

Westhill Bulletin

Summer 2016
Issue 146



WESTHILL GALA

SATURDAY 4th JUNE 2016

GALA WEEK PROGRAMME IN CENTRE INSERT

WESTHILL IN BLOOM 2016



For further details, please see pages 9 and 86

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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 autumn issue should be sent in by **Friday 29th July**, for distribution in late August.

All contributions or enquiries should be emailed to:

wecc.bulletin@westhillelrick.org

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.

2016 advertising rates:

Black & white – 1/4 page £35, 1/2 page £58, full page £110

Colour – Centre pages – 1/4 page £58, 1/2 page £105, full page £180

Colour – Inside covers £200, back page £230

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

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

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vacant

Vice-Chair

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Secretary

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Tel (01224) 745893

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9 Straik Place, Elrick
- Bill Loudon, Tel (01224) 379134
32 Lawsondale Drive
- Rosemary Murray, Tel (01224) 740644
1 Dean Gardens
- Ken Seward, Tel (01224) 743644
30 Dawson Brae
- Raymond Swaffield, Tel (01224) 740669
24 Kinmundy Avenue
- Mervyn Barr, Tel (01224) 744265
6 Kingswells View
- Kate Lumsden, Tel (01224) 742212
27 Westhill Grange
- Nara Morrison, Tel 07984 600243
7 Carnie Drive, Elrick

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

Things have started to look up for Westhill & Elrick Community Council as we have now been joined by a new member. Nara Morrison joined us in March, and we are pleased about that. Our new Secretary Becky Ferguson is settling in as is Shona Collins who took over as Minute Secretary from Becky. However, sadly I have to report that Kieran Rorie has had to give up as his 3rd year of studies at University is being spent abroad, and we wish him well for that. By the time our AGM comes round in September we hope to get the posts of Chairperson and Deputy filled as well.

Summer is a busy season for us. We have a stall at the Wellbeing Event on 22nd May (see next page) and are all looking forward to our Gala Day on 4th June. We will have our usual stall there too and all those attending will be able to give their views and suggestions on the proposed Gateway Art Project, which was mentioned in the Spring Bulletin. We believe it is worthwhile to celebrate the past 50 years and the changes to this area in that recent period of time. Do visit the stall and give us your opinions on what you would like to see.

Shopping Centre Development

Can we make it clear at this point that the Art Sculpture at the corner of Westhill Drive and Old Skene Road, at the Roundabout, was a private contract between the Shopping Centre owners and their chosen artist as part of the planning permission granted for the extra shop units. There is always a Percent for Art requirement on larger applications, especially in town centre developments. It has nothing to do with WECC but, regardless of some website/Facebook comment, we find it rather attractive and amusing.

Unfortunately we have to report that WECC has not been successful in getting a barrier erected at the exit beside the Vets onto the crossing on Westhill Drive. The owners of the Shopping Centre have erected a fairly large notice to warn people, especially parents, of the danger of cars not stopping and to make sure to check before attempting to cross. All drivers do not always stop at pedestrian crossings.

Path from Hillside Road to Eastside Drive

We are still working towards keeping the path from Hillside to Eastside open for pedestrians. Many residents in that area are also keeping up the pressure on Aberdeenshire Council on this issue as well. The Community Council have raised questions about priorities for spending in recent annual budget plans for the services covering such repairs and improvements. We appreciate that resources are tight but we do emphasise the importance of listening to communities, especially in times of funding shortages.

Westhill in Bloom 2016

Finally, let us end on a positive note! You will read on page 9 there is a move to revive the Gardening Competition in the town, which up until about 3 years ago was a regular annual feature in the calendar. After the difficulty of trying, with no success, to get someone to take on what Bill Loudon did for many years, two of our Aberdeenshire Councillors, Iris Walker and Ron McKail, are willing to do their best to get it going again. There are so many beautiful gardens in the town and the silver cups from before are just waiting to be won again! We do hope for success with this and appreciate the initiative shown by the Councillors.

Hopefully we can now enjoy some lovely warm summer days over the coming months after a cold Spring.

Audrey Findlay
Deputy Chairperson

David Ritchie
Treasurer

Becky Ferguson
Secretary



WELLBEING IN WESTHILL

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22ND MAY 2016

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- WDCSH Committee

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Saturday	10.00 am1.00 pm

**Remember to bring
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*Westhill Library
Westhill Drive
01224 741312*

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Westhill Service Point

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Service Point is available at Westhill Library.

Customers will now be able to access
Council services during the following hours:

Monday	– 10.00–7.30
Tuesday	– 10.00–5.00
Wednesday	– 1.00–7.30
Thursday	– 10.00–5.00
Friday	– 10.00–5.00
Saturday	– 10.00–1.00

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

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Alison Donaldson BAcc CA

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month?

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what our
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Councillor David Aitchison

In many of my previous bulletin articles I have talked about the importance of volunteers in our community. These are the people who organise and run activities for our young and old and serve on the committees which run our leisure facilities, sports clubs and halls. The trimming of budgets and pressure on centrally provided funding continues to make the jobs our volunteers do much more difficult.

In order to assist community groups there are, however, sources of funding which are becoming increasingly important in helping to maintain activities and services which we take for granted. In our area the Garioch Partnership are a tremendous provider of advice and assistance for organisations wanting to access these public funds. The partnership know how to formulate bids for funding and more importantly who to apply to. They can guide applicants through the process and details of funding applications and are an important asset for local community organisations.

Aberdeenshire Council also provide funding for community organisations. This can be accessed through the area top-up budgets of Aberdeenshire's six area committees. In Westhill that means the Garioch Area Committee. The advantages of local councillors being able to direct funding to local organisations through the top-up budget has now been prioritised by Aberdeenshire Council. This has resulted in each top-up budget being doubled, meaning more funding is now available for eligible community organisations and projects in our area.

For information on the top-up budget contact Aberdeenshire Council. For advice on other sources of funding for community organisations contact The Garioch Partnership at www.gariochpartnership.org.uk

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 of the month from 6–7pm.

My next surgery dates are **Wednesday 1 June** and **Wednesday 7 September**.

Councillor David Aitchison

2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ

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

Young people in our community

By the time you are reading this, school pupils will be coming to the end of their exam timetable and looking forward to a well-earned break. I wish them all well when their results come through. Younger pupils will also be looking forward to the extended holiday. I was delighted to be invited back to Elrick Primary recently to talk about the local area and my role as a councillor. I was struck by the range of questions asked by the primary 6 pupils and their knowledge and interest in their community. Our young people hold the key to the future and I am sure

that they will continue to make valuable contributions to wherever they live and work.

Pupils and teachers from all three primaries (Crombie, Elrick and Westhill) have made a fantastic contribution to the dog fouling/awareness campaign. In partnership with Parent Council reps and the Community Council, they really did take ownership of the issue and produced some fantastic posters.

Westhill in Bloom 2016

Along with Councillor McKail, I am delighted to be involved in kick-starting this refreshed version of what used to be an annual competition. I'm also very pleased that Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership, based in Westhill, has offered to support the competition. We hope other local businesses and community groups will come forward to lend their support too. There are some exciting new categories that we hope will encourage as many people to either enter themselves or nominate a friend or neighbour. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just potter with containers or window boxes; whether you are a home-owner, a tenant or a business; or if you think your overall street or cul-de-sac is deserving of an award for colour and tidiness, get those forms in! – see page 86.

Westhill Sports Hub

Well done to all members of the Sports Hub for bringing to Westhill for the first time (on 12th June) the town's very own 10k race. This is no mean feat and is the culmination of months of hard work and negotiations to get the most suitable route, safety measures, sponsors and participants in place. Good luck to all runners! The Hub is also behind the Wellbeing Event on Sunday May 22nd (*see page 4*) so please support them by going along – you're sure to find something there of interest.

Have a great summer and hope to see you at one of the many local events.

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



iris_tweets

Cllr. Iris Walker, 2 Burnland Place, Elrick, Aberdeenshire, AB32 6JU

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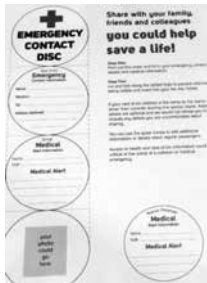
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Cllr. Ron McKail (Ward 13), Westhill and District

Emergency Contact Disc

Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group is promoting an Emergency Contact Disc for motorists to place into the redundant tax disc holder on their windscreen. The details on the disc, completed by the car owner, contains the phone number of next of kin and very importantly medical alert information. The disc which folds inwards cannot be viewed by passers-by. In the event of a medical emergency or a road traffic accident which renders the driver unconscious the details provided will be of considerable help to paramedics or police or fire and rescue services. They are able to contact next of kin and having medical information which is not normally accessible at the scene of the accident could ensure a better outcome for the injured driver.



This safety initiative has been endorsed and supported by Police, Scottish Ambulance Service and the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Emergency Contact Disc can be used alongside existing medical alert products like bracelets and necklaces.

The web site for printing the Emergency Contact Disc is: www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk

Disc holders will also be available at Community events in Westhill and also in Westhill Library.

If further information is required about this safety initiative please contact me.

Top Up Grant Budget of £104,000 Available for Garioch Community Projects

Garioch Area Committee for the coming year has £104,000 allocated in its budget allowing the Area Committee to respond to applications from community based groups which have a project that meets local needs and fits the aims of Aberdeenshire Council relating to social and economic development. If your constituted group has a project which would benefit from a grant where costs cannot be met from normal budgets the criteria for applying includes:-
*Improving towns and villages; Community Action Plans; *A Town Centre First approach;
*The Local Community Plan; *Promoting resilient communities, wellbeing, and tackling inequality; *The development of services for young people; *Projects which are supported by a community organisation for the benefit of the wider community.

The maximum payment for any project will be £10,000. Funding is intended for use as part of a wider funding package with a maximum contribution of 75% and for grants in excess of £3,000 your group's constitution and your latest statement of accounts is required.

If your group has a project which fits the criteria please consider submitting your application sooner rather than later before this budget is spent. To apply for a top up grant form contact Garioch Area office. Gordon House Blackhall Road Inverurie AB51 3WA. Tel: 01467 628201

Please contact me if I can be of help in following up on your queries and concerns.

Councillor Ron McKail 17 Brimmond Drive, Westhill, AB32 6SZ
Tel 01224 742095; Mobile 07767 663787
email cllr.r.mckail@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Westhill Litter Picking

Our litter picking season is well under way and unfortunately there is no lack of litter to be found, wherever we choose to pick! We could cover a bigger area if we had more volunteers. So come on, why not give it a try. The Tesco Staff have proved a welcome addition to our volunteers and various youth and school groups have carried out individual litter picks. The photos are of the Crombie Primary Eco Club on the first of their two picks this year. If you have a group that is interested in doing a litter pick, we can help out with the kit required.

For further information, please contact **Raymond Swaffield**
email swaffies@talktalk.net • tel 01224 740669

The dates for our organised group litter picks are:

18th June, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October, 19th November.

We always start at 10:00 at the Tennis Court Car Park and everyone is welcome to join in.



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 **Heather Cook** on **01224 741194**

to like us on Facebook Jogscotland-Westhill

BILL'S GARDENING CORNER – Rainbow colours

Now the weather has started to improve and the ground is warming up nicely, you can plant out summer bedding, but keep an eye out for late frost, water them in with a liquid feed and this will help them to get established.

Keep sweet peas well-watered or the buds may drop off in dry weather; once they start blooming pick regularly to produce more flowers. Stake tall growing plants like delphiniums while still young, the plants will soon cover the canes.

The weeds are growing fast in the warmer weather, hoe the ground and borders once a week on dry days to control them. Tough weeds like ground elder can be sprayed with weedkiller, just keep the spray from getting onto your flowers and other plants.

Enjoy your garden with all the summer colours, don't forget to feed your grass after cutting once a week, it will certainly thank you for it.

Happy gardening!

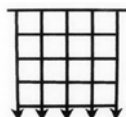
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Charity Number SC037679, Company Number SC365959

Appeal for Donations

In our latest financial year, which ended on 31st March, the bureau covered 25,100 client issues and actions, up a staggering 50% on the previous year. We also achieved an amazing Client Financial Gain of £3,614,507. This is over £14 for every £1 of our total annual cost, showing just how effective our volunteer-led organisation is.

This remarkable performance is entirely due to our dedicated team of volunteers and staff who work tirelessly for our clients. Would you like to be part of our team and gain the very real satisfaction that comes from helping people in your community?

We have recently started a training course for volunteer advisers but are always happy to see new people and can now allocate places for the next training course. The Bureau could not function properly without several other important volunteer roles including administration, reception and fund raising. Contact the bureau today and express your interest in joining the team. Full induction and appropriate training will be given to all new volunteers.

In addition, all members of the Board of Management are also volunteers who act both as Charity Trustees and Company Directors and we are currently looking to strengthen the Board with up to three new members to reflect the growing size of the organisation. This is a great opportunity for people whose career could be enhanced by gaining a greater understanding of the workings of a company, the legal responsibilities of Directors and Trustees and the satisfaction of being part of a decision making team with overall responsibility for business and development planning, budgeting, funding, financial management and all aspects of bureau operations with special emphasis on quality of advice.

We have seen several clients lately who have been the victims of a PPI scam which callously targets older and vulnerable people. If you have such a person in your family, they may have been contacted by a caller who has told them they are eligible for PPI repayment, mentioning a substantial figure. They ask for upfront administration fees to be paid, in such a way that is impossible to trace their identity, often by PaySafeCard via PayPoint and MoneyGrams. The victim pays this first amount and then is 'milked' for more money, in increasing amounts, always with plausible reasons. Victims are asked to disclose the PaySafeCard PIN over the phone despite warnings on the ticket never to do so. The scammers are very persuasive, persisting even when the victim has told them that they know it is a scam, trying to regain the victim's confidence. If in any doubt, contact SWACAB for advice.

If you have a problem, need help or advice, or have a few hours to spare each week and are thinking of volunteering, why not call the bureau on 01224 747714 to make an appointment to see an Adviser or our Manager. You have nothing to lose and you will be surprised by how much you will benefit.

The Bureau Opening Hours in Westhill are:

- Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 3pm (appointment or drop in)
- Thursday 10am to 3pm (appointment only)
- Friday 11am to 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 <http://www.westhillcab.org/whereandwhen> for further information.



1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

Across the company, activities are now focused on completion of badge work and preparation for the annual 'Open Nights' which traditionally concludes the formal aspects of the session.

Ten senior boys successfully completed the final stages of their Queens Badge and Duke of Edinburgh Award programme and received their awards at the joint Junior / Company Section Open Night on Friday 20th May.

The Anchor Boys' also concluded their session with a Parents Evening in Trinity Church Hall on Friday 13 May. The Anchor Boys are the foundation of our company and one of them, Fraser Campbell was recently awarded first place in the Aberdeen Battalion Easter Colouring Completion.

Now the formal session is completed, both Company and Junior Sections continue to meet on an informal to participate in indoor and outdoor activities. Eight boys from the Junior Section will be attending an Adventure weekend at Abernethy Outdoor Centre and will also be taking part in sailing lessons on the Loch of Skene.

Looking ahead, we are planning to have an active presence the Westhill Gala with a Hot Dog stall. These are top quality Hot Dogs so if you are visiting the Gala why not stop by and visit us.

The session finishes with us departing for our Annual Camp at Badaguish near Aviemore on Friday 1 July. This is a superb location which provides wonderful opportunities for the boys to spend the week participating in a wide variety of outdoor activities.

As can be seen from visiting our website, www.1stskenebb.co.uk or our Facebook page the Company provides a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities designed to meet a boy's natural enjoyment of games, sports and adventure. We get many visitors on our Facebook page so why not join them and see what we get up to.

Donald Struthers, Captain
www.1stskenebb.co.uk

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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Crombie Primary School

Invitation to all senior citizens

You are cordially invited to our
annual concert at
Crombie Primary School
Hay's Way, Westhill
on **Monday 27th June**

You can choose the time to come
along, either **9.45–11.00am** or
1.45–3.00pm

***Please contact the School Office
if you are able to attend and
tell us when you are coming***

Looking forward to seeing you

Telephone 01224 740900



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Adam Cochran

PHOTOGRAPHY

My name is Adam and I am a local photographer based in Westhill.

- Do you need a portrait, a small group or family shots?
- Are you thinking of selling or leasing your property and require images for marketing?
- Are you a business that requires some promotional shots?

If the answer to any of the above is yes then why don't you visit the
'About' page of my website

<http://www.adamcochran.net/about.html>

Contact me through my website or directly using the details below.
mobile: 07874630985

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I look forward to hearing from you.



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Westhill Health and Social Care Team

We would like your help with something that affects all of us who work in the community and that's locating where your patient/client lives! A lot of time can be wasted looking for a property and we have all had the experience of calling at the wrong house, much to everyone's embarrassment! Some of the streets in Westhill don't have an obvious numbering system of odd and even numbers on either side. Many of the more rural locations are a challenge to find and even more so in the dark. Most homes do have a number on the door but often it can't be seen from the road. Over the years instructions given to us to find a house have been "turn after you see the hay bales in the field" and "we are the house behind the one with the red door". Try to imagine you don't know where you live and see what improvements could be made for signs to and the numbering of your property to help us find you. Not everyone will be able to fix a sign on the outside of their property, but if you are expecting a visit from the Doctor, Nurse or anyone from the Health and Social Care Team, perhaps you could put a visible number in the front window to help us get to you.

On another topic, some of you will be changing the design of your gardens at this time of year, so now is the time to think carefully about where you will place things like a garden ornament, planter and garden edging. Many can become trip hazards and cause falls if put close to paths or near washing lines. When you are hanging out the washing, it is natural not to pay attention to where you put your feet and you could easily fall over the decorative item. Also if you are adding steps to part of the garden make them deep and wide enough for your whole foot and make the edges of the step obvious by using a different colour stone for each step. If you have a lot of steps then definitely think about having a rail to steady yourself. This advice is not just for someone with mobility issues, good planning now can save a fall and broken leg later. Let's hope we have a good summer to enjoy our gardens this year.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES

School Holiday and In-Service dates up to Summer 2017

All dates are inclusive and apply to Westhill Academy and all local Primary Schools.

**Monday 4 July to
Monday 15 August**

**Monday 10 October to
Friday 21 October**

**Monday 14 and Tuesday 15
November (*In-Service*)**

**Monday 22 December 2016 to
Wednesday 4 January 2017**

**Monday 13 Feb to Wednesday
15 Feb (*mid-term & In-Service*)**

**Monday 3 April to Monday 17
April**

Monday 1 May (*May Day*)

**Monday 3 July to
Monday 14 August**

Westhill's LOCAL disability charity

Become A Member Of SensationALL

SensationALL are asking the local community to get involved with our charity and help us build a flagship inclusive centre, that Westhill and Grampian can be proud of, by signing up as Members. Members of SensationALL – individuals, organisations or businesses – will be entitled to attend general meetings and vote on what happens in the charity, as well as our plans for the future use of the Old School and School House. There is no charge for membership. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Member of SensationALL then please get in touch with us by emailing susankay@sensationall.org.uk.

Our proposal for Community Asset Transfer of The Old School was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in February 2016 and the outcome will be posted on our website: www.sensationall.org.uk

Fancy FUNdraising For SensationALL?

Come and join our FUNdraising Committee! If you have a few hours to spare, some unique fundraising ideas and would like to meet new people while raising funds for a worthwhile local cause, then you are just the person we need on our newly-reformed committee.

SensationALL has been fortunate to be chosen as the partner charity of the first Nicol of Skene Westhill 10K Fun Run on 12th June. We appreciate being given this opportunity to raise awareness of our charity in our local community and thank everyone who is running to raise funds on our behalf. We hope you have a fantastic run and enjoy the experience.

SensationALL's OSH Quiet Corner On Gala Day

Westhill Gala Day, on 4th June, can be busy and over-stimulating for some of our users with Multiple Support Needs (MSN). To enable them to still enjoy the experience, but give them a safe and quiet retreat, we are running a **drop-in session at the OSH between 1–4pm**.

Those who need some quiet time can come along and relax after, or during, the 'hustle and bustle' of a fun Gala Day experience. Members of the community are also welcome to pop in and find out more about our services and plans for the Old School House.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have an hour or more to spare, and would like to make a difference in a fun and friendly environment? Then we would love to hear from you! Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, gain or share new skills and get satisfaction from helping others.

Please contact us by email info@sensationall.org.uk or by phone 01224 746699



Westhill Library News

For all baking enthusiasts a look at our pop – up museum case is a must as the current display is a fascinating collection of baking artefacts.

At the end of March bestselling thriller writer Craig Robertson visited the Library to give a talk. The audience of readers and staff enjoyed listening to Craig speak about writing fiction: plots, settings and characterisation and also working as a journalist for twenty years. Craig is the author of 'Random' (shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger). He has written six novels, the first four including 'Random' are set in contemporary Glasgow. Author events are advertised both in the library and online via the Westhill Library homepage.

British Newspaper Archive

Aberdeenshire Libraries now provides a new resource – British Newspaper Archive which can be accessed online in any Aberdeenshire library.

There are over 10 million fully searchable pages, featuring more than 200 newspaper titles, dating from 1710 to 1955, from all over the UK and Ireland. Local newspapers include the Aberdeen, Banffshire and Stonehaven Journals, the Peterhead Sentinel, Aberdeen Evening Express and Aberdeen Herald.

British Newspaper Archive is a rich source of news articles which cover every aspect of news from major events such as the World Wars and sinking of the Titanic to local community happenings.

Family history enthusiasts can view birth, marriage and death notices as well as related announcements such as engagements, anniversaries, in memoriam, obituaries, birthdays and congratulations.

In addition users can view illustrations, such as photographs, maps and editorial cartoons, advertisements, including classifieds and shipping notices, and letters to the editor

There is a My Research area where you can store and organise articles you have viewed for future access. Notes can also be added to any of the articles.

It's free to search but to view the original newspaper pages you need to be in one of our libraries and sign in to the service (after registering the first time)

Access details are available at <http://bit.ly/23H5Ucx>

If you have any queries please contact your local library or email libraries@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Summer Reading Challenge for children

Aberdeenshire Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge is a fun and accessible activity for children of all ages and aims to encourage and promote reading. The Summer Reading Challenge 2016 is designed to ensure that children of all abilities are able to take part and encourage participants to read their own choice of books, listen to talking books or download and read e-books over the school summer holiday period. The theme for this year's reading challenge is about personal reading spaces, the places we go to relax and enjoy a good read - **"Your Place, Your Space.....Just Read"**. The Challenge starts on **Thursday 23rd June** and will run until **Saturday 20th August 2016**. Alongside the reading challenge there will be a photo competition for children to enter. Please ask us for further information and details.

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

★ Wellbeing Information Day

**Information on how to stay well for people with a disability,
mental ill health or long term health condition**

*Why not come along to find out more, meet new people
and have a chat?*

★ *Tea, coffee and cake will be available*

Saturday 4th June 2016

1pm–4pm

Kemnay Village Hall, Aquithie Road, Kemnay



If you are interested in having a table please contact Emma Rennie:

☎ 01467 629675 or 💻 emmaj@grampianopportunities.org.uk



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ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

First of all we would like to say thank you to Westhill Choi Kwang Do who donated £2000 to help with the refurbishment of the hall floor. We are very grateful for their donation.

The Ashdale Hall has been busy as usual this spring, hosting a race night, a recruitment day, Wrestlezone, Playgroup Fun Day and Charity Fundraising Ceilidhs. You can also book your child's Party at the Hall, there is plenty of room indoors for a bouncy castle, please email for details – ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Westhill Gala Bingo Evening – Wednesday 1st June

Westhill Comedy Night (Breakneck Comedy) – Friday 3rd June

Westhill Producer's Market – Saturdays 9am–1pm – 4th June, 2nd July and 6th August

Timeless Craft Market – Sundays 10am–4pm – 12th June, 10th July and 14th August

Westhill Gala Day – Saturday 4th June (hosted by Westhill Round Table)

Westhill Annual Bike Ride – Sunday 5th June

Monthly Tea Dance – Fridays 10th June and 8th July, 1.30pm–3.30pm

Youth Life Cafe – 17th June and 1st July

PRODUCER'S MARKET (9am–1pm, 1st Saturday each month)

Our monthly market is still held at the Hall and we continue to have our regular stallholders selling French breads, cakes, puddings, local meats, sausages, pies, fresh veg, free-range eggs well as locally made organic body products, bespoke cards and hearts, crafts, jewellery, paintings, wedding horse shoes and cards, also plants in season. We also have a monthly community stall which can be booked free of charge. If your local project or group would like to book this stall, please email: ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk. **We really need the support of the local community for the Market to be able to continue.** All the products at the Market are locally sourced and made, with little or no food miles involved! Come along to the next Market and see for yourself the fantastic quality of the products and handmade crafts on offer.

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 and upcoming events please see <http://www.ashdalehall.co.uk> (also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

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

Scottish registered charity no. SCO21493

WESTHILL TENNIS CLUB

Come and try tennis for free at Westhill Tennis Club's Open Day, Sunday 22nd May 2.30pm-4.30pm at the courts in Denman Park.

With a month to go until Wimbledon and Team GB's success in the Davis Cup, it's never been a better time to take up tennis – a fantastic sport for getting outdoors, keeping fit and making friends.

Everyone is welcome to come and give tennis a go and find out more about the Club and our coaching, social play and match play opportunities. We will be offering 15% off our membership fees for people turning up on the day.

Our club offers:

- 2 all-weather tennis courts in Denman Park with free court time for members
- Social tennis evenings for adults on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm; Saturdays from 2pm
- Competitive tennis in the North District leagues, both men's and ladies' teams
- Coaching opportunities for all members and organised coaching sessions for minis and juniors from a qualified coach
- Club Championships
- Entry to the Wimbledon ticket Ballot
- Social events throughout the season
- "Come and try" sessions for adults on Monday nights

Annual membership fees: Family: £150; Adult: £75; Student: £35; Juniors: £28 (11-17 years); Minis: £15 (10 and under by 31st March 2016)

For more information please contact Harriet Broomfield at westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub



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 2016. The deadline for applications is 4th November. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

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**

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Echt, Skene & Midmar Agricultural Association

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Scotland No SC 267257

If you didn't already know, Echt Show takes place on the second Saturday in July each year, right on your doorstep!

This year it will be held on 9th July at the Showfield Echt, just a stone's throw away from Westhill and Elrick.

The weekend kicks off on Friday 8th when live in the Marquee you can hear the award winning band, Skerryvore. Much acclaimed, they are not to be missed so get your ticket now! Admission is by ticket only available from the website www.echtshow.co.uk or by telephoning **07870 613437**. Get the weekend off to a great start!

On Show day – well what can we say! Echt is the agricultural show closest to Aberdeen and showcases a tremendous display of livestock from the North East.

Cattle and sheep of all breeds, the cutest of goats which always take a trick, and the magnificent Clydesdales which head up the parade of horses are proof of the dedication of the men and women who turn out these animals for showing.

But what of all the other attractions? You can watch the North East of Scotland Sheep Shearing competition and admire the dexterity of the clippers, the grace of the Highland Dancers is enviable and the strength of the heavies who compete in the ring and also those who pull in the Tug of War is amazing.

Inverurie Pipe Band precedes the Mobile Pageant round the ring and if your group or organisation hasn't submitted an entry yet, there's still time to win some money and have fun at the same time. All details and entry forms can be found on the website. And don't forget the Dog Show – there's sure to be a category your dog can enter!

The Clan – Scotland's Cycle Stunt Team performs twice for us, and meanwhile you can browse round the stands, find out who won the Echt Show sausage making competition or enjoy the mouth-watering catering facilities on site.

The weekend draws to a close with Night Fever Disco in the marquee.

The Show is indebted to its very many sponsors, and this year, Nicol of Skene who have been our main sponsors for 4 years are joined by Aberdeen Concrete. Grass Guzzlers is a key sponsor, all firms local to the Skene area, supporting their local show.

We would love to see you there so do come along and enjoy your local show!

www.echtshow.co.uk secretary@echtshow.co.uk

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Mini-Kindergym

A fun and stimulating parent and child exercise class for children aged 12-24 months. Developed to encourage toddlers' co-ordination and social skills. Stimulating equipment is used including a ball pool, soft play, climbing frame, trampoline, parachute, etc.

Friday: 9.30 am (crèche available), 10.30 am, 11.30 am

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: 1.00-1.45 pm, 2.00-2.45 pm Thursday: 9.30-10.15 am, 10.30-11.15 am, 1.00-1.45 pm, 2.00-2.45 pm – crèche is available in the afternoon 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: 10.00-10.45 am, 1.00-1.45 pm, 2.00-2.45 pm**

Gymnastics

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

Monday: Pr2/3 4.00-4.45 pm, Pr3/4/5 4.45-5.45 pm, Pr5/6/7 5.45-6.45 pm

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

Fitkids

Fun packed fitness class suitable for primary 1-3 children. Lively class based on traditional and new games. **Wednesday: 3.30-4.10 pm, 4.10-4.50 pm**

Toddlers

A large range of toys and equipment set up in a large hall, tea and coffee available in our coffee room. **Monday morning from 9.30-11.30 am**

Indoor Bowling

Four large carpets available on a Monday afternoon 1.00-3.30 pm. A warm invitation is extended to both beginners and experienced players. Bowls are available if required. New members welcome.

ALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES ARE LED BY QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED COACHES

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GYM HALL AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES SATURDAY/SUNDAY

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Aberdeen Youth Rugby Association, Westhill FC, Sooyangdo, Brazilian Football, Men's Indoor Football, Pilates, Yoga and GCRA.

DENMAN PLAYGROUP

Mon-Fri 9.15 am-12.25 pm, Age 2.5-4 years.

Our qualified staff run a warm and welcoming playgroup offering a fun environment, catering for each child's individual needs.



Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

We are hoping to hold a ceilidh in June – look out for posters appearing soon.

Planning is well underway to make a further meeting/multi-function room and the extension and upgrading of the kitchen.

Regular Activities:

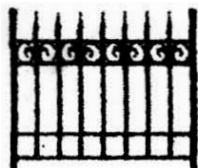
- A Social 'Tea Dance' Group meets on Tuesday afternoons 1.30–3.30pm.
- Jazzercise, 7.15–8.15pm every Thursday.
- Children and young adult Highland dance classes on Friday evenings.
- Skene Pre-School Playgroup Mon–Fri mornings during term time.
- Skene Women's Rural Institute – 1st Wednesday of each 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.

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.

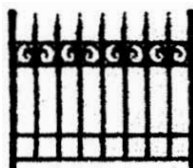
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Westhill and District Gardening Club

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:

15th June – Visit to Castle Fraser Gardens at 7pm

20th July – Visit to Beechgrove Garden at 7pm

August – No meeting

The club meetings are always open to visitors 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

The City of Roses Chorus

Calling all ladies who like to sing! The City of Roses singing group which formerly met in Drumoak Church Hall has now moved to the Community Church in Westhill. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, transport to Westhill is available. We are a small friendly group who meet on Monday evenings 7.15pm–10.00pm. You don't have to be able to read music and you will be well supported to learn the skills of four part harmony singing. The group performs regularly at concerts and events and often sings in residential and nursing homes as well as at weddings, anniversaries and other gatherings. Booking details are available on our website, www.cityofroses.co.uk.

We are currently rehearsing for our forthcoming visit to sing in various venues in Florence in October. This follows a successful weekend in Prague in November 2014 where we were lucky enough to be invited to sing in a number of the most beautiful churches.

Our music is mixed, from the Beatles to songs from the musicals. In addition we sing a wide range of popular songs, often tailored to suit the particular event or occasion.

If you would like to find out more you can visit our web site or contact Valerie on 07762 205952.

Volunteering in Westhill

Most of the clubs and organisations that write articles for the Bulletin rely on volunteers to run their activities, so we thought it would be useful to summarise the ones that are looking for more volunteers to join them.

More details are on the page numbers shown below:

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Westhill Golf Club

Our golfing season is well underway with the only thing standing between our members and a fantastic 'golfers tan' is the weather, which is proving to be a real nuisance. However, don't despair, because we have a cracking new feature on our webpage (www.westhillgolfclub.co.uk) to remind everyone of how good our wonderful golf course looks in the sun! We now have a virtual 360 degree tour which allows you navigate your way round the golf course and clubhouse, all from our website. The day on which the images were captured was about the sunniest day in all of 2015 so it looks truly fantastic. I encourage everyone to visit our webpage and have a look at the wonderful place which is right on your doorstep!

The next few months are amongst the busiest on the golfing calendar with a huge array of Gents, Ladies, Senior and Junior competitions regularly taking place. The whole season builds towards 21st August when we have 'Super Sunday' and crown our champion golfers for the 2016 season. There are also a number of 'Open' competitions on the horizon and these represent an excellent way to visit Westhill Golf Club without paying very much, so why not check out our website or facebook (www.facebook.com/westhillgolf) for details of competition dates and entry costs.

Inside our clubhouse, we are still offering 'Fresh Fish Fridays' as well as Sunday Carvery, meaning joining as a social member is both rewarding and cost effective! There are also a couple of slots available for anyone interested in hosting a party in our generous clubhouse lounge – so contact the club if you wish to discuss requirements. Lastly, let me re-iterate two points from our last article. Whilst we have seen a decrease in damage caused to the course by vandalism in recent months we are wary of further discretions so will continue to be mindful and report any occurrences to the relevant authorities. Finally, we would request that dogs are not allowed to walk on the golf course and that new signage placed around the various entry points to the golf course should be adhered to.

Alan McCue, WGC Marketing Convenor



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Additional Easy Exercise Class at Westhill

GCRA is a local, North East Scotland charity that has been serving communities in the City and Shire over the last 14 years. GCRA's special exercise classes are now designed to improve the health and fitness of people with a wide range of conditions such as cancer, arthritis, depression, diabetes, hypertension, osteoporosis, respiratory problems, stroke, in addition to cardiac problem prevention and rehabilitation.

This charity's first class in Westhill has now been operating at Westdyke Leisure Centre for more than 6 months and it has been well-attended by local residents.

In response to the needs of some of these new members, we have now initiated a second, easier class at the same venue. This newer class which started on 12th May, runs on Thursdays at 3.45–4.45 pm. It is mainly chair-based and therefore suitable for people with slightly more limited mobility than that of most folk who currently attend our Friday class (at 1.45–2.45pm).

People interested in joining either of the 2 classes only need to contact their GP practice if they feel it desirable to ensure that they are considered well and able enough to do so. Otherwise, just come along to Westdyke Leisure Centre on either day for a first, free taster class to see how you like it.

Regular Bulletin readers may recall that various GCRA member surveys of around 700 existing class members have reported enthusiastically positive opinions about beneficial effects to their health and well-being, deriving from both the structured, group-exercising and from the fun and general socialising, associated with class-attendance.

Weekly class fees are £4 per class and annual membership of GCRA is £10.
For more information please call the GCRA Administrator on 01888 569160 or Lindsay Watt on 01339 883621.

Lindsay Watt, GCRA Director



1st Skene Girls' Brigade

Our Annual Open Night was held in Trinity Church on Monday 25th April when the girls performed their physical items they had learned throughout the session and they also received their awards.

We also had a Sponsored Walk around Westhill on Monday 9th May to raise funds for the Company and also for two charities which the older girls have been helping this year. We had teas/coffees and a raffle afterwards.

We are now having a well earned rest and will return once again on Monday 22nd August with an Enrolment/Fun Night in Trinity Church at 6pm. All members and new girls will be welcomed, we have no waiting list.

Any questions please call **Mrs Fiona Cumming (Captain) on 07792 471199.**



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Nicol of Skene Westhill 10k Fun Run

Sunday 12th June 2016

Start/Finish: Ashdale Hall/Westhill Academy
Playing Fields

10k Race Starts at 10am

The 10k Event is now FULL!

Entries still available for the Junior Fun Runs

Visit <https://wdcsh.org/> to register



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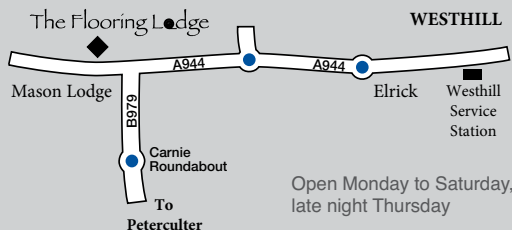
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Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

A house-to-house collection took place in the local area from 18–25th April. The committee would like to thank everyone who helped with this and for all the donations given. (Total raised will be reported at a later date).

The annual raffle was launched at the Westhill and District Wellbeing Open Day on Sunday 22nd May at the Holiday Inn.

The annual Macmillan Walk will be on Sunday 29th May at Kirkton of Skene from 5.30–7pm. Participants walk from the Milne Hall to Skene Primary School and back. Refreshments are available in the Milne Hall and entry is by donation. Please come along to this event – bring friends, meet neighbours and enjoy the stroll.

Thank you to all who support our fund raising events. If you have a little time to spare, why not join in our fund raising activities – contact **01330 860226**.

Follow Macmillan on our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/skenefundraising.

Kath MacBeath

Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club

Are you aged between 7–11 years and are in level 4 or 5 in the 'Learn to Swim Programme' (or have reached level) and interested in competitive swimming then our club is the one to join!!

The last few months have seen our swimmers travelling around the North East of Scotland competing at various different pools. Some Platinum Squad swimmers travelled as far as Tollcross in Glasgow at the end of March to compete in the Scottish National Age Groups – a great achievement to reach after many hours training.

We are delighted that Stuart and Jim of local company i-PROTECH have sponsored our hoodies. Below are some of our swimmers modelling for us.

This month saw the 22nd Westhill Invitational Meet. It was well attended by clubs from the North East of Scotland and many of our swimmers competed.

On 28th May we will hold 'Take the Plunge'. This is the yearly fun relay swimming competition held to coincide with Westhill Gala week. Usually Crombie, Elrick, Kingswells, Skene and Westhill primary schools enter if they have enough swimmers who can swim a length and are keen to compete. The winning trophy is presented by the Gala Prince and Princess. Last year Crombie won it. The atmosphere is electric, very noisy and great fun. For some pupils it is an introduction to competitive swimming and they decide they'd like to join a swimming club. Good luck to all schools.

For more information about joining our club please contact our Membership Secretary Mrs Sam Louw at membership@westhilldistrictasc.org.uk.



Jim Middleton, April Grassick, Macy Munro, Eve Murray, Sophie Buchan, Connie Milne, Stuart Munro



WELCOME!



Services

**Sunday – 10.30am
Morning Worship**

Crèche (crèche room, downstairs)

Roar! (P1-7, upstairs)

Alive! (S1-S3, upstairs)

6.30pm – Soul (S1 and up)

**6.30pm for 7pm start
– Evening Service**

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

Weddings and Christenings

For more information about weddings, christenings or baptisms please contact the Rector, Ian Ferguson, on 01224 740291 or email office@westhillcommunitychurch.org

DNA

A number of our young people have undertaken a DNA gap year. To find out more look at www.dna-uk.org and if you are interested get in touch via the Church office.

Somebody Cares

Westhill Community Church support Somebody Cares in Aberdeen by taking monthly collections of non perishable food and toiletries which are then distributed to those in need by the charity. www.somebodycaresuk.org

How to book a Sozo Session

Appointments are made through the Church Office and can take place in the daytime or evening. There is an online application on our church website www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

Holiday Bible Club 2016

4th–8th July

All children from p1 to s1 welcome!

**Either download a registration form
from our website**

www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

**or pick one up from the
church office**



How to book a Sozo Session

Appointments are made through the

Church Office and can take place in the daytime or evening. There is an online application on our church website www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

What is Sozo?

Sozo is an inner healing ministry that seeks to improve your connection with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It aims to identify the root causes of the things that hinder this connection. The Session will last 2 hours, if you need longer after 2 hours we will book you another session.

The Alpha Course

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. Alpha has around ten sessions and involves food, a short talk and a discussion at the end where you can ask any questions and share thoughts.



Our next course will begin in **September 2016**. Registration forms are available from the Church or online at www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

GREEN PASTURES CAFÉ

Open Tuesday to Saturday – 10.00am–3.00pm

Green Pastures Café is our cafe within Westhill Community Church. It is open to all from Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-3pm. We aim to provide a warm and welcoming environment enhanced by wonderful views of the local countryside and hills. Enjoy a quality cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate (all Fairtrade) or try our soup, sandwiches, hot grilled sandwiches, salads and quiches along with a selection of cakes, scones and traybakes.

We currently source our ingredients from a variety of local companies. For example we buy our bread from The Breadmaker in Rosemount, thebreadmaker.org.uk, and our cheeses, bacon and salami from the Devenick Dairy, devenickdairy.co.uk. We aim for a high standard of food which is, wherever possible, sourced locally.

We have a number of paid kitchen staff but all our serving staff are volunteers from Westhill Community Church or the local community who give up their time to serve you and make you feel welcome. We also have placements for adults with various learning difficulties and provide volunteer opportunities for young people undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh or Saltire Awards plus offering work placements for young people at school or college.

We hope you will come in for a visit and stay, as long as you like!

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

Practical Care

Our Practical Care Team co-ordinate any help needed in our community. They have a skills register with the names of people within our church who can share practical help and skills with others.

Support for the Bereaved

We have people who are able to come alongside those who have been bereaved.

They are not trained counsellors but ordinary people who have themselves travelled through that difficult journey of grief and loss and who are now better equipped to understand, help and support others.

Befriending Service

During times of crisis or difficulty we all need a friend; someone who is able to come alongside us, someone who will listen and care and someone we can feel safe with – or maybe we simply need someone with whom we can have a chat and a coffee.

A befriender is someone who is good at being a friend.

Contact

Mrs Heather Ferguson, Home Tel: 01224 740007

Email: heatherferguson@westhillcommunitychurch.org



Street Café

We gather on the Streets at the Westhill Shopping Centre twice a month to give out free hot chocolate and biscuits!

Come hang out with us!

Upcoming dates: 3rd June, 10th June.



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: 20th May, 17th June, 1st July.**

Friday Night Live – 27th May and 24th June

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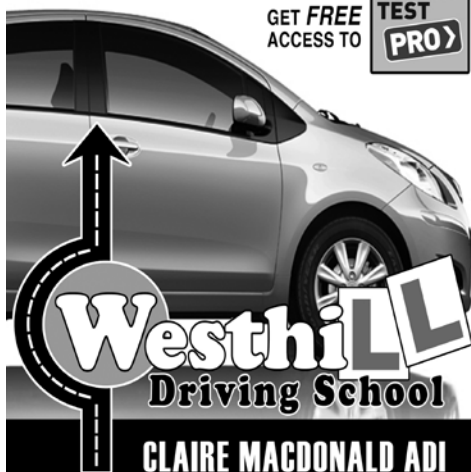
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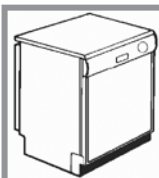
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Community Learning and Development Opportunities at Westhill Community Centre

Learning can be enjoyable and we can help you improve your skills and confidence to get back into learning whether it's at work, home or part of everyday life. All you have to do is tell us what you want to learn and we will try our best to help you achieve it. The support we give you is confidential and free. We can help you:

- Improve your Reading, Writing, Spelling and Number Skills
- Fill in forms and/or timesheets
- To make decisions and solve problems
- Write Letters or CV's
- Understand Bills or Labels
- Help with your Driving Licence Theory Test
- Read stories to your children, help them with homework
- How to use a computer



We offer one to one confidential support at the Community Centre with a trained literacy volunteer or you can join small groups of learners, depending on your need.

E.S.O.L. (English for Speakers of other Languages)

If English isn't your main language, why not join a course to help improve your English and make it easier to:

- Talk to doctors and teachers
- Join a course and get a qualification
- Help your child with homework
- Understand the laws and customs of the UK
- Become more socially active in your community
- Source employment opportunities

Courses are offered at the Community Centre from Beginners to Elementary and Pre-Intermediate to Upper Intermediate levels, we will offer support at the level that is right for you.

Literacies Volunteering Opportunities

If you are looking for a challenge in your life and have a few hours to spare, why not become a volunteer. Volunteering is a great way of meeting lots of people from different backgrounds and areas and helping a person improve his/her reading, writing, numbers or English skills can be very rewarding.

For further information on any of the above opportunities, please contact:

Ann Bothwell, Community Learning & Development Worker, Westhill Community Centre, Hay's Way, Westhill AB32 6XZ. Telephone 01224 740089, or email ann.bothwell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Spring is hopefully well and truly with us and the snow is a distant memory. We are certainly enjoying the longer days which enable us to have a few more adventurous walks. Now is the ideal time to get out and about and enjoy the stunning local scenery on our doorstep. Joining a walking group is a great way of discovering new walks in the area with a leader to make sure you don't get lost. Members are always happy to help out anyone wanting to learn navigational skills. Much more fun than a gym and much cheaper!

We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year. In the summer we have two grades of walk to cater for all tastes and abilities. In addition to our regular walks we also have a variety of social activities and weekends away. Recently we had a very successful weekend at a Shearings hotel in Melrose where 26 members and friends had the opportunity to explore a new area. We had a visit to Gairloch YH for the May holiday weekend and are off to Aberfeldy in September giving us the chance to explore the Perthshire hills and lower level walks.

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.

For further information please contact **Lin (01224 740165)** or **Tony (01224 740505)** or consult our website at westhillwalkers.wordpress.com/

<i>Some forthcoming walks – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome. More details on the web page.</i>	
Sunday 29th May 08.00	Mount Keen from Glen Esk <i>An ascent of Scotland's most easterly munro from Glen Esk in the south. 17k/11 miles</i>
Sunday 12th Jun 07.00	A) Beinn Bhreac and Beinn a' Chaorainn <i>A long day to bag two munros. From Linn of Dee the route ascends Beinn Bhreac before continuing north to Beinn a' Chaorainn then descending by Glen Derry. 29k/18 miles</i> B) Clais Fhearnaig circuit <i>From the Linn of Quoich up the glen then through the Clais Fhearnaig pass to descend into Glen Lui. 16km/10miles</i>
Sunday 26th Jun 08.00	Glen Tanar <i>Our second visit to Glen Tanar this year but heading west this time past Clachan Yell, Black Craig and Red Craig before returning following the course of the Water of Tanar. 22km/14 miles</i>



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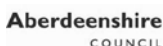
The Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership is running a pilot trial in the Garioch and Marr areas offering £150* towards the cost of the Pass Plus driving course for young drivers under 25 years of age.

The course is designed to provide experience of a range of driving conditions not included in the practical driving test. These include rural roads, motorways, dual carriageways, in town and night driving.

Some insurance companies offer a discount for young drivers who have a Pass Plus certificate.

The grant is supported by funding from the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership, the Marr Area Committee and the Garioch Area Committee.

More information and contact details at:
www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk



* Only available to residents of the Marr and Garioch areas of Aberdeenshire. Grant on offer only while funds last.

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1st WESTHILL SCOUT GROUP

Charity No. SC017801



Time certainly is passing exceedingly fast! We are now getting to the summer time – a time of outside events and camps, be they weekend or full weeks.

A new Cub Pack started on 19th April with a new Cub Scout Leader Tim who, along with some additional help, is making a hole in the Waiting List. From reports this is going along fine – many thanks to Tim and his Assistants. Our 'Satellite' Beaver Colony in Lyne of Skene is doing well and there is mention of there being a Cub Pack in consideration for the Beavers to go up to – well done all at Lyne of Skene.

In early May the Group went in for some DIY, sprucing up of the Headquarters, Roof and Gutter cleaning. Fencing sorted round the site and The Explorer Scouts giving a hand in repainting the galley kitchen in the Small Hall – great jobs for the young people. The Main Hall has also been given a face lift and there are plans for the refurbishment of the toilets. This will hopefully be completed during the Summer school holidays.

Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd May was the second of our Beaver Colonies – Amazon having a 'Sleepover' in the Scout Hall. This sounds to have been as good as the first one of Redwood Colony with the children just waiting for the next.

28th May will see the Leaders, Scouts and others having a "Fun Day" using the Halls and outside for a great time with things to do and food to eat. Many 'bases' for the young and not so young folks to enjoy doing 'Scouting' stuff.

It is all thanks to the Leaders, Assistants and Parent Helpers that the youngsters in our Group can take part in all the events planned by the Leaders throughout the year. We pass on our thanks to all who helped with the above 'events'.

Plans for summer events are probably well on track now and we hope for the appropriate weather for when they are to be held.

It's a big year for the Cub Scout Section this year as it is their Centenary and I hope to put some photos in next piece for the Bulletin.

The Group hopes that all our parents, Leaders, Assistants, boys and girls have a good holiday and come back to meet the challenge and have the fun of Scouting.

If you are new to Westhill or new to Scouting and would like to find out what we do in 1st Westhill Scout Group, meet the challenge, get some fun out of it, work with some great young folks – then get in touch:

Group Scout Leader Chris – 01224 746773 / Norman Hall AGSL – 01224 740795

Email westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk or go – check out our website www.westhill-scouts.co.uk



For the Waiting List
jacqpop@gmail.com

Short Lets & Party Bookings
westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk

ScoutAbout Carole





WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

The past two months have been the busiest ever at the Shed averaging over 90 visitors a week. Here is a snapshot of some of the activities going on.

Study – A university researcher studying depression came to interview at the Shed because she wanted a control group (i.e. people without depression). We were very flattered because of course we aim to combat loneliness and depression by having a men's shed; so it seems to be working. She got a good result and we had an interesting time answering the questions.

The Bailies o'Bennachie – Their shed was broken into and their garden tools stolen. We gave them free pick of tools we have had donated and refurbished. Just think that your old garden tool you didn't need any more may now be in the hands of a Bailie up on Bennachie. Other sad stories were told by flood victims who had their garden tools stolen while they were drying out their houses and we were able to help them too.

Many mowers have been saved from landfill and there seems to be a never ending supply of garden bench ends needing a lick of paint and new wood. We continue to make benches and planters and are involved with the children's hospital at ARI to make a garden seat for them.

3D printer – We were very generously offered a 3D printer which was no longer used by Plexus, an oil services company. Unfortunately due to the size and the dust it would cause we could not take it. Looking at it raised enough interest that we are going to buy one in the near future. 3D printing has already been used in the shed to make 'wrought iron' gates for the model railway with 'Iron Works' printed in them and to make shapes for SensationALL. Take a look at thingiverse.com/categories if you are interested in what can be done.

Talks – Talks by Jim Fiddes of Skene Heritage Society were well attended. 'A walk along old Skene Road' explained how there used to be an inn named after every mile and the history of many of the buildings. His second talk on the winning and uses of granite was equally interesting. On a more practical theme the pharmacist from Lloyds came to talk about the information and advice they can provide to complement the GP service.



Our Raffle – The first prize of a Mulberry Lily handbag turned out to be inspired... women buy several books to increase their chance of winning it and men buying hoping to be able to give it to their partner. Well it worked for everyone except the lady who just said "I've got one!" The raffle will be drawn at the Gala around 4.30pm so there is time to get more tickets – they are available at the Shed and you can buy at our Gala stand.

We are open Monday, Thursday and Friday 10 to 4 and
late night Wednesday 3 to 8 every week.

contact@westhillmensshed.co.uk Tel 01224 917345 www.westhillmensshed.co.uk



Skene Parish Church

Many of us enjoy walking – whether it's getting out into the hills, talking a stroll at the beach or venturing further afield. And walking not only exercises our bodies. It can also give us an opportunity help to clear our heads. As Prospero says in *The Tempest*, "A turn or two I'll walk, to still my beating mind."

The picture is from Plakias Hill in Crete. The view was an amazing reward for a tough walk. I confess that we did ring the bell.

One of things I love about walking is getting time for proper conversations. As you fall in step with someone else, negotiating the path shoulder to shoulder, you quickly go beyond polite chit-chat and into deep discussions. There can also be a wonderful sense of camaraderie when you are walking together in silence, absorbing the view and thinking your own thoughts.

The bible often portrays God as the best available walking companion in life. It reveals that the best, most fulfilling lives are those marked by walking in step with God. Enoch, a man from the Old Testament, is described simply as someone who walked with God. Later in the New Testament we are told, Enoch's testimony was that he pleased God. When King Solomon speaks at the grand opening of the temple, the most magnificent of buildings, he asks that God would incline the hearts of the people to Him, so that they would walk in his ways.

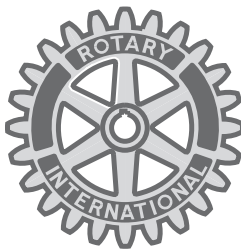
To walk with God is to choose to listen to Him, to put our trust in Him and to follow His advice and commands. It is to bring our lives in line with Him, which is not an easy ask. But as Solomon reminds us, God's faithfulness is such that He never walks out on us.

Of course when you are walking in step with someone, you keep pace with them. It makes sense that the God who made us, and made all of creation, would know the best speed for our lives. Sometimes it is tempting to rush ahead or to try and sustain a lifestyle which is more about the mad dash than a steady flow. God sometimes works much slower than we like and we often make a mess by not being sufficiently patient. And if God is not within our consciousness, we will struggle to find the right rhythm.

What is impacting the pace of your life? What direction are you going on? Do you ever even have enough space and time to think about these questions? Or is it just, head down and get on with it until a crisis hits and brings you up short?

There is a beautiful phrase in the psalms which talks about God rescuing the psalmist and bringing them to a spacious place. Perhaps the next time you are out walking, and you come to a ***spacious place***, you should ask yourself – am I in step with the one who knows the very beat and rhythm of my heart?

Guardians of Ancora
Westhill Holiday Bible Club 2016
Monday 4th July–Friday 8th July (10am–12.15pm)
Location: Westhill Community Church
Registration forms are available and due in on 17th June
More details on www.skeneparish.com



The Rotary Club of Westhill & District

Ten teams from Westhill, Dunecht, Echt and Skene took part in the Rotary Primary School Quiz, which was held at Trinity Church on 1st March. It was a very exciting and close contest, with Crombie 2 leading most of the way and looking set to win, but just at the end, they were pipped by their schoolmates, Crombie 1. Rotary President Colin Currie presented the winners with a trophy and gift tokens, while all the other participants received a certificate of merit. Crombie 1 now go forward to the area final and this will be held at the Hallmark Hotel, Dyce on 4th June.

The 8th annual 'Around the World in Music' charity concert was held at the Ashdale Hall on 13th March before a capacity audience. This was a change of venue for this concert as all the previous concerts were held at the Aberdeen Music Hall. Pupils from Westhill Academy made a major contribution to the concert by their range of musical groups comprising concert band, musical theatre group, string group, choir and ceilidh band. Not to be outdone, pupils from the primary schools gave excellent performances through the Dunecht and Echt choir, as well as the combined choir from Crombie, Elrick, Skene and Westhill. The only individual performance was by Jing Jing Wang, the Westhill Rotary Young Musician of the Year, who enthralled the audience with a masterly performance on the flute. It was generally felt that the change of venue was an unqualified success and this was borne out by the enthusiastic support from the audience. All proceeds from the concert are going to Rotary Supported Charities and to the participating schools.

The finals of the Westhill & District Primary School Chess Championship 2016, took place in Westhill on 2nd April. The competition was open to children P3 to P7 and the participating schools this year were Echt, Skene and the three Westhill Primary Schools. During the preceding months, as many as up to 100 children battled it out to become champion of their school and to represent their school in the finals. The final was a well fought and tactful affair, with Kalyan Kante from Westhill Primary judged to be the winner. He received the trophy on behalf of his School from Rotarian Rev Matthew Rodger, who is also responsible for coaching and encouraging the children throughout the year. The runner-up was Manav Sankriti from Crombie Primary.

Jing Jing Wang, a flautist, participated in the Regional Final of the Rotary Young Musician Competition, which was held in Perth on 16th April. Jing Jing was one of the youngest participants in the competition and gave an accomplished performance in what was a very competitive instrumental section.

Allan Fair, Westhill Rotary

The Physio Says – sing yourself to good health!

Did you know that singing can boost your immune system, improving its ability to fight illness? A study of one hundred and ninety-three people in five different choirs in the U.K. were tested, and results showed that it also de-stresses, improving mental health. Singing is good for your lung capacity and improves your posture if you stand tall to give your diaphragm room for correct breath control.

In our busy technological world where we're absorbing information all day every day, and responding to these inputs, it's so important to find a way to escape from that pressure. Activities such as singing that enable you to express yourself, or create something, do just that.

In five other studies, patients who were suffering from chronic illness or cancer were shown to have benefited from a range of creative pursuits, for example painting, drawing, pottery, photography and sewing. If these are proven to help patients, surely they are beneficial to us all by boosting our immune systems. Creating something stimulates the brain to make new connections. It can give you a sense of achievement and boost your feel-good hormones. If we encourage children to be creative too, we would be preparing them for a healthy future. Children have a wonderful uninhibited attitude to art, and create with enthusiasm without worrying about the end result. If you're an adult having a go at it for the first time in years, tap in to your inner child and never mind how it might turn out. You can always throw it away if you don't like it. It's in the doing that you can lose yourself and forget the troubles of the world. Whatever your age or ability, learning something new like playing a musical instrument, making art or craft can be liberating.

As a physio I am of course keen to encourage activities that are physically beneficial, so would be happy to see more people choosing to take up golf or ballroom dancing, learning to abseil or scuba dive. If your job is already an active one however, then it's perfectly acceptable for you to choose to take up a less physical activity, like knitting or learning to play the piano.

We're very lucky in Westhill, in that there are lots of groups and associations which provide the opportunity to be creative with the support of others. The Men's Shed is a good example, as well as the numerous evening classes on offer at the community centre. You don't have to go far to view and appreciate other people's creations either. Wandering round an art gallery, a lovely garden or park, or attending a concert are great for inspiration and refreshment, without the demands of a response. That's with your mobile phone off, of course.

Albert Einstein said that "Creativity is intelligence having fun". So get out there and join a choir, catch a fish or write poetry. Have fun, and be healthy!

Heather Wood, Chartered Physiotherapist
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Westhill and Skene Lions Club

Westhill and Skene Lions Club has now been running for 13 years, after being formed as a branch club of Aberdeen Lions Club in 2003. The Lions motto is “WE SERVE” and we are a small part of the largest and most committed voluntary service organisation in the world. There are over 45,000 clubs and more than 1.3 million members worldwide.

The most visible activity of the local Lions is our monthly book sale on the morning of the first Saturday each month at the shopping centre in front of M&S.

We have a large stock of books, but new donations of modern books are always welcome. Small numbers of books can be handed in at the sales. If you have a large number could you please phone **David Ritchie on 01225 744058** to arrange a collection. We also sell DVDs, CDs and jigsaws.

All the proceeds from these sales goes to local and international charitable causes. During the past year the main causes we have supported include Somebody Cares, Westhill Senior Citizens, Message in a Bottle project, Defibrillator machine for Westhill Men's Shed, the Nepal earthquake and Scottish Spina Bifida Association. We provided a specialist car seat for a local child with brittle bone disease, and we sponsor the minibus used for summer outings for the Westhill & Garlogie Day Centre.

Examples of the Service activities we have been involved in are packing food bags at Christmas for Somebody Cares and collecting at Tesco for Marie Curie.

We are a small group of 10 members, so it would be good to get a few more.

If you have a few spare hours per month and want to be involved in a rewarding project, you can find out more about the Lions by either dropping by our book sale or phoning the secretary **David Ritchie on 01224 744058**. You are also welcome to drop in at our meetings held on the third Wednesday each month at Ashdale Hall meeting room from 7.30–9.00pm.

We will have a stall at the Wellbeing in Westhill event at the Holiday Inn on Sunday 22nd May (10.00am–4.00pm), so come and have a chat with us there.

Westhill and District Senior Citizens

Our Senior Citizen's Group is well into its Programme for this year. We've had a variety of Entertainment including Singing, Story Telling, Talks, Bingo, Magician, Afternoon Tea, Dancers to name a few.

Programme until the end of Session

26th May – Scotch Broth – Band

9th June – last meeting – Ashleigh Singers

We were very pleased to receive a very generous legacy from a former member – Kathy Mair and we hope to organise a bus trip and meal for our members.

We welcome anyone age 55 years and over. We meet in the Hall at Trinity Church every second Thursday from 2pm–4pm, £2.50 per session which includes your entertainment, tea and biscuits (Annual Joining Fee, currently £6). Contact **Heather Cook, 01224 741194** for further information.

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WESTHILL A2B

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

A2B is a demand responsive door-to-door bus service and operates differently to other public bus services you may have used before. The bus is wheelchair-accessible and easily recognisable. The service operates Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm and Saturday 9.30am–2pm.



Enquiries

The service is open to anyone living within the Westhill area but passengers must register first to access the dial-a-bus. If you have any queries, wish to register or to check if you are eligible for the service, please call our general enquiries number on **01224 664747** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. You can find out more about the service on: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/publictransport/a2bdialabus/index.asp>.

Booking Trips

All trips are pre-booked by calling the booking hotline on **01224 665599**. You can book trips up to 1 week in advance (or 2 weeks, if travelling for a medical appointment). Same day bookings (excluding Saturday) are accepted but we require a minimum of 1 hours notice.

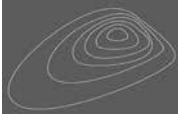
At the time of booking we will confirm your trip times. If we cannot provide the exact time that you are looking for we will offer you the nearest available time. If your trip is time-critical, for example: if you are attending an appointment or connecting to/from another bus service, please let us know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

We kindly ask passengers to be ready 10 minutes before your pick-up time.

We have a designated cancellation line which is available to leave a message on at any time of the day or night. The cancellation line is **01224 665580**.

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.



SKENE MEDICAL GROUP

PATIENT INFORMATION UPDATE

Bon Voyage Dr George Ellis!!

Dr George Ellis retired at the end of March 2016. The Partners and Staff at Skene Medical Group wish Dr Ellis a long, happy and well deserved retirement!

Skene Medical Group Welcomes a New GP Partner!!

We are pleased to introduce and express a warm welcome to Dr Catherine Stone as a new GP Partner of the Practice. Dr Stone joined the Practice as an Associate GP in July 2015 and agreed to become a Partner in the Practice as from 1st April, 2016.

Scottish Bowel Screening Programme – Take the Test!!!!

Skene Medical Group is keen to highlight the importance of participation in the Scottish Bowel Screening Programme if you are between 50 years and 74 years.

- Almost 4,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every year in Scotland
- The good news is that bowel screening reduces bowel cancer deaths
- Everyone between 50 years and 74 years will receive a test kit by post every 2 years
- You can do the test at home – it's quick and very easy to do!

If you receive the kit.....Take the test!!.....It could be a lifesaver!!

For more information either ask your surgery about it, or contact:

Helpline on 0800 0121 833 or visit www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk

Take a good look at our new website!! www.skenemedicalgroup.co.uk

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

Appointments

We have been experiencing a very busy period recently, which has put pressure on appointment availability. We do our best to see patients as quickly as we can routinely and there are appointments available on the day for patients who have an urgent medical need requiring to be seen that day. **To help us help you, we ask that you:**

- Please only bring one problem to each consultation – the GP only has 10 minutes to see you and write in your medical record
- Please consider whether you really need to see the GP, or whether you might be able to get advice from NHS 24, or your local pharmacy
- Please only request an Emergency appointment, if you have a genuine urgent medical need for an appointment that day

'Did Not Attend' Appointments

In the period from 26th January 2016 to 25th April 2016, out of a total of 15,373 appointments, 379 GP appointments (or 2.5%) were 'Did Not Attends'. If you have booked an appointment but find that you no longer require the appointment, please can you remember to cancel the appointment in good time so we can make the appointment available to another patient.

Coming Soon!

In the months ahead, the Practice is expecting to be able to offer the following services to patients:

- Order your Repeat Prescriptions on-line
- Make a Routine patient appointment on-line



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 ANOTHER WORTHY SET OF AWARD ACHIEVERS!

These are major achievements involving commitment and perseverance to overcome personal challenges at progressive levels. A huge **THANK YOU** to the volunteer Leaders and Assessors in our local community who all share in the success of these amazing young people and are preparing for no less than 34 expeditions this Summer. That's 10 Bronze teams, 4 Silver and 3 Gold teams each out for a Practice and a Qualifying expedition so we wish them all well, the best of weather and fewest possible midges!

Bronze Awards

Eloise Docea
Chloe Turnbull
Emily Chan
Ross Milne
Sorcha Florence
Abbey Boyd

Anna Coull
Nicole Mitchell
Jenna Murphy
Blair Macaskill
Chrissie Blanchard

Silver Awards

Kathryn Blance

Leo Cahill

Gold Awards

Robyn Aitkenhead

Remember, if you have **STARTED YOUR AWARD** and need help to finish it,
contact: *WesthillDoE@aol.co.uk*

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Pond Restoration work at Arnhall Moss Local Nature Reserve

Ponds between Arnhall Moss Local Nature reserve and Denman Park in Westhill, have recently been restored for the benefit of wildlife and visitors.

Working in partnership with Froglife, the UK reptile and amphibian conservation charity the Arnhall Moss Advisory Group and Aberdeenshire Council have restored a series of three ponds running between Arnhall Moss and Denman Park in Westhill.

Work carried out in February was jointly funded by Froglife's Scottish Dragon Finder project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) and Aberdeenshire Council. The ponds have been opened up and restored. A dipping platform and some interpretation boards have been added.

Westhill and District councillor Iris Walker, a member of the Arnhall Moss Advisory Group, said the group is delighted that the work is completed. "The first phase involved felling selected trees from around the ponds – this opened up the area removing species which are not really suited to growing by the ponds," she said. "Very little management work has been done on the ponds over the years and this has been a great opportunity to tidy the area up and enhance it for wildlife all at the same time".

Garioch Area Ranger Alison Sutherland regularly uses the area for pond dipping with local primary schools and biology students from Westhill Academy. She said: "The current dipping results do not generally show many invertebrates and no amphibians. We very much hope this situation will improve." Alison also hopes local people will help keep the ponds clean and litter free in future, as a big part of this project is the removal of broken bottles, tyres, shopping trollies and other rubbish.

Officers from Froglife will be back in the late spring to help run some volunteer days and training days at Arnhall, this is likely to include ponds dipping and training on how to create habitat for amphibians.

To find out more about the pond restoration project or about joining the Arnhall Moss Advisory Group, email **Emma Williams** at: emma.williams@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.



WESTHILL ART PROJECT

Look out for the Scarecrows again in Westhill. We are holding our 3rd annual Scarecrow Trail as part of the Gala week events. The Trail is taking place on Sunday 29th May for one day only, but on Gala Day (Saturday 4th June) we hope to have the Scarecrows gathered together and on display at the Gala arena.

In the meantime, check the WECC website for up to date information.

www.westhillelrick.org

Rosemary Murray, WECC member/Art Project group

Westhill Primary – Flood Fighters

We are the Primary Sevens from Westhill Primary School and we would like to tell you about an enterprise we organised last term. We formed a company called Flood Fighters because we wanted to support people who were affected by Storm Frank. We were officially supporting Flood Forum Scotland whose wonderful work benefits families who have been affected by floods. Our choice was based on our topic which was Savage Earth. We organised an Easter fair that was held on the 30th March. It was an amazing day with lots of fun games, stalls and prizes. Flood Forum Scotland opened the fair and their heartfelt speech was just the start of a flood-fighting day. Each class from our school visited the fair and every time there was great feedback from the children, teachers and parents. Our teachers were "Very impressed by the P7's energy and commitment" and parents were "Amazed."

We raised £1732. Thank you to everyone who came and spent money and played some games, we could not have done this without you. Thank you also to all of the pupils and parents who gave raffle prizes and Second Hand stall donations, it was very kind of you. Another shout out to all the businesses who gave us prizes and discounts, such as Home Bargains, Tesco, Marks and Spencers, Cones and Candy, Minto Branding, Aberdeen FC.



It is thanks to YOUR generosity that we were able to hold this fair at all. We cannot thank you enough. Your money has helped people in Ballater and Inverurie who were victims of the flooding in January 2016.



WESTHILL WALKING TO HEALTH

Join us for a healthy 'Summer Saunter'!

Are you looking to try something new, meet new people or increase your activity then why not join your local health walk?

The Westhill Health Walk Group is run by the Westhill Community Centre and the aim is to develop walking in Community settings and Workplaces for people who are currently inactive and would benefit most from physical activity. Walking in a group is a great way to start walking more and stay motivated.

The walks are led by trained volunteers and are low level, social, safe and accessible. Anyone can come along to a Health Walk. The length and the pace of health walks are adapted to suit the pace of the walkers so that they can walk at a level which suits them.

Why Walk?

- It's free
- You can start slowly and build up gently
- You can walk anywhere and at any time
- You don't need any special equipment – just a pair of comfortable shoes
- It's fun
- It's a chance to make new friends

Be a Walk Leader!

Do you like meeting new people and enjoy getting outdoors? Perhaps you have some spare time for something new?

To find out more about walking in your area, or would like to become a volunteer, please contact **Ann Bothwell** – Westhill Community Centre on 01224 740089 or email ann.bothwell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Nº. 5 Gardening &
Decorating Services



Contact: Paul Dimelow
Email: paul_dimelow@sky.com

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WESTHILL FINANCIAL UPDATE 2016

Have you concerns regarding; redundancy issues, retiring early, job and lifestyle changes, school fees planning or inheritance tax?

Westhill financial planning firm Forbes Lawson has reported a significant increase in enquiries such as these, from the local area.

Director, Ian Robinson commented "Our unique approach to financial planning using state-of-the-art software has enabled us to demonstrate to our clients the value of having a financial plan. Recently more people have come to us concerned that they do not have enough to retire comfortably on, or how they can retire early. More often than not, we have been able to show them that they are much better off than they think and can also show them how to improve things further."

Forbes Lawson is one of only two firms in Scotland that hold the British Standard BS8577 meaning anyone dealing with them knows that they adhere to the standards best practice framework for financial advice and planning.

Director, Richard Macmillan says "We think that with the recent high profile incidents with Financial Advisers in Aberdeen people are increasingly looking for additional safeguards that they can trust their advisers - clients are reassured that we have achieved the British Standard."

Richard continued "A particular highlight of 2015 was helping a client retire 5 years earlier than planned and also see them move to the Spanish sunshine on the Costa del Sol."

Richard added "All initial meetings in our Westhill offices are covered at our expense, so come along and find out, if your financial future is brighter than you think."

forbesLawson
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Westhill in Bloom 2016

Application/Nomination Form



If you are nominating a friend or neighbour please add their contact details below as well as your name and telephone number in the "other information" section.

Name.....

Address

.....

Phone Number

Email address

Please tick the category you would like to enter:

- ☐ Best basket/container
- ☐ Best front garden
- ☐ Best communal garden/residential street
- ☐ Best back garden
- ☐ Tallest sunflower
- ☐ Best business property

Other information

.....

Date Signature.....

Please email to: *WesthillinBloom@hotmail.com* or post/hand to any of the community council contacts on page 2 by 31st July 2016.

There will be small prizes for the winner in each category.

NEW HOMES ON OFFER FROM AHP

Aberdeenshire Housing Partnership (AHP) has just completed a new development of homes to rent in the Westhill area.

The development, Westfield at Broadside, has been built by Stewart Milne Homes and includes 20 one and two bedroom terraced houses available through AHP at mid-market rents. This is our first completion in Aberdeenshire for five years and I am delighted to be involved with the Westhill community again.

This development also helps to tackle a major housing issue. Aberdeen and the surrounding area have a problem with high rents and the statistics do not make for reassuring reading. As prices in the private rented sector soar - and are among the highest in Scotland - and waiting lists grow for social housing, there is a worrying gap in the provision of mid-market rented accommodation.

AHP is at the forefront of efforts to address this problem and nowhere is that better illustrated than the new development in Westhill. The development is nestled on the southern side of a slope set within a semi-rural environment, offering inspiring views of the surrounding countryside. Our 20 homes are part of the 74 affordable properties at the development. The total number of homes being built is 190 and the entire development should be completed by the end of the summer.

The first tenants move into our properties at the beginning of July and will be able to take advantage of, not just mid-market rents, but also low running costs. The properties are all highly energy efficient and are B energy rated. They are ideal for individuals, couples or small families and are filling an ever-growing gap in the market in the area. According to our partners at Stewart Milne Homes, the development is proving to be extremely popular and there is a high demand for homes in the area.

At AHP, we are committed to providing quality affordable homes across the North-East of Scotland to meet a wide range of needs and this project helps tackle an important issue in the housing sector. In total we have around 1,000 homes in the area ranging from one bedroom flats to five bedroom family homes and we are committed to serving our local communities.

Glenn Adcock, Executive Director, AHP

SKENE SINGERS

Jos Ludwig and the Skene Singers warmly invite you to join them at their Open Evening in Trinity Church on Tuesday 7th June at 7.30pm when we will present a varied programme of entertainment

No tickets are required – entry is free but any donations will be welcomed. Teas/ coffees will be served at the close of the evening. Do come and join us- we guarantee a fun evening!

Further information about the choir is available from Christine Thomson Tel. 01224 746743.

News from Pam Dignan Dancers

The Pam Dignan Dancers danced at a Burns Lunch in the Beach Ballroom on 14th January for Bob Mearns (Chairman of the Speakeasy Club).

On 18th and 19th March sixteen dancers entered the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Festival at the Beach Ballroom – they didn't win, but danced beautifully.

On 22nd April ten dancers entertained International guests at the Beach Ballroom – Aberdeen Kilt Kickers Squaresfest – Great audience.

Pam was invited to teach Highland Dancing in Budapest for a week-end in April. The last time she was in Hungary was 1988 when the dancers and musicians attended the "19 Flower Festival in Debrecen".

On Sunday 29th May there will be a Family Ceilidh with Afternoon Tea at the Ashdale Hall from 2–5pm. Cost £5. The Dancers (22) are fundraising to attend a Highland Dancing Festival in Paris. ALL WELCOME. Tickets can be obtained from the Ashdale Hall or you can pay at the door.



Our Hub Inspires an Active Community

Nicol of Skene Westhill 10k Fun Run – Sunday 12th June 2016

Recent focus has been on organisation of the first 10k Fun Run in Westhill. The event sold out within 2 weeks of being publicised with 500 runners signed-up. We were also delighted to secure local company, **Nicol of Skene**, as main sponsor of the event. Local charity, **SensationALL**, have also agreed to be our partner charity. The 10k event starts at 10am on Sunday 12th June from the Ashdale Hall, finishing on the Westhill Academy playing fields. There are also Junior Fun Runs, kindly sponsored by **CNOOC Nexen**, taking place on the playing fields prior to the 10k event. Entries to the Junior Fun runs are still available via website <https://wdcsh.org/>.

Why not come along and support runners in the event in what looks like will be a fun-filled morning. Contact wdcsh@hotmail.com for any more information on this event or the WDCSH.

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(Westhill) Squadron, Air Training Corps

2016 is the 75th anniversary year for the Air Training Corps (ATC), formed in 1941. Over the years the ATC has greatly evolved, and no longer focuses on preparing people for entry into the RAF. Instead, it provides Cadets with a wide range of opportunities, training and activities.

These include: Flying and Gliding; Sports; Shooting; Drill; First Aid; Classification Training; Fieldcraft; Duke of Edinburgh's Award; UK and Overseas Camps; Adventure Training; Leadership Training; Work Experience; and; more! These activities also earn BTEC Qualifications!

875's Cadets' braved the winter weather and competed in the Inter-Squadron Cross Country Championships at Gordon Barracks. Seven Cadets competed from the Squadron and won a total of 5 medals.

CWO Wendy Paterson was selected and went forward to represent NE Scotland Wing at the Inter-Wing Competition.

Cadets and Staff ventured to Germany to take part in Exercise Alpine Adventure. This week-long alpine skiing trip is based in and around Bavaria and aims to allow cadets to learn to ski or improve their skiing ability to attain one of the Snow Sports Scotland Snow Life Awards. This year Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, Commandant Air Cadets, joined the expedition to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Air Cadets.

In 2015 cadets attended training at camps overseas in Cyprus and Gibraltar, and UK camps at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, and at RAF Cosford and RAF Spadeadam.

The Squadron held its annual Presentation Night in February. Parents and Guardians were invited along to Trinity Church, where the Cadets and Staff provided them with an insight into the activities and success the Squadron had encountered in 2015.

Seven new Cadets were formally enrolled by the Padre, Rev. Stella Campbell, as members of the Squadron.



Annual awards were presented to recognize and reward Cadets for their hard work over the past year. Cadets who had successfully completed training courses received their certificates, as did several Cadets who had completed First Aid training. Awards for achievement were presented to recipients as follows:

- Best Over All Cadet – CWO Josh Greig; • Best Senior Cadet – Cdt Sgt Daniel Bellarby;
- Best Junior Cadet – Cpl Scott McKenzie; • Best New Recruit – Cdt Tom Cameron & Cdt Kian Welsh (Jointly awarded); • Best Attendance – Cdt Cpl Freya Marwick; • Endeavor Award – Cdt Cpl Matthew MacCulloch

Congratulations to those mentioned above on their awards and thank you to all the Cadets of the Squadron for their hard work and dedication throughout last year.

The Squadron continues to actively recruit new Cadet and Staff Members. Email 875@aircadets.org for more info.

Check out our Facebook page for more info on what we get up to.



www.facebook.com/875Aircadets

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

A2B dial-a-bus hotline 01224 665599

Aberdeenshire Council

All Enquiries 0345 6081208

50+ 01224 740089

Adult Education Classes..... 01224 740089

Air Training Corps..... 01224 708807

Ardene House Vets..... 01224 740700

Ashdale Hall 01224 740137

Bowls Outdoors 01224 742745

Boys' Brigade 01224 742262

Childcare

Breakfast Club..... 01224 740089

After School Club 01224 740089

Holiday Club..... 01224 740089

Church of Scotland Minister . 01224 745955

Citizens Advice Bureau..... 01224 747714

Community Centre..... 01224 740089

Community Education 01224 740089

Community Mini-bus..... 01224 744058

Dentists' Surgery

Abercrombie Dental Practice,

NHS – Abercrombie Court,

Prospect Road 01224 745447

Business, Private –

Ashdale Drive 01224 742513

Westhill Dental Practice,

Old Skene Road..... 01224 741339

Arnhall Practice 01224 849484

Doctors' Surgery 01224 849400

Results 01224 849392

Repeat Prescriptions..... 01224 849393

Electricity Emergency 0800 300999

Gardening Club 01224 742639

Gas Emergency..... 0800 111999

Golf Club (Pro)..... 01224 740159

Girls' Brigade, 1st Skene 01224 741576

Girl Guides..... 01224 747741

Lawsondale Pavilion..... 01224 742836

Library..... 01224 741312

Nursery

Bridges 01224 744741

Childcare Info 0800 2983330

Kindergym 01224 740089

Mother & Toddlers Groups

Community Wing..... 01224 740089

Westdyke Leisure Centre... 01224 743098

Playgroups

Scout Hall..... 01224 742059

Skene 07789 871601

Denman..... 01224 743098

Pharmacy, Lloyds – Shops... 01224 742742

Pharmacy, Lloyds – Surgery. 01224 279489

Police (non emergency)..... 101

Post Office (Shops) 01224 740858

Post Office (Ind Est) 01224 740010

Primary Schools

Crombie..... 01224 740900

Elrick 01224 741900

Skene 01224 743242

Westhill..... 01224 740225

Secondary School, Academy 01224 740111

Scouts..... 01224 740795

Social Work Department..... 01224 849499

Squash & Fitness

Peter Nicol Centre..... 01224 742329

Swimming Pool 01224 744933

Tennis Club 01224 741577

Trinity Church 01224 742512

Veterinary, Town & Country .. 01224 741685

Water Authority 0845 6018 855

Westdyke Leisure Centre 01224 743098

Westhill Bowling Club 01224 744140

**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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