

Westhill Bulletin

Spring 2017
Issue 149



Loch of Skene

Photo courtesy of Heather Wood

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

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SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

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

Adverts and articles for the summer issue should be sent in by **Friday 28th April**, for distribution in late May.

All contributions or enquiries should be emailed to:

wecc.bulletin@westhillelrick.org

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to:

Bulletin secretary – Nara Morrison on 01224 740926 or 07984 600243 or

Bulletin Editor – David Ritchie on 01224 744058 or 07989 637461

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

2017 advertising rates:

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

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

Colour – Inside covers £210, back page £240

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

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

BULLETIN DELIVERY

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

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

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Westhill & Elrick Community Council

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- Kate Lumsden, Tel 01224 742212
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44 Brimmond Drive
- John Long, Tel 01224 740008
52 Dunecht Road
- Alistair McKelvie, Tel 01224 743977
8 Hilltop Gardens
- Dawn Anderson, Tel 01224 746670
12 Wellgrove Crescent
- Heather Coull, Tel 01224 275758
25 Morven Drive

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

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

Office Bearer's Report

New Year 2017 did not get off to a great start because within a few weeks our new Chairperson, Shona Collins, had to resign owing to moving into full time employment. Shona found she would not be able to devote the time necessary to continue with her role in WECC. We wish her well in her new post and thank her for the time she spent with us, firstly as our Minute Secretary and since September 2016 as chairperson.

Kingsford Stadium

Our Community Council has been busy over the past few months gathering as much information as possible from those on both sides of the argument regarding this proposed stadium. The news broke in the summer of 2016 that AFC were preparing to draw up plans to build a new stadium plus training pitches on Green Belt land just directly inside the City Council boundary on the edge of Westhill. This generated a very strong reaction within our community that we have been aware has become quite divisive. We will be submitting comments by 27th February to Aberdeen City Council and were given the chance to make our views known to the Garioch Area Committee of Aberdeenshire Council, so we must now let the planning process run its due course. We have to await the outcome of the decision on that which is likely to be around the middle of summer this year. Everyone was made aware of the opportunity to present their own comments to the City Council whose new elected members (councillors) will make the crucial decision. WECC have found it very difficult to reflect all shades of opinion. We have tried very hard to present a balanced response. When given the chance to respond we had to wade through a mountain of documents that were produced relating to this major planning application.

Update on Gateway Art Project

Things have started to move forward as we have applied to Aberdeenshire Public Art Scheme for funds to help with this idea of celebrating the changes within this community over the past 50 years. When the Question Mark appeared, and we asked residents for suggestions people had difficulty in getting their responses through using the email address which we advertised. We have decided now that as our Secretary (Becky Ferguson) is happy to have her email address used weccsecretx@gmail.com to collect comments on the project. The Project team at the moment is made up of Kate Lumsden, who is taking the leading role, Mervyn Barr, Becky Ferguson and Audrey Findlay. However, we hope others will join in as the project progresses. Sheila Waterhouse, the Arts Development Officer for Aberdeenshire Council has been a great help and we hope to involve an officer from Landscape Service

Christmas Activities

WECC again brought some festive cheer to the town by putting up our 40 or so street lights and a large Christmas tree in the shopping centre. We were assisted this year by Robertson Construction who are constructing the new hotel in Elrick. They had approached us in October to see if we had any projects that they could assist us with and we quickly suggested they could help with the Christmas logistics! They provided a labourer and a set of podium steps for putting up the street lights in early December and taking them down in January. They provided a cherry-picker and 2 men to help put the lights and baubles on the 24ft Christmas tree which was kindly supplied again by Dunecht Estate. Robertson's help enabled us to do this work in a safer manner than normal and we are very grateful for their assistance.

The Christmas event on 10th December at Shopping Centre was well attended and everyone enjoyed singing some carols and partaking of the hot chocolate and goodies on offer, courtesy of the hotel and some very supportive local shops.

Audrey Findlay
Acting Chair

Becky Ferguson
Secretary

David Ritchie
Treasurer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ADVICE

Recently there have been several thefts from garages that were *insecure* in the area you live in. Because Aberdeenshire is a low crime area often complacency creeps in.



Please consider the following advice:

- Make sure you lock your home, vehicle, garage, shed or outbuilding.
- You can alarm your garage, shed or outbuilding for less than £10.
- Ensure you have effective lighting around your home.
- Installing a PIR (movement detection) light with built-in camera (about £80- £100) offers low cost CCTV and effective lighting.
- Padlock alarms offer audible protection and can be purchased from £8.
- CCTV and lights should be installed so they are tamper proof.
- If CCTV or alarms are used associated signage should be displayed.
- Use close shackle padlocks so there is very little for the culprits to cut or five lever mortice locks with a full metal keeper sheath.
- Where possible, every external door should have three points of locking (top, middle and bottom) with all fixtures and fittings secured with flat headed bolts security screws or with screws whose heads have been filled in or “rounded”.
- All items in the garage shed or outbuilding which are of value or easily moved should be secured to the fabric of the building or other similar items.
- Any windows in the garage shed or outbuilding should be covered by a blind or a curtain and if light is not a major necessity they should be boarded up.
- All property should be marked – ultra violet pen, paint, engraving, forensic water, etc. – postcode and house name or number should be put onto the item in a highly visible position. Again, signage on the outside of the shed stating that all items are property marked is a good deterrent.
- Where up-and-over garage doors are used consider installing bolts and padlocks at the bottom of each side of the door.
- Got a Cat-Flap? Then remove the key from the lock when locked to prevent anyone reaching inside with an instrument to knock it out and onto the floor where they could reach it.
- Park a car close to a garage door as extra security.
- Where do you keep your car keys? Probably within a few feet of the front door. Consider this, you probably come home from work, hang the keys up and leave the door unlocked as other family members are still out. A car thief could open the door quietly whilst you are watching TV and before you know it, your car is stolen.

If you require any further advice or assistance please contact: PC Kev Marron, Crime Reduction Officer, Stonehaven Police Office, Dunnottar Avenue, Stonehaven, AB39 2JD, or telephone 101 or via email kevin.marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

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www.scotland.police.uk

PC Steve Middleton



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Thursday	10.00 am5.00 pm
Friday	10.00 am5.00 pm
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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Westhill Service Point

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Service Point is available at Westhill Library.

Customers will now be able to access
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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
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*I wonder
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profit will be
this year?*

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

Near Misses on Westhill Drive Zebra Crossings

In the last Bulletin I made reference to near accidents on the both zebra crossings on Westhill Drive (hotel and Kinmundry bus stop). Thank you to those local residents who contacted me with reports of incidents in which they had a 'close shave'. I have continued to raise the profile of these very serious safety concerns with council officers and as a practical measure suggested the fitting of hi- brightness belisha beacons on the zebra crossings. These are fitted with flashing LED lights which in turn increases visibility in the event someone is on the crossing. I have also asked for rumble strips on the carriageway to be considered as a further safety feature, again to alert vehicle drivers that they are approaching a zebra crossing.

Staggered Pedestrian Barriers at Westhill Drive Exit Could Prevent an Accident

At a WECC meeting a local resident described witnessing a mother and her child leaving the shopping centre to cross the busy road to the Holiday Inn. The young child ran in front of her mother and was just stopped before getting on to the crossing. If a vehicle had been approaching the crossing, the time the driver had to react was very tight. This situation is not a 'one off' as many have viewed this safety issue whilst drinking coffee in the hotel. A possible solution is to fit staggered pedestrian barriers which have two benefits, namely slows down people as they approach the crossing and also provides motorists with sight of someone about to cross the road. It is predictable, this is an accident waiting to happen is a statement frequently made to me. This issue has been raised with M.J. Mapp who manage the shopping centre but without much success to date. They indicate the exit complies with planning regulations; they have placed a warning sign on the wall to alert shoppers of the road ahead; and barriers would cause an obstruction to the loading bay for the new units. I have investigated the latter point and barriers would not cause an obstruction to accessing the Home Bargains loading bay.

As a way ahead, I have proposed to council officers a solution which would include the erection of two staggered pedestrian safety barriers. This item is in the council 'pipe line' and is under discussion, hopefully leading to a successful outcome.

Comments from Bulletin readers in support for this initiative welcomed.

Shopping Centre Directional Arrows within the Car Parking Bays

Following up on concerns by numerous shoppers, I have raised this item with the shopping centre management in regard to implementing direction arrows in the vicinity of the parking bays. The consensus view being that this would make parking for motorists as well as shoppers walking towards their car safer. The responses received from M.J. Mapp stated that 'there are enough arrows to avoid confusion and there are no plans for adding any more'. A surprising and disappointing response. Particularly as this would improve safety, make for a more enjoyable shopping experience and at low cost. My intention is to continue campaigning for directional arrows.

Responses on this safety item welcomed.

Council Elections May 2017

I have been privileged for the past ten years to represent Westhill and District as an Aberdeenshire Councillor. I am also pleased to have been selected to stand again in the forthcoming May elections and if elected will continue to represent the best interests of the Westhill and District community.

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

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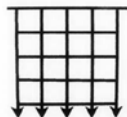
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Cllr. Iris Walker (Ward 13), Westhill and District

Kingsford Stadium Proposal

By the time this Bulletin is delivered, the window for public comment on the AFC planning application will have closed. This proposal really has ignited huge interest within the community of Westhill and District and a great deal of time has been spent listening to the debate both for and against. Both sides have been passionate in their views. It is very frustrating for us as local councillors that although we will be asked to provide a view through the Garioch Area Committee very soon, the final decision will rest with Aberdeen City councillors who do not represent us. The amount of letters and emails submitted to Aberdeen City Council by residents has been phenomenal and now Aberdeen City planners will have their work cut out taking in to account the material considerations raised. They will also need to consider responses from different council services such as Roads, Transport, Environmental Health as well as outside bodies such as SEPA. I imagine it would be a few months before the planners are ready to present their final recommendations on the application.

Places, people and planning

In my role as a councillor, I find planning both intriguing and frustrating. There is much work to do across Aberdeenshire and Scotland as a whole to get communities involved in planning. Very often by the time an application comes to light, affected residents have to take a crash course in navigating the ins and outs of the planning system. All councillors in Aberdeenshire sit on a planning committee to determine applications and are bound by their Code of Conduct not to publicly declare support or otherwise for a particular application if they are to use their vote in determining the outcome. The policies used to determine an application are set in Scottish planning legislation.

The next stage of the Scottish Government's review of the Scottish Planning System which began in 2015 is a consultation paper "Places, people and planning". Giving people an opportunity to plan their own place, getting more people involved in planning, improving public trust and keeping decisions local are just some of the themes they want your views on. Please do respond at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning> by 4th April 2017.

Garioch Area Top-up Budget

This budget is used to enable the Garioch Area Committee to respond to local needs by supporting community based projects which relate to improving towns and villages as well as promoting resilient communities, well-being and tackling inequality. Some of the community groups from Westhill and District who were awarded funding this past year include Westhill & Elrick Community Council for Public Art, Echt Community Council for village improvements and their Community Resilience Plan, Ashdale Hall for floor improvements and Midmar Parent Council for new playground equipment.

Local Elections

On May 4th residents will be asked to vote again for their local councillors. It has been a huge privilege and a pleasure for me to represent the people of Westhill and District. I'd like to thank everybody who has supported me in my role and the many residents who have raised issues to help make our area a better place. Policy setting, scrutiny and report-reading within the council means nothing without listening and engaging with the people we are elected to serve. I hope to continue to fight Westhill and District's corner for another term as I know there is still much to do.

Contact me

My surgeries are on the first Saturday of the month 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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Councillor David Aitchison

In my recent Bulletin articles I have tried to provide as much information as possible on the proposed football stadium development. What follows is the most up to date information I have at the time of writing this article.

The stadium planning application is predicted to go before Aberdeen City Council for a decision sometime in June. As explained previously your local Westhill councillors are only to be consulted for an opinion on the scheme. This is due to take place at Garioch Area Committee on 21 February, around the time that this issue of the Bulletin is being distributed. At this meeting, having considered all the representations put to me along with technical reports like those about transportation issues, I will be able to give an opinion and have my views recorded for planners and ultimately, Aberdeen City councillors to consider.

In addition to the plans for the football stadium there is also a proposal to extend the Prime Four development going through the city councils planning process. The approval or not of these two major developments will have a significant effect on the future development of our community. Similarly the completion of the AWPR and the potential infrastructure benefits from the Aberdeen City Region deal will both have impacts on Westhill well into the future.

This is a very significant time in the life of Westhill and it is perhaps a good moment for us all to consider what we would like our community to look like in the years ahead. We are presented with opportunities to articulate our views when documents like the Strategic and Local Development Plans which shape our area and impact on our lives both directly and indirectly are prepared. If we can, we should all participate in the planning process when we are given these opportunities to shape our community.

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

My next surgery dates is **Wednesday 1 March 2017**. Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for full list of dates.

Councillor David Aitchison

2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ

Tel 01224 741301, Mobile 07876 475227

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WESTHILL ART PROJECT

Thanks to all the children and adults who contributed to the snowflakes decorations at Christmas.

Our next exciting project will be “A Portrait of Westhill “. For this event we are asking everybody to draw an A5 size self-portrait. It can be serious, head and shoulders, full length, or funny (like a cartoon). You can use pencil, pen, paint, felt pen, crayon, whatever.

There is a workshop in the Old School & Schoolhouse on Saturday 25th February where you can create your masterpiece on the spot.

We will also be at the Producers Market on Saturday 4th March if anyone wants help with their picture, otherwise just get creative!

Portraits will be on display around Westhill from 14th March until Easter. As always, our friendly retailers are willing to act as collection points for your pictures – the Co-op, the Vets and the Library.

We are looking forward to seeing all your artistic handiwork.

Keep up to date through the WECC website and Facebook.

Kate Lumsden (WECC member/Westhill Art Project)

Rosemary Murray (Westhill Art Project secretary)

Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

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

Past Events: Christmas Eve Film and Family Hogmanay Ceilidh were both a super success enjoyed by all.

Future Events: Accordion Night – 19th April. See Facebook Page for further details.

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.

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

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

Grampian District Pipes and Drums (Westhill community based band)



Pictured above are the recently formed Grampian District Pipes and Drums at practice in the Milne Hall Skene. Founded in 2014, by 3 members (our pipe major and two senior drummers) it has shown dramatic growth – now 14 pipers and 7 drummers strong.

Initial practice sessions were in one of our members company/sponsors offices in Westhill and we now practice in the Milne Hall Skene. Although we are a grade 4 competing band, we see ourselves primarily as a community based entertainment band. We play all the usual family favourites but also pride ourselves in having a varied and slightly different repertoire.

On Sunday November 27 last year we turned out 11 pipers and 7 drummers to lead the parade down Union Street Aberdeen for the switching on of the Christmas lights. Union Street was mobbed on both sides with the lights switching on as we marched underneath.

This year we plan to play at several local highland games, promote ourselves for any other local events/galas, etc. and compete in several local and national pipe and competitions including the world championships in Glasgow. Competing to us is important to maintain a high standard of performance at all entertainment events. Prizes are a bonus and were proud that in our first year of competing in 2015 we achieved qualification for the finals in a national event comprising bands from different countries, a major achievement for a band in its first year.

Although members have been recruited from throughout Grampian District, we are keen to forge close links with Westhill community with a view to playing at local events, seeking sponsorship from local companies, usually in return for displaying the company logo on drum skins, bagpipe covers or a gazebo we use at outdoor events and last but not least to recruit new pipers and especially drummers, either beginners or experienced players. Tuition in piping and base tenor and side drumming is provided by experienced tutors.

Practice is at 7pm on Wednesdays at Milne Hall Skene. Practice sessions are structured the first hour on practice chanter and drum pads usually in small groups according to ability. The second hour we come together on instruments to practice competition sets and entertainment sets for events. The pipe major, pipe sergeants, senior drummers and tutors for beginners are experienced teachers and players with many years' experience with various bands.

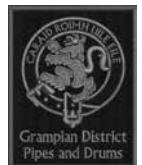
Interested? – in joining, sponsoring or hiring us then contact us on our website www.grampiandistrictpipesanddrums.com or email gdpad@outlook.com or contact Pipe Major Graham McKay on 07533 135270.

On Saturday 6th May between 11.00 and 12.30 we are trying to organise a public entertainment display and play in and around Westhill Shopping Centre – come, see and hear us.

Finally as a summary of what we're about see our logo.

The Gaelic inscription 'Caraid Roimh Uile Eile' translates "friends before all else".

Grampian District Pipes and Drums



Varapunya Meditation Centre

Easter Mains Cottage, Kinmundy, AB15 8RB



Introduction

The Varapunya Meditation Centre was established some three years ago as a place for Buddhist learning, meditation and sharing of personal experiences. It is a small charity supporting people of all faiths who wish to learn and understand more about the principles and practices of Buddhism and meditation practice. The Centre also undertakes charitable works in the city and contributes to educational programmes in schools as well as food collections for the less well off in our community, irrespective of faith or belief. It was formally registered as a Scottish Charity in 2013 and operated from a ground floor flat in the city centre.

Since 2013 all the members and volunteers have been working hard to support each other in learning, practicing and helping people of all backgrounds from the City, Shire and beyond. This has included a wide range of nationalities, e.g. Scottish, English, other EU nationalities and from across the globe – Sri Lanka & Thailand, etc. Aberdeenshire residents have joined us from Westhill, Drumoak, Banchory, Peterhead and Stonehaven. Significant numbers of people from all backgrounds have benefited from the support and services that the centre provides and it works with other local organisations, such as Instant Neighbour (providing food collections), 50+events, School educational programmes and the Interfaith Group Aberdeen, etc. The Lord Provost has welcomed visiting monks from around the UK and abroad in Aberdeen.

Personally, I was born in Nepal, where my family still lives and I have been struck by the generosity and understanding of the people of Aberdeen City and Shire, in providing support for those who have suffered from the earthquake there. I have worked with many nationalities for over ten years in the UK, including in Punjab Buddhist Society UK, Wat Mahathat UK, Lumbini Nepalese Buddha Dharma Society, Thai Buddharam Temple Aberdeen, etc. Although most of our members at the centre are of Thai and other Asian origin, the significant majority of people who are benefiting from the mindfulness and meditation classes are of British and other European origin.

Meditation requires a peaceful environment away from 'hustle and bustle' of the city in order to develop the practice. The centre has been seeking to move away from the city and a property in the area of Westhill appeared to be a good match for what was needed – accessible but also in peaceful country side. This is how the centre took ownership of Easter Mains Cottage, Mains of Kinmundy, AB15 8RB in August 2016. There was a blessing of the house by visiting venerable monks on 3rd September and gradually moved in as a residence for monks and a place for instruction, meditation and practice. The centre invited neighbours on the day to share with us this experience, food and soft drinks and some neighbours did so. So, the centre is now fully able to help and support people of all nationalities and beliefs, by providing mindfulness and meditation classes, retreats and other events in a peaceful environment, conducive for quiet contemplation and practice.

All classes are free and everyone who contributes to the operation of the centre is a volunteer with the intention of 'Helping Hands Healing Hearts' which has become a motto for the centre. The centre runs entirely on generous donations from individuals and organisations.

Regular Classes at the Centre:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday night from 7–9pm

Weekend meditation sessions start at 9.30am on Saturdays and 10.00 am on Sundays.

For more information contact: Ajahn Sujana 07949 219241 or email: varapunya@gmail.com
www.varapunyabuddhistsociety.org



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News from the Library

As we write this update the weather is bright, frosty and cold (-5.3 at 8am this morning). The perfect conditions for settling into a cosy chair at home or in the Library to travel the world through reading. Where would we start from? The Geography shelves at Dewey 910 to 920 hold a wide selection of travel guides and information books on countries of the world. History of the world begins at Dewey 930. Many authors are renowned for novels set around the world including Colin Thubron, Bill Bryson, Paul Theroux, Anne Tyler and Paulo Coelho. The cookery books shelved at Dewey 645 provide wonderful ideas for International Cuisine. Travel magazines include 'Traveller' and we also stock back copies of this magazine which are available to borrow.

Over the last few months we have noticed the number of audio books being borrowed has increased. We decided to give audio books additional space to enable the collection to double in size. Audio books are available on CD and also on Playaway. With Playaway you don't need a separate player as it is a small, lightweight device which comes pre-loaded and ready to use with one audio book. They are great for listening to on the move, just plug in your headphones and you're ready to go. Audio books are available for both adults and children. An audio book on CD is a great way to pass the time and keep children entertained on a long car journey.

A few examples from the collection 'My name is Lucy Barton' by Elizabeth Strout, 'Public Library and other stories' by Ali Smith plus a selection of language courses, biographies and non-fiction books.

Book bug's Library Challenge is back! The challenge is for all pre-school children and encourages children to discover and enjoy their local library. Come along to the library and pick up a collector card. If you're not already a member of the library you can join at the time. Every time you visit the library collect a stamp and once the card is full choose an illustrated certificate. We have 7 new certificates to collect this year and you can collect as many as you wish. Why not try to collect the full set? The challenge ends on Saturday 29th April.

The Book bug book of the month for January is 'Baby Twinkle' by Samantha Meredith; please ask us for details of the recommended read of the month.

Have you had a look at our e-magazine collection? As a member of the library you have access to a great range of electronic magazines which can be downloaded to your phone or tablet.

If you feel a specific title should be part of library stock, please let us know or send the details to us via the Library Enquiry/Request form on the Aberdeenshire Libraries website.

For information on all forthcoming events at Westhill Library please visit us at

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries and
<http://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireLibraries>

Westhill's LOCAL inclusive charity

Here's to a SensationALL 2017!

2017 has already been a busy year for SensationALL SC043156 with some small scale adaptations already being made to make the Old School House (OSH) more accessible, but it's just the beginning!

By improving the building we will make it more pleasant and usable for the groups who already use OSH and it will encourage new community groups to make use of the improved facilities for a wide range of activities or ages.

SensationALL Fundraising Campaign to make the OSH a centre of excellence for ALL to enjoy!!

YOU can help us make a difference – so please take a moment to consider making a donation to our refurbishment of OSH, either by texting SALL17 £5 to 70070 OR online at www.justgiving.com and search for SensationALL.

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 fundraising committee. The date and time of our meetings is the first Tuesday of every Month, 5pm at Old School House, Westhill.

Save the Date!

Family Bingo Night

Saturday 25th March, 7-12pm @ Westhill Golf Club

Contact info@sensationall.org.uk for tickets or details

Volunteering Opportunities

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. Contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Sarah Knowles: sarah@sensationall.org.uk

SensationALL Membership

Another opportunity to get involved in SensationALL is by becoming a member. Members of SensationALL can be individuals, organisations or businesses and are entitled to vote on what happens in the charity as well as plans for the future use of the OSH. If you are interested in becoming a member then please get in touch with us to find out more.

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



Recent iPad and Tablet Classes in Westhill



There were two very successful iPad/Tablet Classes held in Westhill Library run by Aberdeenshire Council's Leisure Learning and iConnect North East in January and February with a further Class running February to March. These Classes were able to be run free through the kind Grant given by 'The Garioch Partnership'. The ten participants were taught the basics of their digital device which allowed them to become more confident in using them, able to contact family and friends, use email, browse the internet, become familiar with social media and be able to access the free downloads of Aberdeenshire Libraries, e.g. ebooks, audio books, emagazine, music and more. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the course saying *'having a small group helped us ask questions and gave us confidence to try things that we wouldn't have. I am now so much more confident in using my iPad/Tablet – thank you so much'*.

**Leslie Murison Development Officer for Leisure Learning
Aberdeenshire Council**

The Library would welcome any Adults interested in volunteering within the Library Service who could provide basic ICT support, e.g. in laptops, iPad, Tablets and mobile phones. If you are interested please contact Westhill Library on 01224 741312 – look forward to hearing from you!

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:

Wednesday 15th March – Sandy Scott, Aberdeenshire Parks and Gardens – talking on Duthie and Hazlehead Parks

Wednesday 19th April – Sue Taylor – 'The Potter and the Garden'

Wednesday 17th May – to be advised

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

JOGSCOTLAND IN WESTHILL

We meet on a Monday and Thursday night at
Westhill Swimming Pool, 6.30–7.30pm

Catering for all ages in our walk/jog programme.

Further info from **Pam Wilson** on **07734 541616**

to like us on Facebook Jogscotland-Westhill

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ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

We at Ashdale hall would like to wish all our clients and hirers a very happy and prosperous 2017. The Hall had a very busy time over the festive period with fundraising events, ceilidhs, dances and parties, along with our regular programme of classes. We had a lovely Christmas market on 3rd December, with stalls offering a wide variety of produce and crafts, it was a great way to buy unique gifts and stock up on festive fayre! Also, RSCDS country dance and couple of Christmas parties added to the festivity at the hall.

NEW CLASSES

We have a new Children Hip Hop Dance class being run on Monday afternoon from 3.45pm–4.45pm, please check with the instructor Ainslie Gill for further details – 07723 632777 or email ainslie_gill@hotmail.com.

Also Grampian Care was back at the hall with their First Aid Training on 20th and 27th January and 7th February. For future dates please contact Pauline Robson on 07534 175118.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Blood transfusion service will be held at Ashdale hall on 18th May 2017 from 4pm–8pm. This session offers appointments but also entertains walk-in donors as well.

WRESTLING SHOW

This popular show returns to the Hall on Saturday 22nd April 2017. For further details and how to obtain tickets please call 07855 121777 and leave a message.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Westhill Producer's Market, Saturdays – 4th March, 1st April and 6th May (all 9.00am–1.00pm)

Monthly Tea Dance, Fridays – 10th March, 7th April and 12th May (all 1.30pm–3.30pm)

Youth Life Cafe, Fridays – 24th March, 21st April and 19th May (all 6.30pm–10.30pm)

Blackburn Dances, Sunday evenings – 23rd April and 14th May

***Westhill Gala Bingo Evening* – To Be Announced**

***Westhill Gala Day* – Saturday 3rd June**

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 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 please see our online timetable: <http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable> and our upcoming events can be viewed on: <http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-events> (these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

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

Scottish registered charity no. SCO21493



Our Hub Inspires an Active Community

Following the success of the inaugural Nicol of Skene Westhill 10k Fun Run last year, WDCSH are delighted to announce the event will take place on Sunday 11th June this year. The event will follow a similar format to last years with the main 10k event and junior fun runs for primary school children. There will also be an additional 2.5k event for secondary school children (S1-S4) this year. The organising committee are aiming to make it bigger and even better than last year.

Nicol of Skene are supporting their local community once more, providing main sponsorship for the event. We are also pleased that our partner Charity '**SensationALL**' are on-board again. More details on the event will follow with online entry due to open in February. Up to date information on the event will be available via the Westhill 10k Facebook page and our website <http://wdcsh.org/>

We had over 70 volunteers from the community last year to help ensure the event ran safely and smoothly. The involvement of all the volunteers created a great atmosphere and was a key highlight of the event. If you would like to volunteer at this years' event, please get in touch via contact details below.

Any companies wishing to get involved in sponsorship of the event can contact Grant Coull on 07882 675422 or via wdcsh@hotmail.com for more information.

In other news, WDCSH are looking to organise the traditional football competition at the Westhill Gala this year. It never ran last year and we are planning to resurrect this, so look out for details via the WDCSH FB Page.

Later in the year we also plan to host an event involving a large number of local sporting clubs that will provide an opportunity to promote their clubs and provide "taster sessions" in various activities.



Grant Coull, WDCSH Chairperson

Website: <http://wdcsh.org/> • Contact us on: wdcsh@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook



1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

As always, November and December was a busy time for the boys across the company. In the lead up to Christmas the Company Section boys delivered over 1,500 Xmas Cards around Westhill and Skene which had been 'posted' at both Trinity and Skene Churches. In addition, on Christmas Eve the Officers undertook a bag packing session in the local M&S which raised over £350 towards company funds.

However, Christmas should also be a fun time which our Anchor Boys and Junior Section certainly had when they attended the Pantomime to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Company Section boys also enjoyed two mountain bike outings, the first on a wet November Friday evening when they cycled along the Deeside Railway Line to Milton of Crathes and in early December when they explored the Tarland Trails.



Photographs of both these outings and other recent activities can be viewed on our Facebook Page.

As we start a new year, in all three sections of the company, the boys are engaged in a wide variety of activities, with the older age groups focusing on their Duke of Edinburgh and Queens Badge commitments.

We do not have any waiting lists and are always delighted to welcome new boys to the company. Boys and parents can get a flavour of our activities on our Facebook Page, or www.1stskenebb.co.uk. Alternatively contact any officer, or simply just turn up any Friday evening.

Looking ahead, we have started planning for our Annual Camp near Aviemore when we head off on Friday 30 June for a week of outdoor activities.

Donald Struthers, Captain, 01224 742262

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**.

SOUTH WEST ABERDEENSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (SWACAB)

Charity Number SC037679, Company Number SC365959

Are you struggling to cope financially this new year?

We find many people overstretch their finances to cover their festive costs, with credit cards taking a big hit. Unfortunately normal bills still need to be paid which can leave little spare to pay off the credit cards, leading to increased debt. This can be very hard to cope with, but help is at hand.

SWACAB has a fully trained **Debt and Income Maximisation Adviser** able to help you to get your finances back under control. The adviser and support team will work with you to document all your debts, your income and on-going expenditure to understand what options there are for increasing income, reducing costs and for debt repayment. The Adviser can then liaise and negotiate with your creditors to get the best possible arrangement for you – reducing worry and stress to give you peace of mind and let you get a good night's sleep. The adviser can also provide help with budgeting to provide a framework to manage and control costs, helping clients to remain debt free.

The bureau also has a very experienced **Energy Adviser** who can help you change tariff with your existing suppliers of gas and electricity, or change suppliers, to significantly reduce your energy costs. He can also help with any other energy problems, including alternative energy and heat generation systems such as solar and wind generation and air and ground source heat pumps.

Our **Benefits Advisers** are available to help clients who are receiving, or may be applicable to receive, benefits and tax credits. This is an area undergoing significant change but our advisers are fully abreast of the changes and can help you maximise the benefits you receive. A significant part of this work is involved with clients who have had benefits stopped due to revised medical criteria. We can help clients with mandatory reconsiderations and failing success at that level can support them at benefits tribunals. If you have been affected by the new rules please contact the bureau for an appointment. Our advisers have gained very significant amounts for clients who have had benefits stopped unfairly.

Working together for clients, these 3 advice streams can make a real difference to the lives of people in our community. However these are only 3 of the many areas we cover which also include Employment, Housing, Tax, Financial Products & Services, Legal, Relationships, Consumer Goods & Services, Travel, Transport & Holidays, Health & Community Care, Immigration, NHS Concern & Complaints, Education and Pension Wise guidance. Over all these advice streams we have gained over £1,800,000 for our clients so far this Financial Year.

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

If you have a few hours to spare each week and are thinking of volunteering please call to speak to our Manager. There are many roles that you may be suited to, including advising (for which full training will be provided), administration, reception, fund raising and publicity plus membership of the Board of Management. You have nothing to lose and you will be surprised by how much you will benefit and the satisfaction you will gain from helping our community.

The bureau telephone number is 01224 747714 and the 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 1 pm)

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.swacab.org.uk/where-and-when> for further information.

Litter Free Westhill??

Wouldn't it be good if the title was true? Unfortunately, we have a long way to go to reach that. With many of us leading such diverse lives these days, the sense of neighbourhood has all but vanished and getting involved in a



Clean Up is one way of getting to know other people in the area, who also care about the environment. Not leaving litter is important, as no one likes seeing this group of bottles we collected from a small area in Denman on a recent frosty morning. We also collect from the side of the A944 and it seems that most of this

litter is thrown from vehicles. Littering from vehicles is illegal. It is dangerous to us and wildlife. It is unsightly and difficult to clean up. A cleaner greener Scotland is good for us all socially, environmentally, physically and financially.

We are holding group litter picks on: 18th March, 15th April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September, 14th October, 18th November.



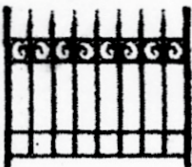
All picks will start at 10:00 at the Tennis Court car park and kit is provided. Come along and try it!

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

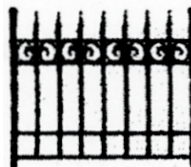
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Westhill Golf Club

In my last article I highlighted that we had recently refurbished our clubhouse lounge to give it a modern fresh and inviting feel. I hope that you have had the opportunity to come and see it for yourself! If not, pop up, have a look and enjoy the splendour of the surrounding views. Who knows, a visit may inspire you to get into golf or highlight that our clubhouse offers the perfect setting for a coffee and a catch-up with friends!

Over the winter months we have been busy working on our course and improving the quality of the product which we have on offer. We have made significant investment in drainage around the course. This has directly involved changes to 7 of our 18 holes and will have a 'knock on' effect to many others. Overall we think this is money well spent! Our bunkers have been criticised in the past and we have therefore looked to address this head on by totally renovating the bunkers on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th holes. We have also made a major investment in our irrigation system which will help us to improve the condition of our greens by being able to water and fertilise as necessary.

We have a number of new membership initiatives for the 2017 season and I strongly encourage you to visit our website or clubhouse to obtain full details. Let me highlight three particularly exciting ideas we have on offer this year. Firstly, we have made changes to our fee structure for young adults to make golf more affordable. We have a staggered transition from junior to full adult fees over an 8 year period (aged 19 to 26) – we feel this is a very positive step which will allow you to keep playing golf when you are at the start of your career and money might be tight. Secondly, we have introduced a 'family membership' category. Should two adults (aged 19 and above) join Westhill Golf Club, then any children in that family can join free of charge. Lastly, we know that people like to play golf with their friends. On the basis of this we have introduced a discount (15% off our regular fees) should you join our club as a group of 3 or more persons. In this context a 'group' can be composed of a mixture of adults aged 19 and above.

Our golfing season tees off on the 25th of March with our annual Captain vs Vice-Captain match and thereafter we have regular opportunities for competitions and social golf. I believe this will be a fantastic season for our club and think this is a perfect time to get involved!

Alan McCue, WGC Marketing Convenor



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Westhill Bowling Club

2016 was a very successful session for Westhill Bowling Club, both at a local and national level.

Locally, our ladies won the Grampian Ladies Knockout Triples and Fours competitions, as well as representing our club at a number of local semi-finals.

Once again, our men topped the Bon Accord Friday night league, won the Bon Accord Knockout Pairs and represented the club in the later stages of a number of local tournaments.

Nationally, two of our juniors, Andrew Reilly and Andrew Thomson, received Scotland call ups to the Under 25 National Team, both in playing in matches against England, Ireland and Wales.

In addition, our Men's Fours reached the semi-finals of the Scottish National Fours event – not a bad set of results for a small club!

We look forward to another successful season in 2017.

The club is open from April to September, and offers both fun and competitive bowling, along with social events for all ages and abilities. We are always looking for new members, with coaching and equipment available for anyone new to the game.



Our club Open Day is being held this year on Sunday 14th May 2017, 2-4pm at the Westhill Bowling Club, Denman Park Pavilion. This relaxed day will allow any member of the community to come and try the sport for free, in a friendly atmosphere.

For more information, please contact club secretary, Lisa Thomson, on 01224 749919.

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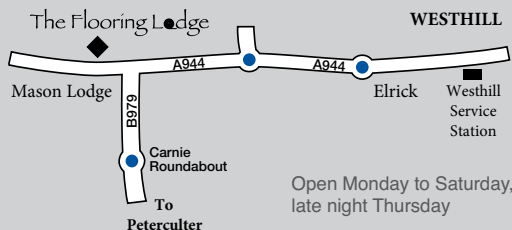
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PAM DIGNAN DANCERS

Freya Murray, Kirsty McNeill, Ella McPherson, Sarah Petersen and Emma Allsop passed their Associate Highland Dancing Exam in September. They are now qualified to teach Highland Dancing.

The Annual Concert in November raised £1,000 which was presented to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

22 dancers from Pam's dancing school went to Disney Paris in November. It was a Choreography competition – they had to use traditional highland dance steps, but set to Disney music. C-J Irvine, one of the senior girls from the school, choreographed Pocahontas, The Lion King and Disney Princesses for the younger dancers, the older dancers did theirs – He Mele No Lilo.



This was a traditional Highland Dancing Competition and a Championships for the first time in Paris. Emma Smart was the overall champion in her age group. All the dancers won medals. There were dancers from New Zealand, Canada, France Holland and America all taking part, but the bulk of them were from Scotland. It was a huge event and really well organised. Everyone had a fabulous time.

Westhill Primary School support Children In Need

In November, P3 pupils from Westhill Primary School raised an incredible £1570.80 for BBC Children in Need. To make links with Enterprise in Education the pupils of P3 organised an extremely successful 'Spotacular' fundraising day in their gym hall. Class teacher, Mrs Leza Paterson was extremely proud of the children's enthusiasm and compassion for wanting to help others. On the day of the event the pupils of P3 created a variety of 'Spotacular' fund raising stalls that everyone in Westhill Primary School could visit and enjoy. Blush Bear also made a special guest appearance! This event had a real community feel as parents from the school and lots of the local shops kindly supported their project through donations. Busy B's bouncy castle hire also gave a very generous donation of an assault course which greatly helped the success of the day. During the banking stage Westhill Royal Bank of Scotland staff were fantastically patient with the children and made learning in maths come alive. Mrs Paterson and P3 would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported their Enterprise project – they are VERY proud that they've helped to make a difference to the lives of children in the UK.



Photo courtesy of Evening Express

Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club

We held our annual Club Championships at the end of November and were delighted nearly every swimmer managed to compete. Well done to Natalie Bateman, Max Christie and Imogen Louw who broke Club Championship records, one record had been ten years old!! We celebrated all our swimmers achievements with our Medal Presentation and Disco evening in December. To complete Christmas celebrations we had an inflatable night at the pool for all our swimmers. There is very little time off for a swimmer as life revolves around training and competing. January began in earnest and the next 6 months will be a busy time with many competitions – some swimmers in the higher squads will travel as far as Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

If you are interested in competitive swimming and in level 4 or 5 in the 'Learn to Swim' programme (or at that level) and aged between 7-12 years and would like more information about joining our club we would be delighted to hear from you so please contact our Membership Secretary Mrs. Sam Louw at membership@westhilldistrictasc.org.uk

Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

At the time of writing the committee were planning the Dunecht Burns supper held on 27th January.

A quiz night will be held in the Lyne of Skene Hall on Friday 24th February at 7.15pm. This is part of a national Macmillan Quiz night, so come along and add your support. Bring your own refreshments and snacks. Prizes will be given.

In February, the committee meet to plan the years fund raising activities. If you would like to help us in any way, please get in touch (contact 01330 860226).

From time to time we receive donations from individuals own fund raising events, collected from parties, sponsored challenges, etc. These donations are very gratefully received and are a terrific boost to our fundraising. All money received is "ring fenced" for the use of patients in our local area.

Thank you to all who support our fundraising events.

Follow Macmillan on our Facebook page by going to www.facebook.com/skenefundraising or by searching for Skene Fundraising Committee – Macmillan Cancer Support on Facebook.

Kath MacBeath

WESTHILL BUDDIES GROUP

Westhill Buddies is a local group for anyone with any type of mental illness. Perhaps you are newly diagnosed with Depression or are feeling low. Do you wish you had someone to share your feelings with who understand your situation? We are a friendly group who meet every three weeks to help and support, encourage, empower and share in both in the bad and good times. We have various activities, talks and buddy time where we can share and help each other. If you would like any further information contact Rhona Stewart on 01224 742351 or rhona.stewart@aol.com. You will be made very welcome.



WELCOME!



Services

Sunday – 10.30am – Morning Worship

Crèche (*crèche room, downstairs*)

Mini Roar! (*age 3-5, downstairs*)

Roar! (*P1-7, upstairs*)

Alive! (*S1-S3, upstairs*)

6.30pm – Soul (*S1 and up*)

6.30pm – Café Church (*every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month*)

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



Westhill Community Church have launched a new community action initiative where we now have a store cupboard of tinned/dried food items, toiletries and other items available **for anybody in need**. If you, or anybody you know could do with a helping hand, please do come and see us. In addition to this you can also collect your Foodbank parcels from us if you have a voucher for Aberdeenshire North Foodbank.

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

If the above times do not suit, please contact us on 01224 740291 or email beckyferguson@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 March, 17th March.**

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: 24th March, 21st April.**



Friday Night Live – 24th February, 10th March, 31st March and 28th April.

WCC EASTER SERVICES 2017

April

13th Maundy Thursday Communion (7.30pm)

14th Good Friday Reflections (11am)

15th Early Morning Praise (8am – followed by breakfast)

All Age Easter Service (10.30am)

Easter Messy Church (4pm–6pm)

Craft Fairs 2017

**Saturday
March 18th
10am–3pm**

GREEN PASTURES CAFÉ

We introduced a new menu at the start of 2017, if you haven't been in for a while come along and try something new! You can also now get a delicious bacon roll or pancake stack in the morning to start the day! **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** are always available if you are looking for something to fill your time and an opportunity to meet new people then pop along and see us to find out more. We also have young people volunteering for hours towards their Saltire Awards or Duke of Edinburgh Awards. No experience is necessary. The only criteria is that you must be over 13 years of age, be relatively physically able (it gets busy!), and have a willing heart to serve and meet people.



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



Messy Church is a fun expression of church for all the family. Come along for crafts, songs and fun all related to a bible story, followed by some food and fellowship together. 19th February, 19th March, 16th April (all 4–6pm, Westhill Community Church, Broadshade). We look forward to seeing you there!



Café Church takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and

it begins at 6.30pm. The venue is our Green Pastures Café. The evening begins at 6.30pm and at 8pm. There will be worship, prayer, interactive talks, fun events, and much, much more! There will be **NO EVENING SERVICES** on the 1st or 3rd Sundays of the month. Please come along and invite a friend or two.

Westhill and District Senior Citizens Club

The Senior Citizens Club is open to anyone age 55 years and over.

We meet fortnightly in Trinity Church Hall 2pm until 4pm.

We have a varied programme and welcome any suggestions for entertainment.

Thursday 2nd March – Banchory Scottish Dance Group

Thursday 16th March – Westhill Academy Band

We will be having a Bus Outing and a talk from the Mountain Rescue later in the term.

Annual Membership is £6; weekly fee of £2.50 for entertainment, tea and Biscuits.

Contact **Heather Cook**, 01224 741194 or e-mail heathercook@tiscali.co.uk for further information.



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WESTHILL TENNIS CLUB

Spring is in the air and it will soon be time to dig out those trainers and shake the dust off your tennis racket. Club nights on Monday's and Thursday's will likely be up and running again from early March and our junior coaching programme is already well under way for this year.

However, winter has not been all quiet down at the courts as the very cold weather this year left us with a burst pipe in the Clubhouse. Work to repair the damage started quickly and we now have some fully refurbished changing rooms and toilet facilities. We'd like to extend a big thank you to our members for their patience during this time.

With the new season just around the corner we will soon be taking membership applications. Whether it's been many years since you last played, you already play regularly or you are completely new to tennis, Westhill Tennis Club will have something to offer you.

Benefits of membership include:

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

Our 2017/18 memberships will start on 1st April. Please get in touch for more details or see our website.

Annual membership fees: Family: £75; Adult: £37.50; Student: £17.50; Juniors: £14 (11-17 years); Minis: £7.50 (10 or under on 31st March 2017).

Contact

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub

Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub

In person: Monday evenings from 7.00pm (Adult Club Night)

Coaching: Vikki Paterson vikkipaterson@hotmail.com

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 May 2017. The deadline for applications is 5th May. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

In November 2016 donations were made to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust, Westhill Scouts, Westhill Community Church Foodbank, Skene Primary School, Kirkton of Skene Playgroup and Westhill Buddies

Donation requests can be sent at any time to the WECC Treasurer by email to 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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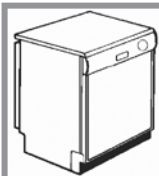
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Westhill Community Centre

Children's Activities

BADMINTON

The coaches give children of P4 and above the chance to learn an enjoyable life-long skill playing Badminton. Cost £3.20 per class paid in a block. Beginners Mondays 6-7 pm, Improvers Tuesdays 6-7 pm, Proficient Tuesdays 7-8 pm, Saturday (all levels) 10.30-11.30 am.



COOKING

P6 and above come along and make both sweet and savoury dishes. A totally enjoyable experience for all. Cost £5.90 per class paid in a block. Tuesdays 4.30-5.45 pm.

BAKING

Come along and try baking an assortment of cakes and biscuits. What better way to finish off the day than with your own home bakes? Cost £5.90 per class paid in a block. P6 and above. Wednesdays 4.30-5.45 pm.

DANZE

P1 onwards learn different dances to great music on Wednesdays. Each year these children get the opportunity to perform in front of an audience at their own show. Cost £2.80 per class paid in a block. Wednesdays: Beginners 1 6.15-7.00 pm, Improvers 7.00-7.45 pm, Advanced 7.00-7.45 pm.

FOOTBALL

Football coaching for boys and girls in P1 and 2. If you enjoy football then you will love this. Cost £3.40 per class paid in a block. Tuesdays P1 & P2 6-7 pm, Wednesdays P1 6-7 pm, P2 7-8 pm.

SATURDAY DRAWING AND PAINTING

P4+ take part in drawing and painting animals and other subjects on a large scale using a variety of materials. A popular art class. Cost £6.35 per class paid in a block. Saturday morning 10 am-12 noon.

SATURDAY DANCE

Boys and girls of P1 and above can come along and learn how to do dance routines. At the end of the year the children get together with the Wednesday Danze group and have the opportunity to impress their parents with their end of year performance. Cost £2.80 per class paid in a block. 9.15-10.00 am or 10.00-10.45 am.

WEDNESDAY ART

P4 upwards, learn different techniques in drawing and painting. This class has been very popular with children staying term after term. Cost £6.35 per class paid in a block. Wednesdays 4-6 pm.



To enrol or for further details contact
Westhill Community Centre, Hays Way, Westhill
Tel 01224 740089
Email westhill.cec@aberdeenshire.gov.uk





Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Westhill Walkers have been taking advantage of the unseasonably mild weather to get out and about. We ended the year by the sea with a walk along the prom from Bridge of Don to Fittie and back on Boxing Day. We then began the year with another walk by the sea with a visit to the Sands of Forvie and Collieston. The second walk of the year was to Kerloch and attracted thirty walkers and one wee dog.

We have been joined by several new members and we are delighted to meet them. We would be very happy to welcome more people interested in the outdoors and wanting to enjoy some exercise and good company in the stunning scenery we have around us in Aberdeenshire. 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.

We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year. In the summer we have two grades of walk to cater for all tastes and abilities whilst there is just one walk on shorter days.

In addition to our regular walks we also have a variety of social activities and weekends away. At the end of February we will be holding our highly popular ceilidh at the Elphinstone Hall. In May we will be staying at the 4* Saddle Mountain Hotel in Invergarry and in March we'll be going bowling at Inverurie.

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/social events – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome. More details on the web page.</i>	
Sunday 5th Mar 08.00	<i>Sheilin of Mark</i> <i>An opportunity to learn/practice your navigation skills by attempting to find the bothy at Sheilin of Mark near Loch Muick</i> <i>Start/Finish NO 307850 Spittal of Glenmuick – 6+ miles</i>
Sunday 5th Mar 08.00	<i>Queens View to Aboyne via Mortlich Hill</i> <i>A new route for the club going from the Queen's View near Tarland to Aboyne via Mortlich Hill.</i> <i>Start NO 527063 Finish NJ527985 – 8–9 miles</i>
Sunday 2nd Apr 08.30	<i>Glen Dye to Clatterin Brig</i> <i>A linear walk from north to south with a tempting tea room at the end.</i> <i>Start NO 646845 Finish NO 664782 – 9 miles</i>
Sunday 16th Apr 08.00	<i>Ben Tirran</i> <i>An ascent of the corbett Ben Tirran with views to the spectacular corries containing Lochs Wharral and Brandy.</i> <i>Start NO 352715 Finish NO 327730 – 8–9 miles</i>

Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February–12th March 2017

Do you know how much work goes into producing your everyday food and drink and the unfair amount of money that some farmers get for this work? Well let's just say it's a bad situation. But there's hope and a solution...FAIRTRADE! Fairtrade helps farmers get a fair amount for their products in 74 countries around the world.

You might spend a little bit extra, but this is for a Fairtrade premium. The communities decide how to spend this money. Workers spend about 26% of their Fairtrade premium money on education for their children or they might use it for health clinics, clean water, improving their farms and improving their houses.

Crombie Primary is a Fair-achiever school, children take part in activities and challenges to learn about Fairtrade. Here are some examples of what we have done: Banana stacking, Orange Bowling and Fairtrade Treasure Hunt. There is also a Fairtrade group in Crombie Primary who promote Fairtrade in the school.

You can help by buying Fairtrade, look for the logo. You can find Fairtrade goods in shops around Westhill.

If more people choose Fairtrade, more farmers can provide for their families.



Maia Reed (P6) and Ava Macpherson (P5)

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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Our Soup & Santa day was a great success, with Santa handing out gifts to the children, and listening to their wishes for Christmas presents. It was lovely to see so many folks in the Scout Hall

The Ladies in the kitchen looking after the soup did a wonderful job. The Scouts and Cubs who helped by looking after a stall, the ladies who supplied the gorgeous soups – we thank all who helped in any capacity for their contribution to our annual fund-raising day.

After the Christmas break the Group is getting back to 'normal' – that is work is progressing on all aspects of Scouting – there is programme planning for the weekly Section meetings, organising badge work for the youngsters and thinking of what sort of 'social' items to be worked out for the time and equipment available. The Leaders are in the throes of arranging their Section programmes for the Spring term and into the Summer term. Many and varied events and expeditions are being planned for the youngsters from Beavers up to the Explorer Unit. To add to the new start Cub Pack we are hoping to start a new Scout Troop in the not too distant future (and any offers for help from folks who would like to either renew their connection with Scouting, or find out just how good it is – then just get in touch – details at the end of this item)

Lots of badges are planned and the youngsters are already working to gain these, and will be enjoying their time in Scouting, getting to experience all the fun and the challenges that come with growing and achieving their aims. Usually this is the term with the most 'outdoor' experiences the young people get – outdoor cooking and exploring all the other things that go with camping and expeditions and visits.

We have exciting 'Group' events planned for this year.

Bi-annual Family Camp held at Templars Park weekend of May 26th–28th

There will be all sorts of exciting stuff to do with our Annual General Meeting on the 27th – a short meeting and then 'on with the games' as we say. There will be many activities that can be enjoyed by parents with their children.

Group – Expedition to Iceland – 10th–17th July

Our Group Scout Leader, Chris has been very busy organising the trip for adults and Group members to Iceland – 10th to 17th July. This proposes to be a great experience for all those taking part. The flight and the accommodation are already being organised and from information received the whole trip should be a 'once in a lifetime' experience.

If you are new to Westhill and Scouting or would like to renew your connection get in touch with:

GSL Chris westhill@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk

See us on www.westhill-scouts.co.uk

AGSL Norman on westhillscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 01224 740795

ScoutAbout Lady



WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

What's going on at the Shed?

The Shed layout changes are finished. We have more space for both wood and metalworking and the improved kitchen makes cooking safer.

We have completed a number of projects for schools and Westhill residents. A lighthouse and boat stage prop will be used to help win the Rock Challenge (go Westhill Academy!), and we made a lectern to hold a newspaper to make it easier for a resident to read (specification: must be able to hold a Press and Journal).



The lighthouse (right) before cladding by the students.

We also refurbished garden benches. This bench had only a couple of pieces of the original left in it.

The Men's Shed is open on Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm, and on Wednesdays between 3pm and 8pm. You can help with our projects or come in for a cup of tea/coffee. Come along and try something new, it keeps the neurons neurinating! Whatever your interests, all men over the age of 18 are welcome, and membership is free.

Gardening Season Starting

We are currently putting effort into refurbishing gardening tools in time to meet the new season. We have had many donations of hand tools and our link with the Recycling Centre is almost overwhelmingly successful, so we are knee deep in mowers. Thanks to all those who have made these donations. Our next tool sale will see a selection of mowers at prices that are good for the both the Shed and the purchaser, and we are happy to have kept these from landfill. Look out for our sale on the 11th March at the shopping centre, 10am to 2pm. You can also drop into the Shed (just behind the swimming pool) if you cannot make the sale day. Workshop knee deep in mowers and hoovers!



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

The Physio says – Stay active, stay young

Spring will soon be here, making us more likely to get out and be active. There's nothing like going for a brisk walk or run in the fresh air for improving our fitness levels. But what if you're an older person who finds that difficult? Perhaps you have an elderly relative who could benefit from advice or encouragement to stay active. Here are some motivating facts: in the UK, 1 in 3 people over the age of 65 fall each year, and almost half of all those over 80 fall. That amounts to 3 million falls per year, 280 thousand of which are serious enough to need A & E attention. That's a lot of pain & suffering, not to mention cost to our cash-strapped NHS (£2.3 billion per year for falls alone). The sad fact is that many of these incidents are preventable.

Why do so many older people fall? There are many reasons, including medical conditions or medication which can make them unsteady. However, preventable or treatable reasons include a decline in general fitness due to a lack of activity. Sitting a lot leads to a loss of flexibility & muscle strength, which are essential for good balance. A vicious cycle can ensue, as feeling weak or unsteady can mean a loss of confidence, and a fear of moving. Arthritis is present to a greater or lesser degree in all older people, and the pain & stiffness that goes with it can be a deterrent to being active, again leading to weaker muscles and poor balance.

The elderly person who still lives independently may have hazards they are unaware of around them, such as slippery floors, loose carpets or worn slippers. They may be reluctant to switch on a light when getting up to the bathroom in the night, or do without the stick or zimmer frame meant to keep them steady, relying on furniture or the walls to hold on to. Older people can be set in their ways, or worried about finances, and so reluctant to replace worn items of shoes or clothing. It's up to the rest of us to support and encourage them to make sure their environment is as safe as possible. There are healthcare professionals who can help too of course, like community occupational therapists who provide aids and supports to make life easier and safer. Your GP can refer you to a 'falls prevention team', which offer people who are at risk of falls an assessment, followed by a programme of strengthening exercises, and balance work, planned to suit the patient's age and ability.

Prevention is better than cure, so as you get older, stay active! There are exercise groups locally you can join, which can motivate you to keep up the good work for longer than if you exercise on your own. But if you prefer to go it alone, there are simple things you can do, for example stepping up and down the bottom stair holding the handrail, repeatedly standing up and sitting down on a chair, preferably one with arms to steady you. To improve your balance stand at a worktop holding on to begin with, and stand on one leg for 20 seconds, then the other. Progress to doing it without holding on, but stay safe! If in doubt, have someone with you, or get professional advice.

We can't really stay young forever, but do what you can to stay fit for as long as possible, and hopefully stay on your feet!

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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 Award participants and our volunteer leaders too

So here we go again! 10 new Bronze teams, 4 new Silver teams and 3 new Gold teams training for their Practice and Qualifying expedition this summer plus a Gold Qualifier carried over from last year by a really 'together' team who wanted to wait so all could take part – well done! So, that's 35 expeditions in total each of which needs a dedicated volunteer leader (taking time away from family and off work), an Assessor and lots of paperwork and permissions. Of course, there is a lot more to taking on the DofE challenge with Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections too plus a Residential section added for Gold Award level.

Our volunteers have been up-skilling to nationally recognised outdoor leadership qualifications including Summer Mountain Leader (SML) or Hill and Moorland Leader (HML) plus BASP First Aid. With the support of the Aberdeenshire Council Award Office team at Inverurie we have made great progress in building volunteer group capacity here in our local area. Also very pleased to report that we continue to attract new volunteers including Gold participants returning as young leaders. Other Award Groups are amazed at our volunteer numbers which is testament to Westhill and local area's community spirit. Always grateful for the many hours our leaders and helpers provide so enthusiastically whatever the challenges along the way!

And if you wonder why we do it, look at these very happy campers on one of Scotland's remotest and most scenic treks (*L-R Arran, Jed, Glen, Daniel, Katelyn, Caileigh*).

And here's the latest list of completions:

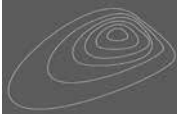
Bronze Award level: Archie Bradshaw, Mitchell Cowie, Lucy Dalgarno, Yuxi Gu, Niamh Hurst, Erin MacDonald, Carrie Martin, Reece Menzies, Zoe Reid, Connor Reid, JingJing Wang.

Silver Award level: Sarah Campbell, Rebecca MacKay, Katie Murray, Caileigh Troup.

Gold Award level: Claire Milne (with others very close to completion).

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





SKENE MEDICAL GROUP

PATIENT INFORMATION UPDATE

Do you want to book a routine GP appointment or order a repeat prescription at a time that suits you? We have the answer!

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Have we got your number??

Over the next 12 months we hope to move to a system where we are able to send flu vaccination and other clinic invites to you by text message. In advance of this we want to get as many patient mobile numbers on to our records as possible, so the next time you are in the Practice or the next time you call us, please let us have your mobile telephone number.

Cervical Screening

In Scotland, the uptake of cervical screening (smear tests) is on a downward trend. There will be a national campaign in February and March to raise awareness among women of the benefits of cervical screening and to encourage them to attend when invited – the main message of the campaign is “Don't ignore your next smear invite. And if you missed your last smear test, contact the Practice to arrange a time that suits you.”

Details we need for Emergency and Nursing Appointments

When you telephone for certain appointments such as Emergency GP Appointments, our staff will ask you for brief details of your symptoms or ailments. Our staff will only ask for the briefest of details so that the GP is able to prioritise the urgency of Emergency Appointments. Similarly for Nursing Appointments you will be asked for brief details of your symptoms so that you are guided to the correct clinician to deal with your symptoms.

Missed Appointments

Every week we lose valuable GP Appointments due to patients not turning up for appointments they have booked. In the last 3 months alone 470 routine GP appointments were wasted due to patients failing to attend appointments they had booked – this amounts to some **78** hours of valuable GP appointments.

We appreciate there is often a good reason why you cannot attend an appointment you have booked, however all we ask is that if you cannot make your booked appointment, please call us on 01224 849400 to cancel your appointment in plenty of time so we are able to offer the appointment to another patient. Remember – if you are registered for our Vision Online Services, you can also cancel your appointment even when we are closed!



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Bon Accord Bulls Rugby League Club

I didn't know anyone played Rugby League in Scotland....

How often have I heard that? Too often is the answer.

Bon Accord Bulls started as an experiment in Summer 2010 to extend the playing season for youth players of the Union code. Back then there were a few other youth Rugby League teams – Moray Titans (based in Elgin) being our nearest neighbour, and other teams in the Central Belt.

Players came from several local Union clubs: Aberdeen Wanderers, Garioch, Ellon and Aberdeen Grammar. The players put aside the normal Union club rivalries to form a handy team. The good news spread and players from Huntly and Deeside Rugby Union clubs joined the squad in subsequent seasons.

Several Bulls players have represented Scotland at youth level and as members of the Scotland Students squad.

Niall Hall from Westhill was part of the original Bon Accord Bulls 2010 squad. Niall first played for Scotland Rugby League at U16. After playing for Scotland Students in Summer 2014 he injured his shoulder later that year and had two operations to fix the damage. Determined not to give up on playing rugby (Union and League) he spent 2015 recovering and his hard work and determination were rewarded with selection into the Scotland Students squad again in Summer 2016. Niall has been selected again and this Summer he is going to Australia as a member of the Scotland Students Rugby League squad to represent Scotland in the Student Rugby League World Cup. Niall has had to pay or find sponsorship every time he has represented Scotland and needs £3000 for the trip to Australia. If you would like to help he has set up a funding page at <https://www.gofundme.com/getnialltooz2017>. You can donate individually or if you are a company that wants to sponsor him, your company logo can be printed on his training kit to publicise your donation and get some publicity.

So now you know. Not only do they play Rugby League in Scotland, they play it right here in Westhill (Bulls trained last Summer on the rugby pitch at Westdyke). Whether you have aspirations to play for Scotland, or if you just want to enjoy some Summer rugby visit <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bonaccordbulls> for more details.



Westhill Badminton Tuesday's 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Badminton has been running many years in Westhill Academy on a Tuesday evening. It is a friendly but competitive atmosphere and has a wide spectrum of age and ability, both male and female. There are plenty of opportunities to play on the night with 4 courts open and a regular mix of doubles happening and singles if you've got the stamina.... We would love to welcome more players along – so if you would like to try out the sport, rekindle an old interest or play regularly – please come along on Tuesday and sign in at reception with the cost only £2.00. Look forward to seeing you.





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In 2012 Forbes Lawson became the first firm in Scotland to become certified to the new British Standard for financial planning, BS8577. In November 2016 during our fifth annual review assessment our assessor from Standards International was excited to confirm that Forbes Lawson had a completely 'clean' sheet during the 2 day assessment and therefore had no qualms in confirming the renewal of certification.

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

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

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

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

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Kindergym

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

Wednesday: 1-1.45, 2-2.45 Thursday: 9.30-10.15, 10.30-11.15, 1-1.45, 2-2.45
+ crèche is available at 2pm on both days

Jumping Jacks

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

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

Gymnastics

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

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

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

Fitkids

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

Toddlers

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

Monday morning from 9.30-11.30

2's Group

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

Math Monkeys

Making learning maths fun for P1-3.

Monday: 3.30-4.15

Indoor Bowling

For both beginners and experienced players.

Monday: 1.30-3.00

ALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES ARE LED BY QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED COACHES
MEETING ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE DURING THE DAY AND IN THE EVENING
GYM HALL AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES SATURDAY/SUNDAY

OUTSIDE LETS INCLUDE: Westdyke Community Club, Pilates, Yoga, Sew Swift, Sooyang Do Martial Art, GCRA, Brazilian Football, Men's Indoor Football

DENMAN PLAYGROUP

Monday-Friday: 9.15-12.25 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

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 07792 471199

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 07907 486255

Trinity Church 01224 742512

Veterinary, Town & Country ... 01224 741685

Water Authority 0845 6018 855

Westdyke Leisure Centre 01224 743098

Westhill Bowling Club 01224 360706

**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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