Westhill Bulletin

Winter 2018 Issue 156











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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 spring issue should be sent in by **Friday 25th January**, for distribution in the 3rd week of 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.

2019 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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Daniel Hay
Bill Loudon
Kate Lumsden
Diane Priestley
Kenneth Stewart
Raymond Swaffield

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 and posted on the Westhill website www.westhillelrick.org



Chairperson's Report

It has been a great year with many changes happening at WECC and in our community. Following our election as office bearers, we set about to build on the great work that has been done at WECC over the years. As members of the community council, we have made it our mission to be more responsive, representative, and resilient for now and the future. As such we have committed to a forward-thinking vision which aims to increase member participation and engagement; Improve WECC governance structure & effectiveness and Improve WECC's responsiveness and involvement across the community.

It is in view of the above that we have created various subgroups to help drive through our vision for the future. They include the Governance, Events, Communications (covering the Bulletin and website/social media), Environment and sustainability, Development Plans, Community Liaison, Projects, and Finance subgroups. It is our view that these subgroups provide greater structure and clarity about WECC and would allow us to be more effective as a Community Council. I would invite everyone to come along to our monthly meetings to find out more about how they could play a part.

Work on the Kingsford stadium has continued, and our Development Plans subgroup led by member Diane Priestly will continue to monitor this, as well as other planned developments in and around Westhill and Elrick community area. More details on Local Development Plans (LDPs) and WECC's role has been provided by Diane in her article on page 80.

As autumn turns to winter and temperatures continue to drop, it may be a great idea to get as much preparations done for the longer, colder nights; and the shorter days to come. Snow falls are likely to block driveways and pathways, and for this reason a call is being made for members of the community to join the Snow Warden team. This team of volunteers, to be trained and equipped by Aberdeenshire Council, would serve to support the elderly and vulnerable residents of Westhill and Elrick with clearing up their blocked driveways through the winter period. Further details are available at: https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/winter-maintenance/#selfhelp

Finally, in the spirit of the winter season, WECC is also preparing for another Festive season with the Christmas lights and a scheduled Christmas event on Saturday 8th December. We know this is a season of joy, friendship, family and giving of gifts, and would hope that everyone takes the time to enjoy it and to also make it a season of community for all. However we choose to spend this holiday, I hope we have a very happy Christmas, and if you can, please take some time to make someone else happy too.

Chika Edeh, WECC Chair Email weccchair@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FESTIVE EVENT

As per the last 4 years, there will be a Christmas tree at the Westhill shopping centre in the square near M & S.

Come along on **SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER** from **4.30pm to 5.30pm** for our festive event which will include the switching on of the tree lights.

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

Please do come along and join in the fun

SEASONS GREETINGS from the WECC

News from the Library

Can you solve the Westhill Treasure Trail?

Treasure trail maps are now available in six Aberdeenshire towns. Once all six have been completed a mystery location will be revealed. The maps are available from Banchory, Banff, Macduff, Oldmeldrum, Stonehaven and Westhill libraries. The trail consists of six clues which are solved by walking the route and finding the answers. A prize can be claimed for each trail completed. You can choose between a limited edition pin badge complete with a logo depicting a view from each town or a tote bag also with the logo. Each participant will receive a Treasure Trail passport which will be stamped at each library where the trail has been completed.

Looking ahead to Christmas and the winter months perhaps the following subject numbers might be of interest to you:

- Christmas crafts and card making 745.594
- Garden design 712.6
- Photography 770
- Soup 641.813
- Art/Drawing 740/750

Knit and Natter Group

Congratulations to our Knit and Natter group who recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of their first meeting with a special birthday cake. This friendly group meets every Thursday in the library from 2–4pm and all are welcome to come along. Many, many balls of wool have been knitted and much nattering has taken place since that initial meeting and we are delighted to still have eight of the original members attending. Recently the group produced these fantastic Trauma Teddies in response to a joint appeal from Children 1st and Police Scotland.



Magazines

In addition to a wide selection of magazines available to read in the library Aberdeenshire Libraries also offer a wide range of popular current e-magazines, as well as back issues through our provider RBdigital. You can download as many e-magazines as you wish and keep e-magazines permanently. Please ask staff for more information.

Libby (an app for library e-books and e-audiobooks)

To borrow e-books and e-audiobooks free of charge

- Download the Libby app
- · Find your library
- Enter your library card
- Borrow a title and start reading

Christmas and New Year opening times

The Library will close at 2pm on Monday 24th December and reopen at 10am on Thursday 27th December.

The Library will close at 2pm on Monday 31st December and reopen at 10am on Thursday 3rd January.

For information on all forthcoming events at Westhill Library please visit us at www. aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries.

Like us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireLibraries

Follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/onceuponashire

Read our blog at http://onceuponashire.wordpress.com/

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:

12th December (2nd Wednesday) – Festive Floral Arrangements by Rena Cross of Aberdeen

16th January 2019 – Annual General Meeting. Member's subscriptions of £5 each due this month

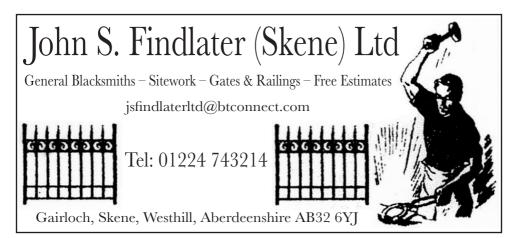
The club meetings are always open to visitor or new members at any time.

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

Gateway Art Project

The Gateway sculpture installation has had to be delayed until the Spring. A change of policy by Aberdeenshire Council has meant we could not attach our lighting supply to the nearby lamppost and so we could not proceed with laying the foundations until this was resolved. Luckily a local company heard of our problem and we will be able to carry on with their assistance and will now use solar power. In the New Year we will be laying the foundations, an access path and a mound, ready for the sculpture to be erected in April.

Kate Lumsden, Team Leader, Gateway Art Project



Kirkton of Skene



Playgroup

Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene Monday to Friday term time 9.15am-12.25pm Ages 2.5 years to 5 years

Government funding available from 3 years old Non funded/under 3's charged £7.50 per session & £1 snack fee

Our Playgroup is a small friendly long running playgroup. We have the use of two halls and ample green space adjacent to the Hall and only a 2-minute drive from Westhill.

The children are encouraged to learn through a variety of activities, set up to ensure we are achieving all areas of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Our Values are: Happiness & Wellbeing, Respect, Responsibility, Engagement and Communication.

We are a member of Early Years Scotland and work with principle teachers from our partner provider, Aberdeenshire Council, to ensure we are capturing high quality development and learning for every child.

To enquire about a place:

Kirkton of Skene Playgroup Mob. 07789 871601

Email <u>kirktonofskeneplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk</u> http://www.facebook.com/kirktonofskeneplaygroup

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Getting out in the Fresh Air Exercise Weight Loss Meet New Health Benefits People Westhill Walking to Health Group Every Wednesday 10 am Meet at Westhill Community Centre Hay's Way, Westhill Walk for about 1 hr followed by Tea/Coffee

Westhill Community Centre Tel: 01224 740089 or 01224 472874

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Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Westhill and Elrick Community Council Donates £1000 to support young drivers taking the 6 hour Pass Plus Driving Course

A grant of £100 per young driver to offset the cost of the Pass Plus course has been provided since this money became available, to three young drivers from Westhill. If their experience mirrors that of the 'thank you' letters received by the Garioch and North Marr safety group from other applicants

then this additional 6 hours driving is a very valuable driving experience. It also appears that not only does this course benefit the young driver, it also gives parents more peace of mind that their son or daughter has had extra driving tuition. The grant is still available. It will meet at least 50% of the course cost. More information can be found at www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk.

Letter from a Responsible Dog Owner

A recent email received said "please can you help and advise the local dog walkers of their responsibility towards cleaning up and removal of dog waste when outside on the street/grass areas. Lately around Hillside Road and associated grass areas certain individuals, they know who they are!!, are not behaving as they should and breaking the law by not cleaning up their dog mess". Clearly from other emails I receive this is not just a Hillside Road issue. It beholds all dog owners to act responsibly and I am aware that the very large majority do clear up their dog's mess. The advice from the Council's Dog Warden is that in order to issue a penalty notice she needs: date, time and place where the offence was witnessed; name and address of the dog owner, or where this is not known, a description of the dog owner; description of the dog.

This information to be emailed to dogwarden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

I'm also advised that the council will be releasing a press release regarding dog fouling along with social media publicity. The Green Dog Walking Scheme will be promoted through other outlets such as libraries and in our local veterinary surgery. If there is a badly fouled area in Westhill which needs cleaning up please contact <code>waste@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</code> or 03456 081207 with details.

Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) Transitional Programme

Recently I attended a meeting organised by the FRS Board and the Chief Fire Officer for Scotland where we were briefed on the changes which were or are taking place in the FRS. Traditionally the service is not just being called out to fire situations or water incidents. For some time now when there has been a vehicle crash, fire officers are often 'first on scene' and deal with the accident until the police take over. If there is a medical issue this could mean CPR or using their defibrillator until the paramedics arrive.

A useful and sensible development is that in future when there is a 999 call requiring an ambulance it could be the FRS which is called out as they may be the closest available service. Makes sense giving us a joined up 'blue light' service, from which we as the public are the benefactors.

If you have not arranged for your home safety fire visit by the FRS please contact 0800 0731 999 to arrange a visit by a fire officer.

As the festive season is approaching I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance in following up on your queries. Telephone 01224 742095, email *cllr.r.mckail@aberdeenshire.gov.uk*.

I am also available at my surgery in Westhill Library on the second Saturday of each month from 10am until 11am.

Westhill Household Waste & Recycling Centre Westdyke Avenue, Westhill



Recycling facilities for:

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

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9.00 am to 5.00 pm

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



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
- Collecting a variety of waste items food caddies/bags, battery bags and dog waste bags

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

Westhill and Skene Lions Club

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1st December, 2nd February, 2nd 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 & District)

Sportscotland School Sport Award

A number of schools in Westhill and District have been recognised with a prestigious national award for innovation and achievement in delivering school sport.

As part of the National Lottery funded programme, the Sportscotland School Sport Award is a national initiative that is designed to encourage schools to continuously improve sport. The award also encourages sporting links between schools and the

communities around them.

In Westhill and District one school achieved Gold status – Midmar Primary, with Skene Primary achieving Silver and Westhill Primary awarded Bronze. Well done to all the pupils involved in making sporting activity central to their school week and for the hard work and dedication of Active Schools staff.

Additional pedestrian crossing on Old Skene Road (West)

Following requests from many local residents, back in 2016 a survey was carried out and this showed that the criteria for an additional crossing on the West side of Old Skene Road had been met. The funding for this was subsequently agreed by Garioch Area Committee. I have been relentlessly pursuing this project since residents highlighted the need and the latest news is that it is in the final stages of design. I am disappointed that this project has not progressed quicker but now await a timescale for construction.

Parking

Residents continue to contact me about parking issues, especially pavement parking. Currently it is an offence to:

- 1. Drive on the pavement.
- 2. Place or deposit anything on the road that causes an obstruction.
- 3. Leave a vehicle in such a way to cause an obstruction to other people.
- 4. Park a heavy commercial vehicle, defined as a goods vehicle with an operating weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes, on a pavement.
- 5. Leave a vehicle, or a trailer, parked on a road (which includes a pavement) in a position that may cause a danger to other road users.

However, parking on the pavement or double parking are not at the moment specific offences.

Part 4 of The Transport (Scotland) Bill which is currently working its way through parliament would:

- 1. Prohibit parking on the pavement, subject to a number of exemptions.
- 2. Prohibit double parking, subject to a number of exemptions.
- Allow local authorities to exempt certain streets/parts of streets from the prohibition on pavement parking.
- 4. Create a system for the enforcement of the pavement parking and double parking prohibitions. This would be a local authority duty, similar to that used where enforcement of parking restrictions has been decriminalised (decriminalised parking does not apply to Aberdeenshire Council at the present time and is something they would have to reconsider should the Bill become law).
- 5. Allow for vehicles parked in contravention of a prohibition on pavement or double parking to be moved, removed and eventually disposed of, subject to a number of safeguards.

Until such time as the new laws come in to force, any dangerous or obstructive parking should be reported to Police Scotland on 101.

Firework Displays

This time of year always generates lots of discussion on social media and in the press about the use of fireworks. Some residents raise concerns about the 5th of November turning in to a fortnight of not knowing when the next 'explosion' is going to be and some pets are really affected by the unexpected and loud noises. The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service are very proactive in giving advice on how to enjoy the celebrations safely and recommend going to an organised event. Westhill has not held an organised event for a number of years now. I know many locals travel to Aberdeen, Banchory and other settlements to see the bonfires and firework displays there. Would an organised event cut down on the number



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of private displays? Like other events in the community, they don't just happen - it needs a dedicated community group (with public liability insurance) and good planning skills. I have a survey open on my website and I would like to hear your views.

On that note, I hope to see you at the Christmas event at the shopping centre on December 8th. A big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to organise and participate in it. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2019.

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



Councillor David Aitchison

In my summer issue article I outlined the timetable for the new Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. We are now nearing January when the Main Issues Report should be published. This is the point in the process when there is a formal opportunity for members of the public to make representations. If you have comments to make please do so. These will be fully considered and play an important part in our decision making.

While decisions affecting development in Westhill & District are taken by Aberdeenshire Council and your local representatives, developments within the Aberdeen City boundary which can have a hugely significant affect on our community are not. As we have discovered with the Kingsford Stadium development there is real potential for Aberdeen City Council decisions to have major consequences for Westhill.

There is clearly the potential for more development just outside the Aberdeenshire boundary. The Aberdeen City Local Development Plan which follows the same process as the Aberdeenshire one contains development bids for sites between Westhill and Kingswells and to the south of the B9119. If you have a view on the development bids within the City Council's Main Issues Report please make them known when the report is published. Details can be found at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk.

In coming years there is also likely to be pressure for developments around the AWPR junctions similar to those which occurred when the Edinburgh City bypass was built. The Strategic Development Planning Authority, on which I sit, is currently opposed to this type of development but, as in the case of Kingsford Stadium, any formal planning applications around the South Kingswells junction would ultimately be decided by Aberdeen City Council. There would be an opportunity to make representations through the normal planning process if any applications are ever made in this location.

I can be consulted at any time by telephone or email on any issue and also hold surgeries at Westhill Library. My next surgeries are Wednesday 5 December 5:30-6:00pm, Wednesday 6 February 5:30-6:00pm.

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

Councillor David Aitchison 2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ

Mobile 07876 475227

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



Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

The funding we had hoped to secure to help create the meeting/multi-function room and the extension and upgrading of the kitchen is still proving to be challenging. We continue to raise money for this in other ways. However, donations are appreciated for this cause.

Future Events:

Variety Concert on 30th November, starting at 7:00pm. Tickets from committee members or pay at the door. Adults £5 under 16's free. Various music and local singers, Skene School pupils entertainment, comedy, etc.

Christmas Eve Film Show - See Facebook Page for further details.

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 looking after and improving the hall, you will be made most welcome. Please contact 01224 742804.

BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

EMBRACE THE SEASON

That is the word of the gardening year; we all hear and read about how to clean up the garden, look after cuttings in the greenhouse and early sowing of seeds, topping up the pots outside with an extra layer of compost as mulch.

Make sure your compost is being turned and moist not wet, cover the top to help keep the frost off, a bit of old sacking or carpet will do fine. If you have a lot of leaves swept up, put them into a black bag then pierce the bottom with a nail to allow water out, pop the bag in a corner out of the way, leave for a year then add to your next compost.

Try and make room for wildlife (for example hedgehogs, frogs and toads) as gardens are getting smaller, we do need to look after them. Wrap up warm and go out and embrace the season, take photographs, make a calendar of the year, and enjoy the festive season.

Bill Loudon

Litter – We must try better!

Firstly, we must give thanks to all the volunteers and youth groups who have given up their time in 2018 to take part in Litter Picks. Their efforts are really appreciated. Litter comes in many forms. Take a look the next time you walk outside - you can't miss it. Cigarette butts, fast food packaging, crisp bags, bottles, cans and cartons, newspapers, ATM slips, chewing gum. You name it, and it's on our streets, paths and parks. With 73% of people saying that the litter problem has stayed the same or become worse since 2013, it is an obvious issue which requires us all to work together to tackle. Please consider joining in with some of our Picks next year!

One young chap, Thomas, who lives in Torphins has taken matters into his own hands and created his own local group called "The Rubbish Club". He has organised obtaining kit for his group and they carry out litter picks in his area and on the beaches.

In October he brought his group along to join in with our Westhill group of volunteers at our monthly pick. It was a welcome boost to our numbers. Well done Thomas!



Our dates for Litter Picks in 2019 will be announced in January, so please come and help us try to keep Westhill beautiful. If your group could do a litter pick, our kit can also be borrowed.

For further information, or if your group may be interested in borrowing our kit, please contact Raymond Swaffield, email swaffies@talktalk.net or tel 01224 740669.

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JOG SCOTLAND WESTHILL



Getting active is an important part of living a happy, healthy life.

Many readers will be familiar with seeing the bright yellow tops of the jogscotland WESTHILL (JSW) members running around the pavements and paths of our town and occasionally beyond. Our little group continues to grow with more than 90 running regularly each week. What most won't know is that jogscotland partners with the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) who, as the name suggests, promotes good mental health.

SAMH support all jogscotland groups because regular exercise has been proven to have a positive effect on your mental health and wellbeing. But that doesn't mean you have to run a marathon. Simply, taking part in a jogging group can help you achieve a healthier, happier, more active life whilst looking after your mental health and wellbeing.

There are the social benefits as this can be a great way to meet new people and enjoy the company of others in a supportive environment.

We all have mental health, but that doesn't mean we need to struggle. What affects someone's mental wellbeing won't necessarily affect others in the same way. Life events such as loss or bereavement, issues at work, financial worries, starting college or university and relationship problems can all impact on our mental wellbeing. Sometimes there is no clear reason why we feel the way we do.

Every year 1 in 4 of us in Scotland will experience a mental health problem. So it's important to be ready to talk about mental health. All our jogleaders have to undergo training in how to support anyone, regardless of ability who comes along to the group. Importantly each of them also has to undertake a mental health awareness online training session also. But it's not just about looking after the 1 in 4, it's as much about helping the 3 in 4 who currently have good mental health maintain it through physical activity, in a sociable and supportive group.

Moreover, as your fitness levels increase, and your body improves, it can give your self-esteem a big boost. The sense of achievement you get from achieving your goals can also help you feel better and lift your mood.

So if you fancy coming along please check out our website and Facebook page and make sure you join jogscotland for free through their website (www.jogscotland.org). We meet at the swimming pool at 6.15 on Mondays and Thursdays. If you want to banish the winter blues or have a go at the festive excess we will have a Couch to 5k starting in the New Year for

10 weeks on Monday 14th January.

In the meantime, you will see us running around the paths of Westhill in hi-vis and perhaps a Santa outfit or two as we head out on our **annual Santa run Mon 17th December** at 6.30pm leaving the pool and passing through/by Broadshades roundabout, Broadstraik Pub, Tesco Roundabout, Costa Roundabout, Westhill Shopping precinct and finally the Holiday Inn.



Check out our website here www.jogscotlandwesthill.org.

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Westhill's LOCAL disability charity

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Andrews Day Ceilidh Friday 30th November

Come along to whirl or jig, fling or be flung this St. Andrew's Day at the Ashdale Hall Join hands with old and new friends and dance the night away to "Hipflask" ceilidh band Tickets include Stovies or Mac & Cheese – Licensed Bar for a wee dram or two Adults £20, Children £10 • 7.30pm–Midnight

Contact us on events@sensationall.org.uk or call us on 01224 746699

SensationALL Xmas Fayre Saturday 8th December

You are invited to Santa's Winter Wonderland at the Old School House, 11am–3pm
We have craft stalls, a magician, face painting, raffles and lots more
Entry is £3 Adults & £1.50 for Kid's/OAP's – this include Tea/Coffee or Juice
Book your Slot to see Santa for £5 & help Santa check his list twice
He might even have an early Xmas present for you!
Contact us on info@sensationall.org.uk or call us on 01224 746699

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.

WECC started to give donations in 2011 and since then a total of £27,000 has been donated to a wide range of 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 2019. The deadline for applications is 2nd November. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

The recipients from the November 2018 donations round will be listed in the Spring 2018 Bulletin.

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: Dawn Anderson, Treasurer, Westhill & Elrick Community Council, wecctreasurer@gmail.com.





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FORBES LAWSON EXPANDS ITS TEAM

Following a move to larger premises in January, Forbes Lawson has now expanded its team with the addition of two new members of staff. We are delighted to have welcomed both Hannah Stewart and Julia Cant to the business, with their addition strengthening the team and helping to ensure a continued improvement in the service that can be offered to our clients.

Hannah has joined the team with almost 20 years' experience in accounts and business management most recently working for the charitable trust, Sport Aberdeen.

Julia has worked within the General Insurance market for over 30 years in all manner of roles so this new position at Forbes Lawson has been a fun but steep learning curve.

Forbes Lawson remains the only financial planning firm in the area to hold the British Standard (BS8577) for the firm and the International Standard (ISO22222) for our senior planners, Richard and Ian.

Coupled with the recent expansion (both in terms of premises and team members), Forbes Lawson is ideally placed to satisfy an increased demand for face to face financial planning advice. If you are interested in finding out about putting a financial plan in place, then we'd love to hear from you. We'll even pick up the cost of the initial meeting and our coffee is great too!!

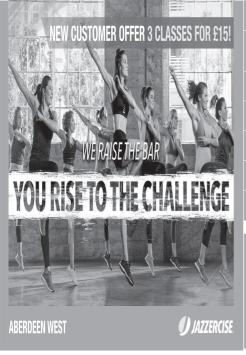
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MONDAY	9:45 am Newhills Church Hall	6:30pm Ashdale Hall, Westhill
TUESDAY	9:45 am* Ashdale Hall, Westhill	6:30pm 7:30pm (Express Class) Kingswells Village Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:45 am* Ashdale Hall, Westhill	7:00 pm Culter Village Hall
THURSDAY	9:45 am* (Low Impact Class) Ashdale Hall, Westhill	7:30 pm Milne Hall, Skene
FRIDAY		5:45 pm† (Express Class) Culter Village Hall
SATURDAY	9:30 am Kingswells Village Hall	
SUNDAY		6:00pm (Express Class) Kingswells Village Hall

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Westhill & Kingswells First Responders

Over the last few months we have been busy providing local community groups such as Westhill Men's Shed & staff from SensationALL with FREE CPR and use of defibrillator awareness sessions. If you would like an awareness session for your group please do not hesitate to contact us via our email address <code>westhillkingswellscfr@gmail.com</code>.



We recently held a competition on Facebook to raise awareness of our group, the lucky winner was Nicola Morrison. Congratulations Nicola, we hope you enjoy your hamper!

At the end of October some of the girls in the team took on this year's Glack Attack 5km Muddy Obstacle Course to raise funds. Currently we are using our own cars, and our aim is to purchase a vehicle specifically for when we are on call for the group. If you wish to make a donation towards this cause you can do so by typing this link into your search engine online: 'https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding', then search for 'westhillkingswellscfr'.

We are pleased to tell you that we have two new members to our group! A big welcome to Greig Scott & Michael Harper. We are delighted to see our team grow. We are always looking for new team members, so if you are thinking about volunteering why not consider Westhill & Kingswells Community First Responders? For more information please contact us via our email address.

With winter arriving shortly we would like to wish all a happy and healthy Christmas & New Year! Thank you for your continued support it is much appreciated.

Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership

Grant for Young Drivers Taking the Pass Plus Course

£100* available to young drivers

The Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership is offering £100* towards the cost of the Pass Plus driving course for young drivers under 25 years of age.

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

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

The grant is supported by funding from Westhill & Elrick Community Council, Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership and the Garioch and Marr Area Committees.

More information and contact details at: www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk/ road_safety/pass_plus.html

Aberdeenshire







* Only available to residents of Aberdeenshire. Grant on offer only while funds last.

WESTHILL MUSIC

Although only four musicians Westhill are regulars. Music enjoys experimenting with new arrangements, and styles of playing, of all types of music: Scottish fiddle, pop, classical, choral, jazz, etc. Just to have fun. There is bound to be something to catch your ear, so why not come along to the Community Centre at Westhill Academy on Wednesday evenings, 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Bring some music too, to add to the repertoire! Please contact Brian at the email below, to ensure that we have music to suit your instrument. By the way, if anyone has any spare music, and doesn't know what to do with it, it could be useful to the group - so if you could donate it, contact Brian Priestley at westhillmusic@hotmail.com.

Westhill Tennis Club

As the nights draw shorter, the tennis courts are now quieter after an extended summer. However, play continues in the better winter weather at Denman Park.

The children's coaching continues to be popular, with sessions continuing throughout the year. If your child is interested in getting involved, please contact us via our Facebook page or email our coach at: vikkipaterson@hotmail.com.

Our men's and ladies' teams have now concluded their NESLTA summer league seasons. Our Ladies A team finished fifth in Division 1 while our B team ended the season in fifth place in Division 4. The men's team finished in fourth position in Division 2. A full breakdown of the results can be found at the NESLTA website.

If you are interested in playing in either competitive or social matches please get in contact (details below).

Our 2018/19 membership runs until 31st March 2019 but we welcome membership applications at any time with discounted rates.

Annual membership fees: Family: £150; Adult: £75; Student: £35; Juniors: £28 (11–17 years); Minis: £15 (10 or under on 31st March 2018). Special rates are now available for a half season.

Benefits of membership include:

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

If you aren't interested in full membership, you can access the courts through our 'Pay and Play' system.

Members of the public are welcome to book and pay for a court through our online booking system and then access the courts by collecting a key from Costa Coffee. More information can be found at: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/westhillLawnTennisClub/Booking.

Contact

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub

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

Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

The M&Co fashion show on 26th September at the Inverurie store was a sell out and raised £1,400. The models all looked fabulous in their outfits. Sales in M&Co outfits were brisk after the show, as those attending made use of the discount on offer that night. Thank you to all who supported this event.

As part of Macmillan Greatest Coffee Morning in the World, the annual event was held on 29th September in the Lyne of Skene Hall. Teas, coffee, home bakes were served. There were the usual stalls, raffles, etc. The total raised was £1,923.

Our annual raffle was drawn at the coffee morning: 1st prize (£100) Ann Speakman, 2nd prize (£75) Helen Gaulde, 3rd prize, (£50) Karen Mitchell.

Thank you to all the companies, businesses and individuals who contributed raffle prizes and who supported the event on the day.

Diary Date: The Dunecht Burns Supper is on Friday 25th January in the Dunecht Hall. Tickets will be on sale from committee members at £22.50/person. This includes the traditional Burns Supper, entertainment and a ceilidh until 12.30am.

If you are thinking of participating in a charity challenge in the New Year, please remember that any money which comes to the committee is used for the benefit of local cancer patients and their families. Our committee welcomes anyone who would like to help at our fun fund raising events and would be delighted to hear from you.

Please follow and share our activities on Facebook: Skene Fund Raising Committee – Macmillan Cancer Support.

Kath MacBeath, tel. 01330 860226



Girlguiding Westhill

All the Units have a very busy term and are looking forward to all their winter and Christmas parties. Most of our Units are heading to the Inverurie Pantomime again in December.

Our Units have been busy getting to grips with our new programme, continuing badge work and supporting community projects. The Westhill Rocks project, begun by one of our guide units has kept many individuals busy, decorating and seeking the rocks then uploading their finds to the facebook page before hiding them again. Another guide unit had a belated summer trip to the Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies which also included some fun water activities! Our Senior section organised a district treasure hunt for all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, which whilst cancelled due to adverse weather has given us an activity which units can complete by themselves.

One Guide has successfully completed her Baden Powell award which is the highest award that can be achieved by a guide and as a district we are really proud of her!

All our leaders are volunteers and we are always on the lookout for new leaders and unit helpers. At present we are at risk of having a Rainbow and Brownie unit close as their current leaders are stepping down from their current leadership roles. Please contact us by email westhillrainbows2@hotmail.com if you feel you can support us in any way.



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU South West Aberdeenshire

Board Trustee: Finance

The South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau is a local charity based in Westhill providing advice, information, advocacy and representation to residents in the community. We depend on volunteers to provide their career experience in a variety of roles across the bureau. We are seeking an enthusiastic trustee with a strong background in finance to join our board of directors.

What will you be doing?

This is a varied, hands-on role and involves a diverse range of tasks, such as preparation and timely payment of accounts and salaries, and maintaining day-to-day accounts. The individual must provide regular reports to the Board on the financial status of the Bureau and ensure that all board members have a clear understanding of the financial reports presented at board meetings.

With the Bureau Finance Officer, the Trustee will ensure that accounts are prepared at year-end and arrange for them to be audited or independently examined, and subsequently submitted to relevant bodies in a timely manner. This would require a time commitment of two to four hours per week plus attendance at monthly Board meetings that run for two hours each.

What are we looking for?

The ideal person will have financial qualifications and experience or knowledge of charity finance. They should have the ability to explain financial analysis clearly and make recommendations to the board.

What difference will you make?

Our trustees are vital in supporting our work by ensuring we have the strategy, direction and resources that underpin its delivery. You will be involved at the centre of a leading local charity that makes a difference to the lives of people.

What's in it for you?

You will have an opportunity to make a real difference to the community by using your experience and skills in financial management. Working as a trustee will also be an enhancement for your CV as you gain new skills and non-executive board experience. You will also be rewarded with an opportunity to work with people from diverse backgrounds while making a profound impact on the Aberdeenshire community.

To apply: Email enquiries@swacab.casonline.org.uk or call 01224 747714.

BANKING SERVICES IN WESTHILL

MOBILE BANKS

Bank of Scotland – Friday – 2.45 to 3.15 at Trinity Church car park RBS – Monday & Wednesday 10.00 to 10.45 at Trinity Church car park

POST OFFICE

The Post Office in Co-op at Westhill Shopping Centre can be used for bill payments and cash deposits and withdrawals. Cheque deposits can be made for most major banks with a completed pay-in slip. Ask for envelope for your bank. It is open: Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm

ATMs IN WESTHILL

Old RBS branch at Westhill Shopping Centre • Outside Tesco store
 Inside Costco store • Westhill Service Station shop in Elrick

Skene Parish Church

How would someone describe you? What words would your nearest and dearest use? Funny? Kind? Strong? Loving? Helpful? Creative?

"Full of grace and truth"

Such is the description given to Jesus in the opening chapter of John's gospel in the New Testament. Or in the words of Eugene Peterson, "Generous inside and out, true from start to finish". When was the last time you encountered someone like that?



In today's world, across all arenas of life, it does feel like grace and truth are in short supply. From the harshness of words written and spoken to the growth in 'fake news' or the use of that term to deny the truth. From online bullying that can deeply impact our young people to the failure by some in authority to provide answers to simple questions. Grace is seen by some as a luxury and truth as having elasticity. You only have to pick a newspaper to see how much grace and truth are lacking from our society.

And vet. in a

hurting world, which sometimes feels like it has lost touch with any form of moral compass, perhaps grace and truth are what is most needed. Grace to bring healing and truth to bring direction.

This Advent, we will be discovering more about how John sees Jesus. Why not read the gospel for yourself or better still, come and join us in worship. Come find what grace and truth in perfect harmony looks like.





CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Sunday 16th December 2018 6pm at Skene Parish Church Mulled wine and mince pies following the service Featuring joint church choir and Skene Primary school



WATCHNIGHT SERVICE Christmas Eve 11pm for 11.30pm Skene Church

MESSY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Christmas Eve 4.15pm

On Christmas Eve, we will gather for a short pop-up nativity service at Trinity Church. Before the service begins there will be an opportunity to come and make a christingle (from 3.45pm onwards).





CHRISTMAS
DAY
JOINT
ALL AGE
SERVICE
at 10am
Skene Church

Our Hub Inspires an Active Community

WDCSH are pleased to announce the launch of the Ruth Boyd Bursary Fund.

Sean Boyd, a Westhill resident, has generously donated monies in memory of his late wife to support individuals to overcome barriers and allow them to develop in their chosen sport or for community benefit.



WDCSH are grateful to Sean for this gesture and have collaborated with Sean to develop the supporting process. Financial grants will be available to individuals in the Westhill and District Community and guiding criteria for Bursary application submissions are provided below:

- · Applications from Individuals only, not groups or organisations
- · No age limit
- · Geographical Area Westhill & District
- · Funding will promote or support Individual sports development & achievement
- · Funding will promote or support Individual development which will benefit the community
- Applications are particularly encouraged from those who are disadvantaged in any way, for example by disability or through personal circumstances

The fund will be administered by WDCSH. Please contact WDCSH via wdcsh@hotmail.com for application forms or answers to any questions that you may have in relation to the Bursary Fund.

On another note, the following grants were recently made by WDCSH to Westhill organisations.

Organisation	Amount	What For
Westhill Choi Kwang Do	£350	Purchase of new sporting equipment (Air Shields)
Westhill Golf Club	£500	Purchase of golf equipment to support their youth coaching initiative and contribution to cost of a coaching course
Westdyke Community Club	£370	Purchase of necessary sports equipment to support a new initiative – Weekly coaching Sessions for children with Cerebral Palsy of primary age up to 2nd year academy

Any organisation in the Westhill and District Community can apply for funding from WDCSH to support sport and leisure initiatives. Please contact wdcsh@hotmail.com for application forms.

Westhill District Amateur Swimming Club

In September we were host to our annual Minnows competition which was for our younger, less experienced swimmers, for some their first time competing. Well done to Owen Bichan who was the best Westhill swimmer. We also won the trophy for the best club so a great day for all our swimmers.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our ceilidh which had been planned for August and the new scoreboard although up is having some technical problems, but we continued to celebrate 25 years with our annual Club Championships on the 18th November. The pool is decorated and this event brings all swimmers and family together and is a very noisy and fun day. We will celebrate their achievements with our medal and disco night in December.

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.

Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club

Winter is here and the indoor bowling season is well underway. Our season started on 18th September with 20 of our members in attendance. The ceremonial first jack and bowl of the season was delivered by one of our new members, Evie McBain. We are up and running in our club competitions with some close games, (some even going to an extra end) in the first rounds of our Two Bowl Pairs and Balloted Pairs with

our Singles competitions getting under way in the coming weeks.

Three of our members, Murray Masson, Paul Walker and Billy Fraser, have also been successful on their travels too, winning at the Open Triples Tournaments held by Old Rayne Bowling Club and Daviot Bowling Club. Congratulations guys.

Our Open Triples Tournament starts on Friday 2nd November, with teams from all over the North East competing for the grand prize, with the final being played on Sunday 11th November. This year we are sponsored by Grampian Wills, Billy Fraser (Farrier), John Findlater (Blacksmith), Midcontinent (Aberdeen) Ltd and Garlogie Inn. If you would like to come along and spectate and maybe see what it's all about, even get a cup of tea and a fine piece, you are more than welcome.

On the weekend of 17–18th of November, Alan Masson, Billy Fraser and Murray Masson, travelled to Carmarthen in Wales to compete as part of Team Scotland at the British Isles Short Mat Bowling Championships, against England, Wales and Ireland.

This season we have been able to complement our membership with a few new members that have joined through existing members and a few who are readers of this very Bulletin. If you are interested in coming along, we play in Garlogie Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays, 7–10pm, from late September until April. So, if you are at least 10 years old, male or female, old or young, and would like something to do in the evenings through these winter months, please get in contact with our secretary, Alan Masson via phone (07736 808064), email (gibc1@outlook.com) or our Facebook page (facebook.com/Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club). Our members will be more than happy to welcome you to the club, if you either already a bowler or someone brand new to the sport. We have equipment for you to use to give the game a try and bags of experience and encouragement to pass on.

Alan Masson, Secretary, Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club

VINESPRING CHURCH

Hello evervone!

It's that time of the year again, and Vinespring Church is once again pleased to present our Watered 2018 event, themed "Emmanuel-God With Us", on Sunday 16th December, 4.30–7.30 in Holiday Inn. In keeping with the "Tell a story, hear the story" tradition, this year we will be hosting a special guest, Jonathan Cairns and his family. Jonathan and Tanita Cairns are based in Northern Ireland and travel round the country sharing the gospel through word, testimony and song. It's our honour and privilege to have them visit Scotland and Westhill in particular to minister at our event this year.

Also this year, Santa returns!!!! The kids had a great time last year and Santa is keen to make the trip again. Please feel free to bring along your wee ones for what promises to be a family fun time for everyone. Childcare will be provided for kids aged 4–10.

To enable us prepare adequately for the numbers attending, please book your tickets online for all attending on *eventbrite.co.uk*. Remember to select "Kid's Corner" tickets in your booking, for all children. All other attendees can get the "General Admissions" ticket. For continuing updates please visit our website on *www.vinespringchurch.co.uk/upcoming-events* or our Facebook page, *Facebook/vinespringchurch*.

Prepare to be refreshed...

Merry Christmas

Team Vinespring



END OF YEAR SALE

DIY TOOLS

A wide selection of handy tools

POWERED GARDENING TOOLS

Mowers, hedge cutters, strimmers, etc.

GARDENING HAND TOOLS

Forks, spades, weeders, hoes, etc.

All of our tools are on sale at excellent prices; save time and money by picking up gardening bargains for next year

SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER, 10-2, AT THE MEN'S SHED

Find out what we have by phoning 01224 917345 during opening hours, or call in at the Shed for a look



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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

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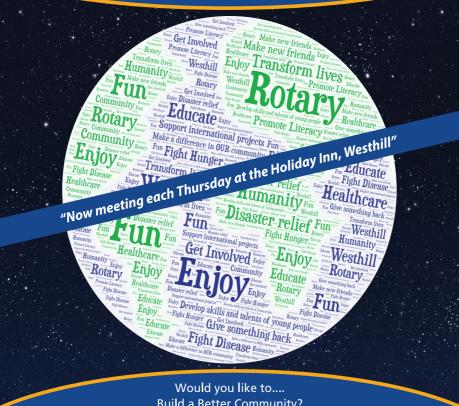
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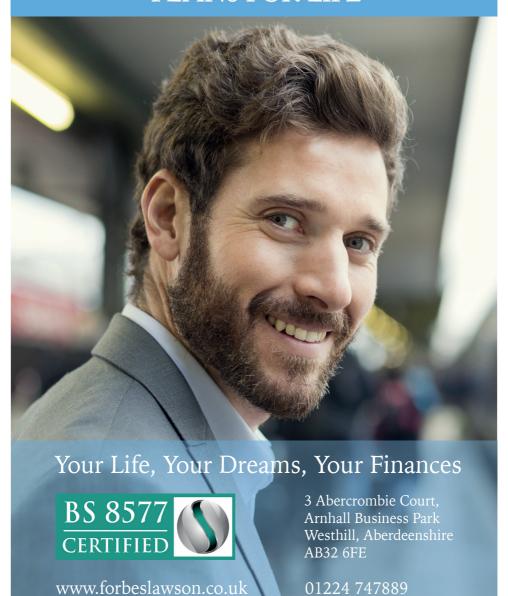
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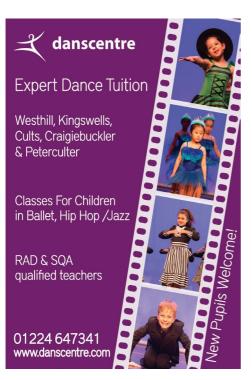


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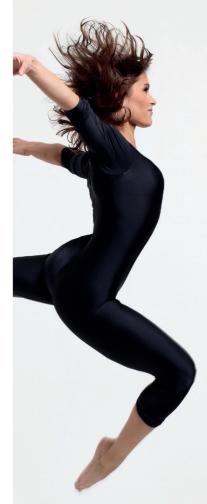
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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Ashdale Hall is looking forward to a busy December in the lead up to Christmas and the New Year. We are now taking bookings for next year and some months are filling up quickly. If you wish to book the Hall, please email Adrian the Facilities Manager for booking inquiries ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk. You can also book your children parties at the Hall, there is plenty of room for a bouncy castle indoors, great for winter parties!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st December - Westhill Christmas Market, 9am-1pm

1st December – Blackburn Dance Christmas Party

2nd December - Rotary Old Folks Dinner

2nd December – Blackburn Dance Christmas Party

7th December – WDASC Christmas Party

14th December – Monthly Tea Dance (monthly, every 2nd Friday)

14th December – RSCDS Dance 7pm–12am

21st December - Youth Life Cafe 7pm-10pm

24th December – Blackburn Dance Christmas Eve Dance

31st December - Blackburn Dance Hogmanay Dance

WESTHILL COMMUNITY MARKET (9am-1pm, 1st Saturday each month)

Our monthly Producers and Crafts Market is still held at the Hall and we continue to have our regular stallholders selling cakes, jams, blends of tea, local meats, sausages, pies, fresh veg, free-range eggs well as locally made organic body products, bespoke cards, crafts, jewellery and paintings. We also have a monthly community stall which can be booked free of charge. If your local project or group would like to book this stall, please email: ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

We really need the support of the community for the Market to be able to continue.

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 and food on offer.

HALL FACILITIES

The Hall hosts regular Dances, Family Ceilidhs, Dance Shows & Competitions, Parties, Wedding Receptions, Youth Orchestra Rehearsals & Concerts, Gigs and Scottish Nights, Wrestling, Comedy Nights. The Hall is also frequently used by various community groups and individuals for fundraising charity events. We also offer a wide programme of Martial Arts, 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-events (these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

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

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HOW YOU CAN HELP THE POLICE TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

I have been contacted on several occasions over the past couple of months by residents and councillors from Westhill and Elrick, concerned at ongoing vandalisms and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Youths climbing onto roofs of schools and other buildings, also problems at the children's playpark situated in the Westdyke area between Westdyke Terrace

and Broadstraik Avenue. It appears that over the summer holidays and more recently, youths have been congregating over the park later in the evenings which intimidates younger children who then feel it is time to go home.

After councillors alerted me that residents had contacted them about the position, I decided to visit the park to see it for myself. What I found proved to me that action needs to be taken.

I found broken glass on the grass near to the seating area where children gather, also evidence of drug abuse. Small plastic see through bags were on the ground with a smell of cannabis from within. There were cigarette ends everywhere, cans, bottles and other litter scattered around the area, all in all not what children should encounter at their local play park.

Whilst carrying out further checks, residents have approached me to tell of additional anti-social ongoing behaviour related to the park, some youths have been turning up in their cars later in the evening and parking on Westdyke Terrace at the entrance to the park, flashing headlights, sounding their horns, revving their engines and playing loud music.

Some youths have been throwing items at nearby houses and some cars are even being driven through the middle of the park. I have recently been made aware of a dog walker being intimidated by a youth when passing through the park.

I know the council have been asked to improve the lighting in the park – that will help, but we also need to build up a picture of what is going on.

To that end, I ask everyone in the area of the park to contact the Police directly, whilst we might not have a unit free there and then, you never know, one might be in the area and can get there quickly.

It is not acceptable for our children, residents or members of the community to be intimidated in this manner.

So, to sum up, please help us to eradicate the problem in this area; times, dates, car registration numbers, etc., is what we need so we can direct our patrols at the most effective times, when the anti-social problems are taking place.

Police Scotland are here to serve and protect our community. Additional patrols have been visiting the park during the evening and early hours, but I ask that if anyone has any information as to the identity of those involved, contact me on my own Police

Email address so I can do something about it – and I will.

Steven.Middleton@scotland.pnn.police.uk • www.scotland.police.uk

PC Steve Middleton

Westhill Golf Club

The 2018 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 14th time and our new Gents Club Champion Kevin Duthie.

Another successful Junior programme has been completed culminating in their own section presentation afternoon which will be held in the Clubhouse on Sunday 9th December. We now have over 100 hundred 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

This year we have received an increase in positive comments both from members and visitors re the condition of the course. This is a remarkable achievement considering the excessive temperatures earlier in the year where it was all about getting the grass to survive. We coped admirably and during mid-August the greens, ably assisted by a team of volunteers, got all putting surfaces hollow-cored, scarified, verti-cut, top-dressed and over-seeded. This work is essential in improving the surfaces and already you see the improvement with the increased amount of grass coverage we have heading into the winter months. We have in place a winter programme with inclusion of such projects as re-shaping various bunkers as well the normal day-to-day duties.



8th green looking back up the fairway

During September we held our first ever Ladies Tipsy Tea party. What a great afternoon with over 40 Ladies entertained by DJ Alex Lovie of Big Day Entertainments. A resounding success with the second one arranged for Saturday March 23rd 2019. DJ Alex will return to the club before then as he will be "spinning the discs" at our New Year Party on the afternoon of Saturday 5th January, 2.00pm-5.00pm.

As we near the end the year there is still various functions to be held at the club such as a Ladies Section Christmas Fayre, landmark birthday/anniversaries, theme dinners and Christmas parties. 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 2019. Should you join the club in March 2019 the £100 will be deducted from your 2019/20 subscription charge.

Lastly may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2019!!

George Bruce, Club Manager



A "Winter Warmer" on the remainder of season 2018/19!!

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Further information can be obtained by contacting George Bruce, Club Manager, 01224 743361 Option 1

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1st Skene Girls' Brigade

Our new session is well under way with all three sections having girls' this year. We have already started entering the Divisional Competitions and have been busy with badgework too. Marion Stewart, Deaconess, has been helping out with the Spiritual aspect.

We will be attending the Inverurie Panto once again in December, a highlight of our year.

We have no waiting list so if any girls from P1–S6 are interested please come along any Monday night in Trinity Church at 6pm to see what all we get up to.

Any further information required please come along on the night or call myself, Fiona Cumming (Captain) on 07792 471199.



SKENE MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT INFORMATION

Missed Appointments

With the increased pressure on GP and nurse appointments we would be grateful if you could call us to cancel any appointments which are no longer required. From August to October this year 726 appointments were lost due to patients not attending. Cancelling your unwanted appointment will allow us to offer it to another patient.



Oil and Gas UK Medicals

OIL&GASUK We are registered with Oil and Gas UK and trained to carry out OGUK offshore 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.

Vision Online

Our Vision Online service has been migrated to a new patient service website, you will be redirected to the new site and will still be able to log-in using your original details, you may be asked to reset your password if it doesn't meet the security criteria. Vision Online allows you to make routine GP appointments and order a repeat prescription. Collect a registration form from the Practice or email us at skene.administrator@nhs. net.

Prescription Requests

Please allow at least 2 complete working days before collecting your prescription from the surgery or allow 4 complete working days before you can expect your prescription to be ready for collection from the pharmacy.



Results and Communication from the Practice

Please allow 48 hours before contacting the surgery for results of any blood tests. urine tests, etc., which you have had done at the following times **only**: 11.00-12.30 or 1.30-4.00

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.

Please make sure we have the correct contact number for you.

The Physio says – reflect and plan

As the year comes to an end, it can be a time to reflect on what has gone before. I usually write an annual letter to old friends far away, telling them what I've been up to in the last year. I look forward to getting similar letters in return. The New Year comes, and that's when we wonder what this coming year will hold. For me, I know there will be two family weddings to go to, and there might be a holiday in there too. But other than that, what do I want to achieve? I'll be thinking about that too. Are you someone who likes to have everything planned well ahead, or do you live in the present, leaving it up to fate to determine what you'll be doing in a month, a year or even five years' time?

As a physio, I am the sum total of all the training and experience I've had in the past. I reflect on each course I do, and shape the way I treat patients to benefit them accordingly. I'm by no means unique, every health professional does the same. Setting goals and planning ahead is an essential part of any treatment plan. This can seem alien to some patients though, if they're of the 'leave it to fate' inclination.

A gentleman came to see me about a painful knee. He had retired a few years before, without having a plan of what he would spend his time doing. Having had an active, manual job, he had become rather sedentary. As a result he had become quite unfit, had gained weight, and been diagnosed with high blood pressure. Besides treating his knee in the clinic, I helped him set out realistic, achievable goals over a set time-scale. In the weeks following, he would have a plan of exercises, to be reviewed and progressed at his next visit. What I also asked him to do however, was consider what he wanted for his longer-term future. Maintaining a good quality of life for his, hopefully, many years of retirement, would mean working at improving his general health. This was something he really hadn't thought about. He wanted to be fit enough to kick a ball about with his grandchildren. I made some suggestions, and when I next saw him, he was full of his own plans, and it was as if he had a new lease of life. Yes, he had some way to go in losing weight and getting fitter, but he had set himself a target and made a start.

Younger patients with perhaps a sports injury are often more used to goal-setting. It might be a 10km run, or even a marathon they're aiming for. Often they've already found guidance on the internet or from a trainer at the gym, in planning their regime week by week until the event. Experience of past injuries and training will help them plan ahead for the next challenge. It's good to hear how motivated some people are.

As the New Year approaches, it can be very helpful to reflect and learn from what you've experienced, but also think about what you want to achieve in 2019, and set yourself some goals. Planning ahead and then achieving what you set out to do is a most satisfying exercise. Have a healthy 2019.

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





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 benefit from some help from the foodbank please contact: Tel: 07379 836380 or email foodbank@westhillcommunitychurch.org.

Craft Fair

Saturday 8th December

10am-3pm

www.facebook.com/ rightonyourdoorstepevents/



Street Café

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

Come hang out with us! Upcoming dates: 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 of chocolate, video games on big screens, pool, table tennis and more! It

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.





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.

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2018

Sunday 2nd - Advent All Age Service - 10.30am

Sunday 9th – Holy Communion – 10.30am • Café Church – 7.00pm

Sunday 16th - Morning Service - 10.30am • Christingle Service - 6.00pm

Sunday 23rd - Nativity Service - 10.30am

Christmas Eve - Family Service - 4.00pm • Midnight Communion - 11.00pm

Christmas Day - For all the Family - 10.30am

Sunday 30th - Promised Blessings - 10.30am



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

WESTHILL OPEN AWARD GROUP

Contact Katie, Paul 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:

BRONZE: Freddie Bradshaw, Ieuan Harries, Amy Leith, Adam Scott, Duncan Will

SILVER: Emma Coull, Mia Mackenzie, Reece Menzies

GOLD: Rachel Black Floise Docea

And welcome to our newly enrolled participants! Enrolment for our 12th year has 6 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*.

Varapunya Meditation Centre

Located on the edge of Westhill and Kingswells, the Varapunya Meditation Centre is a place to learn and practice Buddhist meditation. This is a skill by which we learn to understand our own troubled minds and how to deal with the troubled mind peacefully. We offer mindfulness meditation classes and short day retreats. We do not charge and rely entirely on gifts, grants and donations.



During the spring and summer, we have planted several thousand trees and other plants in one of our fields, creating a contemplative woodland. They were supplied to us by the Solstice group in Aberdeen. The majority of the trees are 'avatar' trees (cuttings) of those that were destroyed in the AWPR, seeds from Union Terrace Garden and around city and shire area. In May, we had a wonderful Mindful Walk in our woodland, which we will have again in 2019 – watch out for this on our web site! You are most welcome to attend. We also have a second field for which we having planning permission as a 'meditation garden'.

Our guided meditation classes are open to all. This year we have also started a children's day, for learning Buddhist teaching and practice every last Sunday of the month. And, beginning in 2019, we intend to offer Wednesday lunchtime guided meditation instruction and practice for anyone who wishes to have a mindful lunchtime experience!

Our outreach work has increased this year. In collaboration with the NHS and ACC, we have offered sessions for learning mindfulness meditation practice at the Aberdeen Health Village. These are on the last Monday of most months – 11am to 1pm – for the general public and NHS and Council staff. From this we have developed a 6 week class and successfully ran two of these classes this year. We expect to run a third early in 2019. If you are interested in these classes do let us know. Similarly, we have extended various outreach activity across Aberdeen and other local communities, offering talks and meditation events.

Meanwhile, the monk(s) go on a traditional alms-round in Aberdeen City on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and in Westhill on Fridays. It is a Buddhist tradition that monks go on these alms-rounds, providing an opportunity for people to 'learn to give' and also a form of giving spiritual care. The practice of 'generosity' or 'giving' is a very important quality in Buddhism – giving time, effort, support, kindness, compassion, not just material things!

Regular Classes at the Centre:

Tuesday 7-9pm - On-going meditation session

Wednesday 12.30-1.30pm - Lunchtime meditation

Wednesday 7-9pm - Meditation for beginners

Thursday 7–9pm – Buddhist Studies (for those who register)

Weekends 10-11am - Saturday and Sunday meditation sessions

Last Sunday of the month – Buddhist Sunday School for children

You are most welcome to come and see the Centre, walk around, attend classes and learn the skill of mindfulness meditation. For more information please visit: www.varapunyabuddhistsociety. org.

With kindness

Ajahn Sujano, Abbot of Varapunya Meditation Centre

Westhill Services



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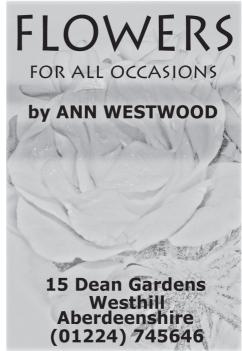
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This summer term the Bagheera Cub Pack were busy working on two great badges, their Environmental Conservation badge and the Equestrian badge. For environmental conservation, they learned all about recycling, renewable energy, made bird boxes to hang near the Scout hall and held a 'litter pick' in the local area with equipment kindly loaned from the Westhill and Elrick community council.

They also visited the Hayfield Equestrian Centre, for an incredible evening of learning and experience. They heard all about how to care for a horse, the equipment used and were expert groomers by the end of the night. Then they mounted their trusty steeds, and made short work of learning some simple manoeuvres on these majestic beasts. Thank you to all the staff at Hayfield for making the cubs so welcome!

During the Summer many were attracted to the International Scout Jamborette at Blair Atholl, Perthshire. Three of our Explorers had been selected to participate in this 21 nation event with 1200 young people attending. Also our Scout Troops were lucky enough to join the event as weekend "Satellite" campers. The visitor's day on 21st July attracted many Scouting families, and our Cubs from Lyne of Skene enjoyed being part of a day bus trip to the camp with the rest of the selected District Cubs. We met Scouts from Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Sweden and the Explorer Unit we visited in Iceland in 2017.

In September our formal AGM was quickly completed, before an excellent set of displays, reports and



sketches from the Young People. Acting District Commissioner Stewart Moore presented top Awards to Explorer Jonathan Reeks, and Scouts Jared Teismann. All ten sections offered a mix of displays of their recent work, prepared videos of their reviews of last year, including "Baby Shark" covers with new scouting words! A most entertaining and enjoyable show.

Our next big family event will be "Soup 'N' Santa" on Saturday 24th November.

Contact Us: Group Scout Leader Chris – 01224 746773

Join Us: Waiting List – Jackie Poppleton – jacq.pop@gmail.com

Scout Hall bookings on westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk.



Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Sadly our wonderful summer is now a mere memory but Westhill Walkers will continue to walk throughout the winter days though there will only be one walk on offer each Sunday.

We have had a busy end to the summer. In addition to our regular walks a few of the group spent the night in a bothy by Loch Callater. A larger group had a rather more conventional weekend at the Highland Hotel in Strathpeffer. The weather was variable but everybody managed to get some walks in. A few hardy souls even managed to scale Ben Wyvis in the snow. The rest of us chose lower level walks and stayed drier. A great time was had by all.

The main social event recently has been the 30th anniversary which we celebrated with a dinner at Westhill Golf Club. The cake was cut by one of our oldest (in membership years) and one of our newest members. Many thanks to George Bruce for his excellent meal and attentive staff and to Tracey Berry of Flower B for the magnificent floral arrangements.

We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year and in summer we have a choice of walks on most days to cater for a wider range of abilities. In addition to our walks we have a variety of social events throughout the year and several weekends away to give us the opportunity to walk in new areas.

Why not join us? No need to be a resident of Westhill and you are free to try a couple of walks with us before you join the club. There are no restrictions on age or ability. Dogs are welcome with the proviso that the owner keeps them under control at all times.

For more information see our website at *westhillwalkers.wordpress.com* 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 25th Nov 08.30	Clachnaben via Mount Shade and Charr Bothy 14km A circular route via the tops of Mount Shade, Clachnaben and Edendocher.			
Sunday 9th Dec 09.00	Bennachie Tops 8km A winter round of the Bennachie tops from Rowantree car park.			
Wednesday 26th Dec 10.00	Boxing Day Walk A change from our usual walk along the prom with a circular walk along the River Don from Seaton Park to Grandholm Bridge and back via Tillydrone. Coffee stop at Tesco. We will meet at Seaton Park at 10am – absolutely everybody is welcome to join us for some fresh air, exercise and good company.			



WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MFN'S SHFD

make friends, share interests and help our community

What's Happening at the Shed?

As we approach Christmas, the Shed is as busy as ever, with a steady stream of commissioned projects from the local community, as well as our annual production of festive reindeers, a few of which are pictured below. We have been amazed at the response received to our reindeer by local residents. They are so popular, we had to close the order book after just two days, having taken hundreds of requests! Thanks to all those who were quick enough to secure their reindeer; our elves are beavering away in the workshop to ensure they'll all be ready on time.

New Activities

Alongside our well-established model railway and bridge groups, as well as woodworking and engineering projects in the workshop, we have recently established a couple of exciting new activities at the Shed. Our guitar group meets on a Wednesday evening for a jam session, while our electronics group meets on Monday mornings, and are currently looking at programming Raspberry Pi computers (a simple single-board computer). As with all Shed activities, these groups are open to all men, of whatever ability, so if you would like to learn a new



A small number of the very large herd of reindeers we are making this year.

skill and have fun, you are welcome to come along.

*****END OF YEAR SALE*****

OUR NEXT TOOL SALE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER. FROM 10:00AM TO 2:00PM. AT THE SHED ITSELF

At this event, we will be selling a variety of refurbished and safety-tested DIY and gardening tools and machinery (strimmers, lawnmowers, hedge clippers, etc.) at excellent prices, so if you are looking for a bargain, feel free to drop in for a browse. If you cannot make it on the day, you can drop into the Shed whenever we are open to see what we have to offer.

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, have a coffee and look around? 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

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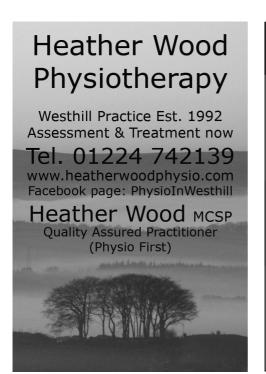
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Alison Donaldson BAcc CA

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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

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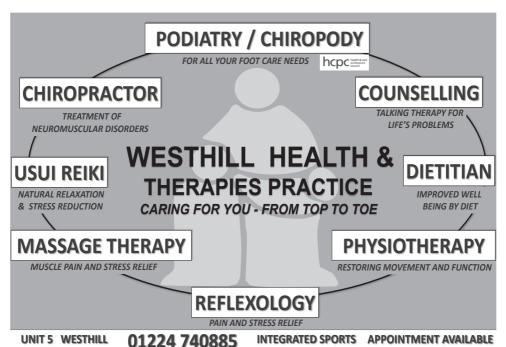
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INJURY CLINIC

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Westhill Fish Frier Shortlisted in National Fish and Chip Awards

A Westhill fish frier has been shortlisted in a national competition.

Alex Walker of Lows Traditional Fish and Chips in Westhill was named best in Scotland in the Drywite Young Fish Frier of the Year Competition, part of the National Fish and Chip Awards.

The 22 year old is part of the shortlist for the title, and will be going head to head with five other candidates across the UK. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in January

Lows Traditional Fish and Chips was also recently recognised as best in Scotland.



Congratulating Lows Traditional Fish & Chips on their recent awards: Chika Edeh (chair of WECC), Alex Walker, Cllr Ron McKail (deputy Lord Provost), David Low. Cllr Alistair McKelvie

Local Development Plan

Over the next few years Aberdeenshire Council will be developing its 2021 Local Development Plan.

What is a Local Development Plan?

A Local Development Plan (referred to as a LDP) is required for each of the Council areas in Scotland and the current Aberdeenshire LDP was adopted in 2017. These plans allocate sites that can be developed for housing, employment/business requirements or sites that are to be protected; it also includes the policies that guide decisions on determining all planning applications. LDPs have to be adopted within five years of the last Plan being approved.

Preparation for a LDP

Aberdeenshire Council called for Sites from January to March 2018; this is where developers, landowners and agents can put forward their bids for future developments in Aberdeenshire, i.e. houses, employment/businesses. This year the Council received over 500 bids and these were then broken down into area bids, i.e. Westhill and Elrick, Kirkton of Skene, Echt, etc.

These bids were then assessed by the Council Planning team and at this stage representatives from the various community councils in the Garioch area were asked to comment and raise any concerns that they had on the bids submitted; WECC represented the Westhill and Elrick area. This assessment forms the basis for the Main Issues Report (referred to as MIR) which is the first stage of the LDP process. This report will identify the areas for new housing and business development plus any changes that will be needed to be made to the local infrastructure.

There will be a public consultation on the MIR report from January to April 2019 and it is at this stage that local residents will be asked for their comments on the reports findings to enable Aberdeenshire Council to draw up a proposed Aberdeenshire LDP later on in the year. It is important that WECC have an input from local residents to be able to express their views about how they would like to see Westhill and Elrick developing in the future.

WECC will be notifying local residents at the start of this consultation process on its website www.westhillelrick.org and on its Facebook page https://en-bb.facebook.com/westhillandelrick

Diane Priestley, for WECC

New Leisure Club Manager - Kyle Taylor

Having come to a point in my career where I needed a bigger challenge and a role to get passionate about, Village Gym Aberdeen was the right choice.

Village Gym is a cutting-edge health club located on the stunning business park of Prime Four, Kingswells. A modern health club environment with an ethos of constantly pushing fitness boundaries and helping people to achieve their goals. The culture of the business is one dedicated to the wellness of both members and staff. The team are not only focussed on first class services, they are friendly, efficient and highly knowledgeable in the fitness sector.

Having begun my career in football coaching, I decided to pursue a different path as a fitness instructor and personal trainer. This led me to my first full time post at Living Well Health Club Aberdeen. After a 7 year career that saw me progress to management level, I felt a change was needed to challenge myself.

I have no doubt that moving here was the right choice and I look forward to working to drive this club to the next level for both current and future members. I put an emphasis on making my place of work the most welcoming and enjoyable club around and I look forward to welcoming you to Village Gym Aberdeen.



VILLAGE GYM



For any membership enquiries or to book a tour visit www.villagegym.co.uk.

Village Hotel Aberdeen, Prime Four, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8PJ

Westhill in Bloom Winners

Thanks to all the local gardeners who entered the 2018 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 – Ian McAllan **Highly Commended:** Pat & George Low, Mr & Mrs Taylor, Alan Fraser, Kathleen Lawrie, Mary & Jim Yule

Best Back Garden: 1st – Pat & George Low, 2nd – Alan Crane **Highly Commended:** Moira Munro, Ian McAllan, George Murray

Best Containers: 1st – Ian McAllan, 2nd – Hazel Davidson

Highly Commended: Westhill Wednesdays Group at Community Church

Best Communal Space/Street: 1st – Clover Meadows, 2nd – Trinity Church

Overall Winner: Ian McAllan

Each category winner received a trophy and a gift voucher and 2nd place received a gift voucher.





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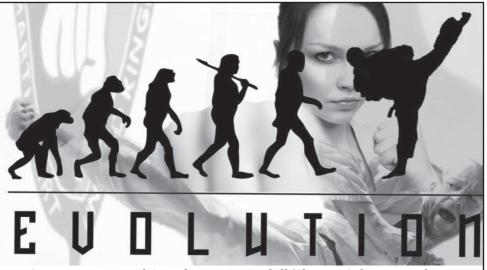
- · Developing knowledge, skills, confidence and resilience
- · Supporting participation in local communities
- Supporting parents to achieve the best outcomes for their children
- Supporting achievement of accredited learning e.g. SQA qualifications

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This information will be processed in accordance with the CLD Adult Learning courses privacy notice.

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Tel No: 01224 740089 or email ann.bothwell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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E mail: Dbmartialarts28@gmail.com



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Westhill & District Senior Citizens Group

We restarted our year on Thursday 6th September with a Group of Singers "In the Mood" – we had a lovely afternoon with singing, maracas and even a few up dancing! It's great to see so many people come along – we've had around 40 coming every fortnight to our meetings.

On 20th September we had "Songbook Melodies". We had a very lively afternoon with lots of singing and waving of ribbons and maracas.



On 4th October we were entertained by Andy Smith and Bill Clark. Doric poems and mouth Organ. Also saw some lovely photographs from Chris Smith and Bruce Christie who are members of the local Camera Club.

We had Inverurie Concert Band on 18th October, Speyside Owls on 1st November, Inverurie Glee Club on 15th November and will have a demo of Scottish Country Dancing on 29th November.

Our Christmas Lunch is booked for Thursday 13th December in the Holiday Inn.

Our Group meets every alternate Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church. Open to those age 55 years and over. We have entertainment for around an hour then tea/coffee with biscuits/cakes.

Cost is £3 per session for refreshments and a once off £6 annual subscription.

Contact Heather Cook for further information. Telephone 01224 741194 heathercook@ tiscali co.uk

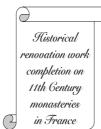


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Rotary Out and About



As we move towards the year end we can look back on another busy and successful year of fund raising and are delighted that we have raised and donated over £20,000 to various charities. Some of the local charities we have supported include SensationALL; Westhill Buddies; the Senior Citizen Christmas Party; Sue Ryder; Pitscurry Day Activities Centre; ARI Roof Garden; and our major project for the year the RACH Holmia

Children's Fund.

Our President Les May is seen here presenting a cheque to Dr Chris Scott from the Holmia Fund, who are seeking to raise funds to purchase a vital piece of equipment used to assess the eyes of babies born prematurely. This provides a detailed diagnostic tool for identifying a wide range of potential problems at an early stage.

In September we saw the installation of a Public Access Defibrillator at the shopping centre. This was a joint project between Rotary, St Johns Scotland and Kingswells First Responders which provides a life-saving device for use in emergencies if someone suffers a cardiac arrest. Plans are in place to provide additional defibrillators in Westhill and Skene.



Our youth services donations include our regular support for Kids Out, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards; Dictionaries for Life; Adventures in Tourism and the various youth quizzes, Young Speaker and Young Musician competitions.

We also keep our minds open to troubles across the wider national and international communities and have made donations to Alzheimers Scotland, Sight Savers, Chernobyl Lifeline, Sand Dams; Gathimba Edwards Foundation; Shelter Box and Rotary Foundation.

October saw the Rotary End Polio day as we celebrated the work done in getting very close to eliminating this devastating disease from the planet.

Whilst we have been busy supporting various charities we have also enjoyed ourselves in further fundraising with a Last Night of the Proms event at the Ashdale Hall attracting 120 guests. They enjoyed a super curry dinner and a great evening of singing, patriotism and fun whilst raising around £1,800 on the night.

Recent social events included our annual Hackers Golf Day and a district games competition, at which our teams have a regular record of finishing second. We have also arranged outside visits to the Garioch Heritage Centre and the local Robertson Granite factory, where we were made particularly welcome.

After a number of years we have moved our regular meeting place back into the heart of the community and now meet every Thursday evening at the Holiday Inn Westhill. We have settled in well and the location and ambiance have brought a fresh injection of enthusiasm to our meetings as well as a few prospective new members. If you are interested in finding out more about what we do then please see our advert on page 31 and get in touch to arrange for a visit to one of our meetings.

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 £15 per day for 1 to 2 days, then £5 per day for each additional day, or £45 for one week. Transportation available at £10 each way.

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

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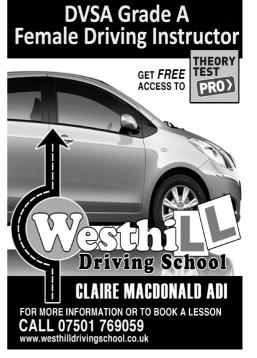


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Mini-Kindergym

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

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

Indoor Bowling

For both beginners and experienced players.

Monday: 1.30-3.00

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

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Westdyke Community Club, Pilates, Yoga, AFC, Sooyang Do Martial Art, GCRA, Brazilian Football, Men's Indoor Football

DENMAN PLAYGROUP

Monday-Friday: 9.15-12.25 Age 2.5-4 years
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Aberdeenshire Council	
All Enquiries	
50+	
Adult Education Classes.	
Air Training Corps	01224 708807
Ardene House Vets	01224 740700
Ashdale Hall	01224 740137
Boys' Brigade	01224 742262
Childcare	
Breakfast Club	01224 740089
After School Club	01224 740089
Holiday Club	01224 740089
Schools Out Club	
(Old School House)	01224 465202
Church of Scotland Minist	
Citizens Advice Bureau	01224 747714
Community Centre	01224 740089
Community Education	
Community Mini-bus	
Dentists' Surgery	
Abercrombie Dental Pra	ctice,
NHS – Abercrombie Cou	urt,
Prospect Road	01224 745447
Business, Private –	
Ashdale Drive	01224 742513
Westhill Dental Practice	,
Old Skene Road	01224 741339
Arnhall Practice	01224 849484
Doctors' Surgery	01224 849400
Results	
Repeat Prescriptions	01224 849393
Electricity Emergency	0800 300999
Gardening Club	01224 742639
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Golf Club (Pro)	01224 740159
Girls' Brigade, 1st Skene	07792 471199
Girl Guides	01224 747741
Lawsondale Pavilion	01224 742836
Library	01224 472871
Nursery	
Bridges	01224 744741
Childcare Info	0800 2983330
Kindergym	01224 740089

Mother & Toddlers Groups		
Community Wing	01224	740089
Westdyke Leisure Centre		
Playgroups		
Scout Hall	01224	742059
Skene		
Denman		
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Shops		
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Surgery		
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Post Office (Shops)		
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Crombie	01224	740900
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Skene		
Westhill		
Secondary School, Academy.		
Scouts		
Social Work Department		
Squash & Fitness		
Peter Nicol Centre	01224	742329
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Tennis Club		
Trinity Church		
Veterinary, Town & Country		
Water Authority		
Westdyke Leisure Centre		
Westhill Bowling Club		
Westhill Community Church		

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westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

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