## **Westhill Bulletin**

Autumn 2017 Issue 151



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Published by Westhill & Elrick Community Council Westhill website – www.westhillelrick.org





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#### SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

The Westhill & Elrick Community Council distribute over 5000 copies of the Westhill Bulletin quarterly to houses and businesses in Westhill and surrounding villages. We offer good advertising rates and are keen to support local businesses and services.

Adverts and articles for the winter issue should be sent in by **Friday 3rd November**, for distribution in late November.

## All contributions or enquiries should be emailed to: westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to:
Bulletin Editor – David Ritchie on 01224 744058 or 07989 637461

Articles should be submitted as **Microsoft Word** documents attached to an email. Articles larger than 600 words may be edited.

#### 2017 advertising rates:

Black & white - 1/4 page £37, 1/2 page £60, full page £115

Colour - Centre pages - 1/4 page £60, 1/2 page £110, full page £190

Colour - Inside covers £210, back page £240

(There is a small additional one-off charge for new adverts and when changes are made)

For more details on advertising see www.westhillelrick.org/bulletin

#### **BULLETIN DELIVERY**

The Bulletin is delivered by an army of dedicated volunteers. More deliverers are always required for the ever-expanding Westhill and to replace retiring helpers.

If you can spare an hour or so four times per year to help deliver the Bulletin in your locality or nearby then please ring David Ritchie on 01224 744058.

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### Westhill & Elrick Community Council

#### Acting Chair

Audrey Findlay, 26 Kinmundy Green Tel 01224 740733

#### Vice-Chair Vacant

#### Secretary

weccsecretx@gmail.com Becky Ferguson, 19 Mains Circle Tel 01224 745893

## Treasurer & Bulletin Manager

wecc.treasurer@westhillelrick.org wecc.bulletin@westhillelrick.org David Ritchie, 11 Fare Park Drive Tel 01224 744058

#### Web-master

David Ewen (Associate Member) wecc.webmaster@westhillelrick.org

#### Ordinary Members

- Alan Eastell, Tel 01224 742361
   9 Straik Place, Elrick
- Bill Loudon, Tel 01224 379134
  32 Lawsondale Drive
- Raymond Swaffield, Tel 01224 740669
   24 Kinmundy Avenue
- Mervyn Barr, Tel 01224 744265
   6 Kingswells View
- Kate Lumsden, Tel 01224 742212
   27 Westhill Grange
- Heather Brock, Tel 01224 743129
  15 Dawson Drive
- John Long, Tel 01224 740008
   52 Dunecht Road
- Dawn Anderson, Tel 01224 746670
   12 Wellgrove Crescent
- Heather Coull, Tel 01224 275758
   25 Morven Drive

Community Council meetings are held on 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm in Holiday Inn West, Westhill and are open to all residents of Westhill & District

The agenda is placed in the noticeboard near Co-op a week before the meeting

#### Office Bearer's Report

You will have noticed from the front cover of this Autumn Bulletin that we are once more trying to recruit people to join Westhill & Elrick Community Council. More details are published on page 4 as well as the nomination form on page 5. Some of our present members are not standing again this year when we hold our 3-yearly elections process in October. Therefore there is an even greater need to make sure we have an active, community based representative CC in this area. We badly need new people who have an interest in what is going on and will work in a team to achieve the best for our community. At our AGM in September we hope to have a Speaker who can update us on the nearby AWPR. This should ensure a good turnout of local residents this year.

#### **Summer Events**

The Gala held this year on 3rd June was again successful, thanks to all the volunteers involved who make the effort to keep it going! WECC had the usual stall and the now famous 'Scarecrows' made another appearance. The 'Westhill in Bloom' revived Garden Competition has been visited by the judges and the presentation of the prizes will again be made at our AGM. How the summer flies past too quickly!

#### The AFC Stadium

Just after the delivery of this publication we will be in the midst of moving towards the next stage of the decision on this proposed stadium right on the doorstep of our town. There is to be what is termed as a 'Pre-Determination' hearing for Aberdeen City councillors on Wednesday 13th September, which we have been invited to send representation to. Then in October the full City Council will meet to make their decision. Whether that will be the final decision will remain to be seen.

#### The Gateway Art Project

Now that the Artist's Brief for this project has been finalised we hope to find an Artist who will embrace the whole idea behind our wish to not only celebrate how our town has developed over the past 50 years but to make the whole main entrance to Westhill a lot more attractive and welcoming. This will be achieved by not only the Art side but the Landscape Services staff being involved in the planning of the whole exercise. Also we expect the chosen Artist to engage with local people and interested local groups with members of all ages.

Let us all enjoy a lovely Autumn and look forward to our Christmas Event on Saturday 9th December. As well as the usual music and carols from the churches we will have a Brass Band to entertain us this year and put us in the right mood for the season of 'Goodwill to all'!

Audrey Findlay
Acting Chairperson

Becky Ferguson Secretary David Ritchie Treasurer

#### **Community Council Elections**

As you will see from the Office Bearer's report, we are due to hold a Community Council election in October 2017. This process happens every 3 years. All current community councillors must stand down and be nominated for re-election. Nominations for new community councillors are always needed as we improve the role of Westhill & Elrick Community Council in providing the services outlined below.

#### Would you like to be a member of Westhill & Elrick Community Council?

Our Constitution allows 20 community councillors, and currently we have 13.

Here is some examples of what Community Councils and their members do:

- represent communities on other organisations
- campaign on local issues
- support and encourage other community organisations
- facilitate consultations
- help with environmental projects
- compile, edit, print and distribute local newsletters
- comment on local planning and other local issues (Community Councils are statutory consultees on planning applications)
- conduct local surveys
- organise public meetings on major development proposals or the Local Plan
- Community Councils liaise between the residents of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeenshire Council and other Public Authorities

#### Do you want to make a difference?

The Nomination form is printed on the opposite page and the closing date for nominations to be with the Returning Officer is Thursday 12th October 2017.

The Returning Officer for the election is Councillor Ron McKail, 17 Brimmond Drive, Westhill, AB32 6SZ and further enquiries should be directed to him by email: *cllr.r.mckail@aberdeenshire.gov.uk* or by phone 01224 742095.

#### **Community Council AGM**

The Westhill & Elrick Community Council AGM will be held at the Holiday Inn Westhill on Thursday 14th September, starting at 7pm. All residents welcome.

After a short session for AGM formalities we hope to have a Speaker who can update us on the nearby AWPR.

There will also be a presentation of trophies for the Westhill in Bloom winners.

# ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ELECTION FOR WESTHILL & ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

Name of Candidate for Election:
Address:
Tel. No.
E-mail:
I am over 18, reside in Westhill & Elrick Community Council Area/own a business in the Area and consent to be nominated as a candidate for Westhill & Elrick Community Council.
Signed:
Date:
Date
WITNESS I confirm the above named candidate signed this form in my presence
WITNESS I confirm the above named candidate signed this form in my presence
WITNESS I confirm the above named candidate signed this form in my presence  Name:
WITNESS I confirm the above named candidate signed this form in my presence  Name:  Address:

Once completed, nomination forms should be lodged with the
Returning Officer
Councillor Ron McKail,
17 Brimmond Drive, Westhill, AB32 6SZ
by no later than Thursday 12th October 2017

(for more details on the Community Council see opposite page)



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- Annual accounts
- · Budgeting and forecasting
- · Cashflow forecasting
- · Business planning

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AlisonDonaldsonCA@yahoo.co.uk or T. 07711 043865

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#### Cllr. Ron McKail (Ward 13), Westhill and District

#### **Recycling Rates for Westhill Householders**

Scottish Government's waste recycling targets require Aberdeenshire Council to reach 69% by 2020. Last year we in the Shire recycled just over 44%. Reaching the Government target is achievable and we in Westhill could play our part if all house holders co-operated with the council strategy of putting the right waste items in the correct blue and also black lidded wheelie bins and putting food waste in the food caddie. It is appreciated

that the majority of householders in Westhill do comply with council recycling policy but evidence suggests not everyone does.

The council earlier this year analysed waste in communities across Aberdeenshire – one study took place here in Westhill in February with the results being surprising if not pretty shocking. 47% of what should have been in the blue lidded bin and should have been recycled was in the black bin and went to landfill. Nearly 30% of the content of the black bin was food waste – all of which could have been recycled using the weekly food waste collections. The remaining 17% placed in the wrong wheelie bin being made up, for example, with garden waste, clothes and shoes, glass and plastic bottles, paper and card.



Putting our rubbish in the wrong bin is not a problem peculiar to Westhill, it is a similar concern throughout Aberdeenshire. We however could be in the vanguard of achieving higher recycling targets. Not only is this good for the environment, it could save the council being sanctioned with a fine which would be the wrong use of our taxpayers money.

If your recycling wheelie bin or food caddie capacity is a problem you can request additional items for free. Phone 03456 081207. Don't struggle for room and resort to using your landfill bin.

If you have comments or suggestions which would improve our recycling targets please don't hesitate to forward these to me.



#### Westhill Drive Zebra Crossings Fitted with Hi Viz Beacons

The Hi Viz beacons mentioned in my Summer bulletin copy have now been installed at both zebra crossings on Westhill Drive. As many of you have commented to me, what a difference these have made to improving pedestrian safety.

#### Contactless Bank Card Holder Protectors

Due to the success of these holders which the Garioch and North Marr Community provided for free and were available in local libraries throughout

our area we are purchasing a further 1000 and a number of these will be available at Westhill Library during the latter part of August.

#### Westhill A2B Dial-a-Bus: A Service Improvement

From Monday 21 August the Monday to Friday A2B Dial a Bus service will be operated by Central Taxis using two wheelchair-accessible taxis. The Saturday service will continue to be operated by Stagecoach. For further information and to make bookings call the Council's A2B team on 01467 535333.

See also details of the changes on page 31.

Please contact me if I can be of help in following up on your queries and concerns. 01224 742095 07767 663787 cllr.r.mckail@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

# Westhill Household Waste & Recycling Centre Westdyke Avenue, Westhill



### Recycling facilities for:

Glass Bottles & Jars, Paper, Cans, Plastic Bottles, Textiles, 'Tetra Pak' type cartons, Garden Waste, Household Batteries, Lead Acid Batteries, Engine Oil, Electrical Appliances, Pressurised Containers, Scrap Metal, Wood, Hardcore & Rubble, Tyres

#### **Opening Hours**

Monday to Sunday Late night Tuesday

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

5 - 8 pm April to Sept.

## LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Monday 10.00 am .....7.30 pm

Tuesday 10.00 am .....5.00 pm

Wednesday 1.00 pm .....7.30 pm

Thursday 10.00 am .....5.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am .....5.00 pm

Saturday 10.00 am .....1.00 pm

## Remember to bring your Borrowers Card.

Westhill Library Westhill Drive 01224 472871

## Aberdeenshire



COUNCIL

#### **Westhill Service Point**

Members of the public can access Aberdeenshire Council services via the internet or by telephone at Westhill Library

- · Making payments for council tax or housing rent
- Reporting potholes, street lighting faults or winter maintenance
- Reporting missed bin collections, checking collection dates or ordering new bins
- National Entitlement Card applications for Young Scot or Over 60s
- Blue badge applications
- Collecting a variety of waste items food caddies/bags, battery bags and dog waste bags
- Apply 4 Homes applications

Police Scotland queries are dealt with at the Police Station, via the intercom or customers can call 101.

## Westhill and Skene Lions Club

CHARITY SALE OF BOOKS, DVDs & CDs AT WESTHILL SHOPPING CENTRE

1ST SATURDAY EACH MONTH 9am to 12pm

#### **NEXT 3 SALES ARE**

2nd Sept, 7th Oct, 4th Nov

All proceeds go to local good causes

Donations of books, etc., welcome on the day or telephone

0845 833 5963



#### Cllr. Iris Walker (Ward 13), Westhill and District

#### **New Education Leaders**

Hopefully, all school staff will have had a refreshing summer break and be ready to take on a new term. I hope all pupils are settling in to their new classes especially those who are moving up to the Academy as well as the little ones starting off on their school journey. The Westhill cluster of schools welcomes three new Head Teachers – Jennifer Burns at Westhill Primary, Andrea Drummond at Elrick Primary and Alison Reid at Westhill Academy. I

wish them well in their new roles and look forward to working with all three on education and community issues.

#### **Kingsford Stadium**

In case you missed the public notice in the press by Aberdeen City Council, there will be a Pre-determination Hearing on the Aberdeen Football Club application to build a stadium and training pitches at Kingsford. This hearing will take place on Wednesday 13th September and will give supporters and objectors a chance to present their case to city councillors before the application is determined at a future Full Council.

#### **Community Council membership**

You will read separately in this Bulletin that W&ECC are to hold their AGM next month when two very experienced office-bearers, dedicated to their community are to step down. Becky Ferguson joined whilst still at school and over the years she became a very competent and valuable member of the team. Audrey Findlay leaves a huge gap in experience of all things community as well as council process. The group needs community-minded residents to step up to keep W&ECC going. As legislation progresses within the Scottish Parliament, community councils as statutory bodies along with other community groups will become even more pivotal in community and land use planning, so it really is a good group to join if you want to change or progress things within your community. I would hope that more young people could input to the community council as well, so please go along to their AGM and find out more.

#### **Diamond Wedding congratulations!**

Many congratulations to Westhill couple Robert and Rohays Henderson of Kinmundy Gardens who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 17th August. The couple met in 1952 at South Hirn, Banchory where Robert worked, Rohays working in an egg grading station in nearby Crathes. They started going to local dances together, courting for five years before marrying in 1957. They marked their milestone 60 years with their son Ken, daughter Ann, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren who all live locally in Westhill and Skene.

#### Newsletter

I am very grateful to Westhill & Elrick Community council for the space in the quarterly bulletin to update residents on local issues. If you want to sign up to my newsletter for more regular news and have an input to other local issues, please email me at *cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk* 

My surgeries are on the first Saturday of the month (excluding January and August) from 10–11am at Westhill Library or you can contact me by phone on 07876 475272, email *cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk*, contact me online at *www.iriswalker.co.uk* or Facebook/Tweet me.



Cllr Iris Walker - Westhill and District



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#### Councillor David Aitchison

The proposed football stadium development is now due to be determined by Aberdeen City Council in October. When the proposal became public in May 2016 substantial issues around transportation, access and parking were quickly identified

As the formal application has gone through the planning process these issues have continued to be the main reason for concern for Aberdeenshire councillors and officials. It is now also clear that these are factors of concern within Aberdeen City Council. To date despite having considerable opportunity and time to address the problems around transportation the football club have been unable to produce any satisfactory and workable solutions.

These issues should be at the forefront in the final report which goes to the city councillors. It is to be hoped that they are given the full emphasis which they deserve.

The community council website has a section dedicated to the stadium proposal which will keep you updated with further news on the application.

As you will be aware the Westhill branch of RBS is due to close shortly. The closure is partly due to the reduced footfall at the branch. The growth of online and digital banking which many of us now use has led to bank closures throughout the country by most of our leading banks and is a sign of the times. Online banking and shopping is increasingly convenient for us all but does have a significant effect on the viability of shops and businesses in our town centres. There are many in our community who still value face to face contact when shopping or banking. However without continued support businesses that are able to operate successfully online will inevitably consider leaving town centres as they try to remain competitive.

I can be consulted at any time by telephone or email on any issue and also hold monthly surgeries at Westhill Library on the first Wednesday most months from 6-7pm.

My next surgery date is Wednesday 6 September 2017. Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for full list of dates.

**Councillor David Aitchison** 

2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ Tel 01224 741301. Mobile 07876 475227

cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk ( @aitchisondavid



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#### Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

We are awaiting on a decision on the Planning Application we have submitted to make a further meeting/multi-function room and the extension and upgrading of the kitchen.

Future Events: See Facebook Page for further details.

**Past Events:** The recent Variety Concert was a huge success. Many thanks to all who performed and to the audience for coming along. This is something we hope to repeat in the future.

#### **Regular Activities:**

- Jazzercise, 7.15–8.15pm every Thursday.
- Skene Pre-School Playgroup Mon–Fri mornings during term time.
- Skene Women's Rural Institute 1st Wednesday of each month. Phone Mary Gray 01224 743285.
- Westhill Sooyang Do martial art group hold classes for children and adults on Monday evenings. Phone Chief Instructor Dave Bremner: 07970 188825.
- Indoor bowling every Tuesday evening. All welcome.
- Skene Youth Club for Primary 1–7, Thursday evenings 6–7pm during term time.

Our hall can be booked for children's parties, funeral teas, etc.

For booking enquiries phone Mary Gray on 01224 743285. Milne Hall Management Committee is registered as a charity (SC045034). **Help wanted** – if you feel you could contribute in any way in looking after and improving the hall, you will be made most welcome. Please contact 01224 742804.

#### DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Westhill & Elrick Community Council have a surplus of funds due to the strong demand for advertising in the Westhill Bulletin. Some of these surplus funds are available for donations to local voluntary groups.

Applications for donations will be considered and awarded twice yearly, in early May and November, so the next set of donations will be made in November 2017. The deadline for applications is 4th November. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

In May 2017 donations were made to the Denman Playgroup, Friends of Garlogie Day Centre, Westhill Social Studies Group, Pam Dignan Dancers, Grampian District Pipes & Drums and Westhill Bowling Club.

Donation requests can be sent at any time to the WECC Treasurer by email to wecc. treasurer@westhillelrick.org with a brief description of what the funds will be used for. The donations can be to help with normal ongoing running costs and will not be restricted to one-off projects.

For more information, please contact: David Ritchie, Treasurer, Westhill & Elrick Community Council, Tel. 01224 744058, wecc.treasurer@westhillelrick.org





This is my first Bulletin entry, since my election to Council in May, and I would like to thank everyone who supported and voted for me.

It seems incredible now, that it is only 3 months ago as so much has happened in that time, including a hectic diary schedule, days and days of Induction Training, and Committee Meetings. In May, as the new Council Administration was being formed, I agreed to accept the position of Vice

Chair of the Council's Audit Committee.

I am delighted, that Westhill has a strong Senior Councillor presence within the Council, as my colleagues Iris Walker and Ron McKail are Vice Chair of Communities Committee, and Deputy Provost respectively.

As a Community we face many challenges, the most immediate of these is the pending closure of our local Bank. RBS were called in to the Scottish Parliament by MSP Liam Kerr, to answer questions on their decision to pull out of South and West Aberdeenshire (Stonehaven, Banchory, Westhill closures). I have began communicating with alternative providers, and the Landlords/Agents to press home the need to focus on this issue. It will be a very difficult task indeed, given the contraction of branch networks in the UK in the last few years, but I consider it vital to pursue this.

Over the next few months we will be looking at the development of Westhill and District, with Council officials, so it would be timely to ask you as residents, what you consider to be the priorities for our region. What are the Infrastructure developments we might consider, what improvements are needed, i.e. leisure, availability of facilities for our youth, or for our more senior residents, or roads, and pathways?

Now is the time for us to be proactive, in our thinking and our approach to growing our local area, or we stand still, while other Towns get the lion's share of focussed development budgets.

So please, answers on a postcard??....... No, please forward your thoughts to me via email, *Cllr.a.mckelvie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk* or telephone 07388 956143.

Alistair McKelvie

#### SCAFFOLD TOWER FOR HIRE

The Westhill Residents' Association purchased a scaffold tower for erecting the Christmas lights. The tower is available for hire to Westhill residents. The platform working height is 2.73m.

Charges are £10 per day for 1 to 2 days, then £5 per day for each additional day, or £30 for one week. Transportation available at £10 each way.

For more information and to book the scaffold, call 01224 744058.

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#### WESTHILL ART PROJECT

The Westhill Art Project are having a wee break over the summer after a busy first half of the year. We had the Easter Eggs, the Portraits of Westhill and the 4th Annual Scarecrow Trail. Sadly at our last meeting, two of our members decided to retire – Rosemary Murray (who was team leader for many years) and Hazel Smith. These ladies were very valuable members of the group and will be sorely missed for both their hard work and the fun they brought to each event!

Our next meeting will be in October, to prepare for Christmas. I would ask if any residents would like to join us, as our numbers are depleted. It is great fun and you don't have to be particularly "Arty". Please get in touch if you would like to join.

Kate Lumsden, Team Leader, Westhill Art Project · katelumsden@btinternet.com



#### **BILL'S GARDENING CORNER**

Well so far it has been a lovely summer, now we have to look forward to autumn and all it brings with it. The harvest of our spring and summer gardening, the rewards of all the planting, weeding, feeding and watering, even with the rain we still have to water.

I am going to use the S word, very well used in the garden after rain, SNAILS & SLUGS, every gardeners pet hate and one of the pest enemies; carry a bag or bucket round the garden, pick them up and pop them in, then take them down to the woods or some rough ground and dump them; it will do no harm to the area and would be more beneficial to the birds and hedgehogs.

The gardens are all looking very colourful, green foliage and flowers of many colours, it is a treat to have a walk around and see the different styles of gardens in the community.

This also is the time of year to save seeds from flowers for sowing next year or planting in pots for growing in the greenhouse, also looking for spring bulbs to plant end of august into September.

Dead heading lots of flowers can be helpful in having an extra burst of colour towards the end of September into October.

Enjoy your garden.

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#### **Library News**

The summer has been very busy with lots of children signing up for the annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year's challenge is all about books and their illustrations. 'Be Drawn Into A Good Book' was launched on Thursday 22nd June and will finish on Saturday 26th August. As we write this update children are enthusiastically signing up for the Challenge of reading at least 6 books over the Summer holidays.

On Monday 24th July we welcomed for the first time Eureka TechFest sessions for nursery to P7 children. The TechFest team ran 'Science Detectives' and 'Science of Flight' workshops which were interactive, fun and inspiring.

**Comics Plus** – *Digital Comics & Graphic Novels* is a new service launched by Aberdeenshire Libraries.

Comics Plus: Library Edition brings unlimited access to thousands of digital graphic novels and comics to members of Aberdeenshire Libraries. The collection includes 93 publishers with over 16,000 Comics to choose from and includes thousands of titles and series from the biggest publishers in comics with every genre you could wish for: fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, thrillers, romance, indie comics, Sunday funnies, and manga.

• Read titles through your Web browser on any computer, tablet or smart-phone with an Internet connection • Read titles through the iOS Mobile App for iPad or iPhone • Browse by genre, publisher, and comic – then instantly check out your favourites • Access comics whenever you want them – no holds or waiting

All Aberdeenshire Library card holders are able to use this service free of charge. If you have already registered for the RB Digital eMagazine service you are already setup to access our range of comics. If you have never used RB Digital we have a simple registration process which will ask for your library card number so please have your library card ready. To use the *Comic Plus Service* visit *www.rbdigital.com/aberdeenshire*.

You can even download the *Comics Plus: Library Edition app* for iPhone and iPad to take your borrowed comics on the go!

Thursday 28th September is National Poetry Day across the UK. The theme this year is 'Freedom'. To celebrate this annual event the library will have poetry related displays and free poetry postcards on the theme of 'Freedom'.

Joining the library is free. Information on how to join is given below.

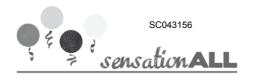
- You will need to give staff some information about yourself. You will need to have proof of identity (passport; identity card) and proof of address (recent letter with address: e.g. rent; bank; gas electricity)
- · Agree to the Acceptable Use Policy.

You will then receive a Library Card number and PIN which allow you to access our online services and to use the library computers free of charge.

- Please speak to a member of staff before using a computer.
- You can book the computer for up to one hour at a time.
- You will have to pay for printing. If you want to print, please let staff know beforehand.

For information on all forthcoming events at Westhill Library please visit us at www. aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries and http://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireLibraries.

Please note the new library telephone number – 01224 472871.



# Westhill's LOCAL disability charity

The SensationALL team would like to say a massive "THANK YOU" to the runners who ran the 2017 Westhill 10k for us in June! Together, you guys raised just under £1,500 for us. We would also like to thank the organisers, Westhill and District Community Sports Hub, for again choosing SensationALL as their charity partner and donating £1500 from the event.

The next team fundraising event is Ride-The-North on 26–27 August and we want to wish all cyclists good luck with the rest of their training and the event! As always, we are very grateful for people who volunteer to raise money for SensationALL in this way. If you are running, walking, cycling, swimming or taking part in any event and would like to raise money for SensationALL, please get in touch.

#### Old Schoolhouse project update

It has been a busy time for the Old School, getting a new kitchen installed and safety systems updated. Huge thanks go out to our chair Bob McCracken for his time and efforts in addition to Craigmyle Plumbing, Chapman Electrical and Grampian Fire & Safety. Still lots to do and lots of cleaning! This will also help the start of Westhill's new out of school provision Schools Out! in August. Email: SOCWesthill@gmail. com for more information.

#### M&S Westhill Charity of the Year

We are super excited to be chosen as the Westhill M&S store's charity of the year! Keep a look out for their fundraising events in store and our SensationALL donation tins at the tills too.

Thank you also to all who voted for us at the Westhill Gala to be successful at accessing £5,000 through the Your Voice Your Choice fund!

#### SensationALL and Celebrate Aberdeen

The SensationALL team are taking part in this year's Celebrate Aberdeen parade on Saturday 26th August. Sponsored by CALA homes, we will be walking down Union Street with other North East third sector organisations, raising awareness of the charity organisations in the city and the role we play in the community.

#### SensationALL Events

We are hosting a SensationALL family afternoon tea on Saturday, 16th September from 2pm to 4pm at the Old Schoolhouse. £5/adult and £2.50 for children. We will be hosting a SensationALL Show-Stopper-baking-Competition on the day and the winner gets an M&S voucher.

Westhill Rotary are holding a Curry and Disco night to raise funds for SensationALL and Sightsavers on Saturday, 30th September at the Holiday Inn. Email secretary@westhill.rotary1010.org to buy your tickets.

#### Volunteering for SensationALL

We are a charity organisation and rely on community input for all aspects of our work. We are lucky enough to have volunteers on the board of trustees, for our play sessions, charity events, fundraising days and most aspects of SensationALL! If you would like to get involved or volunteer your time, expertise or organisations to some of our activities, then please email <code>info@sensationall.org.uk</code> or phone 01224 746699

#### www.SensationALL.org.uk









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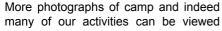
#### 1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

The formal Friday evening meetings ended with our Parents Evenings and since then both Company and Junior Sections met on an informal basis with the focus on sports and outdoor activities. Some of the junior boys took part in an Adventure Weekend at Abernethy Outdoor Centre while Company Section boys attended a similarly themed weekend at Scott

Lodge at Glen Dole in Angus, in addition to several mountain bike outings.

We again had a Hot Dog stand at the Westhill Gala which was going great until heavy rain totally disrupted the event.

For our Annual Camp, we returned to Badaguish Outdoor Centre near Aviemore at the start of July with 14 boys for a week of outdoor activities. Despite a damp start to the week and some cool weather the boys completed a full activity programme including mountain biking, hill walking, water sports, an overnight 'wilderness camp' in the Cairngorms and a visit to the Landmark Centre at Carrbridge.





on our Facebook page and www.1stskenebb.co.uk which always carry information and photographs of our activities. These are updated regularly so please feel free to visit us online at any time.

Looking ahead, our Enrolment Evening for the 2017/2018 session starts at 7pm on Friday, 25 August at Trinity Church. The following Friday the Anchor Boys meet in Trinity Church Hall and the other sections in Westhill Academy.

## We have no 'Waiting Lists' and new boys will be made most welcome then or indeed on any Friday evening.

The Boys' Brigade caters for a wide variety of age ranges and in 1st Skene Company, we participate in a wide range of activities throughout the year. Specific information can always be obtained from any of the sections leaders as below.

Section	Age range	Meeting	Point of Contact
Anchor Boys	Primary 1–3	Friday 6.30–8pm Trinity Church Hall	Ann Hudson 01224 740080
Junior Section	Primary 4–6	Friday 6.45–8.30pm Westhill Academy	Neil MacBeath 01330 860226
Company Section	Primary 7 upwards	Friday 7.00–10pm Westhill Academy	Donald Struthers 01224 742262

**Donald Struthers, Company Captain** 

#### **ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)**

The Ashdale Hall has been busy this summer, hosting the Annual Westhill Gala and Bingo Night, craft shows, Children Dance Show, Westhill 10k prize distribution, Blood Transfusion Service, a Zumba Masterclass, Blackburn Summer Dances and Charity Fundraising Ceilidhs. You can also book your child's Party at the Hall, there is plenty of room for a bouncy castle indoors, please email for details – ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

#### **AVAILABLE CLASS HIRES**

After the summer holidays we will have various time slots available during the week for let, please email the Hall if you are interested in making a regular booking.

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This year's AGM held on 26th June marked the end of the hall's Chairmanship for Carol Wilson, who decided to step down due to her personal commitments. She has done an outstanding job shaping this hall for the past five years to what it is today. It is our very great pleasure on behalf of the management committee and the staff as a whole to thank her for the dedication and time. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

We're delighted to introduce John Fraser as our new Chairperson. He has been hall's secretary since 2012. John brings a wide range of skills and experience to this challenging and important role. In the coming year his dedication will for sure endeavour to build on the fantastic achievements and commitment of our staff and all those volunteers and businesses who have contributed to making sure that Ashdale Hall continues to be a great place for community to visit and hire.

We would also like to welcome Robert S Watson as member of the management committee. He has kindly agreed to help the committee when needed. Robert has been a regular user of the hall for a long time and will be a very valuable addition to the committee.

The hall's management committee can be contacted at ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2nd September – Westhill Producer's Market (9am–1pm)

8th September – Tea Dance (monthly, every 2nd Friday)

10th September – Blackburn Dance

15th September – Youth Life Cafe

30th September & 1st October – Pam Dignan Dancers Annual Show

7th October - Westhill Producer's Market

#### **HALL FACILITIES**

The Hall hosts regular Dance Society Dances, Family Ceilidhs, Dance Shows & Competitions, Youth Orchestra Rehearsals & Concerts, Gigs and Scottish Nights. The Hall is also frequently used by various community groups and individuals for fundraising charity events. We also offer a wide programme of exercise and yoga classes, children's dance classes and toddler/baby classes, for full details please see our online timetable: <a href="http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable">http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-events</a> (these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

#### **ENQUIRIES**

For enquiries or to book the hall/meeting rooms or badminton courts, please e-mail Fatima Mansoor at: ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk or call the Hall on **01224 740137**.

Scottish registered charity no. SCO21493

### **Westhill & District Community Sports Hub**

#### Nicol of Skene Westhill 10k

The Nicol of Skene Westhill 10k was held on Sunday 11th June. It was a great day with almost 700 runners. Paul Hadden was first to finish the event and local runner Nicola Gauld took first place in the womens category in a record time. All runners received 10k t-shirts and medals for finishing.



The event was well supported by the local community with over 70 volunteers offering their time and many residents in the Westhill area also cheering the runners through the streets of Westhill.

Sport and

Three children running events, sponsored by CNOOC Nexen, were also held. P1–P3 event over a distance of 600 metres, a P4–P7 event run over 1km and a 2.5km race for secondary school children. Close to 250 children took part

and all the feedback received suggests they had a great time. All children that took part received a race medal and trophies were also handed out to 1-2-3 placing for boys and girls in each race.

Monies raised from the event are being shared between the 10k partner charity SensationALL and the WDCSH. £1500 was donated to SensationALL from the event proceeds. WDCSH promotes sport in the local area – supporting local sports clubs and invests in facilities. Links below:



SensationALL: http://www.sensationall.org.uk/

WDCSH: https://wdcsh.org/

A big thank you to our main sponsor Nicol of Skene for their support of the event, CNOOC Nexen our childrens race sponsor and Tesco Westhill for providing all the water and cereal bars for the event. Also a mention to our race patrons Run4lt, J&E Shepherd, Subsea7, Braemoral Joinery, GPH, AD&W, Fulcrum, Westhill Holiday Inn, SPEAR, Aberdeen Sports Massage, Aberdeen Sports Village, Rebel PT, RAM Tubulars, Border Digital and BrianBat Photography.

Finally the event would not have been possible without the efforts of our 10k committee. Thanks go to Peter Jennings, Jackie Stewart, Suzanne Bird, Nicola Gauld, Carol Wilson and Mark Berry.

#### Westhill Football Gala

The Westhill Gala saw the return of the football tournament organised by the WDCSH. Close to 250 children took part on the day in the P4–P5 and P6–P7 tournaments. Congratulations to all teams for taking part. A big thank you to main organisers Neil Yeoman and Kevin Owen. Thanks also to those who helped with setup duties on the day.

## SOUTH WEST ABERDEENSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (SWACAB)

#### **Charity Number SC037679, Company Number SC365959**

SWACAB is your local independent volunteer-led charity so your support is very important to us, whether it be through volunteering, helping us to raise funds or giving a donation

To find out more about what we do and how you can help, you are invited to attend our AGM which will be held in the Holiday Inn at 7pm on Tuesday 19th September.

Have you ever considered volunteering? Do you realise how satisfying it is to know that you are helping people in the community to resolve their problems?

Everyone has something to offer and the breadth of available roles makes Citizens Advice Bureau an ideal place to utilise your skills. If you can spare a few hours each week to help others please call our Manager on 01224 747714

We are currently looking for a number of new volunteers to join the bureau

- · to provide administrative support to all the staff and volunteer advisers, and
- to provide reception services to clients as they enter the bureau

Other volunteering roles include adviser, fund raising, publicity, IT support and membership of the Board of Management.

Full training is given for the adviser role, leading to a considerable increase in skills, which in themselves have led many of our volunteers into full or part time employment.

As well as our volunteer generalist advisers, the bureau has a number of specialist advisers providing more in depth advice on Energy, PensionWise, Debt and Benefits, including mandatory benefits reconsiderations and benefits tribunal representation. Staff delivering Debt and Benefits Advice are part of a project team jointly funded by the European Social Fund and Fairer Scotland Fund through Aberdeenshire Council.

If you have a problem or need help or advice on any matter, please call 01224 747714 to make an appointment to see an Adviser.

#### The bureau opening hours in Westhill are:

Monday 10am–3pm (by appointment only with specialist advisers)

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am–12.30pm and 1pm–3pm (appointment or drop-in)

Thursday 10am–3pm (by appointment only with specialist advisers)

Friday 11am-4pm (appointment, plus drop-in from 1pm)

We also have a bureau office in Banchory and 6 outreaches located in Aboyne, Tarland, Ballater, Braemar, Alford and Lonach, all by appointment only. Please call 01224 747714 to book an appointment or visit our website <a href="http://www.swacab.org.uk/where-and-when">http://www.swacab.org.uk/where-and-when</a> for further information.

#### **Westhill and District Gardening Club**

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Trinity Church Halls at 7.30pm. Tea and biscuits are provided at the conclusion of the evening's programme and all proceedings end by 9.30pm.

Future dates and topics for your diary are:

20th September – Prof. David Burslem from Cruickshank Gardens will give a talk on Botanic Gardens

18th October – Graham Torrie from the Aberdeen & District Beekeepers Society will give a presentation on Honeybees

15th November – Ellice Milton will give a slideshow showing the Donside Seasons and will judge the Annual Members Photographic Competition

The club meetings are always open to visitor or new members at any time.

For further information please contact David Dolman, Secretary, W&DGC, tel. 01224 742639, or send us an e-mail to westhillgardenclub@gmail.com.

#### **Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support**

The annual Macmillan walk held on Sunday 28th May at Kirkton of Skene raised £819.

On Saturday 10th June the committee hosted a "Fizzy Fly Cup", prosecco afternoon high tea in the Dunecht Hall. This was a new event which proved very popular, raising £1,456.

A stall at the Echt show on Saturday 8th July, raised £448.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with and contributed to these events.

#### Dates for your diary:

Friday 8th September in the Blue Lamp, Aberdeen – "Musicians for Macmillan". Local alternative blues band "Full Fat" host a charity gig in aid of Macmillan. Daniel Mutch and the band "Black Tiles" will also be taking part. Tickets are £7/person, £5/student and will be available at the door on the night.

Saturday 16th September – "Panda Ayes", in the Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene. This local folk band who have played in the past for Macmillan, return with some new material and a slightly different line up, featuring vocals, keyboard/saxophone/tin whistle player, guitarists and drummer. Bring your own refreshments and nibbles. Tickets are £10/person, available from Kath on 01330 860226.

Saturday 30th September – Coffee Morning in the Lyne of Skene Hall, 10–12 noon. Entry is by donation. Teas, coffee, home bakes served. There are the usual stalls and raffles. All are welcome. This event is part of the national "Biggest Coffee Morning in the World" event. If you would like to host a similar coffee morning in your home or workplace, please get in touch with Kath on 01330 860226, or any committee member. Money raised from a coffee morning can be passed to your local committee. We can ensure that it is kept in the local area for the benefit of local patients and their families. We can provide a receipt to display if required.

Please follow Macmillan on our Facebook page, searching for Skene Fund Raising Committee – Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you to all who support our fund raising events and to those who give donations individually. Any money raised is for the benefit of local patients and their families. If you have a little time to spare – why not join in our fund raising activities?

Kath MacBeath



#### The Scottish Dance Fitness Class

A fun, sociable way to exercise with fab music and great company!

No dance experience necessary Suitable for all fitness levels

#### Thursdays, 7.45-8.30pm Westhill Academy

(Kingswells Community Centre during school holidays)

#### \*\*FIRST CLASS FREE\*\*

Contact Carolle on 07780 938849 or on Facebook: "Highland Hustle with Carolle"

Get fit, have fun!



## Skene

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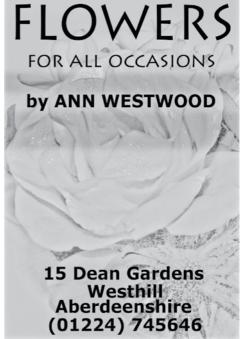
Dog walking and pet services in Westhill, Skene, Kingswells and surrounding area

Mobile: 07964848157

Website: www.skenedogwalking.co.uk

Email: Info@skenedogwalking.co.uk





#### Litter in Westhill

While on a short break in Shetland recently, we came across this sign at the side of the road. Amusing to us but it has a clear meaning even if the wording may look strange to some of us. Although we saw less litter there than we do here, the authorities are still keen to remind us of the problems of dropping litter. With the warmer summer weather, our thoughts drift to picnics and eating out to make the best of the sun. You can make a difference by taking away, or binning anything that is left.





You could also make a difference by joining in one of our monthly litter picks. We are looking for individuals, families or large groups like the Brownies here. All picks will start at 10:00 at the Westhill Tennis Court

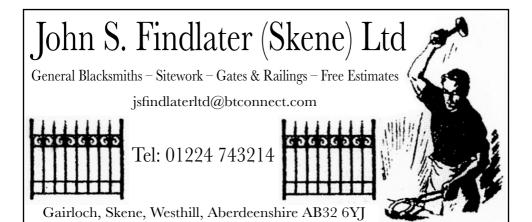
car park and kit is provided.

We are holding group litter picks on: 16th September, 14th October, 18th November.

For further information, or if interested in borrowing our kit, please contact:

**Raymond Swaffield** 

email swaffies@talktalk.net · Tel. 01224 740669



#### WESTHILL TENNIS CLUB

It's been a busy summer down at the club with coaching, club nights, league matches and general play all going on. Our junior coaching has been especially busy this summer as our coach, Vikki Paterson, was awarded funding for 2 Tennis for Kids programs which aimed to introduce the game to 5–8 year old's who have never played tennis before. These sessions have now been completed and we hope the participants thoroughly enjoyed the course.

Our men's and ladies' teams have almost finished their NESLTA summer league matches. We have also had some games in the local social leagues which offer our members match play in a less competitive setting. If you are interested in playing in either competitive or social matches please get in contact (details below).

If the better weather has inspired you to play tennis but you aren't interested in full membership then you can access the courts through our "Pay and Play" system. Members of the public are welcome to book and pay for a court through our online booking system and then access the courts by collecting a key from Costa Coffee. More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/westhillLawnTennisClub/Booking">www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/westhillLawnTennisClub/Booking</a>.

On a more sober note, we have had reports that some users of the courts have received abusive language and intimidating behaviour from groups of young people at the courts. This is unacceptable. While it is great to see a large number of young people playing tennis abusive language and intimidation will not be tolerated. We also have concerns about how the courts are being accessed when all the gates are locked! We strongly encourage all players to become members or to book a court through our online public booking system so they can safely access the courts using a key. We all deserve to play tennis in a safe and friendly environment. Furthermore, we would like to remind all users that players with a court booking (whether a member or not) take precedent over walk-ups and we ask everyone to respect this rule.

#### Benefits of membership include:

- · Free court time for members with online booking sheet
- · Social tennis evenings for adults on Mondays & Thursdays from 7pm; Saturdays from 2:30pm
- · Competitive tennis in the North District leagues, both men's and ladies' teams
- Opportunities to play in social leagues playing against other local clubs
- Coaching opportunities for all members and organised coaching sessions for minis and juniors from a qualified coach
- · Entry to the Wimbledon ticket Ballot
- Social events throughout the season

Our 2017/18 memberships run from the 1st April 2017–31st March 2018 but we welcome membership applications at any time. Please get in touch for more details or see our website.

Annual membership fees: Family: £150; Adult:£75; Student: £35; Juniors: £28 (11–17 years); Minis: £15 (10 or under on 31st March 2017)

#### Contact

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub
Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub
In person: Monday evenings from 7.00pm (Adult Club Night)
Coaching: Vikki Paterson vikkipaterson@hotmail.com

#### JOGSCOTLAND IN WESTHILL

We meet on a Monday and Thursday night at Westhill Swimming Pool, 6.30–7.30pm
Catering for all ages in our walk/jog programme.

Further info from **Pam Wilson** on **07734 541616** to like us on Facebook Jogscotland-Westhill

### Westhill and District Senior Citizens Club

Welcomes all previous and new members

Meeting at Westhill Trinity Church

First Meeting is on Thursday 14th September

(fortnightly thereafter)

2pm to 4pm

Joining Fee £6 - paid once annually

Weekly fee of £3 per person (includes refreshments)

Entertainment to include Audacity (a group playing 40's and 50's music, Irish, Concert party); Roy Rhodes (Singer); The Critter Keeper;

Bob Dunlop (Accordion); Tara Leiper (Piano)

Christmas Lunch has been booked for Thursday 7th December at Holiday Inn Westhill

Come along and meet some new friends

Westhill AtoB Dial-a-bus can be booked to transport you

Open to everyone over age 55!

Contact Heather Cook on 01224 741194 for further information





#### POLICE REPORT

#### **Community Policing**

Joyce Ogilvie and Edna Williamson are what a community is all about. Together they give up their time to help local youngsters write, film, edit and act in their own dramas.





Joyce taught drama at Westhill Primary and formed, 'Script to screen and stage' in 2006 and down the years has had around 25 to 30

youngsters a year involved in using their skills and imagination to come up with their short films and acting.

Keeping people safe

Edna was a mother of one of the actors and got involved as Joyce's assistant and became a top class editor herself!

They approached me a few months ago asking permission to film outside Westhill Police station but I couldn't resist asking if I could become an actor and was soon involved in handcuffing and throwing some of the kids into the cells!

'Running Scammed' was the film involving a bungled Police investigation with the wrong folk getting locked up. The film was one of five that were screened to a full house last month at Ashdale Hall with many proud parents, siblings and grandparents watching on.

At the conclusion the following awards were handed out, best actress – Molly Alexander, best actor – Seumas Dale and best comedy actor – 10 year old Keira Scott. Keira was the bungling Police Officer and has as much prospect of becoming a Cop on that performance as I have becoming an actor!

If you think about it, Joyce and Edna have encouraged and worked with hundreds of local youths who, let's face it, might have got drawn into less sociable behaviour. It was a pleasure to work with them and I look forward to assisting them in the future should they need a prop or two.

#### Speeding In Westhill

I have been approached by several members of the Westhill community, including local councillors, asking what I can do to help reduce the speed of traffic in the area.

Over the last year, I have erected our speed survey sign at several locations, The Brodiach, Broadshade, Broadstraik, Mason Lodge and Westhill Drive areas to name a few. I think it is fair to say that most of the local residents respect the speed limit in their town and that it appears to be commuters travelling into and from Westhill who are over keen to get to work or return home.

The results generally show that most drivers obey the limits, but some don't. I now have a speed gun and find that the way to back up the camera is to stand at hot spots in my high-viz jacket with the speed gun. If my presence not only slows down traffic as they approach or leave Westhill, hopefully it will make speeders think twice. Is that Cop around the next corner with the speed gun?

Hopefully I can assist in reducing traffic speed by doing this.

The message is clear - 'When in town - slow down'!

Keeping people safe

www.scotland.police.uk

PC Steve Middleton

#### Westhill A2B

few requests from these areas.

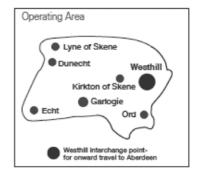
#### The easy way to get from A to B in the Westhill area

A2B is a demand responsive door-to-door bus service open to everyone in the Westhill area.

From August 21st there are changes to the service: Westhill A2B will be operated by Central Taxis on Mondays—Fridays from 9am—4.15pm using two 7-seat wheelchair accessible vehicles. Pick-ups and drop-offs can be anywhere in the service area. Please note that the service area has been reduced and will no longer cover Sauchen or Leylodge due to limited time and very

# Westhill Saturday Timetable from 21 August 2017 On Saturdays Stagecoach Bluebird will operate a shopping service into Westhill. The indicative timetable may vary by up to 15 minutes depending on bookings made.





Echt	0945	Westhill Tesco	1140
Garlogie	0955	Westhill Shopping Centre	1150
Kirkton of Skene	1005	Kirkton of Skene	1205
Westhill Shopping Centre	1020	Garlogie	1215
Westhill Tesco	1030	Echt	1230

#### **Booking Trips**

The service is open to anyone in the Westhill area but all passengers must be registered and all trips pre-booked.

Please phone **01467 535 333 option 3** for enquiries and to register (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm) **01467 535 333 option 1** to book a trip (Mon–Fri 9.30am–3.30pm) **01467 535 333 option 2** to cancel a trip (24hrs to leave a message)

Book up to 7 days in advance or 14 days for a medical appointment. We also take same day bookings subject to availability and a minimum of 1 hours' notice for the drivers.

At the time of booking we will confirm your trip times. If we cannot provide the exact time that you are looking for we will offer you the nearest available time. If your trip is time-critical please let us know when booking, for example: you have a medical appointment or are connecting to/from another bus service.

Please be ready 10 minutes before your pick-up time as times may vary slightly depending on the number of passenger bookings.

#### **Cost of Travel**

A wide variety of tickets are available and fares are similar to other local bus services. Trips are free for people holding a Scotland-wide free bus pass.

#### Westhill Golf Club

All categories continue to play through their fixtures and I must say to a great standard with many handicaps being reduced, targets set at the beginning of the year reached. Our Gents section course record of 67 was equalled by club member Bruce McHattie while competing in the 3rd round of 72 Hole competition. Our "Super Sunday" Club Championship finals afternoon was held on Sunday 20th August, a full list will of winners will be in a future article.



Coaches and Children at the 2017 Summer Camp

Our Junior Section goes from strength to strength as now we have over 100 junior members!! We held a Junior Camp during the first week of the school holidays in which 29 children attended. The week was full of learning and most of all fun. To round off the week we held a presentation ceremony in the clubhouse to celebrate our "young golfers" success. Following on from that we introduced further coaching and learning programmes held on Monday afternoons during the summer break. There was also a chance for the children

to gain club handicaps over a shortened 4-hole course and as they progressed they would then play then over a 9-hole shortened course with their target a handicap off the yellow tees for the boys and the red tees for the girls. Special thanks must go to our Lead Coach John Boyd and his team of volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in making junior golf at Westhill a section that the children can be proud to be part of.

The first putt on the new practice putting green has been struck and will be a welcome addition to the facilities at the club and a chance to "hone" that stroke to somewhere near that of 2017 Open Champion Jordan Spieth!!

Towards the end of June and on the success of "Could it be Take That" we held another tribute night, this time the entertainment was provided by A88AMANIA. What a fantastic night it was!! January 2018 will see the return of "Could it be Take That" with this in mind and to take advantage of our social calendar, social memberships are available at a cost of £5pp!!

From 1st September 2017, we will be offering an "18 month for 12" deal on all individual playing memberships, join then and have nothing else to pay until March 2019. To take advantage of this offer please contact me at the club on 01224 743361 option 1.

Regretfully, I must mention again that we still experiencing some damage to the course made by a small minority who think it is acceptable to play the course without paying. This damage costs the club money and is seen an act of vandalism, should it continue incidents will be reported to the Police.

George Bruce, Director of Golf



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George Bruce, Director of Golf, 01224 743361 Option 1

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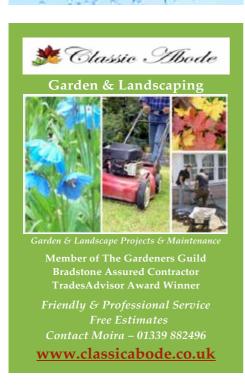
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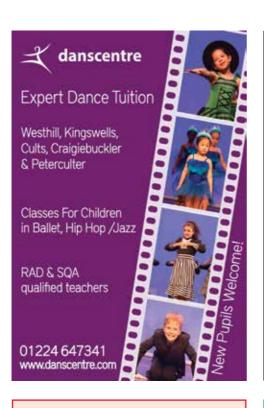
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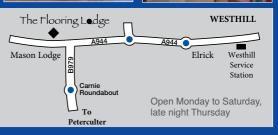
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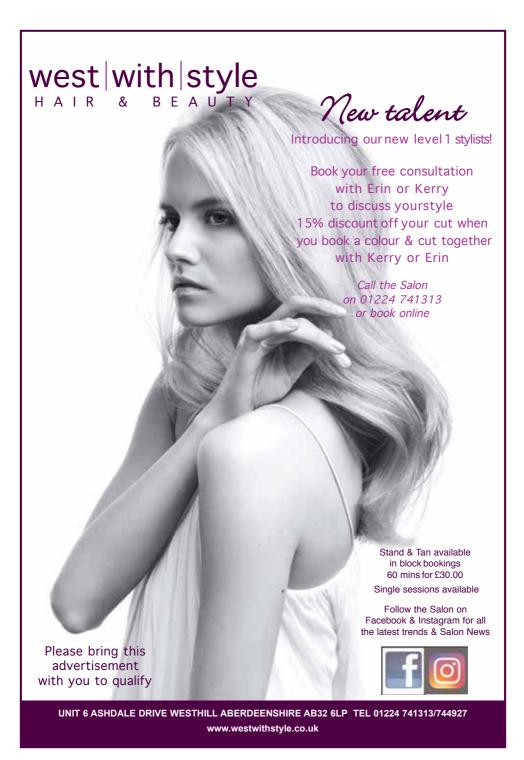
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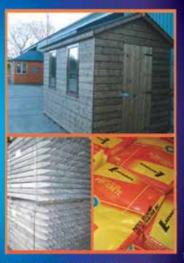
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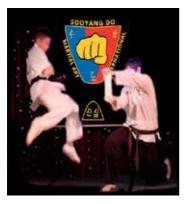
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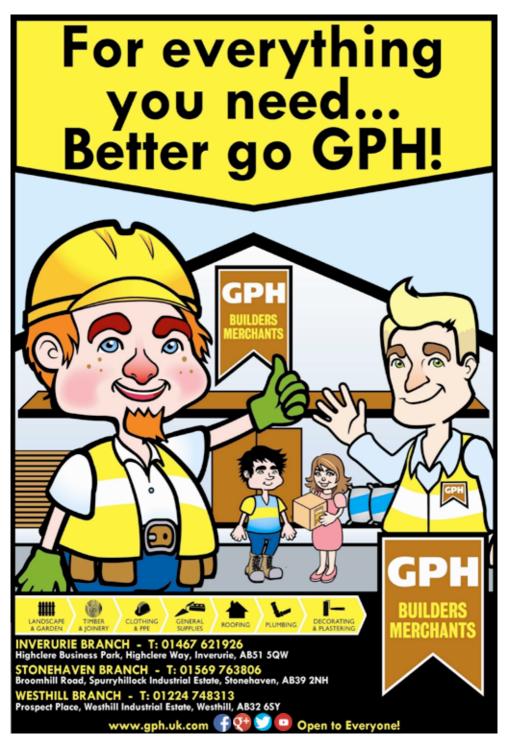
Where? Westhill Community Church When? Monday evenings Time? 7.00 - 9.30 pm

Music and tuition provided. You do not have to be able to read music. We regularly sing to others at concerts, festivals and charity events and enjoy sharing our love of four part harmony singing. We have also sang in Prague and Florence as part of European Music Festivals and are

planning a trip to Germany next!
Singing is good for your health
and lots of fun too!

If you would like to arrange a taster session then please contact Mika on

If you would like to book us to sing at your event please contact us on the above number or mikamackenzie@aol.com





# SKENE MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT INFORMATION UPDATE

#### CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE skenemedicalgroup.co.uk

You will find all the information you need on the Practice and the services we provide. There is also a lot of useful Health Information and Advice and really useful Self Help pages.

Go on-line to make a routine appointment or order a repeat prescription!

Interested?? Collect a registration form from the Practice – call us on 01224 849400 or email us at skene.administrator@nhs.net – it couldn't be simpler!

#### Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme 2017/2018

#### Patients Eligible for Seasonal Flu Vaccination this year:

- Over 65s
- Under 65s in an 'At risk' group this includes patients with: chronic respiratory problems (including asthmatics who require oral or inhaled steroid treatment); other chronic lung problems; heart and renal problems: diabetes: chronic liver disease: chronic neurological disease
- · Pregnant women
- Carers
- 2-5 year olds (not yet at school) vaccinated in the Practice
- Schoolchildren aged 5–11 years (P1–P7) vaccinated at school

We normally start the Flu Vaccination programme at the end of September.

Eligible patients can start to contact the Practice to make their appointment from mid September. You do not need to wait for a letter to make the appointment if you are in one of the categories above/ usually get the flu vaccine.

#### Pneumococcal Vaccination 2017/2018

Patients who are eligible for the free Pneumococcal Vaccination:

- · Over 65 years (if you have not had this vaccination before)
- · Patients with immuno suppression (if you have not had this vaccination before)

#### **Mobile Phone Numbers**

We aim in the future to send patients reminders or updates via text message. We ask that all patients could ensure that we have an up-to-date mobile phone number for them.

#### Results and Communication from the Practice

Please contact the surgery for results of any blood tests, urine tests, etc., which you have had done.

If we do phone you – we will appear as a "withheld" or "unknown" number. Due to patient confidentiality we do not normally leave messages on an answer machine as other householders may hear the message and this can make getting hold of patients by phone really difficult.

\*\*\*\* Ideally Phone us for your Results \*\*\*\*

\*\*If we need to contact please make sure we have your up-to-date/best contact number\*\*

# Local singer/songwriter Dave Bremner

Local singer/songwriter Dave Bremner has been writing and performing in and around the area for some time. Success has eluded him in a big scale, but he still enjoys the whole music thing. Some years back Dave tied up with America based music platform *Star1ent.com*, then success and recognition has landed in a modest way for this 60+ year old rock star wannabe.



This writer has been around the music

business for more years than he would want to admit and success has been hard to find. However, this has never cut into the passion of writing and/or performing. Playing solo and/or in bands Dave has always been happiest playing his own compositions, but will cover songs folks know and want to hear as long as they fit with his own style and can produce a decent cover of the song. The typical gig will include songs by Marc Bolan, Ian Hunter, Vince Gill, Bruce Springsteen, John Denver, Beatles and several other folk/rock artists as well as his own writings.

Dave's own songs have been recorded either as solo projects or with a band of eclectic musicians called Luna Reklipse. This combo produced a superb album of rock arrangements of a number of Dave's songs called NEW BEGINNING. However not long after this epic album was recorded and released, their incredible bass player John Thomson sadly passed away. This affected Dave badly and he closed down the journey of Luna Reklipse and took time off away from the music scene to give him some breathing space.

As the months passed by Dave couldn't even pick up a guitar never mind get the creative juices flowing, until he was asked to play at a private function. He played just 6 numbers and the response he got, especially to his own songs, told him the time was right to get going again. Realising that he was now favouring a more relaxed sound, he started writing again and has come up with a new more country-based sound. However, the influence of the 70s Glam and Heavy rock era won't be far away.

Later this year Dave will be re-releasing a Celtic Rock track called Highland Home – with any profits going to a Scottish cancer relief charity called very aptly CLAN. A wonderful organisation that cares for those who need their help. Dave was once one of those souls in need, and never forgets the support he got.

This hard working jobbing songwriter has always dreamt of having someone notable in the industry record and perform his songs, and he will keep the fight going to make this happen, going until the final bell, more songs already in production awaiting final producer input. Different sounds are on the way from this writer of memorably singable melodies that sit behind/support his rock poems.



#### GARLOGIE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

With autumn approaching and the night's drawing in, do you fancy trying something new? Do you want to take up a sport that is open to any age or ability? Why not try indoor bowls.

We are in indoor bowling club of about 30 members, based in Garlogie that was founded in 1981. We play on Tuesday and Friday nights from late September to the start of April, on carpets rolled out in Garlogie Hall, in friendly practice bounce games, individual and team club competitions and out and about in open competitions at

other clubs around the local region. Our members come from Garlogie, Westhill, Skene, Midmar, Peterculter, Kingswells, Newtonhill and Aberdeen.

Bowls is an easy game to pick up the basics of and a great game to learn all the nuances and tricks and bits and pieces that form the game as a whole. Many of our members have played for years and years and still haven't mastered it. This can also lead to other opportunities in stadium bowling (like on the TV), outdoor bowling or even short mat bowling, of which some of our members have represented Scotland at National and International level. It's a very sociable game, played in a friendly atmosphere, with that little competitive edge there too.

We have gentlemen, lady, teenage and retired members of all abilities and experiences. And we are on the lookout for anyone who might be interested in becoming a new member of our club. You can be an existing bowler or someone who is brand new to the sport. You can be male or female and junior members would have to be at least 10 years old. We have equipment you can use to give the game a try and see how you get on. Our existing members will be on hand to show you how to play the game and give encouragement and advice.

Our season starts on Tuesday 19th September. If you are interested in becoming a member, coming along to give indoor bowls a try or would just like some more information, please get in contact with our secretary, Alan Masson via phone (07736 808064), email (gibc1@outlook.com) or our Facebook page (facebook.com/GarlogieIndoorBowlingClub).

Alan Masson, Secretary, Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club

# **Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club**

Following a Summer break for all squads the club is now back to full time training. We have 5 squads of varying levels with Entry being the first up to Platinum for the top swimmers. The squads train from 2 to 7 times a week – for some swimmers hardly a day goes past when they're not at the pool!!

This year we decided to build on team spirit and some swimmers are heading to Lochter for a fun activities afternoon in September followed by a barbecue.

If your child is in level 4, 5 or 6 with the 'Learn to Swim Programme' and is interested in competitive swimming please contact our Membership Secretary Mrs Sam Louw at *membership@westhilldistrictasc.org.uk* for more information about joining our club.





# Services

#### Sunday - 10.30am - Morning Worship

Crèche (crèche room, downstairs) Mini Roar! (age 3-5, downstairs) Roar! (P1-7, upstairs) Alive! (S1-S3, upstairs)

**6.30pm – Soul** (S1 and up)

6.30pm - Café Church (every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

For further details please contact the Church Office (01224) 740291 or email: office@westhillcommunitychurch.org For room hire call the Church Office or email: bookings@westhillcommunitychurch.org Website: www.westhillcommuitychurch.org



the bereaved as well as a befriending If we can help with anything please contact Vanessa in the Church Office on 01224 740291 or via office@ westhillcommunitychurch.org



We are going to be running an Alpha course in Spanish starting on the 16th August. If you would like to find out more information or sign up please contact the Church Office via office@westhillcommunitvchurch.org

#### Street Café

We gather on the Streets at the Westhill Shopping chocolate and biscuits!



Centre twice a month to give out free hot

Come hang out with us! Upcoming dates: Please see website.

#### Life Café

Each month we run a Life Café event in the



Ashdale Hall in Westhill! It is a relaxed Café drop-in for young people in the community with a cut price tuck shop, free hot chocolate, video games on big screens, pool, table tennis and more! It is Free Entry! Next events on: Please see website.

Friday Night Live - Please see website.

#### Craft Fairs 2017

Saturday 23rd September 10am-3pm Saturday 18th November 10am-3pm



We update our menu regularly, if you haven't been in for a while come along and try something new! You can also now get a delicious bacon roll or pancake stack in the morning to start the day! VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITIES** are alwavs available if you are looking for something to fill your time and an opportunity to meet new people then pop along and see us to find out more. We also have young people volunteering for hours towards their Saltire Awards or Duke of Edinburgh Awards. No experience is necessary. The only criteria is that you must be over 13 years of age. be relatively physically able (it gets busy!), and have a willing heart to serve and meet people.

**OPENING HOURS** are Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm.



Community Action

Westhill Community Church have launched a new Community Action initiative, where we now have a store cupboard of tinned/dried food items, toiletries and other items available for anybody in need. If you, or anybody you know could do with a helping hand, please do come and see us.

There will be drop in sessions every Tuesday from 10am-1pm and Thursday from 4-6pm. Please come along during these times and we will help in whatever way we can.

If you can't make a drop in session, please do get in touch and we can arrange a time which suits.

beckyferguson@westhillcommunitychurch.org







# **Girl Guiding Westhill**

Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have enjoyed lovely treats at the end of last term or during the holidays – outings, including a pop concert called "Tartan Gig" in Glasgow featuring Jess Glynne, Pixie Lott and many X-Factor participants, Brownie

holidays near Inverurie, Guide camps at Crathes, to name just a few. Thanks to our wonderful team of volunteer leaders and helpers, girls in Westhill have benefited from these exciting activities and overnight experiences. We're always wishing for more adult volunteers to help us offer this variety of choices for our youngsters, and occasionally another person volunteers to help out on an occasional or regular basis, thus ensuring the movement started over 100 years ago by Lord Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, continues and evolves to this day.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to take part in some or all of these great events. We've a large-scale event in the autumn for guides throughout the area and also the chance for them to join their scouting counterparts at a large-scale camp too. So register your interest in having fun yourself, trying new activities or skills or adding to your CV – www.girlguiding. org.uk/get-involved. Please don't delay! Register today!





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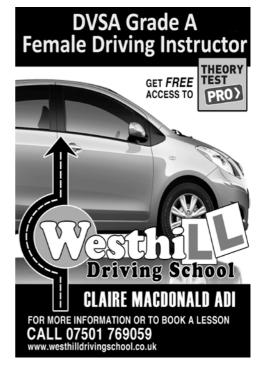
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#### WESTHILL & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE 1211

It has been a busy start to the 2017/2018 programme for us.

You might be thinking who are the Round Table and what do they do?

We are a bunch of lads aged from 18 to 45ish that meet up on a regular basis to ensure that we can make a difference within our local communities. We give our time so we can help those less fortunate than us or maybe groups or individuals just needing a helping hand to aspire to hit their dreams. It's not as stuffy as everyone thinks it is.....we do normal things like drink beer, have a laugh and even participate in new events like Wheelchair Basketball. We have fun while making a difference.

This year alone we have helped buy a new junior wheelchair for the Grampian Flyers wheelchair basketball Club, actively support one of Scotland's aspiring Archery prospects Robyn Geddes and sponsored an award at a Gala Dinner that helped buy much needed equipment for a mother to help her son walk with her.

Do you want to get involved and help make a difference? All our contact details are below, hope to hear from you soon.



Westhill&districtroundtable Westhill.rt.1211@gmail.com





www.roundtable.co.uk

#### New Language Café for Adults starting in Westhill

#### Where

Westhill Community Centre, (next to Westhill Academy) Hay's Way, Westhill AB32 6XZ

#### When

Held on last Tuesday of every month, commencing 26th September, from 10am-11.30am

#### Why

Westhill Language Café is a place for adults to improve their English language skills in a relaxed atmosphere. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends and find out what's happening in your local community.

No need to book, just drop in, have a chat and enjoy some refreshments

If you would like to improve your English, or know someone that would, please join us on 26th September.

For more information telephone 01224 740089/01224 472874 or email ann. bothwell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, or why not call in to the Community Centre.



#### 1st Skene Girls' Brigade

Girl's Brigade Enrolment/Fun Evening is on Monday 28th August in Trinity Church, Westhill from 6–7.30pm. Open to all girls P1–S6. There is no Waiting List.

Call Fiona Cumming 077924 71199 for more details.

# Pam Dignan Dancers Annual Concert - Ashdale Hall, Westhill

Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October, both starting at 3pm

Tickets will be on sale at the Ashdale Hall on Saturday 16 September 3pm–5pm

Pam has been teaching dancing in Westhill for 38 years. Her dancers entertain at Care Homes, Galas, Burn's Suppers and Corporate Events and some of her pupils who started dancing at 3 years of age have passed their Teachers exam and are still with Pam and dancing at these events.

Fortunately Pam has no intention of hanging up her dancing pumps in the near future. Details of classes provided are on page 11.

#### Westhill Walking to Health

Do you ever fancy going for a safe led walk, but you don't have anyone to go with, or perhaps you don't really want to walk alone, and you're not sure where to go, well, maybe the Wednesday Westhill Walking to Health Group is for you!

We meet every Wednesday morning at 10am at Westhill Community Centre on Hay's Way. We have a number of members, but are always looking for newcomers to join the group. The walks are not too strenuous and you'll be out in the fresh air, whatever the weather. It could be part of your health regime for this year and is a good way to make new friends and get fitter.

The walks are estimated to be approximately 1 hour long, low level and with good underfoot terrain. All you need is some sturdy walking shoes and a waterproof jacket. We can accommodate slow walkers so please do not be put off, just come along. Our walks are led by 2 members, who have been trained to lead a short Health Walk and they will have checked out the route beforehand and will take care to ensure that everyone is keeping up. We try and do a circular walk but occasionally we have to come back the same way, but the view is different! We always finish with a cup of tea or coffee.

The Wednesday Westhill Group are a friendly group, and will always welcome new faces to join us on our walks. If you require further information please call in to Westhill Community Centre, (next to Westhill Academy) Hay's Way, Westhill, or telephone 01224 740089/01224 472874/email address westhill.cec@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

#### **SKENE SINGERS**

If you enjoy singing and have an hour to spare on a Tuesday evening, why not come along to Trinity Church and join our friendly group.

We will re-recommence on **Tuesday, 5th September, 2017 at 7.30pm**. No audition required – come and enjoy the singing and some fun.

More information from Christine Thomson, Tel. 01224 746743



#### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

#### **WESTHILL OPEN AWARD GROUP**

Contact Katie and the team of volunteers at WesthillDoE@aol.co.uk or look online at www.WesthillDoE.co.uk





CONGRATULATIONS to all 3 Gold teams who recently completed their Qualifying Expeditions! Chicas De Oro led the way (Abbey, Anna, Lauren, Catherine, Rebecca, Melissa) followed by DofEzy (Eloise, Cameron, Fergus, Sean) then this week the Golden Eagles (Gavin, Nathan, Melanie, Rebecca, Morbheinn). These are great achievements made possible by our wonderful group of volunteers. Four Silver and 9 Bronze teams plan to complete their



qualifying expeditions last weekend of August/first weekend of September so we wish them all the best too.

Enrolment for our 11th year of Bronze Award level will be underway in September when we will also hold an after school information event open to all. Watch our website WesthillDoE.co.uk for details but do email in with any questions meantime. Remember, if you have STARTED YOUR AWARD and need help to finish it, contact: WesthillDoE@aol.co.uk



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#### Westhill Walkers

#### Open to all no matter what your age or ability

The summer in the North East has been less than perfect at the time of writing but hopefully that will soon change and we will get some dry sunny days to get out and about in our stunning local countryside.

We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year with a choice of walks each day. The 'A' walk is the more challenging of the two either in ascent or distance. The 'B' walk will often be a shortened version of the 'A' walk but can occasionally be somewhere totally different.

We also have several social events and weekends away throughout the year. In September we are heading for Pitlochry Hydro on an inexpensive hotel break as a change from our usual hostel. Anybody is welcome to join us there.

We have been delighted to have many new members join this year but would be even more delighted to welcome more like minded people who wish to enjoy the outdoors in great company. You can be assured of being made very welcome.

Why don't you come and join us? No need to be a resident of Westhill and you are free to try a few walks with us before you join the club. There are no restrictions on age or ability but under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are welcome with the proviso that the owner keeps them under control at all times.

For further information consult our website at westhillwalkers.wordpress.com/ or contact Tony (01224 740505) or Lin (01224 740165). We also have a Facebook page so have a look and see photos of our recent walks.

Some forthcoming walks/social events – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome.  More details on the web page.				
Sunday 3rd Sept 08.00	Culardoch This rounded Corbett on the fringes of the Caimgorms offers extensive views into Aberdeenshire. Mainly good tracks to the summit of this hill.			
Sunday 17th Sept 08.00	Morven A corbett with wide views. Steep hill path, with some short boggy sections.			
Sunday 22nd/25th Sept	Autumn Holiday Weekend at Pitlochry Hydro Book your room at www.coastandcountryhotels.co.uk			
Sunday 24th Sept ??.??	Bullers of Buchan A walk along the stunning north east coast from Cruden Bay.			
Sunday 15th Oct 08.00	Geallaig Hill A walk over Geallaig Hill offering good views of Lochnagar – weather permitting! The route can be reduced if some prefer a shorter walk.			
Saturday 21st Oct 19.30	Quiz Night  Bowling Club Pavilion in Denman Park, Westhill. Bring your own refreshments, your brains and your friends for this fun night not to be taken too seriously. Entry fee £3pp.			
Sunday 29th Oct 08.30	Glen Tanar A repeat of an old favourite heading west past Clachan Yell, Black Craig and Red Craig.			

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Our experienced staff provide a child centred environment to enhance learning through play catering for every age and stage of development. The setting follows the national guidance 'pre-birth to 3' for our youngest of children, the Curriculum for Excellence - Early Stage for children aged 3-5yrs and Getting it Right for Every Child principals and wellbeing indicators.

If you would like to find out more contact details are: Tel: 07789 871601

email: kirktonofskeneplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk www.facebook.com/kirktonofskeneplaygroup/

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Scouts

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At last all the planning towards the Iceland Expedition came together and the group left Aberdeen to fly to Reykjavik.

At the airport Chris Group Scout Leader took the opportunity of an Investiture of a new Scout.



Arriving in Reykjavik was the start of the real adventure, starting by going round the amazing cathedral in the city. After their visit to the city it was time to explore the country – visiting and staying in a Scout Hostel – apparently the Northernmost National Scout Centre in the world!

A visit to a glacier was one of the high spots. Creating their rafts prior to the rafting and meeting fellow Scouts from other countries who were also up for an Icelandic Expedition.

And what an exceptional trip! White water rafting, Glacier visit, Hike to Hot river, downhill biking, and tourist visiting, plus meeting other International Scouts.

We had another great Family Camp out at Templars Park near Peterculter – this is the biannual camp where all members of the Group, Leaders, Parents and children can have a weekend camp having fun and where parents can get to know better the Leaders who give of their time and experience to let the youngsters experience the challenge and fun of Scouting.

A Shere Khan team were **District winners** in the 'virtual' "Jambowlree" TEN PIN BOWLING competition.



Seen being presented with shield by Keith Millar & Linda Gill. They came 24th in the national game.



It was 'Virtual' – as teams did not actually all meet together, or go 'forward' in any rounds.

They played locally at Inverurie – when seven teams from Gordon gathered (and their score was best on the day) but had to wait till others in the District took the challenge and posted results. When all combined and checked the Shere Khan Cubs were winners.

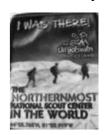
Soon our Leaders and the Group Executive Committee will start meeting again to help with the development of the Scout Group – we are now running with two extra Sections, a new Cub Pack and a new Scout Troup both meeting on a Tuesday evening.

If you are new to Westhill, have or haven't been involved with Scouting and feel that you would like to see just what it is all about – the fun and the challenge... get in touch with us via our Facebook page... https://www.facebook.com/1st-Westhill-Scout-Group-543233795690069 ScoutaboutLady

More photos of the Iceland Expedition:









## WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

#### **Women's DIY Sessions**

By popular demand we are going to run women's DIY sessions at the Shed. We need to discuss and develop the idea first, so we have organised a meeting on Monday 28th August at 6pm to 7pm at the Men's Shed. At the meeting, we will show you around, explain how the Shed works, and discuss what you would be interested in doing. All women are free to attend, though you must be over 18. If the idea takes off, we would expect to start the pilot in September. From our notes so far everyone wants to learn how to drill walls and use wall plugs, so this may be the first theme. Other themes that have been asked for include; use of small tools, drills, chisels, etc., changing a tap washer, wood carving, clockmaking, and general DIY skills. All the Shed organisers are volunteers so you can appreciate that we will be developing as we go along, this will not be a beginning-to-end 'course'. If you cannot make the meeting, please email our contact address expressing your interest and we will keep you informed. There are good reasons that the Men's Shed is single sex, and we will be holding these sessions at separate times to our regular opening; we can discuss what times work for everyone at the meeting.

#### **Happy Birthday Bob**

All shedders would like to wish a very happy birthday to one of our oldest members, Bob Owen (pictured right), who recently turned 92. Unfortunately, Bob has been in hospital recently, so his fellow shedders have been trying to keep his spirits up with regular messages, visits, and deliveries of squash, grapes, and biscuits. Bob has led a fascinating life, and is currently keeping busy by recording it in his memoirs. We have all really missed his stories and sense of humour at the Shed, and look forward to seeing him again soon. Get well soon Bob!



#### **Ex-Forces Support Talk**

Unforgotten Forces is a new partnership of 14 leading organisations established to provide support for older veterans and their families in Scotland. Veterans from all three services, over the age of 65, who find themselves (or close family/dependants) needing social or medical aid can receive support from organisations in the partnership. For more Information, see: <a href="http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-help/tailored-support-and-funding/unforgotten-forces/">http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-help/tailored-support-and-funding/unforgotten-forces/</a>. Following a full military career, Andrew (Andy) Riach now works for the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS), one of the organisations involved in the partnership, as a Welfare Officer in Grampian. Andy will be giving a talk on Wednesday 20th September at 7pm at the Men's Shed, where he will discuss the work of the DMWS, and answer any questions. As usual, Men's Shed talks are open to everybody; members, family, friends, and the public.

The Men's Shed is located in the old library next to Westhill Academy and the swimming pool; see our website for further details. We always welcome new members, so why not drop in and give it a go? We are open Monday and Friday, 10am to 4pm, and Wednesday, 3pm to 8pm. All men over 18 are welcome.

contact@westhillmensshed.co.uk Tel 01224 917345 www.westhillmensshed.co.uk Registered charity. SCIO number SC042663

#### **Bon Accord Bulls Rugby League Club**

Who wouldn't want a chance to play for their country?

Bon Accord Bulls are proud that three of our original players who started playing rugby league in Summer 2010 have just finished representing Scotland as part of the Scotland Students Squad at the

festival of world cups in Sydney, Australia.

Pictured left to right as they prepared to leave the UK at the end of June are Damien Genocchio, Niall Hall and Gavin Reed.

All three played in every game against Wales, Ireland, England and Pacific Islands. The game against Pacific Islands was a semi-final that they lost despite their best efforts, but Scotland were placed third overall in the competition ahead of England, Wales and Ireland.

Niall and Gavin overcame serious injuries to get themselves fit enough to claim their places in the squad. Gavin was named captain and was one of four Scotland players named in the World 13

- those judged to have performed best in the tournament.





Bon Accord Bulls have had a quiet season this year due to a lack of players to form a full squad. However, we did manage to put get a squad together for the Strathmore 9's

in Forfar which was a great day out.

Hopefully we will be more active next season but that depends on individuals wanting to play. You may have played some rugby before or not at all. If you enjoy physical activity and team sport then that's all you need to start. We hope to see you in Summer 2018.

If you want one of the caps that Niall and Damien are wearing you'll have to give rugby league a go and who knows where it might take you – after all, who wouldn't want a chance to play for their country.

If you have aspirations to play for Scotland, or if you just want to enjoy some Summer rugby visit <a href="http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bonaccordbulls">http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bonaccordbulls</a> for more details.



#### The Physio says – Be kind to your feet!

I needed a new pair of hiking boots this Spring, & curiosity led me to ask the sales assistant to measure my feet. Surprisingly I discovered I may have been wearing a whole size too small in footwear for years! How is that possible, I asked myself? My shoes didn't hurt me. I should have known how important it is to have plenty of wiggle room for your toes. It pays to get measured, so keep it in mind next time you need new shoes.

Feet really are the most amazing things, made up of lots of small bones (twenty six in the foot and ankle) held together by strong ligaments and tendons. A tough tissue called fascia gives support to the foot arches which act like a spring to absorb the shock of taking your weight. The forces involved when a runner sprints are enormous, many times their body weight. It's a wonder there's no damage caused when you run, or if you jump off a wall. There isn't usually, anyway. Bones do sometimes get broken and ankles sprained, but most of the time the anatomy copes with what we put it through.

Are you kind to your feet? Yes, if you put them in good supportive shoes (of the correct size!) with cushioning to absorb some of that shock. We're in shoes from around the age of one for our whole lives. Your job as well as spare time activities determine how many hours a day you're on your feet. If you're on them a lot, be kind to them!

Wearing high heels is not being kind to your feet. Also, shoes that are very narrow at the front push the big toe towards the others, which can lead to the development of bunions. These can be very painful, and sometimes require surgery to correct. Platform shoes may make you taller, but more vulnerable to tripping on a pavement or twisting your ankle. You'll have sussed my disapproval of high heels and platform shoes! But I know I'm not going to convince everyone to stick to flat shoes. I tell my patients to go ahead and wear their high heels, especially to a dinner or in an office where you're mostly sitting down! Most women know to take flatter dancing shoes to change into at weddings for when the music starts. Men have it a lot easier when it comes to fashion!

Many of the muscles that act on the foot and ankle are actually in the lower leg, with their tendons running behind, around or in front of the ankle down into the foot. Besides enabling you to walk, they work to keep you balanced and stop you falling over. There are also small muscles between your toe bones that are important in maintaining healthy arches, and the ability to grip the ground as we walk. Staying active keeps them strong, so walk, run, dance, jump...

Unlike your shoes, your feet have to last you a lifetime, so look after them.

Heather Wood, Chartered Physiotherapist Tel. 01224 742139 www.heatherwoodphysio.com

#### **WESTHILL BUDDIES GROUP**

Westhill Buddies is a local group for anyone with any type of mental illness. Perhaps you are newly diagnosed with Depression or are feeling low. Do you wish you had someone to share your feelings with who understands your situation?

We are a friendly group who meet every three weeks to help and support, encourage, empower and share in both in the bad and good times. We have various activities, talks and buddie time where we can share and help each other. If you would like any further information contact Rhona Stewart on 01224 742351 or rhona.stewart@aol.com. You will be made very welcome.

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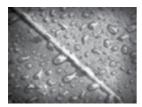
#### **Skene Parish Church**

We live in an amazing world. Every day new discoveries are made in medicine, technology and science. Every morning we wake up to 24 hours which are different to those that have gone before and will never be repeated. There are seasons and rhythms in the universe and in our lives. As it says in Genesis, "as long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

In the sights and smells and sounds of these summer months, we are reminded of the wonder of creation. From juicy berries (with icecream), to freshly cut hay, to birds swooping, to sand between our toes, to the giggles of children playing. And even when the rain is pouring we can appreciate the greenness of the trees and the freshness of the air!



But only if we are prepared to stop and wonder.



Have you ever noticed that children have an immense capacity for wonder? They see stuff adults don't always notice. They can be enchanted by simple things. They have a natural sense of curiosity. They like to explore and create. They often have boundless energy and wonderful imaginations. I wonder if that means they have a head-start on us when it comes to worship.

Worship is all about being filled with awe and expressing it. Christian worship is about marvelling at the beauty, power and majesty of God displayed in creation. It is about being amazed at who Jesus is, and what he has done – revealing the immense love that has for us. It is about adoring God as our Creator, as our Heavenly Father and as our Lord. It is about declaring our allegiance to Jesus, our King and Saviour. It is about praising through the power of the Holy Spirit – who helps us to see and experience more of God. It is about joining with others – those on earth and in heaven – to bless God. It is about orienting our lives to the will and purposes of God.

Well, at least that's some of the things Christian worship is about. But what does worship mean to you? What do you love about it? What do you struggle with? Is it simply something you never do? Is it confined to an hour on a Sunday every so often? Is it what comes naturally to you – every day – as you stop in wonder at creation and at the life of Jesus? As the poet declares – 'then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee – how great thou, how great thou art.'

This autumn we will be surveying young adults in our community about worship. Look out for more details at *www.skeneparish.com*.

"I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven." A Tozer

#### **Rotary Out and About**

The Rotary year starts in July so, before welcoming our new Rotary team, there is an opportunity to look back on what has been a very successful few months at the culmination to an especially busy year.

Many of you will no doubt have been along to the Westhill Gala and seen the new "hook a duck" stall as the latest addition to our selection of popular funfair stalls. Many thanks to John Abercrombie for his continued efforts and the fresh ideas that he puts into ensuring the stalls are not only a favourite at many local community events but also a good fundraiser for the club. In addition to providing the funfair stalls, Rotary works with the other local service clubs to ensure the Gala continues to run smoothly as a major community event each year in Westhill. Whilst the whole club participates with support from our partners, particular thanks are due to another two of our Johns, Fraser and Glascodine, for the work they do as part of the organising committee.

You may have seen us out practising our gardening skills earlier this month, putting up the hanging baskets around the town centre. In addition to this other things that have kept us busy are:

- · Mocktails at Pitcairn Lodge Care Home
- Kids Out our annual fun day out at Craibstone for special needs children in and around Aberdeen
- Marshalling at Westhill Bike Ride and the Fun Run
- Echt Show marshalling and car park duties
- BA Stores CLAN car raffle
- · Hosting Rotarian visitors from the Great Lakes area in New York State in a fellowship exchange

Whilst all these events have kept us active and enjoying ourselves our regular weekly meetings and speaker programme continues apace. Fundraising events and activities have worked well for us this year and, with your support, have enabled us to donate almost £20,000 to the following local and international charities:

Senior Citizen Party; RNLI Aberdeen; SensationALL; CLIC Sargent; Aberdeen Mountain Rescue; M&S Charity (Bag Pack); Step Ahead Aberdeen; Alzheimers Scotland; The Butterfly Trust; ANERCLOTTS; ARI Roof Garden; Sandpiper Trust; Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland; Macmillan Cancer Support; Barra Community Support; Médecins Sans Frontières; Shelterbox; Little Drops Charity; Mercy Ships; Ryankana School Project; RIBI General Disaster Fund; The Vine Trust; Dictionaries for Life; Youth Competitions; Adventurers in Tourism; Kids Out Aberdeen; Shoeboxes; Rotary Youth Leadership Awards; Little Ted (Teddington Trust); ALEC; Rotary Foundation; and End Polio Now.

As we start the Rotary year we have a new charity fundraiser – a Curry Night arranged by our very own Rotarian executive chef, Pushp Vaid to be accompanied by a display of Indian Music and Dance and followed with a disco. This is to be held at the Holiday Inn, Westhill on Saturday 30th September – please keep an eye out for our poster publicity or contact us on secretary@westhill.rotary1010.org or 07743 895431 for tickets, which are selling fast.

Finally welcome to our new President Moira Gordon, pictured here with her team for 2017–18.

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An external professional assessor from Standards International spent 2 days with us and reviewed all our procedures involved with how we put our clients central to everything we do. All staff were questioned and our ethical values tested. This included reviews of client files.

A British Standard is a globally recognised stamp of approval from an independent professional body that demonstrates an organisation has implemented best practice processes, procedures and policies, and is best placed to deliver superior customer service.

Senior Financial Advisers Ian Robinson and Richard Macmillan also had their individual ISO22222 certifications renewed confirming their commitment to our clients and reassurance of compliance to a standard which was developed by industry experts and consumer organisations including Which? who is the largest consumer body in the UK.

Ian Robinson said "Against a backdrop of low consumer confidence in the financial services industry we stand out from the crowd by not only doing 'proper' financial planning but also operating with the highest level of integrity and professionalism which provides tremendous reassurance to clients."



CONTROL CLARITY CONFIDENCE

#### **Westdyke Community Club**

Westdyke Community Club, in conjunction with the Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust, are delighted to share the great news that after many years of hard work, the construction of a 3G pitch began at Lawsondale last month. This dream has been made possible through the support of the Club's partners

and the backing of Aberdeenshire Council, sportscotland and the Club's main sponsor Nicol of Skene.



This community facility will provide Westhill with a long overdue arena to continue the great work that already happens, through the Westhill & District Community Sports and Leisure Hub and its member clubs.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportscotland said: "At sportscotland we work closely with partners right across the country to improve the links between schools, clubs and performance sport as we continue to build a world-class sporting system.

Westdyke Community Club has demonstrated that they share that ethos by creating a club right at the heart of the local community, linking the schools and the sport to encourage participation in football at every level. That's why we were delighted to invest £200,000 of The National Lottery funding in this project, which we believe will have a significant role to play in providing more and better sporting opportunities for many years to come."

The 16/17 season saw both league and cup success across age groups for the competitive teams. After a well earned summer break for the coaches, players and parents, the last few weeks have seen much activity again on the training pitch as the players get ready to start or resume their season. With 15 competitive teams and 15 development age groups playing small sided games, there is much football to look forward to again within our community, where the club strive to develop each player and coach to be as good as they can be.

Off the pitch has seen the recent launch of the Club's new and refreshed website and alongside its social media platforms, it's a great way to keep up to date with what is going on at the Club. Why not check out the new website at <a href="https://www.westdykecc.co.uk">www.westdykecc.co.uk</a>?

With so much going on at Lawsondale and the Club, now more than ever, we are looking for volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks from pitch lining to admin. Even if you have just an hour to spare and are willing and able to get involved, please do get in touch through the email address noted below. You will be supported and valued in whatever task it may be. Likewise, for any enquiries, please do get in touch.

Jonathan Watt, Secretary • westdykecc@gmail.com

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Friday: 9.45 (crèche available), 10.45

#### Kindergym

An exciting structured class for children aged 2+ to encourage co-ordination, balance, confidence, social skills, etc. A large range of stimulating and challenging equipment including beams, a climbing frame, jumping box, trampoline, parachute, etc.

Wednesday: 1-1.45, 2-2.45 Thursday: 9.30-10.15, 10.30-11.15, 1-1.45, 2-2.45

+ crèche is available at 2pm on both days

#### **Jumping Jacks**

An exciting, imaginative, structured class for pre-school children who attend on their own.

Classes help to develop children's co-ordination, concentration, balance,
basic gymnastic moves, etc. **Tuesday: 10-10.45. 1-1.45. 2-2.45** 

#### **Gymnastics**

Recreational classes teaching primary aged children bar, beam, box and floor work.

Monday: Pr2/3 4-4.45, Pr3/4/5 4.45-5.45, Pr5/6/7 5.45-6.45

Tuesday: Pr1 3.45-4.30, Pr1/2 4.30-5.15

#### **Fitkids**

Fun packed fitness class suitable for primary 1-3 children. Lively class based on traditional and new games. **Wednesday: Pr1 3.35-4.15, Pr2/3 4.15-4.55** 

#### **Toddlers**

A large range of toys and equipment set up in the hall.

Monday morning from 9.30-11.30

#### 2's Group

An introduction to the Playgroup setting. Monday: 1.30-2.45

#### Math Monkeys

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Girl Guides	01224 747741
Lawsondale Pavilion	01224 742836
Library	01224 472871
Nursery	
Bridges	01224 744741
Childcare Info	
Kindergym	
<b>3</b> ,	

Mother & Toddlers Groups	
Community Wing01224 74	10089
Westdyke Leisure Centre 01224 74	13098
Playgroups	
Scout Hall01224 74	2059
Skene07789 87	<b>'</b> 1601
Denman01224 74	13098
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Shops 01224 74	2742
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Surgery 01224 27	'9489
Police (non emergency)	101
Post Office (Shops) 01224 74	10858
Post Office (Ind Est) 01224 74	10010
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Crombie01224 74	10900
Elrick01224 74	1900
Skene01224 74	3242
Westhill01224 74	0225
Secondary School, Academy01224 74	40111
Scouts01224 74	10795
Social Work Department 01224 84	19499
Squash & Fitness	
Peter Nicol Centre01224 74	12329
Swimming Pool01224 74	4933
Tennis Club07907 48	36255
Trinity Church01224 74	2512
Veterinary, Town & Country 01224 74	1685
Water Authority 0845 601	8 855
Westdyke Leisure Centre 01224 74	13098
Westhill Bowling Club 01224 36	

# Did we get your number right?

# Are you missing from the list?



If you need any changes, why not get in touch by email?

wecc.bulletin@westhillelrick.org

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THE BROADSTRAIK INN

#### Celebrate Christmas at The Broadstraik Inn!

We have menus which have been beautifully created by our Chef and offer the **real taste of Christmas!** 

#### Christmas Fayre Menu

We have a special Christmas Fayre Menu throughout the month of December. You can reserve a booking now!

Prices:

- \*£19.95 (2 Courses & Coffee)
- \*£23.95 (3 Courses & Coffee)

#### Christmas Day Menu

We are also taking reservations for Christmas Day. To avoid disappointment please book now!

Prices:

- \*£59.95 (Adults)
- \*£29.95 (12 -16 years)
- \*£12.95 (3 -12 years)

If you would like to know more about what we have on offer over the festive season, or would like to see how we can accommodate you, please get in touch today, we would love to hear from you!





Book Now!

#### Forthcoming Events

We have some of the most fantastic live music events coming up **not to be missed!** 

THE ARCADES - 5th August



FUNK CONNECTION - 19th August



WINSTON SMITH - 8th September



#### The Broadstraik Inn Gin Club

Introducing the Broadstraik Inn Gin Club. We are offering you to join us for a night to experience the one of the finest Gins - Wild Island.

Inaugural Meeting 6th SEPTEMBER 2017 6:30pm - 8:00pm BOTANIC POTIONS Tickets £20



Introductory entry of £20 for first time visitors and £25 thereafter.

On the night you will receive

Free Canapés
Free sampling of Wild Island Gin
Gin Cocktail

To avoid disappointment please book now!

#### **Function Suites**

Are you organising an occasion for the following:

- Party
- Birthday
- Wedding
- Private Dining

Book Now!



Room hire is free of charge. (Terms and Conditions apply). Contact us today to find out our availability and discuss your needs.







We are delighted to announce that ABERCROMBIE DENTAL PRACTICE and ABERCROMBIE SMILE DESIGN are now under NEW OWNERSHIP (Dr. Naga Narra, LDS RCS, BDS, MSc and certified in Facial Aesthetics). All other dentists remain the same. We will continue to offer our patients the same high level of service.

We will soon be able to offer routine care at our ABERCROMBIE SMILE DESIGN PRACTICE in the Westhill shopping centre. Our team comprises of hygienist, orthodontist and implant surgeon. We have the benefit of on-site laboratory, allowing us to offer a full range of quality dentures. Treatments for anxious patients under sedation (private patients only)

We are able to offer FACIAL AESTHETICS with wrinkle free injections and fillers for neck and face. Leaflets and further information are available at reception or call us on 01224 745447. You can discuss this with your dentist at your next appointment.





For further information please contact reception or call us on





Dr. Naga Narra, LDS RCS, BDS, MSc and certified in Facial Aesthetics Principal dentist

Purna Chalapati, Director