

DENHOLM & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FEB/MARCH 2026

Funded by Langhope Rigg Windfarm Community Fund



Please send contributions to: denholmnewsletter@btinternet.com.

Distribution: Muriel Wilson

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

The Community Council is required to hold a full election every four years and this is due in 2026.

The rules allow for ten elected councillors and the timetable is as follows:

Nominations: Wednesday 11th February – Wednesday 4th March, inclusive.

Withdrawal period: Thursday 5th March – Wednesday 11th March, inclusive.

Notice of election and day of ballot to be confirmed after number of nominations becomes clear.

Nomination forms can be obtained through:

communitycouncils@scotborders.gov.uk or smarshall@scotborders.gov.uk (returning officer).

Hard copies are available from Stuart Marshall (phone 01835825188 or 07767323189).

To be eligible for election, you must be a resident of the D&DCC area and on the Electoral Register.

WHY YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MATTERS.....

Community Councils are voluntary organisations, run by elected local residents. They are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland, established in 1973 by the Local Government (Scotland) Act for the specific purpose of bridging the gap between local authorities and communities.

Their main role is to make public bodies aware of any local problems and of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. They also try to make their area a better place in which to live.

Scottish Borders Council is required by statute to consult the community council about various planning applications and licensing matters and must consult about local services and inform of changes and issues affecting the council area. SBC Councillors attend community council meetings to answer questions and find out at first hand local opinion on issues within the regional council's remit.

The community council meets at least ten times annually.

Meetings are in Denholm Village Hall on the third Wednesday evening of the month.

DENHOLM RESIDENT JEAN STEER CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Jean was born in Fortrose on the Black Isle in January 1926, the eldest of three children. She qualified as a private secretary, working with the Civil Aviation Authority in Inverness and then the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board in Dingwall, where she met Robert Steer, an Electrical Engineer. Once married they moved to Golspie in Sutherland, then Lochawe in Argyll when Robert took up the post of Generation Engineer at Cruachan Power Station, the first ever Reversible Pump Storage Station. Jean has always had a busy life - secretary of the Dalmally Agricultural Show Committee, an Elder for the Parish of Glen Orchy & Innishail for forty years, as well as being Chair of the WRI and the Kirk's Women's Guild.



Jean with her birthday card from the King and Queen.

Jean moved to the Borders in 2017 and loves living in Denholm – fewer midges! She thoroughly enjoys all that the village has to offer and likes nothing better than a blether with everyone she meets, especially if they have a dog with them. Jean has lived with dogs all her life; Baxter, her beloved rescued Patterdale Terrier was her last. Her current fitness is a testament to lifelong dog walking and gardening, which she also loves. And maybe the odd G&T.

DENHOLM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

from Gwen Crew

Active Travel Plan. A number of options for an Active Travel route from Hawick to Denholm are being considered and a feasibility study has been commissioned by SBC, which should produce some recommendations by the end of March. (NB “*Active Travel*” is an SBC initiative to encourage “*journeys made by modes of transport that are fully or partially people-powered*”).

Bedrule Phone Box. The purchase at a cost of £1.00 is now complete and the phone box is now the property of D&DCC and the Bedrule community.

Community Council Convention on the Impact of Major Energy Infrastructure in the Scottish Borders Area. Members of the CC attended the meeting in Jedburgh on 17th January, together with representatives from 40 other Scottish Borders CCs, SBC, political parties, and the local community. Also present were representatives from the Highlands and the NE Scotland CC Conventions - joint authors of a “*Unified Statement*” on the way forward for future energy infrastructure planning across Scotland. Borders CCs were encouraged to sign up to the statement to be presented to the Scottish Government. The idea ultimately is to provide impacted CCs across Scotland with a unified and stronger voice at national level.

More information about this initiative, including the full text of the unified statement and a summary of the next stage, is available on the D&DCC page of the Denholm village website: www.denholmvillage.co.uk

Next Meeting: 18 February 2026, 7.00pm, Denholm Village Hall.

DENHOLM FEUARS & HOUSEHOLDERS COUNCIL

New Constitution

Work is now underway on everything involved in changing the form of the DFHC to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This will involve making sure that all the community land is registered with the Land Register of Scotland.

Leyden Monument

The lights around the monument are scheduled to be replaced in late March. Thereafter, the monument will be lit from dusk to dawn in the winter months.

Repairs to the railings will also be carried out and volunteers are being sought to help repaint them.

DENHOLM BA'

The day of the Denholm Ba' is always a Monday relative to the date of the first new moon after Candlemas. Candlemas falls on the fortieth day after Christmas, so is always 2nd February.

This year the first new moon after Candlemas is 17th February, and sources suggest that the event should take place on 2nd March, starting around 4.30pm.

NEWS FROM THE LOWER DEAN

Lower Dean Management Plan

The draft plan has now been sent to relevant professional and statutory bodies for comment.

The findings of the two questionnaires (adult and primary school) issued as part of the community consultation event at the end of November are now available in summary form on the Denholm village website -

www.denholmvillage.co.uk/community-woodland.

The draft plan is also available in full on the same page.

Planting

Most of the remaining felled area was planted at the end of December by the local volunteers, Borders Forest Trust volunteers, and some local Rotarians.

More trees were planted by the local group in January, on an unusually sunny day.

Amongst the new planting, we have incorporated some natural regeneration of oak, birch, rowan, holly, and hawthorn. The Dean volunteers have a few more trees to plant; some of these will be put in amongst semi-mature trees, which, with natural regeneration, will create over time a more variably aged woodland.



Densely planted hazel and crab apple below the roadside hedge at Woodside.

BEDRULE CHURCH'S FUTURE IS SECURED FOR THE COMMUNITY

After eight months of planning and fund-raising, the newly formed local charity 'Bedrule Church Future' (BCF), took possession of the historic building just before Christmas.



The occasion was celebrated with a small gathering of supporters and refreshments in the church. This was followed by a well-attended Christmas Day celebration of Carols and Readings.

BCF aims to ensure that the Church, beloved of many in Rulewater and beyond, stays in community ownership and is available for weddings, baptisms, celebrations of all kinds, significant dates, and concerts.

The purchase was funded by locals and people far abroad, including the Clan Turnbull Society, raising £45,000, which covered the purchase price and medium term running costs.

The church will partner with Bedrule Village Hall, which can cater for and support events and activities. Some minor works are planned to open up the spaces and allow for exhibitions and displays, local information and heritage resources for visitors, and rest-space for walkers of the nearby Borders Abbeys Way.

Volunteer help would be most welcome – assisting with events, joining the management team, or simply registering as a supporter. Please visit the website *Bedrule Church Future* (www.bedrulechurch.co.uk).

On 17th March the Ruberslaw Guild meeting will feature a speaker from Bedrule Church Future. 2pm in Denholm Church Hall. All welcome.



RUBERSLAW GUILD

Tuesday 17th February, 2pm,
Denholm Church Hall.

Speaker from Blythswood Care talking about the work of the charity, including the annual Shoe Box Appeal.

Last year Denholm and District contributed 169 boxes to the appeal.

All welcome

FOLK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC

Sessions at Cross Keys, Denholm:
Wednesday 11th and 25th February,
Wednesday 11th and 25th March.

Come along at 7.30pm for an 8pm start – it can get quite crowded in the lounge bar.

More than just 'folk' music; anyone welcome, no charge. Bring along an instrument to play if you wish. Performers are all local and are of a good standard, but that is **not** a prerequisite.

We aim to finish at about 10.00pm.



Saturday 21st February, 3pm.
MERAKI DUO

*Hawick South Church
Buccleuch Road Halls*



Meera Maharaj, flute, and James Girling, guitar, perform works from their forthcoming debut album, with music from France, U.S.A, Trinidad, Japan, the Balkans, and Scotland.

Sunday 29th March, 7pm.
VIKTOR MASTORIDIS

Evergreen Hall, Dovecote Street.

Viktor sings and plays guitar, bouzouki, bass, baglamas, and tambura, in a programme ranging from rock and hip-hop to Greek & Balkan folk and blues fusion.

Non-members welcome.

Tickets £15, free for accompanied under 18s.

DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

Event	Day of Week	Time	Main or Lesser Hall
Parkinsons Movement and Dance	Monday	11am-12Noon	Main Hall
FitSteps Original	Monday	6.30-7.30pm	Main Hall
FitSteps Chair	Tuesday	11am-12Noon	Main Hall
SWI	Second Wednesday of month	7-9pm	Lesser Hall
Denholm Community Council	Third Wednesday of month	7pm	Lesser Hall
Film Night	Last Wednesday of month	7 for 7.30pm	Lesser Hall
Circuit Class	Thursday	6-7pm	Main Hall
Whist	Thursday	6.45-9pm	Lesser Hall
FitSteps FABulous	Friday	10.30-11.15am	
Craft De-Stash	Sunday 29 th March	11am-2pm	Main Hall

DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL

WINE TASTING EVENING with LAITHWAITES WINE 27th February, 6pm – 8pm

£15 per ticket

Limited availability

To book, call Laithwaites
on 03330 148168
and quote ticket 0818TK.

Cheeseboard extra – please contact
Lynn to place your order (07950 000513)

BEDRULE VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 8th March. Jewellery making workshop with Luna Art Jewellery. Three workshops at 10am, 12.30am, 3pm, making unique pieces of jewellery. £35/ £65/ £90.

Contact Peggy Sly 07391 472878 to book.

Saturday 14th March, 11.30 - 3.30.

Borders Art Collective. Drop-in fun art session. Open to all (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Sunday 15th March, 10.30 - 12.30. Qi gong workshop with experienced teacher Gilly Callen.

Call 07717 423952 to book. £15.

Sunday 22nd March, 1–5pm Everyday Breadmaking with Gill Evans, celebrating the arrival of spring with all things wild garlic. £60.

Contact Gill 07549 206523 to book.

Sunday 29th March 1-4pm. Sharon's pottery workshop. Make your own Heilan' Coo. £35.

Contact Peggy Sly 07391 472878 to book.

Advance notice:

Sunday 19th April. Willow obelisk workshop.

Sunday 24th May. Tabletop sale.

Details from Peggy Sly.

DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL

FILM NIGHT Wednesday 25th February

"I Swear" starring Robert Aramayo.
Based on the true story of John Davidson, a Scot with severe Tourette's syndrome.

Doors open 7pm for screening at 7.30 pm.

SERVICE 20 BUS - Notification from Peter Hogg of Jedburgh Ltd

"We would like to inform everybody that service 20 is going cashless from 1st February. We are trialing this for a month before deciding if we should make it permanent. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated as we want this to work for us and for you. Anybody who is unable to pay this way, please email annie@petestaxis.co.uk and we will discuss options. The last thing we want is to alienate our fabulous customers."

SCOTTISH VERSE SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Competitions are often held around Burns night to encourage pupils to celebrate the Scots language. On Monday 26th January pupils from Denholm P.S. held their own competition. Pupils from the whole school were invited to recite a piece of Scots poetry in front of their class such as "My Wee Doggie" by J.K. Annand, which was one of P1's choices, and "To a Mouse" by Robert Burns, one of P7's choices.

The competition was judged by Mrs Passmore and Mrs Nuttall and the winners will be announced after the concert on 6th February in which pupils celebrate Scottish culture.

Congratulations to all for their hard work.