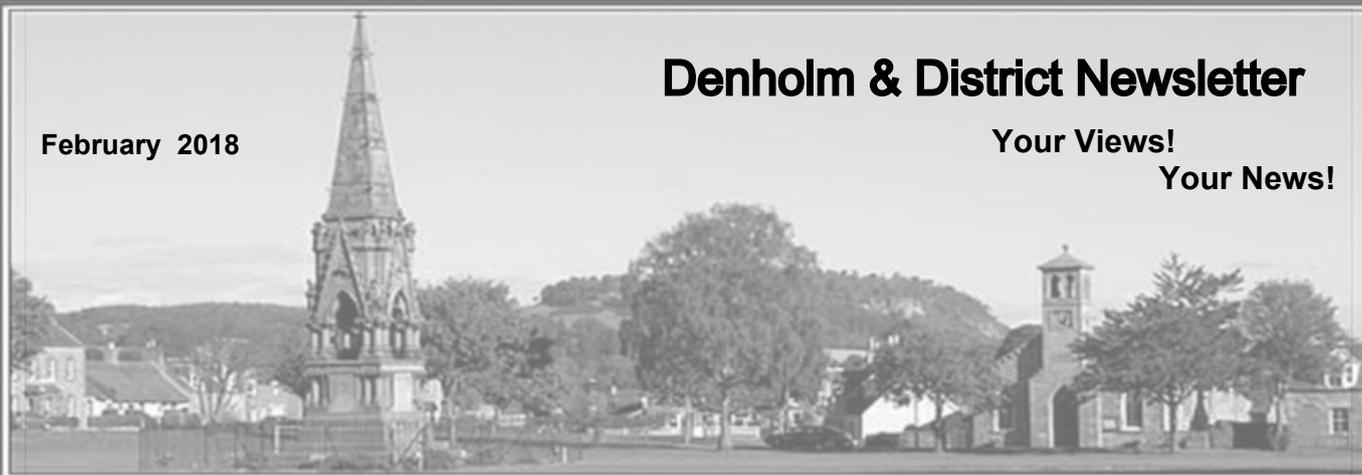


# Denholm & District Newsletter

February 2018

Your Views!

Your News!



## From the Editor

February already! How did that happen?

A very warm welcome to anyone who's reading this for the first time – Denholm's a great place to live, and we love new folk to the village to feel included in our news and goings-on. Take a look at the 'What's On When' section at the back of the newsletter to discover what's coming up in the local diary, and what you might like to get involved with.

In particular, we are delighted to welcome Pino Falcone, the new proprietor of the 'Denholm Meet', to the village. Seven years ago Pino came to help his Uncle Simone over a busy Christmas period at the 'Meet'. He found folk very friendly and welcoming, and really enjoyed his time here. So, when Simone planned to move to Hawick, Pino did not want to see the 'Meet' close, and decided to take over the lease himself.

He is a very enthusiastic young man, and is looking forward to being part of the community. At present, he is open for breakfast, coffee and lunch Tuesday –

Editor : Jackie Charley [jackiecharley@live.co.uk](mailto:jackiecharley@live.co.uk)

Saturday. Dinner is served from 5.00pm Friday and Saturday. (Tel: 01450 870999) The menu is Italian and Scottish cuisine. COCKTAILS are a speciality! We wish Pino well in his move from the Big City scene to the country.

Has anyone you know got something to celebrate – a wedding, special anniversary, or new baby photo they'd like to share? We'd love to know, and celebrate with you. Please send details to the editor.

Speaking of which, I have a new baby – of sorts – to share. I've been invited by A7 Artspace in Hawick to exhibit with them from 12<sup>th</sup> February - 12<sup>th</sup> March. Please drop in and see what I've been beavering away at recently. Gallery is open Weds-Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm.

I'm pleased to announce that the newsletter is now available online, both on the village Facebook page and on the website [www.denholm-village.co.uk](http://www.denholm-village.co.uk). Any problems, let me know.

## Denholm Hand Ba'

Coming soon, the ancient tradition of Hand Ba' has its roots in Medieval times. The reason for it seems to be lost in the mists of time, but the date on which it takes place is carefully worked out as follows: First comes Candlemas, then the New Moon; the following Tuesday is Fastern's-e'en and the following Monday is Denholm Ba' Day. Fastern's-e'en, in some years aligns with Shrove Tuesday, but in this year the 2018 Ba' Day will be held on the 26th February. It used to be an all-day event, with apprentices playing in the morning and the men in the afternoon. Nowadays, there is one game's period starting in the afternoon and playing to well after dark in an attempt to play all the "Ba's" listed. An undressed Ba' is co-sponsored by the Denholm Feuars' along with the Community Council. Other Ba's are sponsored by village businesses, newly-weds, and those with family anniversaries. These Ba's are invariably dressed with clipped multi-coloured ribbons and a rosette. Dressed Ba's are thrown up twice in the middle of the Large Green – once to have the ribbons torn off as tokens, with the rosette being the prized item – and secondly, to play for a hail of the Ba' outside the village boundaries on the A698 to the West, by the Uppies, and to the East, by the Doonies. Traditionally, the single men are the Uppies, and the married men are the Doonies. There are no rules, no fouls and no referee – it's every player for them self, with essential attributes being courage, cunning and a strong will to survive. The traditional small black leather Ba's used to be made by the village saddler, and were stuffed with moss then soaked in water to give it weight before play. The smaller sized Ba' being favoured by some players, as it would be easier to conceal when being smuggled (ie. hidden up your jumper). Should you wish to have a Ba' thrown up in your name, the person to contact in advance of Ba' Day is "Beak" Crawford, who will arrange to have your Ba' entered into the order of play.

Take care on Ba' Day, as there are a lot of large men desperate to catch a Ba'. Competition is fierce!

S. C. Tait. (Reference acknowledgement – "Denholm Village Website.")

QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HAVE MENTIONED HOW RESIDENTS OF DENHOLM CAME OUT TO CLEAR PATHWAYS OF THE RECENT SNOW, SO THANK YOU ALL - YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.



A special mention for the residents of Ashloaning who put shoulders to shovels and cleared the whole area. (Photo: Courtesy of Sarah Murdie) As Mr Punch would say, "That's the way to do it!" Even the local snowman lent a hand at the garage.

Resilience Group members, who were available, also did their bit and even dug out the odd car. The Resilience Shed was opened to allow access to snow shovels for those who needed them, and a local farmer cleared the road in Minto. Community in action!

## WELL DONE

Another 'thank you' to the residents in Dean Road who put down sandbags to prevent water flooding down into the village, and kept a watch on developments during the night. It's nice to know we live in a village with such good neighbours. Top marks to Scottish Borders Council who topped up the Grit-bins in Riverside Drive and the school car park within hours of receiving the request. **Chris Nicol**



The Cross Keys are now offering a room for hire. This is a versatile space which can accommodate up to 40 people. Catering is available, if required, and Karen and Dave's flexibility will ensure your needs are met. The room is available from 10.00am.

The Cross Keys is a valuable asset to the village, the Sunday Carvery being enjoyed by many, as is the Steak Night on Thursdays. For further information phone 01450 870305 or email [bookings@crosskeysdenholm.co.uk](mailto:bookings@crosskeysdenholm.co.uk).

(Photo) Helen Howden

### Phone Mast

Work is continuing on the erection of the new phone mast to improve the services to mobile phone users in Denholm and their neighbours. The lattice type structure, approved by SBC, is designed to minimise its impact on the surrounding countryside and be less noticeable.

The mast is situated on the right hand side of the Right of Way as you continue up The Loaning. It is initially for users of the O2 service, but other networks may benefit in the future. Let's hope the improved coverage makes a difference to mobile users in our area.

**Gwen Crew**

### Health and Social Care Partnership – Locality Plan

This is the new plan for integration of health and social care provision in Teviot and Liddesdale locality. The plan was put out for public consultation last year and, based on the public feedback, it has been updated to incorporate the views of the service-users. It is hoped to launch the new plan in the near future. Many changes are in the pipeline to provide better, and more efficient management of services. Of particular interest to Denholm is the "What matters hubs" which offer residents the chance to attend drop-in sessions in their own communities and meet with a range of professional staff to get advice and information on health and social care needs and maintaining independence in their own homes. These "hubs" are already up and running in a couple of other villages, and plans are underway to open a "hub" in Denholm. I

am a member of the Locality Working Group, and will keep you informed of developments. **Chris Nicol**

### **Locality Bid Fund**

The projects which are putting forward bids for this fund have been published in the local press. These projects are decided for consent by public vote and, in order to facilitate this, a box for voting will be put in Denholm Post Office. (It should be there by the time you read this.) You are allowed to cast votes for up to four projects. You can also vote online at <https://localitiesbidfund.d21.me> or by post.

### **Denholm and District Community Council**

There are still two vacancies for co-opted members to join the Community Council (CC). The CC covers Denholm, Minto, Bedrule, Cavers and Appletreehall. Councillors are expected to attend monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, although we do get a break in August and December. There are various other meetings we are expected to attend, and an obligation to help with any event organised by the CC.

The aim of the CC is to serve the community, outwith political or personal agendas. If you feel you can make this commitment and help support your community, please contact the Chair, **Gwen Crew on 01450 870236**.

### **Police Report - December 2017**

Possible fraudulent workmen involved in an incident involving the laying of a new road surface at Bedrule Church.

Air weapon surrendered by local resident. Although it is now a legal requirement to have a firearms licence for an air weapon, it is still acceptable to surrender any weapons that are found. It is accepted that, especially in rural areas, they are going to turn up in old farm sheds etc.

Single vehicle VA near to Hassendean Farm. Driver was found to be 16 years old, without driver's licence or insurance. Cautioned and charged accordingly. Dead raptor (Buzzard) was found in Minto area. It has been sent for autopsy in an attempt to determine cause of death.

Call received regarding a vehicle parked on A698 in precarious position. Passing patrol stopped and discovered driver to be having a comfort break!

On rural night patrol, twin cab pickup observed with defective rear light. Vehicle stopped and occupant was known to Police. The butt of a firearm was seen under cover on rear seat. It was an unlicensed air rifle which was seized, and male reported for unlicensed firearm.

### **Police Report - January 2018**

Single vehicle VA on A6098 at Spittal on Rule, non-reportable.

Males with Lurchers traced and caught on private land at Cavers. Charged under terms Section 11G of Wildlife and Countryside Act and reported to Fiscal.

Anonymous call regarding 16-year-old Hawick youth driving around rural roads with other youth in car. Attended. However, no sign of the vehicle. Youth is

known. The car was traced in Hawick and seized by Police.

Further calls from residents at both East and West end of the village about the speed of vehicles entering the 30mph limits. When possible we will be down with the speed camera although, as ever, this is not a solution – as soon as we are away, it's forgotten about.

### **Who are the Feuars?**

The Denholm Feuars' and Householders' Council is a small group that meet once a month. The council was created in 1946 when Mrs Mary Palmer Douglas of Cavers, gifted a number of pieces of land to the village of Denholm, including the 'Green' and even some of the village gardens, to name but a few. These pieces of land are considered to belong to all householders in Denholm and all are welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

The council are responsible for "administering, in the best interests of all people in the community the ownership of the property and rights gifted by Mrs Palmer Douglas." In doing so they should 'promote the conservation of the physical, cultural and historical heritage of Denholm along with the provision of recreational facilities for use'.

One of our most recent events was the Christmas light switch on. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make it a success. Due to its popularity we are planning to make this an annual event.

**Laura Woof**

### **The Resilience Group**

The Resilience Group are hoping to have a full training exercise with the emergency services and the SBC at some point in the next few months - I'm waiting for the Resilience Officer at SBC to arrange. Further news will be published on the Facebook page.

**Lynn Ferguson**

### **Denholm Village Hall**

The Hall Committee are still looking for new members to join. We have recently changed our status from a registered charity to an SCIO and, once complete, we will be applying for funding to continue our refurbishment programme on the kitchen and toilets, and on the heating in the small hall.

**The next Indoor Market is being held on Sunday 18th February.**

**Lynn Ferguson**

### **Message from Minto Defibrillator**

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in getting me a nice new heated cabinet in Minto Telephone Box, such a pleasure to be here, nice and warm.

Although I am happy to be here I am also happy that I have not been needed but now that I am warm and cosy I will always be ready for action should the need arise.

So thanks to the Community Council, The Wind Farm Fund, Avril's Trust and Ryan Patterson (Electrician) for supplying the funds, box and know-how to connect me to the power supply.

Always ready for action.

**Minto Defibrillator**

# What's on When



## Yoga

Every Tuesday evening: 5.55 - 7.25pm, or 7.35 - 9.05pm in the Village Hall.

Also, new class starting up Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February: 7.00 - 8.30pm.

After-school club for primary 1-7: Tuesdays, 3.15 - 4.00pm, and 4.15 - 5.00pm.

A gentle yoga class will also start soon.

Any queries regarding the above, please contact Diane via email:

[Dianesimpsonyoga@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Dianesimpsonyoga@hotmail.co.uk), the village Facebook page, or phone 0775 8664566. Diane is Yoga Scotland trained and insured, with 17 years' experience.

Please note, **no** classes week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February as Diane is on holiday.

## Scottish Women's Institutes

### Minto Institute

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February: 7.00pm in Denholm Village Hall. Rev Douglas Nicol – A talk on his travels on the Trans Mongolian Railway. Visitors welcome.

### Bedrule Institute

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February: 7.00pm in Bedrule Village Hall. Adele Richardson – A visit to Yellowstone Park, USA. Visitors welcome.

### Ruberslaw Guild

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February: 7.00pm Denholm Church Hall. We will be hearing about the Guild projects and viewing the video of the annual meeting in August 2017. All Guild meetings are open to everyone.

The Guild held a coffee morning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January which raised £116. This money will be sent to Guild office for the projects.

## Lenten Lunch

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: 12 noon, Denholm Church Hall.

## Denholm Folk Club

Guest Night: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 8.30pm, Denholm Village Hall. BOB WOOD: singer and guitar player will be performing for us. New to Denholm.

Next session: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 8.30pm, Cross Keys.

## Burns Supper

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm, Denholm Village Hall.

Appearing are:

Timmy Douglas, local farmer – Immortal Memory  
Bill & Lena Woodcock – Toast to the Lassies and reply

Robert Scott – Piper and Tam 'O Shanter

Various other entertainers

Come and enjoy some fun to cheer up a winter evening. Contact Kenny Speirs: 01450 870664.

Cost is £10.00.

## Tabletop Sale

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.00am:  
Denholm Village Hall.

## Denholm Feuars & Householders M'ting

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm:  
Denholm Village Hall.

## Whist Drive

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm: Bedrule Village Hall.  
£2.00 incl. Supper.

**Minto Golf Club** are holding Sunday Lunches on the following dates: 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February, and 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March. Please telephone 01450 870220 Option 2 to reserve a place.

**Deadline for next issue is 26 February**