



# BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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## FINAL WALKERBURN 7'S 30th MAY



The date is set, the teams are ready, the champagne is on ice!

Walkerburn Rugby Club's last ever 7s will be taking place on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the most picturesque ground in rugby, Caberston Haugh. Mark it in your diary and we'll see you there.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available – full announcements to come.

If you are a local business or a passionate rugby business, please contact us at [walkerburn7s@gmail.com](mailto:walkerburn7s@gmail.com)

to be part of our grand finale.

We are delighted to announce that BorderMix have joined us as our title sponsor once again. With years of continued partnership, it is wonderful to have BorderMix on board for another season.

Gates will open at 11.30am.

Parking is available next to the club, just past the entrance to the Primary School and there will be a parking charge, which will be 'cash only'.

The bar will open at 12.00.

Tea, coffee and home baking will be available from the kitchen in the clubhouse and there will be a selection of food vendors offering a wide variety of eats.

*Please come along and give this historic Borders Club the rousing send-off they deserve after 101 great years!*

## WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION - COFFEE MORNING AND PLANT SALE

**Saturday 9th May 2026 -Doors open 10am**

All are welcome to attend our annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning where we have many locally grown plants & seedlings. We also have items for sale on our cake and candy table, teas and coffees and the raffle. All proceeds go towards staging our annual vegetable, flower, handicraft & baking show (*this year being held at the Hall on 5th September*). Schedules for the show will be available at the coffee morning.

We are also keen to involve the children in the village to see their inspiration and efforts.

We hope you will be able to support us.

Please contact us if you feel you would be able to assist with our events:-

Allin Hoggarth, President - Tel: 07985 319 009 email: [allin225@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allin225@hotmail.co.uk)

John Tait, Vice-President - Tel: 01896 870 318, email: [taitfamily4@btinternet.com](mailto:taitfamily4@btinternet.com)

## FESTIVAL COFFEE MORNING

**WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**From 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

Please come along and enjoy a pleasant morning at this year's coffee morning in support of the annual Walkerburn Festival. This is always a fun event for families. Usual stalls!

**Tickets £2** at the door. Children free!

Donations to the Prize Tombola will be very welcome



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## PEEBLESHIRE FOODBANK COFFEE CLUB

Walkerburn Village Hall, 10.00am to 12 noon every 2nd Thursday – 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Walkerburn Bowling Club 10.00am to 12 noon 7<sup>th</sup> May

Free hot drinks and cakes and enjoy meeting others in a warm and friendly environment.

Please come along and support this very worthwhile asset to our community and bring a friend or family if you wish. Also, the Peebles and District Citizens Advice Bureau will be on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

(Due to Hall unavailability, Coffee Morning on 7<sup>th</sup> May will be in the Bowling Club)

Contacts: Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel 01721 721722, Peeblesshire Foodbank: Tel 01721 588654

## WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION VEGETABLE SHOW 2026

Our 141st Annual Show takes place on **Saturday 5th September** in the Public Hall.

The Vegetable Association is the oldest organisation in the village run by a small committee and we are always keen to welcome new members. We also have a group of volunteers who help us set up the hall on Friday for the show and dismantle the tables on the Saturday evening.

Perhaps you would like to help? (for more information, please contact Allin Hoggarth [allin225@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allin225@hotmail.co.uk) or 07985319009).

Schedules are available from the Post Office or from the Cafe. The show is open to any and all regardless of where you live; there is no need to pre-register, just join the association when you come to set out your exhibits.

Your membership allows you to enter as many classes as you like (although only one entry per person in a class).

A reminder:- all exhibits must be received in the Hall by 10am on the day of the show.

We are also open on Friday evening to receive exhibits.

Doors open to the public at 2pm on the day of the show where you can see who has won.

Irene Cotter (Secretary)

## WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: April/May 2026

Mondays	Walkerburn Baby and Toddler Group. For more info, please contact Jasmine Aquilina on 07922 613890	10.30am – 12 noon
Tuesdays	Youth Club	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesdays	Walkerburn and District Community Council Monthly Meeting – April 15 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm
Thursdays	Scottish Elections Citizens Advice Bureau and Peeblesshire Foodbank Coffee Club – 23 <sup>rd</sup> April and 21 <sup>st</sup> May	All day 10.00am-12.00pm
Saturdays	Festival Coffee Morning	10.00am – 12 noon
Sundays	ITW Church Services – 19 <sup>th</sup> April and 17 <sup>th</sup> May Table Tennis	2.00pm 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please note new contact: [enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@walkerburnvillagehall.co.uk)

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# WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Present:** Mr Kerr (Chair), Ms Whyte (Minute Taker), Ms Aquilina, Ms Brodie, Ms Daykin, Ms Sedgwick, Mr Thornton, Mrs Thornton, Cllr Douglas, Cllr Tatler, Cllr Pirone.

### **Chair's Introduction:**

The Chair welcomed everyone especially members of the public.

**Apologies and Notices.** Mr Wilcox. No notices.

**Police Business.** No police business received.

**February Minutes and Matters Arising:** Mr Thornton proposed approval of the February minutes, with spelling amendment under Planning. Seconded by Ms Sedgwick. The Minutes were passed unanimously.

### Matters Arising.

Item 5. Unfortunately, the December Minutes went into the latest Burning Issues so the February Minutes will appear in the next edition.

Item 8. A question was raised as to whether it would be possible to buy-in to the Nursery for a 2-year-old. Cllr Pirone acknowledged that this was possible if there was space at the nursery. She recommended that people spoke directly to the school to register an interest. The Chair noted that this has been mentioned before. Cllr Pirone stated that children need to be 2 years old at the start of the nursery session and there will be two intakes each year (if birthday December, intake would be in the January). Eligibility for funding at 2 yrs depends on whether or not a family receives benefits or child is in the care system.

Item 11. Openreach report that they are almost finished in the WDCC area – just one or two hard-to-reach homes to be connected.

Item 12. Election Nominations. One potential new member has been identified and provided with the paperwork.

Item 13. Overgrown Footpath on A72: Cllr Tatler will chase. Pissoir Ownership and Maintenance: Ms Daykin reported that the Pissoir was part of Caberston Farm Steading and that she was consulting with the owners about maintenance.

**Correspondence:** All correspondence has been circulated. The Chair drew members attention to the new scheme for Community Councils. WDCC already followed most of the new scheme, but he would report in April if any changes were needed.

### **Planning:**

a. General. Application for a dwelling house at West Bold steading still in progress Application for a cantilevered balcony to the rear of The George has been registered. Mr Thornton mentioned that this had been applied for before during its period as a pub/hotel and rejected but there were no objections so far. Application for a dormer window at 11 Galashiels Road has also been registered.

b. Scawd Law Wind Farm. SBC has registered a strong objection. Mr Wilcox will circulate a note on the way ahead to members for the April meeting. Cllr Douglas reminded members that, although the Council has objected, they are not the deciding authority and their objection no longer triggers an automatic public inquiry.

c. Cross Border Connection Update. SPEN continue to push hard for their crossing of the Tweed at Thornielee/Elibank with no concern for the water supplies of houses on the route or for the overall environmental impact on the valley. Full report will be issued for the April meeting.

**Update on Place Making:** Ms Brodie stated that the working group had started planning the required community consultation. The 2023 survey results will be used, and details for circulation are being finalised. A trial of the survey involving 10 participants was proposed to gather feedback before expanding to approximately 400 respondents. The survey should cover waymarked routes, litter picking, and engaging younger age groups. Ms Brodie noted the consultation is the main task at present.

**Flood Update:** The Chair attended a meeting in Peebles on flood defences, noting budget constraints and the need to support these efforts. He met with SBC, Scottish Water, SEPA, and Tweed Forum. The Chair spoke with John Miller from Upper Caberston Fishing and welcomed native tree planting along the river bank. A flood study will soon take place between Walkerburn and Innerleithen. Duncan Morrison (SBC) will stay in touch and attend a community meeting if necessary.

**Tour de France 2027:** The Chair pointed out that Stage 1 of the Tour de France would arrive from

Edinburgh along the B709 and continue down the A72, passing through Walkerburn on its way to Galashiels. He recommended assigning one member the task of keeping event information regularly updated on Facebook and similar platforms. When appropriate, a small working group should be formed, including members from other village clubs and organisations—especially those from the Hall—to help coordinate local involvement, and asked members to share their ideas before the next meeting. The Vice Chair has been in touch with 'Go Tweed' and will provide an update once further details are available. This event presents an excellent opportunity to highlight Walkerburn and promises to be worthwhile. There was discussion about possible "Welcome to Walkerburn" signs along the road, which might become a common feature in all towns along the route. Relevant information should also be submitted for publication in the Burning Issue.

**Reports by Members:** The following issues were reported by members:

- It was reported that Haughhead Bridge was closed and this was for repair to enable use by everyone. There is no timescale for completion, although work is in progress.
- A question arose about finding bus information when a stop is closed. Someone noted that the app provides updates on pick-up and drop-off locations during service changes. Cllr Pirone stated that companies causing disruptions must ensure accurate information is provided, mentioning the app and website. If not, John Henderson at SBC can address the issue with these firms, who should communicate directly with bus companies.
- Logging lorries. Most are sticking to the rules and regulation and if there is one breaking the rules we need to send in a report – photos showing VRN/name of contractor are useful.
- A Tillicoultry quarry lorry was stuck on Hall Street; the Chair advised residents to warn delivery companies about road conditions and to request smaller vehicles.
- Chair noted that PMK are back to upgrade the electricity supply to the fishing hut, garage and Kirna House.
- Peebles Road resurfacing has been delayed but will begin soon. Scottish Water is continuing essential, though messy, work at the sewerage site.
- Chair noted potholes on the back road are listed on SBC website.
- A question about the telephone box on Tweedholm Avenue asking if this could be used as a library. Cllr Pirone stated BT's approval is required but WDCC has failed to identify the owner of the ground and BT will not agree a transfer until this is clear.
- A question was raised regarding the garden at the school and if it could be used as a community garden. Chair advised that if the school administration and relevant staff were in agreement, the garden could potentially be opened up as a community garden. The next step would be to formally approach the school with a proposal for approval. Using the school garden as a community garden could foster stronger ties between the school and local residents, provide educational opportunities, and encourage sustainable practices.

*Afternote:* Since the ground is not SBC owned, agreement for a change in use would be required from the owner.

**Reports by SBC Councillors:**

- Cllr Tatler reported that Haughhead Bridge is being worked on to make safe. Small schemes funding will renew in April 2026. There is not a lot but to get in early if needed.
- Future gravel extraction from the Tweed: Chair mentioned that the gravel could be used for the board walk in park. Cllr Tatler said that a consultation would need to be conducted. Discussion was given to how this could be done it was suggested that a work study would need to be conducted by SBC and then we would need to do a consultation with the village.
- Jubilee Road handrail is on the list of jobs.
- SBC will only send out road closures involving the Tweeddale area.
- He strongly advised that WDCC should post a note that dogs must be kept on the lead during lambing season.
- He reminded members that the Chambers Institution (library and main building) will be closed for a year, but there will be a mobile library. There is a consultation for a second phase.

- Cllr Douglas reminded everyone to register to vote in the forthcoming Scottish Government elections. He reported that Pubs will be able to open to show televised matches of the World Cup. There is a proposal that Councillors might go for twice yearly meetings for all community councils for break outs – this will be reporting to full council in a few months. He was pleased that the Planning Committee had objected to Scawd Law.
- Cllr Pirone noted that lots of work on nurseries was still continuing. The Chair thanked Cllr Pirone for all the work she has done with nurseries. Cllr Pirone went on to report that St Ronan’s care home has received a good rating. SBC had posted a proposal for support for new housing to help rural schools but there was only a drop-down choice for reject but not support. The playpark upgrade had been allocated £70,000 in the next budget year,  
**Date of Next Meeting.** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
*(Members of Public are welcome to attend and raise questions they may have)*



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### WILDSIDE

Now we are finally welcoming Spring to Walkerburn although we still have a cold and snowy forecast. Birds are definitely pairing up in preparation for the breeding season and, in the fields, moles have been very active as the molehills bear witness. As well as moles, there are lots of rabbits around. I just don’t want them in the garden. Moles might be worse; I don’t want to find out!

I’m just starting to think about what to grow this year once the winter pansies and polyanthus have finished their season.

Last month I wrote about squirrels and I took the plunge and bought a squirrel feeder because they are in the area. I hear that squirrels are not only under threat from squirrel pox but also leprosy. Leprosy I always associate with the bible as it got mentioned a lot and leper colonies were set up to keep sufferers separate. I don’t know if it’s transferable between squirrels and people but **if you see a sick squirrel please report it to the local wildlife trust.** The central borders branch has a facebook page.

Although I haven’t seen frog or toad spawn myself, it is out there and insects are busy now too. There are some very big bumble bees about and I’ve seen hoverflies and butterflies. On a sunny day last week, we saw our first tortoiseshell, then a peacock butterfly, feeding on the aubretia in the garden pots.

I’ve been checking on the overwintering plants in the greenhouse and planting some out into pots and troughs for some early colour, so those insects can have a change from aubretia. For insects it’s important to have a succession of flowers to feed on so I try to do that in our garden.

This time of year is all about getting ready for the new season. The nest boxes are all ready, there’s plenty of flowers for the bugs and all the bird feeders are full and there’s fresh water in all my water pots and saucers. I’m ready, let’s hope the weather plays ball. One bird that has been very active is the egret; we’ve seen it flying about along the river frequently in recent weeks.

In the night sky this month look out for the Lyrid meteor shower from 16th-25th peaking on 22nd. The Artemis space mission aims to put humans back on the moon, build a lunar base and lay the groundwork for sending humans to Mars. Artemis II is the next step in these ambitious plans and is currently in space. It launched on 1st April on a 10-day mission to gather data on the Orion module including how efficient the life support systems are. It seems crazy to think about humans going into Space again, although it won’t be as exciting as in 1969 when there were the first moon landings. They’re just flying around it. What fuel crisis?!

## SHEEP WORRYING

We have been asked to again remind dog owners and dog walkers to take extra care to keep their dogs under tight control. However well behaved a dog may be, the sheep will still panic at the sight of a dog and have a tendency to stampede. Every year this results in many still-born lambs. Expectant ewes are very nervous as they are near to giving birth and new born lambs are frail and excitable at this time of year. PLEASE keep all dogs under control and report instances of pets that are not being constrained. The Police contact telephone number is 101.

## WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

**AGM at 2.20pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April in Clubhouse.**

After the A.G.M. details of the new Bowls season, including the Club Tournaments and mid-week Wappenshaw, will be confirmed.

Petanque' continues each Friday afternoon, with tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards.

We are always keen to welcome new members to both the Bowls and the Petanque sections. Do come along and give it a try. You can make use of the club's equipment if needed.

Members also have access to the club every day to practice or to play with friends.

(For more details, please see the Walkerburn Bowls 'Facebook' pages, or contact George Thornton on either 01896-870251 or e-mail [geoles2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geoles2@tiscali.co.uk))

## WALK IT WALKERBURN



We will continue with our regular weekly Monday walks at 10.00am. Meet in Alexandra Park by the swings. Walkit Further on the first Monday of the month.

One hour of easy walking, followed by a coffee at Caberston Café, if wanted!

*We look forward to you joining us for a healthy 2026!*

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### BURNING ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS:

*Please submit any articles, letters or other material for the May issue by the end of April.*

Contact BURNing Issues at: [walkerburnnews@hotmail.com](mailto:walkerburnnews@hotmail.com)