

**Contacts**

**Walkerburn Community Council**

Patricia Purves (Secretary) Glenmead EH43 6DD Tel: 01896 870 447

Email: [secretary@council.walkerburn.org.uk](mailto:secretary@council.walkerburn.org.uk)

**Walkerburn Community Development Trust**

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Could all contributors please note that submissions intended for the March edition of **BURNing Issues** should be with us no later than Wednesday 29th February. Thank you.