Westhill Bulletin

Winter 2017 Issue 152













Photo courtesy of Westhill Photography Club

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SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

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

Adverts and articles for the winter issue should be sent in by Friday 2nd February, for distribution in late February.

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

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

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

2018 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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Diane Priestley
Kenneth Stewart
Raymond Swaffield
John Thornton

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

Chairperson's Report



Your new Community Council

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this issue of the Westhill Bulletin as the new chairperson of the Community Council. This is an exciting time for the community council; we have a full complement of 20 councillors, 11 of whom are new to the council and 9 who are continuing in office. This is a great combination of experience and new blood and we will draw on this talent moving forward.

As a Community Council we extend our thanks to Audrey Findlay, who has been an excellent chair and vice-chairperson and is standing down after her many years of service to the community. We also thank Becky Ferguson, who is also standing down from her role a secretary, and we wish her well as she and her husband Daniel await the arrival of Ferguson junior in January.

The Gateway Art Project continues apace and we are delighted to have appointed Holger Lonze to take this project forward. He will host several workshops with the community to progress the project and ensure that local people are involved in producing this signature artwork to celebrate Westhill.

Preparations continue for our Christmas Event on Saturday 9th December. Please join us at the shopping centre at 4.30pm for the Christmas Tree Lights Switch On, Hot Chocolate and Christmas Carols with the Granite City Brass Band. It's a great opportunity to gather together and celebrate our community.

Best wishes

Charlie Love, Chairperson Westhill and Elrick Community Council

Thanks to Audrey Findlay and Becky Ferguson

WECC has been a flagship community council in Aberdeenshire and is held in high regard within the council. Under the stewardship of its office bearers and with support of its members, it has been instrumental in many of the improvements we see around our town. Two office bearers who have made outstanding contributions stood down at the October meeting as planned after serving a number of years between them. Audrey Findlay has been both Chair and Vice Chair and Becky Ferguson has been Minutes Secretary and group Secretary. For office bearers it's never just a case of turning up at the monthly meetings; there is a host of actions to be taken out with the meetings, not least poring through documentation for planning applications and other public consultations and responding to residents. Both Audrey and Becky carried out such duties with great diligence and always with an eye on the bigger picture. They have also kept local councillors on their toes and accountable, which is the way it should be. I wish Becky and husband Daniel all the best for their new arrival (a future community activist I am sure) and I hope Audrey has a well-earned break!

The Community Council presented Audrey & Becky with artworks by local architectural artist Jamie Cameron. Audrey received an illuminated perspex panel engraved with many of the key buildings in Westhill.

mounted on an oak plinth. Becky received a drawing of Westhill Community Church.

For more details on Jamie Cameron's art see www.aberdeen-art.co.uk



Cllr Iris Findlay



The Elrick Horse

Elrick now has a major new artwork sited in front of the new Hampton by Hilton hotel. It was unveiled on Wednesday 1st November by local personality Robbie Shepherd (complete with real horses). The Elrick Horse comprises a granite statue on top of a plinth clad in polished black granite panels with various images and text engraved on them. The monument as a whole tells something of the history of the village of Elrick 100 years ago.

For many years the site of Davy Gordon's block making works lay empty in the centre of Elrick village. A few years ago the site owners (Findlay, Glover and Macaulay Ltd) submitted plans for various buildings on the site including a hotel. As part of the landscaping of the entrance area to the hotel, near the main road, they were keen to give something to the local community in the form of a substantial piece of art work reflecting something of the history of the area. Eventually they decided on a granite sculpture and sourced one of the few, if not the only man capable of such a sculpture in the North East today. This was Bruce Walker who works in Kirriemuir in Angus.

Bruce grew up in Rhynie and left the village school at the age of 15. He was apprenticed to the granite yard of William McKay & Sons in Holland Street. Bill McKay recognized Bruce's artistic talent and sent him to evening classes at Gray's School of Art. From there Bruce developed a skill in engraving, eventually leaving the yard to become a glass engraver with his own studio in Angus. However, Bruce also continued to do some work in granite. His most outstanding work to date has been the Scott-Wilson Memorial, sited at Scott's View in Glen Prosen, Angus, some three miles from Kirriemuir. Carved from a huge 20-ton block of Craigenlow granite, it was unveiled in 2012 to commemorate the centenary of the Terra Nova Expedition to Antarctica and the South Pole by Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Doctor Edward Wilson.

When the idea of a statue for Elrick was first proposed John Glover bought a copy of my history of Skene and Westhill for Bruce and also brought him to see me for a chat. However, the main inspiration for what is depicted on the monument came from a similar chat that Bruce and John had with the late Adam Craigmile. As many local residents will know, Adam was born in the Broadstraik in 1913, and he had many memories of the areas from that time. Adam's father ran the inn but also farmed the land around the inn. He owned teams of horses which he hired out to local crofters who couldn't afford their own team of horse. Adam himself worked with horses from his earliest days. From there came the idea of using a Clydesdale as the main feature of the statue. Adam also spoke about the joiner and the blacksmith, both near to the Broadstraik and the three indispensable to each other. Bruce actually used a real Clydesdale from a horse place near Kirrie as his "model".

To give some sense of the size of a Clydesdale Bruce wanted people looking up at the horse and so it was to be placed on a metre high pedestal. Round the back of the horse are depicted the workshops of the joiner and the blacksmith. Bruce wanted people to be drawn round to the back of the horse by virtue of some verse engraved on the base and he was given several to choose from, the one chosen being by J.C. Milne.

I'll drive a bonny weel-matched pair
Big fite horses wi' silken hair
And milk-fite manes ahingin doon
Fae their smooth curved necks like a bridal goon
And fine lang tails te swipe the glegs
Fae their snaw-fite flanks and their clean straucht legs

(J.C. Milne)

When I asked Bruce how he had measured the text to fit round the base of the statue he said he didn't measure it, he just use the judgement of his eye!

On the black panels round the pedestal Bruce has engraved rural scenes of a ploughman and his pair, the face on the ploughman is Adam Craigmile taken from a photograph of Adam as a young man. On the other side the joiner and blacksmith at work, the latter's face that of Sandy Carle taken from a photograph in my book. There are lovely small details on the panels which should appeal to children, e.g. the little mouse in the scene with the ploughmen (shades of Robbie Burn's famous poem). The side panels have further text from the late Jessie Kesson, the writer, and the late Mary McMurtrie.

This is a unique piece of granite work. Even in the granite city there are few granite sculptures and in the history of the granite industry Bruce is perhaps unique – a man trained in a granite yard who went on to become an artist. There will never be another one like him because there are no granite yards which could train someone in the traditional way. It is an outstanding piece of work fitting to tell the tale of Elrick long ago. I am sure that the community thanks Findlay, Glover and Macaulay Ltd; Hampton By Hilton, and above all Bruce Walker.

Jim Fiddes Chairman, Skene Heritage Society

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FESTIVE EVENT

As per the last 3 years, there will be a Christmas tree at the Westhill shopping centre in the square near M & S.

Come along on **SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER** from **4.30pm to 5.30pm** when the tree lights will be switched on.

There will be music and singing, hot chocolate and nibbles!

This year the theme for the festive decorations in the arcade made by the community and organised by the Westhill Art Project is Christmas Baubles.

Please do come along and join in the fun

SEASONS GREETINGS from the WECC and the Westhill Art Project



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I need a Chartered Accountant, but can't afford one on a full, or even part time basis....

I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, with 15 years experience across a wide range of businesses and industries, and currently a director and trustee of a leading Scottish charity, specialising in the following areas:

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

If you feel your business could benefit from any of the above and wish an informal and, initially, free discussion about your business requirements, then please contact me on:

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



Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Diamond Wedding Celebrations

Two Westhill couples recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary and I was privileged to deliver the best wishes and congratulations of Aberdeenshire Council. Robert and Rohays Henderson of Kinmundy Gardens

and George and Sheila Grieve of Hillview Avenue celebrated 60 years of a happy marriage surrounded by family and friends. A highlight for both couples was receiving a congratulatory wedding anniversary card from The Queen to celebrate this very significant milestone.





Top: Robert and Rohays Henderson, bottom: George and Sheila Grieve



Community Safety Projects Promoted by Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group (GNMCSG)

Previously in this Bulletin I reported on the Contactless Bank Card Holder protectors where the 1000 we purchased were distributed throughout Garioch and Marr libraries. Those placed in the Westhill library were snapped up within a few days. Our stock has now 'run out' and as we have a limited budget we

are not meantime planning to purchase more card holders. If you want protection from your bank card being scammed Google 'contactless card holders'. Several companies supply these.

Smoke Alarm Testers

A second initiative we are promoting is through the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) providing smoke alarm testers. In effect a broom handle with a moulded plastic finger on the end to allow for pressing the smoke alarm button. Members of the FRS stress the importance of regular testing of smoke alarms. Often these alarms are difficult to reach and standing on a chair or step ladder to reach the button has a history of folks falling off and resulting in a possible injury. We have purchased these fire safety alarm testers which are being distributed by the FRS and by staff from the Community Health Partnership to elderly and vulnerable people throughout our area.

Campaign to have Speed Awareness Courses Available in Scotland

The most recent road safety initiative GNMCSG are campaigning for is to have Speed Awareness Courses available in Scotland as they are England and Wales. These courses are offered to motorists who exceed the speed limit within certain parameters and in addition to providing an education element to the offending driver does mean that penalty points are not added to the driver's licence.

This is a campaign. Your support and comments welcomed.

Banners for Schools to Discourage Dangerous and Unsafe Parking

Teachers, police and parents are increasingly becoming concerned with the traffic hazards and the safety issues caused for pupils at some schools by those who drive their children to school and drop them off as close to the school entrance as possible, often parking on the double yellow lines and the zig zag road markings. The concerns expressed is that by stopping outside the school gate this is a safety hazard to the pupils walking to school. GNMCSG are in the process of supplying Westhill community police officer Steve Middleton with a number of banners which he will erect in the vicinity of our primary schools which hopefully will result in those who drive their children to school to consider where they stop to drop off their children.

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

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5 - 8 pm April to Sept.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Monday 10.00 am7.30 pm

Tuesday 10.00 am5.00 pm

Wednesday 1.00 pm7.30 pm

Thursday 10.00 am5.00 pm

Friday 10.00 am5.00 pm

Saturday 10.00 am 1.00 pm

Remember to bring your Borrowers Card.

Westhill Library Westhill Drive 01224 472871

Aberdeenshire



COUNCI

Westhill Service Point

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

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

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

Westhill and Skene Lions Club

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

1ST SATURDAY EACH MONTH 9am to 12pm

NEXT 3 SALES ARE

2nd December, 3rd February, 3rd March

All proceeds go to local good causes

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

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Councillor Iris Walker, Westhill and District

Gift Horse well received by local residents

The Elrick sculpture, unveiled at the beginning of November by well-known broadcaster and author, Robbie Shepherd, was presented to the people of Elrick and Westhill by Findlay, Glover & Macaulay and Bricks Capital, the organisations behind the new Hampton by Hilton Hotel. The monument, hand-carved by Aberdeenshire-born Bruce Walker represents Elrick's proud history as a farming community and was inspired by stories of a bygone age told by the late Adam

Craigmile Senior and fellow local residents. The main piece of granite depicts the Clydesdale horse and the etched panels boast Doric verse and storytelling. It is now a focal point for Elrick and is generating much interest, so please encourage all generations to pay a visit.

For more details on the Elrick sculpture, see pages 4-5.

Local Development Plan 2021

Aberdeenshire Council adopted the last Local Development Plan (LDP) in April 2017. The LDP sets out the sites on which development in principle has been agreed. Formation and completion of an LDP can take anything up to 5 years. That means, as soon as one plan is adopted, work starts on preparing the next one. Although the Scottish Government is undergoing a major review of land use planning, we have very little information as to what will end up in the Government Bill. As such our policy planners are preparing a land use plan that will provide useful information about "places" that could be taken forward in to a different planning system. Officers have already been visiting communities, including Westhill to discuss the LDP process. In 2018 the Main Issues Report and the draft proposed plan will be issued after developers and landowners submit their "bids" for land and after public consultation has been carried out. Sometimes the first that residents hear about a new development is when a planning application is submitted, or even determined, so it is important that you keep an eye out for the public consultations and take part, if you have an interest in land use.

ATMs in Westhill

Following the departure of RBS from Westhill, leaving behind only one cash machine, visitors to the shopping centre have experienced difficulties in accessing cash from the remaining machine. This machine is no longer owned by RBS. It is important that residents and visitors can access cash in this busy shopping centre and we really need a couple of machines. I have written separately to the management of both Marks & Spencer and the Co-op asking if they would consider installing an ATM at their premises and await their response.

Tenant Participation

Last month, I met with Aberdeenshire Council tenants at their yearly Tenants Event at Woodhill House. This is a great opportunity for tenants to meet each other and to get involved in shaping their housing service. If you are a tenant and would like to get involved or just have a query or concern, please get in touch.

Seasons

The colours of nature these last few weeks in Aberdeenshire have been spectacular, I think. With a backdrop of rich gold, orange and green it feels as if we've had a real Autumn. Although I prefer more defined seasons (the ones we used to get), by this time of year I confess to praying for a mild winter! Whatever the weather I wish everybody a peaceful festive season and a happy, healthy New Year when it arrives.

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



Councillor Iris Walker - Westhill and District



iris tweets

Councillor Iris Walker. 2 Burnland Place. Elrick. Aberdeenshire. AB32 6JU

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Councillor David Aitchison

The Aberdeenshire 2017 Local Development Plan came into force earlier this year. The plan directs decision-making on all land use-planning issues and planning applications in Aberdeenshire. The benefits of this plan-led system are that it helps in providing services and scheduling transport improvements as well as providing certainty to communities and developers.

Work has now already begun on the next plan. As the new plan progresses Aberdeenshire Council will consult with not only local councillors like myself but also with local communities and interested groups. It is essential at the early stages of the plan process for the views of our communities to be heard.

It is important to make informed decisions when contributing to the new Local Development Plan. The council recently produced a series of town profiles including one of Westhill and these can all be viewed on the Aberdeenshire Council website. While not being vastly in depth the information provided is a useful snapshot which highlights statistics about our community, including population, age profile, employment, businesses and school rolls.

Interestingly one of the statistics shows that the percentage of our population aged under 16 is higher than both the Aberdeenshire and Scotland averages.

We will be making choices which will shape the kind of town that these young people are to grow up in. When the opportunity comes to take part please do so and let the council's planners and myself know your views.

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

Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for a full list of dates.

Councillor David Aitchison

2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ Mobile 07876 475227

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Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

We are pleased to advise we now have Planning and Building Warrant Approval to make a further meeting/multi-function room and the extension and upgrading of the kitchen.

We now continue to raise money for this. Any donations are appreciated for this cause.

Future Events: Christmas Eve Family Film Show suitable for all. Doors open 6:45pm for 7pm start. Popcorn, juice and sweets on sale.

Hogmanay Ceilidh – See Facebook Page for further details.

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

Regular Activities:

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

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

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

DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Applications for donations will be considered and awarded twice yearly, in early May and November, so the next set of donations will be made in May 2018. The deadline for applications is 4th May. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

In November 2017 donations were made to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Westhill Photography Club, Scouthall Playgroup, Westhill 50+ Music Appreciation Group, Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Research and Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club.

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

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

Councillor Alistair McKelvie

Our Community Police have been carrying out a number of traffic measurement exercises over the last few months throughout the Ward area. The camera is placed for short periods in different locations. It's availability can be limited as it is shared with other communities, so it will be a bit longer before we have a full picture of vehicle activity.

We recognise that there has been some public concerns on speeds in some areas, particularly around schools for example, however the initial data would indicate this needs further research. The first results were for the **Southbound traffic on Westhill Drive**, (from Westhill Heights/Meadowlands) where approximately 14,500 vehicles in 10 days were recorded. The camera position however did not capture the flow of traffic accessing Westhill Drive from Hays Way, which can be significant. So I have requested that we record the Northbound traffic on this road, placing the camera South of Hays Way. This may give us a better assessment of overall traffic flows on the busiest road in our town. The results may also prove valuable in the management of traffic and parking issues, if Westhill is to be impacted by the Kingsford development plans, and a Controlled Parking Zone.

During this survey a focus on lunchtime traffic recorded 907 vehicles, with the following speeds: 530 @ 20-30mph, 267 @ 30-35mph, 92 @ 35-40mph, 17 @ 40-50mph. The latter of these of course is excessive in a 30mph zone, but represents approximately 11% of the total.

We all share a need to drive carefully in our community, but Westhill Drive is not just used by locals, it also acts as a main commuter entry/exit route for hundreds of people working here, or shopping in our retail units, and access to schools and leisure facilities.

I will be joining officers, who are visiting the Westhill Men's Shed this month, to discuss the Place Standard programme. This is an online tool to have your say on your town, and it allows you to comment on topics like schools, transport, economy, communities, social activities, etc., etc. I would urge you as residents to contribute to this as it will help us as councillors to identify public opinion and influence priorities in future. Please access this on the Scottish Government website, if you want to be involved in shaping the future of our Community.

email Cllr.a.mckelvie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone 07388 956143

Alistair McKelvie

SCAFFOLD TOWER FOR HIRE

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

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

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





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ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

The Ashdale Hall is looking forward to a busy December in the lead up to Christmas. We are now taking bookings for next year and some months are filling up quickly. If you wish to book the Hall, please email ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk with your inquiry. You can also book your child's Party at the Hall, there is plenty of room for a bouncy castle indoors, great for winter parties!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd December - Westhill Christmas Market, 9am-1pm

2nd December - Blackburn Dance Christmas Party

3rd December – Blackburn Dance Christmas Party

8th December - Monthly Tea Dance (monthly, every 2nd Friday)

10th December - Focus Craft & Arts Fair

24th December - Blackburn Dance Christmas Eve Dance

WESTHILL COMMUNITY 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 as well as locally made organic body products, bespoke cards and hearts, crafts, jewellery, paintings, wedding horse shoes and cards, also plants in season. We also have a monthly community stall which can be booked free of charge. If your local project or group would like to book this stall, please email: <code>ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk</code>. We really need the support of the community for the Market to be able to continue. All 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.

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

Scottish registered charity no. SCO21493

BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

I will start with the C letter, cleaning, yes it is that time of year when we get down to the mundane topic of cleaning just about everything in the garden – pots, trays, tools, canes and green houses. Washing all the pots and storing them away for a new start in spring, cleaning tools and giving them a fine coat of oil to protect them through the winter, cleaning canes and tying them up in bundles for protection from falling all over the garage or shed.

Gardening is repetitive, so knowing what to do each month is beneficial, not only to the garden but for ourselves. It is good for our health and gives us some exercise we probably wouldn't otherwise do.

Embrace the winter, spring is on its way (and please remember to feed the wild birds).

Bill Loudon



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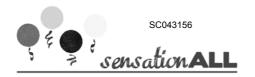
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Westhill's LOCAL disability charity

The SensationALL team has grown! We have just welcomed two new members of staff — Michael Goodlad joins us a Charity Development Manager, and Ellie Turner as a new Support Worker. In this role Michael will be responsible for driving forward the charity's ambitious plans to create in the Old School House, a vibrant centre for the provision of services to people with disabilities, their families and carers, and inclusive flagship for Westhill and surrounding area. Ellie's appointment significantly strengthens the charity's capabilities to deliver the quality services they have become known for. We have also had three new Trustees join the Board to help steer us forward over the coming years, Theresa Roper, Aileen Reid and Catherine Dalgarno all bring new skills to SensationALL.

Old Schoolhouse project update

Volunteers from Aberdeen-based midstream infrastructure business CATS Management Limited (CML) took on their own DIY SOS style challenge recently by giving us a makeover. A team from CML rolled up their sleeves and threw themselves into two days of DIY activities including painting, gardening, and general housekeeping and maintenance at the Old School and Schoolhouse in Westhill.

New Summer House!

CML also donated funds for the purchase of a summer house, and AJ Donald massively contributed to the building of a new base and landscape works for the site. The summer house will be the focal point in the redevelopment of the centre's outdoor space and will provide an additional area for activities like gardening, crafts and a safe, quiet space for many of SensationALL's service users who benefit from a low stimulating environment.

Partnership with Schools Out!

Westhill's new out of school provision "Schools Out!" has been running since August with great success, and has ran collaboratively with SensationALL's monthly Social Group to provide a truly inclusive experience for all youths involved. There are still places available for Schools Out! email: SOCWesthill@gmail.com for more information.

Run Balmoral GOLD CHARITY

We are delighted to announce we are to be the Gold Charity Partner for RunBalmoral which takes place in April 2018, more details will follow. If you are interested in running for us at this event or helping with fundraising please just email <code>info@sensationall.org.uk</code>.

Volunteering for SensationALL

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

SensationALL thank you!

Big thanks go out to recent individual fundraisers and local donations from Westhill Rotary, Westhill & Elrick Community Council, CALA homes and Your voice Your Choice.

www.SensationALL.org.uk











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CONTINUATION OF EXCELLENCE

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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Get the Best for YOU Out of the Festive Period

The festive period isn't always a happy time for everyone and even if it is a happy time it can be stressful. We're very rarely at the top of our own priority list during the festive season, so stress can sometimes escalate and make it difficult to keep on top of things.

Christmas stress and festive lows can affect anyone. Feeling a bit low, worried or anxious is very common. It can come out in many ways physical or mental – by being short-tempered, grumpy, lacking energy, not being able to sleep, loss of appetite, over-eating or over-drinking, sometimes it can mean physical aches and pains or illness.

The festive season can mean being out of your normal routine and new habits can exaggerate the situation.... chocolate for breakfast, more alcohol than usual, over spending and money worries, extended families together who might not get along, weather keeping everyone stuck inside not getting much fresh air or exercise.

Fortunately, there are a few things YOU can do to look after yourself over the festive season.

Start by being aware of how you are feeling; giving yourself a wee break might be all you need. Remember it's okay if you can't do everything or get everything done! Often we do so much better if we plan ahead. Think about maybe making a self care plan............ a list to keep you on track.

Food

There are a lot of things we'd never normally buy on offer out there and the festive period has become an excuse to over-indulge. Food can have a big effect on your mood. See if you can keep your eating in check; have a decent breakfast and try to avoid too much sugar and caffeine.

Exercise

Getting moving is a really good mood booster – plan 20 minutes, even in bad weather, and get outside if you can; have a good boogie as you clean up and tidy away the extra calories; do some stretching from the armchair while you watch the Queen's speech – anything that gets you moving can help.

Alcohol

The festive season can also find yourself drinking more than you normally would. Keep yourself safe – when you drink less you are more able to stay on top of any situation.

Try pouring your drinks using a measure to know how much you are drinking and help work out how long it's going to take for the alcohol to clear your system. An alcohol calculator can be found at https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/tools/app.

People can often be caught out the next day by still being over the legal limit for driving.

By measuring your alcohol you will also find your drink is a lot more enjoyable, taste better, plus in the long run it will cost you less as you will get more for your money.

Drinking soft drinks or water in between your alcoholic drinks helps you to drink less.

If you're the host, provide a selection of non alcoholic options for people who choose not to drink. Try not to drink on an empty stomach, but avoid salty or greasy snack foods which can make you thirsty and in turn drink more.

It's recommended that you have alcohol free days and give your body time to recover.

AND remember, alcohol is actually a depressant and can make low mood and anxiety worse.

Relaxation and Sleep

Your body and mind need time out to switch off and recover with all that's going on. Make sure you find time to wind down each day so you can get a good night's sleep. Some people find meditation can help them relax – look for free mindfulness apps or try free online meditation websites

A Time of Good Will to All

Christmas can be a difficult time if you've lost loved ones, no matter how long it has been. Everyone has different ways of processing the loss of someone special; including a way of remembering and celebrating loved ones over the festive period can sometimes make it a little easier. Talk to friends and family about how you are feeling and plan ahead what you are going to do.

Keep a lookout for friends, family and neighbours over the festive season. Remember that sometimes people just need your company and a listening ear. A visit or phone call could help them get through the day.

Helping other people; volunteering with a local charity or doing something new, can be really good for your mental health as well as the people you helping.

With a bit of planning you can have a healthy Christmas and New Year.

If you're really struggling and need more advice you can get in touch with Breathing Space http://breathingspace.scot/ or Samaritans https://www.samaritans.org/.

If you're thinking of making some changes to your lifestyle in the New Year remember you can visit your local pharmacy, book an appointment with your GP to talk about what might be the best way forward for you.

Garioch Health Improvement Network

Westhill in Bloom Winners

Thanks to all the local gardeners who entered the 2017 Westhill in Bloom competition, organised by WECC.

The prizes were awarded at the WECC AGM in September as follows:

Best front garden: -1st – Ian & Freda Dickson, 2nd – Pam Yeoman **Highly commended:** Alan Crane, Bill Loudon, Mr & Mrs Taylor,

Elizabeth Freeman

Best back garden: Heather Grant

Highly commended: Moira Munro, Ian McAllan, Mr & Mrs Davidson

Best containers: Ian McAllan

Highly commended: Hazel Davidson, Ian & Freda Dickson, Pam Yeoman

Best Communal space: Trinity Church

Runner up: Straik Place

Each category winner received a trophy and a gift voucher.

SOUTH WEST ABERDEENSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Thought about Volunteering? We are seeking individuals to help our independent charities work in the community.

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- Make life better where you live: You can get involved with campaigns that will directly impact on your local community.
- Improve your prospects: Learn new skills to add to your CV. Whether
 you are looking to re-enter the job market or for a change of career, you'll
 gain skills and experience.
- Enjoy free training and ongoing support: CAB training and supervision mean that you will get support and opportunities for further development.
- Put your talents to use. You can use and share the knowledge and experience that you already have.
- Give your time when it suits you: We offer flexible hours that mean you can volunteer at a time that suits you.
- Meet new people: Volunteering is a great way to meet new people. You
 will be part of a friendly, sociable team.

If you have a problem, need help or advice, or have a few hours to spare each week and are thinking of volunteering, then call the bureau on 01224 747714.

www.swacab.org.uk

The bureau opening hours in Westhill are:

Tuesday and Wednesday 10am-3pm (appointment or drop-in)

Thursday 10am-3pm (appointment only)

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

We also have a bureau office in Banchory and 6 outreaches located in Aboyne, Tarland, Ballater, Braemar, Alford and Lonach, all by appointment only.

Charity Number SC037679 Company Number SC365959

1st Skene Girls' Brigade

We have started back and already are well into our competition and badge work.

We had our Annual Dedication on 29th October in Trinity Church which was well attended and enjoyed by all, a great evening.

We will be attending the Inverurie Panto again this year and we are also holding a fundraising Movie Night in the church which the girls are looking forward to already.

Any queries or girls' wishing to join please do not hesitate to contact **Mrs Fiona Cumming** *(Captain)* on **07792 471199**.

Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

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

On Saturday 10th June the committee hosted a "Fizzy Fly Cup", prosecco afternoon high tea in the Dunecht Hall. This was a new event which proved very popular, raising £1.456.

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

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

Dates for your diary:

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

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

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

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

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

Kath MacBeath



Westhill & District Community Sports Hub

WDCSH were delighted to make several donations totalling £3140 to local clubs. Pictured receiving their cheques are:



SensationALL (10k Charity Partner) - £1500



CHOI KWANG DO - £500

Kuk Sool Won, not pictured, received £300.



Westdyke Centre - £500



Jog Scotland - £340

Local sports related organisations can apply for funding from WDCSH. Contact wdcsh@ hotmail.com to learn more about how to apply.

WDCSH would like to wish all members of the community a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

Litter Pickers in Westhill

As we approach the end of a year, we might want to ponder if our environment has improved regarding littering. Unfortunately, the national picture is rather depressing and we in Westhill are following this trend. The government has produced the following statistics:

- Overall, local environmental quality in Scotland has reached its lowest point in over a decade.
- There has been a national marked increase over the last 18 months in the presence of litter, fly tipping, and graffiti in communities across Scotland.
- · 74% of roads are spoilt by drinks related litter.
- · Encouragingly, there has been a reduction in dog fouling.

The situation is apparently worst in deprived regions, so we should be able to show a better example. The UK uses a staggering 38.5 million single-use plastic bottles every day. Currently, only a paltry 57% of these bottles are recycled. Recent surveys estimate that approximately 700,000 plastic beverage containers are littered daily in the UK. On a brighter note, the Scottish Government has announced its commitment to introduce a deposit bottle return system. This would most likely greatly help, as the ban on free plastic bags has made a marked difference.

We would like to thank the small group of volunteers who monthly and sometimes more frequently go out to help clear the mass of litter that is regularly dropped in and around Westhill. We will have a break for winter and start our Litter Picks again on:

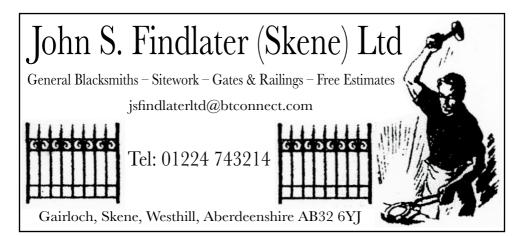
Saturday 17th February at 10am at the Tennis Court Car Park. Please join us if you can.

I hope you all enjoy a great Christmas and I leave you with the wise words of Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful:

"We all have a responsibility to actively participate in this shared endeavour. Successful, thriving communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean and safe, places that people want to spend their time. Supporting the transformation of communities with poor local environmental quality has the power to dramatically improve people's quality of life".

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

Raymond Swaffield · email swaffies@talktalk.net · Tel. 01224 740669





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. Beginners Mondays 6-7 pm, Improver /Proficient Tuesdays 7-8 pm, Saturday (all levels) 10.30-11.30 am. Cost £3.20 per class paid in a block.





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 – *this price includes all ingredients*. 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 – *this price includes all ingredients*. P6 and above. Wednesdays 4.30-5.45 pm and 6.00-7.15 pm.

WEDNESDAY 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 6.15-7.00 pm, Improvers and 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 £3.20 per class paid in a block. Tuesdays P1 6-7 pm and 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.



To enrol or for further details contact

Westhill Community Centre, Hays Way, Westhill Tel 01224 740089

Email westhill.cec@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Westhill & District Senior Citizens Group

We started off our Meetings on Thursday 14th September – with a Group of singers, Audacity.



Since then we've had Roy Rhodes, a singer and the Critter Keeper – who keeps a variety of very interesting creatures!







We've been entertained with Pam Dignan Dancers and an Accordionist.

On the 23rd November we had Tara Leiper on Piano.

On Thursday 7th December we have our Christmas Lunch booked at the Holiday Inn Westhill.

If you know of any person in the Community who would benefit from coming along to this Group please get in touch. We currently have around 50 members with usually 40 coming along per session. We've had quite a few new members joining us – which is good to see.

Annual Membership is £6; weekly fee of £3 for Entertainment, refreshments and biscuits. Open to those people age 55 years and over. We meet alternative Thursday's from 2pm to 4pm in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church, Westhill Drive.

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

Gateway Art Project

The latest news on the Gateway Art Project

We had a great response from Artists applying for the project, with 11 very well qualified and talented people applying. We narrowed it down and interviewed 5, and have selected our Artist. We will announce details shortly as we are just finalising a contract. Once a starting date is agreed, the artist will consult with as many in our community as he can. A design will then be agreed on and we should have our Gateway to Westhill Art piece installed by Autumn next year. We are looking forward to something exciting to replace the question mark and to celebrate 50 years of Westhill!

Kate Lumsden, Team Leader

POLICE SCOTLAND Keeping people safe

POLICE REPORT

SPEED SURVEY - WESTHILL, JUNE 2016-OCTOBER 2017

Since I took over the Speed survey camera over a year ago, I have deployed it at many locations in local towns and villages in the area. You may have noticed the black and yellow camera over this period mounted on lampposts in Westhill and wondered what its purpose was and the data it collected.

I respond to local concerns, whether that be a resident contacting Police Scotland concerned at speeding in Westhill and Elrick, or a resident asking a local councillor to

bring up the subject at the local Community Council monthly meeting which I try to attend every meeting.

The camera is used exclusively in 30 mile per hour zones. It has a built in radar attached which records the speed of each vehicle approaching it. If it detects a speeder, it flashes the 'Slow down' sign. Although this doesn't sound like much of a deterrent, most motorists immediately break on seeing this message so it does serve a purpose.

The battery within usually lasts for 10–14 days and once done, I remove it and take it back to the station and download the data gathered. I then contact the concerned resident with the results and also read it out at the monthly Community Council meetings.

Here are the Westhill and Elrick results over the past year or so:

17–28 June 2016. Southbound, Broadstraik Road between the two roundabouts, 22,923 vehicles, average speed 31.3 mph.

28 July-3 August 2016, Eastbound, Brodiach, 4,348 vehicles, average speed 30.9 mph.

19–30 August, 2016, Eastbound, Mason Lodge, 21,207 vehicles, average speed 33.2 mph.

October 2016-June 2017, camera out of action.

18–30 June 2017, Southbound, Westhill Drive, 14,623 vehicles, average speed 28.3 mph.

27 August–14 September 2017, Westbound, Old Skene Road at Hay's Way, 21,352 vehicles, average speed 29.1 mph.

I have also been given the use of a speed gun and attend when I can, at various locations. Generally, the above statistics are reflected by what the speed gun picks up, however, I noticed a hot spot which caused me concern.

Some vehicles were approaching the zebra crossing on the Old Skene Road at its junction with Brimmond Drive at speed. Look out for the speed camera situated there in the lead up to Christmas

Lastly, with the dark evenings upon us, please remember to lock your front door behind you when you get home from work. Car thieves are known to have operated in Westhill and Elrick in the recent past and a nice car parked on a driveway after work with an unlocked front door means a sneak in thief can have a look in your hallway for the keys and before you know it, your

car is gone. Don't give the thief a chance – lock the front door and put your car keys in a safe and secure location

www.scotland.police.uk
PC Steve Middleton



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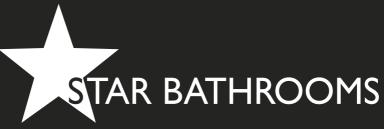
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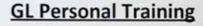
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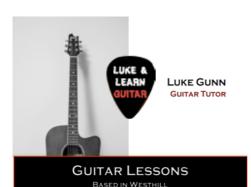
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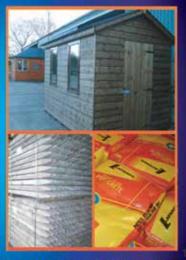
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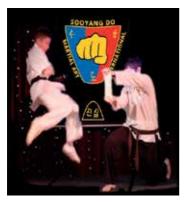
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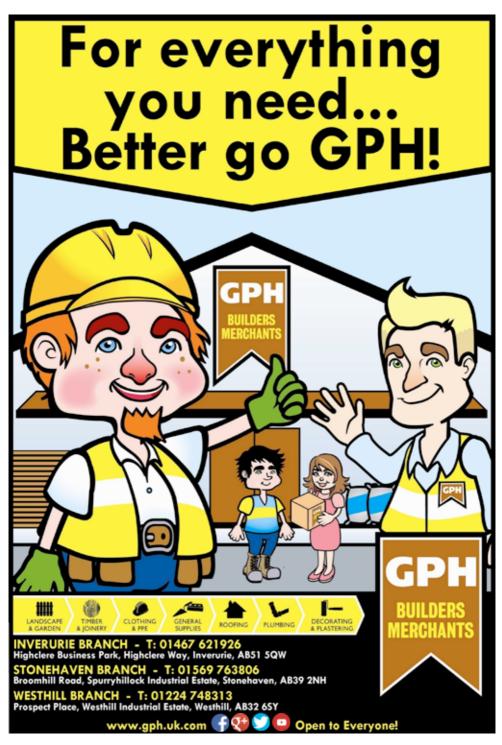
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Westhill Photography Club

Westhill Photography Club was formed to allow photographers of all standards in the Westhill area to meet regularly to develop and share their interest in photography with other amateur photographers. We aim to develop the members' skills and enthusiasm for photography and support them in a friendly and helpful atmosphere whilst having fun along the way.

We meet every Thursday evening. These alternate between critique evenings at Westhill Community Church, practical sessions, guest speakers and voluntary competitions. We also organise away days; this year these have included the Isle of May, Slains Castle, Huntly Falconry Centre and a three day visit to Skye.

Additionally, we also volunteer our skills in the community and this year we have taken photographs for some charity events such as the Santa Parade, the Ballater Duck Race and for the Charlie House Charity.

All levels of experience are welcome. If you are interested in coming along please contact *Bruce. christie@me.com*.







WESTHILL MUSIC

Do you know anyone who would like to have a fun time making music in the company of others? Playing music of all types – classical, traditional, popular? Any age? No audition needed, just come along to play? Any instrument, string, wind, brass, percussion? Perhaps giving concerts in public? Rehearsals in a convenient place?

Then get them to come along to the Westhill Community Centre at Westhill Academy, on Wednesday evenings, from 7.00pm to 9.30pm, beginning on Wednesday 10 January 2018, and join with others to make the dreams come true! This is the first meeting to start a music group in Westhill, and anyone and everyone who fancies playing with others is invited to come and join in. Regular weekly rehearsals could lead to a public concert!

Is there anyone who would like to conduct such a group? There is a conductor who is prepared to get things going, but this is also an opportunity for someone who has the ambition, and ideas, to develop a musical group. A chance in a lifetime!

For any comments and suggestions, contact me at westhillmusic@hotmail.com.

Otherwise, just come along to the Westhill Community Centre at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 10 January 2018!

See you there

Brian Priestley

Westhill Golf Club

The 2017 fixture list has been completed and our winners' achievements were celebrated at the annual prize presentation and dinner held in the Clubhouse at the beginning of November. Congratulations to all our winners this year with a special mention to Lady Champion Julie Lees who won the Ladies Scratch Division Championship for the 13th time.



Junior Section 2016 winners

Club Members Kevin Coutts and Bruce McHattie played their way through to the final stages of the Daily Mail Foursomes that were held at the Marriott St. Pierre resort in Chepstow. Wales. Unfortunately. Kevin and Bruce lost their round of sixteen match but still a massive achievement considering over 150,000 golfers enter the event. Having won the Elrick Cup. the dynamic duo will once again represent the club next season.

As part of the continuous course improvement programme the club have invested heavily in a Toro Pedestrian Pro Corer. This machine allows the greens team to tine/core the putting surfaces more frequently with minimal disruption to the surfaces and more importantly the golfer!! We also have an extensive winter improvement in place including bunker maintenance and re-laying problematic teeing areas.

Another successfully Junior programme has been completed culminating in their own section presentation afternoon which will be held in the Clubhouse on Sunday 10th December. We now have over 100 junior members which is a great achievement. Details of next year's programme will be available soon, for existing members please keep an eye in your "inbox" and for non-members please feel free to get in touch.

Socially we have hosted a number of events including various landmark birthdays as well as anniversaries. In the next month or two we will be putting together the social calendar for season 2018/19. Already confirmed for Saturday 27th January 2018 and on the success of their first visit to the club earlier this vear we have the return of "Could it be Take That". With this in mind and to take advantage of our social calendar, social memberships are available at a cost of £5pp!!

Currently we have an offer on golf for the remainder of this season. Join now for only £100 and have full playing rights through to 28th February 2018. Should you join the club in March 2018 the £100 will be deducted from your 2018/19 subscription charge.

Lastly may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2018!!

George Bruce, Director of Golf



A "Winter Warmer" on the remainder of season 2017/18!!

Join anytime now for £100 and receive full playing rights up until 28th February 2018.

This £100 payment will be deducted from your Annual Subscription should you join the club in March 2018.

Further information can be obtained by contacting George Bruce, Director of Golf 01224 743361 Option 1 · www.westhillgolfclub.co.uk Like us at www.facebook.com/WesthillGolf

Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club

September was a busy month for the club with our team building day a great success with the swimmers enjoying the activities followed by a barbecue.



We hosted our annual Minnows competition the following weekend which was for our younger, less experienced swimmers, for some their first time competing. Well done to Max Christie who was the best Westhill swimmer



We held our annual Club Championships on the 19th November. The swimmers were split into 6 teams named after countries. They were invited to dress up/make posters and poolside was transformed into a colourful display and was extremely noisy.

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



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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE skenemedicalgroup.co.uk

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

Go on-line to make a routine appointment or order a repeat prescription! Interested?? Collect a registration form from the Practice - call us on 01224 849400 or email us at skene.administrator@nhs.net - it couldn't be simpler!

Oil and Gas UK Medicals

We are registered with Oil and Gas UK and trained to carry out OGUK offshore OIL&GASUK medicals and have appointments available to book. You do not need to be

a registered patient at the practice, this is a competitively priced private service and will include a full examination and all other tests required. We are able to accept chip and pin payments from all major card providers. Appointments can be booked by phoning 01224 849400. At present, appointments cannot yet be booked via the web service

Pneumococcal Vaccination 2017/2018

Patients who are eligible for the free Pneumococcal Vaccination:

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

Mobile Phone Numbers

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

Results and Communication from the Practice

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

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

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

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

The Physio says – Got winter blues? Get moving, get happy!

With dark days and the prospect of cold damp weather ahead, it can be easy to stay put in the warmth of your centrally heated living room. But it's just as important to get exercise in the winter months as at other times of the year. What you're able to do will of course depend on your circumstances. Fitting in activity will differ if you work full time, have young children to care for, or are retired and have all day to play with.

Let's say you're a working person. How do you get to work? Could you walk or ride a bike there on days when the weather is reasonable? It's understandably less attractive in winter weather, but with the right clothing you can stay warm and dry. If you sit at a desk all day, there are simple stretches you can do to combat the stiffness that comes with it. A free leaflet can be downloaded from <code>www.csp.org.uk/publications/do-you-sit-at-a-desk-all-day</code>, published by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Evenings and weekends are precious if you work full time. Doing something active is essential during these times, especially if you sit all day at work. There are plenty of indoor things to do on rainy days, you could go swimming or to a gym. But why not try something new like ice-skating, curling, or the climbing wall? There are two dry ski slopes in our area (at Garthdee and Alford), and the real thing is only an hour away (if the hills get enough snow this winter).

It can seem difficult for adults with young children to get out in the evening for some exercise. Ideal would be to take it in turns – one stays at home and puts them to bed, whilst the other goes to play squash or badminton once or twice a week. Then at the weekends you can do things as a family, encouraging your children from a young age to be active.

Adults aged between 19 and 64 should get 150 minutes of aerobic exercise each week, such as brisk walking or cycling. In addition they should do strength exercises on at least two days each week, which can be done on a mat (e.g. Yoga or Pilates-style), or with weights or an elastic exercise band, at home or in an organised class.

Are you retired? Although you may have all day to plan some activity, as we get older we tend to lose strength and stamina, or may have aches and pains from arthritis, which can put you off. All the more reason to get moving. A daily walk to the park come rain or shine, a bit of tidying in the garden, or a (free) bus ride to walk along the beach or round Ballater, is just what's needed. When the ice and snow come, it may be safer to stay indoors, but there are plenty of simple exercises you can do there to keep moving. It's so important to stay strong, as this reduces your chance of falling, a common problem in the elderly. Stand at a worktop, go up on your toes twenty times, then bend and straighten your knees a little the same number of times. Stand up and sit down ten times from a dining chair, or step up and down repeatedly on the bottom stair if you have one.

Why the title above? Exercise releases endorphins in your brain, and they are your happy hormones. Activity improves mood, as well as keeping us physically healthy, so let's go!

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

Westhill Bowling Club

With the 2017 outdoor bowling season now completed, we are once again able to look back on a very successful season for both the club as a whole and on a personal front for our club members as well. The club was opened for the season in April and we were able to welcome new members into our club at our open day in May.



It was a fantastic season for our ladies section who were again able to boost many successes. Narrowly losing the Simpson triples final, they won the Craigie Ladies league finals. In addition to this, 5 ladies qualified for the National Championships in Ayr, although our Senior Fours were unable to recreate their form of 2015 when they won the Scottish title. However, the club were able to bring a bronze medal home thanks to **Lisa Thomson** (see photo) who lost out in the semi-finals of the Ladies singles. A fine achievement from a player who has all the right attributes to challenge for the title again.

Our gents section also had a very successful season. The Bon Accord fours league was won for the third time in a row. Further success was achieved in the Bon Accord knockout fours, and Under 25s competitions as well. The club have qualified for the National Top 10 having also won the regional qualifier. The club also just missed out on the Crowmallie fours title. We again had representatives in the National Championships in Ayr with both our Fours team and our Senior Singles narrowly losing out in the second round.

The club was also fortunate to boost international success again this year. Ross Forbes and Andrew Thomson both made their debuts and received their first international caps in Belfast. Andrew Thomson and Andrew Reilly were also part of the Scottish British Isles Junior Championship winning team triumph in Wales. Hopefully there is more international recognition received in future years as well.



Plans will now begin in preparation of the 2018 season where we will again open the club at the start of next season to encourage all ages to come and give bowling a try in a friendly environment.

If you wish to contact Westhill Bowling Club, the secretary is **Lisa Thomson**, email *lisa.kate106@hotmail.com*.

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW Girlguiding Scotland

Girlguiding Westhill

Since the beginning of term, some of the girls have had the opportunity of joining some large-scale events which have been very enjoyable according to reports!

Guides and Senior Section had the chance to join the Scout camp "Gordon Gathering" in early September and were given the opportunity of a wide range of activities from Adventure through Skills, Creative and Fitness, all the way to Survival! Guides and Brownies also travelled to Glamis Castle for an exciting day alongside lots of girls from around Scotland. Finally, Girlguiding held its own Gordon Takeover held at the Barracks at Bridge of Don in October, and most of our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides attended. Lots of skills around Survival and Fitness again, involving shooting water pistols at targets (sometimes one of the leaders!), toasting marshmallows, Bouncy Chutes, Boot Camp exercises, and at the end an outdoor Disco for everyone. We were blessed with a wonderfully dry, sunny but breezy day.

Finally most of the units are planning parties and outings to one of the pantomimes on offer in Inverurie or Aberdeen, or visiting one of the new trampoline centres.

You can be sure it'll be noisy and involve some sweets along the way!





Services

Sunday - 10.30am - Morning Worship

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

6.30pm – Soul (S1 and up)

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

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

For room hire call the Church Office
or email: bookings@westhillcommunitychurch.org



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

Please contact us on 01224 740291 or email beckyferguson@ westhillcommunitychurch.org

Craft Fairs 2017

Saturday 9th December 10am-3pm

Street Café

We gather on the Streets at the Westhill Shopping Centre twice a month to the solution and bissuital.



Centre twice a month to give out free hot chocolate and biscuits!

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

Life Café

Each month we run a Life Café event in the



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

Friday Night Live - Please see website.



Our next Alpha course begins in November and will take place within the Green Pastures Café. If

you would like to find out more information or sign up please contact the Church Office via office@ westhillcommunitychurch.org





We have a new Winter menu, 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.

CHRISTMAS AT WESTHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH COME AND JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one of a kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish. John 1 v 14

Sunday December 3rd
Advent All Age Service

10am – We gather for refreshments and fine pieces

11am – The Advent Worship

12pm – Join us to decorate the Church

Sunday December 17th

10.30am – Nativity Service

7.00pm – Carols by Candlelight

Friday December 22nd
6.30pm – Christingle Service

Sunday December 24th
4.00pm – Christmas Eve Family Service
11.15pm – Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
10.30am – All Age Christmas Day

Sunday January 31st 10.30am – A New Thing for a New Year







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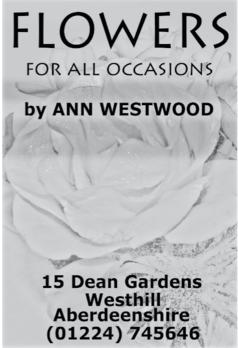
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ASHDALE HALL, WESTHILL

Festive Craft & Arts Fair

Date for your diary.....
Sunday 10th Dec 10am to 4pm

Presented by F.O.C.U.S, (Festival Of Crafts Unique to Scotland)

An Aberdeenshire based community group of crafters, artists and writers. Visit us at Ashdale Hall to find that perfect gift or to treat yourself to something nice.

All goods and works displayed are beautifully made by the person you see on each stall. Come and browse amongst the many types of Crafts and Arts on offer.



More details contact Tel 01224 483817

Website wwww.scotlandcrafts.co.uk

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Duke of Edinburgh's Award

WESTHILL OPEN AWARD GROUP

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

CONGRATULATIONS to our latest Bronze, Silver and Gold Award completions and welcome to our newly enrolled participants!



Rory Cameron, Harry Christie, Sean Corr, Emma Coull, Katie Dean, Angus Flett, Samantha Gordon, Grace Hopkins, David Knights, Mia Mackenzie, Ross McNeill, Jack Morrison, Kieran Pirie, Harris Ross, Caelan Teismann, Janek Walicki



Farah Amer, Craig Cunningham, Erin MacDonald, Catherine Ramsay, Fergus Rule, Jessica Townsend, Gemma Twigg, Jing Jing Wang

Christopher Blanchflower, Rebecca Mason

Each successfully overcame their own personal challenges. Particular highlights are our first family Gold double with Rebecca following her brother Andrew and Craig Cunningham completing his direct Silver Award a few days short of the cut-off date of his 25th birthday! Craig is also a welcome addition to our volunteer team. Enrolment for our 11th year has 7 new Bronze Award teams and likely 4 Silver and 3 Gold Award teams getting started during November. Watch our website *WesthillDoE.co.uk* for details but do email in with any questions meantime.

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



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Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Summer is now well past but Westhill Walkers keep on walking throughout the year in our stunning local countryside. We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year with a choice of walks each day though in winter we usually just have one walk on offer

Our walks this year have taken us from the coast at Bullers of Buchan to the heart of the Cairngorms with a great variety in between. It has been really good to see so many new members joining us on these walks and on our weekends away.

In September 21 club members had a great weekend at Pitlochry Hydro as a change from our usual hostel break. Unfortunately the weather wasn't too kind and the Sunday was a bit of a wash-out for walking but we managed visits to the Pitlochry Theatre, the Birks Cinema and a chocolate shop! Our next weekend away will be an early Christmas Dinner at Muir Cottage near Linn of Dee in December.

We also had a successful quiz night in October. Did you know that a rhinotillexomaniac picks their nose and that an Indian elephant has the smallest ears? The quiz linking theme was parts of the body this year.

Boxing Day sees our usual walk along the prom from Bridge of Don to Fittie and back. This is always well attended with both members and friends. Everybody is welcome to join us to blow away the cobwebs and work off a few mince pies.

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

Our website at *westhillwalkers.wordpress.com* is about to be revamped to make it more appealing with lots more photos, a blog and maybe a members only page – watch this space. We also have a Facebook page so have a look and see photos of our recent walks.

For further information on the club consult the website or contact **Tony (01224 740505)** or **Lin (01224 740165)**.

Some forthcoming walks/social events – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome. More details on the web page.					
Sunday 26th Nov 08.30	Millstone Hill This walk ascends Millstone Hill, a southern neighbour of Bennachie through conifer plantations and birch woods, to the heather hill-top. For those who wish there is the option to extend the walk to the other tops.				
Sunday 10th Dec 08.30	Cairns of Balmoral A visit to the Seven Cairns of Balmoral erected to commemorate members of the British royal family and events in their lives by Queen Victoria.				
Tuesday 26th Dec 10.00	Boxing Day Walk Our annual stroll along the prom to work off those extra calories. Maybe a stop for coffee and bacon butty on the walk from Bridge of Don to Fittie and back. Meet at start of walk – on Esplanade just east of the Bridge of Don				

WESTHILL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY MINIBUS

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We are a friendly Early Learning and Childcare Setting and currently have spaces for children ages 2½ to 5yrs.

We meet Monday to Friday, 9.15am to 12.25pm in Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene. We work in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council as a partner provider so we can offer both Anti-preschool (3-4yr old's) & Pre-school (4-5yr old) funding for children.

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

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

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

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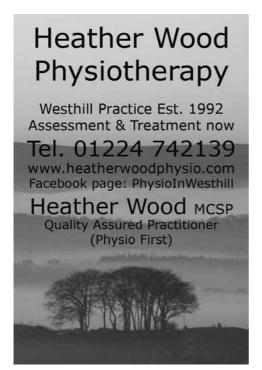
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The 'Tattie Picking' Holidays are now a thing of the past – my sons remember them well!

Back to Group Planning, and the next item we have coming up is our annual Soup & Santa event. This is being held on: Saturday 25th November, 12:00 to 2:00, Scout Hall, Old Skene Road.

Posters are going out, tickets are being sent to the Parents and friends of the Group. The ladies are being approached for making soups (and the soups are just delicious). We have two Tombola stalls - a bottle one for the Adults and a chocolate/sweetie one for the children to have a go at.

Various games are offered in the New Hall while the youngsters wait to see the 'Main Man' Santa in his Grotto – they can tell him their wishes for Christmas presents and then know that at least he has listened.

The expedition to Iceland for members of the Group went very well (see our Facebook page for more details and photos).

Amazon Beaver Colony went with the Ranger for a Mini Beast hunt on the Arnhall Moss, learned about Fair Trade, and Water Aid projects.

Not to be outdone, Redwood Beaver Colony has now got 8 new members and they have been following tracking signs round local streets. They earned the Stage 1 Emergency Aid Badge - always useful - and have almost finished their Global Issues badge by making masks of endangered animals and recycling.

If you are new to the town or been here for a time. Been a member of the Scout Movement or maybe fancy finding out more of what we do in 1st Westhill Scout Group – give us a phone:

GSL Chris 01224 746773 - AGSL Norman 01224 740795 or email westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk For Waiting List – Jackie 01224 744535 email jacq.pop@gmail.com

For Party/Short Time Lets - Carole 01224 740795 email westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk



Pam Dignan Dancers

Proceeds of £1000 from their Annual Concert at end of September are going to Charlie House. This is a local children's charity which supports babies, children and young people with complex disabilities and life limiting conditions in NE Scotland

On Thursday 26 October the Dancers entertained the Senior Citizens at Trinity Church, then went to Blackhills Court. This is the photograph at Trinity Church.

Twenty three dancers (with parents) are going to Paris at the end of November to take part in a Highland Dancing Competition and Championships. They are also entering the Choreography competition – music from 101 Dalmatians, Tarzan, Jungle Book, Wendy & Tinkerbell, Mary Poppins, Beauty and the Beast, How Far I'll Go and Mulan.

Details of dancing classes provided are on page 11.





WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

What's Happening at the Shed?

As we approach our five-year anniversary early next year, we continue to be kept very busy at the Shed, welcoming in a steady stream of new members, and working on all manner of personal and community projects in the workshop, from wooden benches to lawnmower repairs. Whether you are a skilled hand or want to learn new skills, there really is a project to cater for all interests and abilities at the Shed. We also continue to run our successful social events, having recently enjoyed a fish supper evening, and our ever-popular Christmas lunch is coming up soon. It is great to bring everyone together for a good chinwag over a meal. Thanks as always to our chef Bill and his catering team for organising these events.

She Shed

We have been holding our weekly women's sessions on Monday evenings by common agreement, and are delighted to report that they have been a huge success. There are currently 20 women in the group who are all enjoying learning practical skills. They started from scratch, but are now competent with bench work; measuring, marking, and using saws, drills, and chisels. We have now started to work with our woodworking machines, and plan to go on to applying these skills for hanging shelves and other DIY tasks. We have a waiting list of women who would like to join, so we will be starting a new group early in the new year. If you are interested in joining this group, just send an email to our *contact@westhillmensshed.co.uk* address and we will put you on the mailing list.

Peterhead Men's Shed

Everywhere you look in Scotland, it seems like you'll find a new Men's Shed getting started; in fact, there are nearly 100 Sheds either in development, or already open, throughout the country. We have always tried to support the development of other Sheds where we can, and recently a group of Westhill shedders went along to the Peterhead Men's Shed open day. They have about half an acre of yard space right on the sea front, and have built a coffee area and office in a portacabin, as well as a woodworking and metalworking shop. They certainly made us feel very welcome, putting on a great spread, with burgers, kippers, and more sandwiches than you could shake a stick at. It was great to see a lot of familiar faces on the day; many of the Peterhead shedders have visited us in the past to pick our brains. Peterhead really looks to be on the right track with their Shed, and we wish them great success as they get going.

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

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

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

The latest from the Library

There's an app for everything these days – including your library! Download the **Spydus** app to manage your and your family's accounts. You can also check whether a book you see in the bookshop is available in any Aberdeenshire library and order it – just by reading its barcode with your phone.

Freegal is a free and legal app that you can use to stream up to 3 hours of music a day and download up to 5 tracks a week from a selection of around 13 million songs. Choose from a huge selection of rock, pop, classical, easy listening and folk.

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T.o find out more about these services go to **www.onceuponashire.co.uk**.

All you need to do is register with the library to get your borrower number and PIN to access these services for free from the comfort of your own home.

If you prefer something more low tech, you'll find plenty of books and a friendly face in the library!

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

Please note the new library telephone number – 01224 472871.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

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:

13th December, 2017 – A demonstration of Festive Flowers – TBC

17th January, 2018 – Annual General Meeting

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

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

1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

Following on from our Enrolment Evening it's great to welcome new boys and staff into all three sections of the Company. This boost to our numbers has brought a positive start to the session and now all the boys are variously engaged in a wide range of activities within the BB and Duke

of Edinburgh's award schemes. While it was nice to welcome the new boys into the company, we do not operate any waiting lists and interested boys will be made welcome at any of our regular Friday evening meetings.

We have commenced our outdoor activities programme with a mountain bike outing followed by a weekend Mountain Bothy adventure for the younger boys in the Company Section. Other similar activities plus a night cycle run on the Deeside Railway Line are being actively planned.

This busy period continued with our Dedication Service in Trinity Church on the evening of Sunday 29th October and for the Company Section boys, participation in the Remembrance Day service at Skene Church on Sunday 12th November. Thereafter, we have our main fundraising event, The Late Autumn Coffee Morning from 10–12am on Saturday 25th November in Trinity Church Hall.





Looking ahead towards the festive period, the Company Section will again operate a Christmas Card Delivery Service in the Westhill and Kirkton of Skene area. From Sunday 19th November, 'post boxes' and BB stamps at 25p each will be situated in the vestibules of both Skene and Trinity Churches. This year, the last posting day will be Wednesday 13th December.

As always, updates of our activities and photographs are available for all to view on our Facebook page and website www.1stskenebb.co.uk.

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Rotary Out and About

Our Rotary activities have been on a high over recent months with our members being very busy on local and international projects. You may have seen a few of our keen gardeners out over recent weeks planting around 5,000 crocus bulbs around the town. This is part of our Purple4Polio campaign, which supports Rotary's End Polio Now project. In conjunction with the Bill Gates Foundation, the End Polio Now project is close to eradicating this fatal and debilitating disease across the entire world. We should see some positive and colourful benefits for Westhill from this early next year.

We have also undertaken two successful and very enjoyable fundraising events over the last few months. A superb Indian meal and cultural evening at the Westhill hotel was arranged by our executive Rotary Chef, Pushp Vaid and this was followed by a charity bingo night at the Ashvale. Both were well attended and raised a few thousand pounds, which has been used to support the Sightsavers charity as well as our other local Rotary causes.

Other local initiatives have included support for the Aboyne games together with our regular work undertaken with the local schools supporting the Shoebox scheme and providing Dictionaries for Life. For a social visit, we arranged a trip to the Brew Dog brewery in Ellon and as well as learning about the business and brewing process, a number of the local beers were tested and a great time was had by all concerned.

On the international front, a small group of our Rotarians and their partners recently paid a friendship visit to the Rotary Club of Ikast, located in the centre of Denmark, to celebrate their 60th anniversary. To mark the occasion we presented them with a ceremonial Scottish Claymore, suitably engraved with a message of friendship. The Ikast Club provided generous hospitality to our party together with a weekend of fun and sightseeing.

Back home, our President Moira had the honour of inducting two new members into the Club.



Ian Reid has recently moved to the Westhill area and joins us from the Deeside Rotary Club.



The induction of Margaret Currie marked a milestone for our club when she joined her husband Colin as our first members married couple.

Hopefully we'll see you out and about over the festive period, perhaps at the Old Folk's Christmas Party or at our fundraising events such as the bag-packing we do in the last few days before Christmas. In any case, we wish you a happy festive period and a prosperous New Year.



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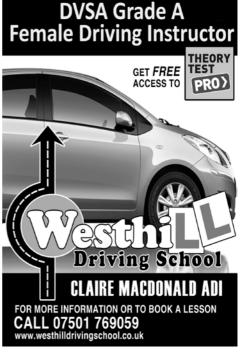


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Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17th December 2017 6pm at Skene Kirk

Mulled wine and mince pies following the service Featuring joint church choir and Skene Primary school



Travelling Nativity

Look out for our travelling nativity during December

You will be able to follow it at our Westhill Messy
Church Facebook page







Pop-Up Nativity on Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) at 4.15pm in Trinity Church

We will be making Christingles from 3.45pm

Everyone can come and take part in the nativity









Skene Parish Church Advent and Christmas Services 2017

Date	Time and Location	Activity	Theme	
3rd Dec	10am Trinity	Communion	The King's	
3rd Dec	11.15am Skene	Morning Worship	Origins	
3rd Dec	7pm Trinity	Café Worship		
10th Dec	10am Trinity	Morning Worship	The False King	
10th Dec	11.15am Skene	Communion		
17th Dec	10.30am Trinity	Joint nativity service followed by soup lunch	Worshipping the King	
17th Dec	6pm Skene	Carols by Candlelight		
24th Dec	11.15am Skene	Joint all-age service	The promise and return of the King	
24th Dec	4.15pm Trinity	Christmas Eve service Pop-Up Nativity	Messy Christingle – come and make Christingles before the service starts.	
24th Dec	11pm for 11.30pm Skene	Watchnight service	Incarnation of the King	
25th Dec	10am Skene	Christmas Day joint all age service	Humility and honour of the King	
31st Dec	10am Trinity	Joint service led by Elders		

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Mini-Kindergym

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

Friday: 9.45 (crèche available), 10.45

Kindergym

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

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

+ crèche is available at 2pm on both days

Jumping Jacks

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

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

Gymnastics

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

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

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

Fitkids

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

Toddlers

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

Monday morning from 9.30-11.30

2's Group

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

Math Monkeys

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

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Old Skene Road	01224 741339
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Kindergym	01224 /40089

Mother & Toddlers Groups
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