

Westhill Bulletin

Spring 2019
Issue 157



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CONTENTS

Chairpersons Report & LDP Events	3	Skene Heritage Society	30
History of Westhill	4	Ashdale Hall	63
Gardening Club	5	Police Report	64
Gateway Art Project	5	Golf Club	65
Cllr Iris Walker	8	Girls Brigade	66
Cllr David Aitchison	9	Skene Medical Group – Patient Info	66
Cllr Ron McKail	11	The Physio says	67
Bill's Gardening Corner	12	Community Church	68
Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene	12	Open Award Group D of E	69
Litter in Westhill	13	Scouting	70
JogScotland Westhill	15	Westhill Walkers	73
Donations from the Community Council	18	Dog Fouling Initiative	74
SensationALL	18	Round Table	74
First Responders	22	Men's Shed	75
Westhill Music	22	Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust	80
Tennis Club	23	Dunecht Conservation Area	81
Macmillan Cancer Support	24	Craft Club	81
Vinespring Church	24	Learning Café	82
Citizens Advice Bureau	25	Senior Citizens Club	86
Skene Parish Church	26	Pam Dignan Dancers	86
Community Sports Hub	27	Language Café	87
Amateur Swimming Club	27	Photography Club	87
Girl Guiding	28	Rotary Club	88
Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club	28		
Library News	30		

See also Notices list on the next page and
Adverts Index on page 92

SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

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

Adverts and articles for the summer issue should be sent in by **Monday 29th April**, for distribution in the last week of May.

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.

NOTICES

Westhill Walking to Health	6	Banking Services in Westhill	25
Household Waste & Recycling Centre	7	Scaffold Tower Hire	88
Library Opening Times	7	Westdyke Leisure Centre	90
Lions Club Book Sales	7	Useful Numbers.....	91
Westhill Service Point.....	7	Advertisers Index.....	92
Young Drivers Pass Plus Course Grant	22		

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Kate Lumsden
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Raymond Swaffield
John Thornton

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

The agenda is placed in the noticeboard near Co-op a week before the meeting
and posted on the Westhill website www.westhillelrick.org



Chairperson's Report

Welcome to 2019. The Christmas holiday season is over, and the New Year has started in earnest. And while we were spared the snow over December, we have had a few showers in January, with more anticipated as February rolls along. I encourage everyone to make adequate preparations for snow. It could also be a good time to consider signing up to be a Snow Warden, supporting people in the community who may struggle to clear their driveways. See <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/winter-maintenance/#selfhelp>.

On 8th December I was pleased to see many people turn up at the Shopping Centre to witness the lighting of the Westhill Christmas tree in an atmosphere of festive joy and delight. We would like to thank everyone who managed to attend. Such community participation is one thing we desire to see more of in the future. It is in line with our vision of making WECC more Representative, Responsive and Resilient. We have tried to provide more structure to our activities through the various subgroups created towards the end of 2018 to encourage greater participation by all members and the community. We are also looking to revamp our website, with a view to reaching a wider demographic, particularly our younger population. We will continue to encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings and to visit our website and facebook page for updates, and to provide us with helpful feedback. WECC is here to serve you, and we need you to let us know how we could do that better.

In the coming weeks, there are two events around the proposed Local Development Plan, to which all are invited to participate. Please see details below for more information.

I am also delighted to announce that our Projects subgroup led by Kate Lumsden is on course to see the fruits of their labour! Westhill 'Gateway Sculpture' is scheduled to be unveiled on Saturday 11th May at 2pm. We would like to thank Kate, her team, and everyone who has supported WECC in seeing this project brought to completion. Please see page 5 for more details.

Chika Edeh, WECC Chair
Email weccchair@gmail.com

Have Your Say on the Future of Westhill!

Westhill and Elrick Community Council are notifying local residents of a couple of events that will give them the opportunity to have their say on the future of Westhill.

Aberdeenshire Council have now published their **Main Issues Report** which is the first stage of the **Local Development Plan 2021** and have organised a drop in event **on Thursday 21st February from 12.30pm to 7.00pm** at the **Westhill Holiday Inn**; this event will give Westhill and Elrick residents the opportunity to speak to Planning Officers about their concerns regarding any future housing and employment developments within the area.

The Main Issues Report can be accessed at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/ldp-2021/main-issues-report or at Westhill Library.

Westhill and Elrick Community Council have organised an additional follow up evening public meeting for residents to be held on **Wednesday 6th March at the Westhill Holiday Inn** starting at **7.30pm** to discuss any concerns that they have about the proposed Local Development Plan and the Main Issues Report.

HISTORY OF WESTHILL – 1960s and 1970s

On 11th May 2019 the sculpture to commemorate 50 years since the start of Westhill being developed into a small town is being unveiled. In the Bulletin this year we will publish a series of brief articles on that 50 years of history, starting with the 1960s and 70s .

The name Westhill dates back to 1859 when John Anderson from Strichen bought the two neighbouring estates of **Wester** Kinmundy and **Blackhills**. In the early 1960s Westhill was still a tiny hamlet of Skene, with fewer than 100 residents, mainly living in a few small farms and crofts.

It was local solicitor Ronald Dean who proposed in 1963 that the expanse of fields might support something other than crops and livestock. With the backing of the former Aberdeen District Council and the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the financial support of the Ashdale Land and Property Company, he sowed the seeds of a new settlement...

The first of the new builds, from the Persley Development Company, appeared in the autumn of 1968 in Arnhall Crescent. In 1971 the population was close to five hundred; ten years later it would be nearer 5,000. Westhill was proving a magnet for young families determined to get on the property ladder, an influx accelerated by the oil boom.

Community spirit was quickly evident with the formation of the Westhill and District Residents Association in 1972. Part of the driver was a lack of amenities; the growth of housing had outstripped the provision of retail, recreational and social facilities. Transport pressures saw major road works in January 1973 with realignment of what is now Old Skene Road and Westhill Drive. That year community infrastructure was delivered, a pre-fabricated Ashdale Hall on the site of the current Hall; a site (albeit temporary) for a Royal Bank of Scotland; and a health clinic next to Denman Park.

Westhill Primary School, the first of three primary schools, came in 1974. The golf course and Westhill Inn opened in 1976; the same year the first industrial land was occupied, just 1.5 acres taken by Kingswells Body Builders. Westhill Academy opened in 1979 and Denman Park was established in the same year.

Shops in Westhill started with Berriedale, run by the Kinghorn family from 1959 mainly as a newsagent, with a Post Office added in 1976. A VG store was built opposite Berriedale in the building that is now Bridges Nursery. That was the first new shop until the first phase of Westhill Shopping Centre with eight shops and offices above was completed in 1980.

By end of the 1970s, Westhill, the town, had arrived. It was described as the Garden



Suburb of Aberdeen city. It would have lots of open spaces, landscaping and pedestrian walkways and play areas to cater for the young families which would predominate the scene for a long time to come.

Westhill under construction around 1970/71

Westhill and District Gardening Club

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

Future dates and topics for your diary are:

20th February – Rachel Reid from Kinross Recycling will give a talk on composting

20th March – Mike Hopkins from the Aberdeen Alpine & Rock Society will give a talk entitled 'Spanish Fiesta' and will also judge the Members Annual Bulb Competition

17th April – Wendy Suttar will give a presentation on 'Cove in Bloom'

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 – not long now!

The Gateway Sculpture, celebrating 50 years of Westhill, is on track to be unveiled on Saturday 11th May at 2pm. We have ironed out all our landscaping problems and you will see the mound, which includes the foundations, appearing on site very soon.

We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Library with memories and photos of the last 50 years. If any residents, young or old, have anything we could include in this, please contact us. We are also hoping that we can get in touch with anyone who remembers the old crofts on land that Westhill was built on.

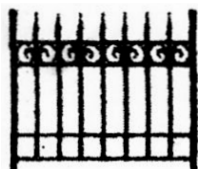
Kate Lumsden, Team Leader,

01224 742212 katelumsden@btinternet.com

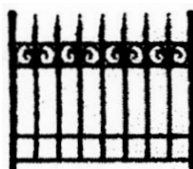
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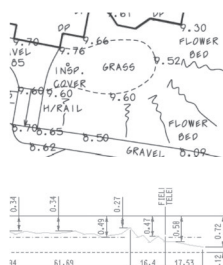
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- Making payments for council tax or housing rent
- Reporting potholes, street lighting faults or winter maintenance
- Reporting missed bin collections, checking collection dates or ordering new bins
- National Entitlement Card applications for Young Scot or Over 60s
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Councillor Iris Walker (Westhill & District)

Live Life Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire's sports and cultural services are now operated by Live Life Aberdeenshire on behalf of the council. This is a new approach to delivering services including libraries, museums, arts development, sport programmes and development, community sport hubs, leisure and sports facilities and support to clubs and grants. To coincide with the launch of Live Life Aberdeenshire, local venues showcased events during the last weekend in January with Westhill Swimming pool hosting a raft of free classes, Westhill Academy pupils providing acoustic entertainment in Westhill Library, with the weekend rounded off by the Westhill Duathlon. Well done to all those who took part and thanks to the sports and culture staff who organised and managed the extensive programme across Aberdeenshire. To find out more about Live Life Aberdeenshire, go to www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk.

Local Development Plan

The public consultation for the Main Issues Report is now open and individuals can submit their comments on what is essentially at this time, the views of planning officers, on the separately submitted bids for development land around Westhill and District. You have until 8th April to say whether you agree or disagree with their views or want to add any additional comments to the Main Issues Report. Please see page 3 for details of two public events in Westhill that you can attend to find out more about the LDP. All the documents you need for the consultation are on the council website under Local Development Plan 2021 – Main Issues Report.

New Waste Collections

At the end of January, Aberdeenshire Council agreed a new waste collection regime, to be implemented in Spring 2020, rolling out slowly across Aberdeenshire so any teething problems can be addressed. Aberdeenshire Council is introducing a new system for dealing with our waste because change is needed.

The Scottish Government will ban all biodegradable waste from landfill after January 2021. At the moment it costs the council £119 per tonne to send waste to landfill while sending waste for recycling costs just £29 per tonne. Analysis shows that between **50-60%** of the contents of our 240 litre black landfill bins is recyclable. **30%** of what is in the landfill bin is food waste.

We should ask ourselves why are we sending so much valuable material to be buried in the ground instead of recycling it, be that glass, plastics, paper and card, garden and food waste or metals such as tins?

At present Aberdeenshire recycles just 44% of all household waste put out for collection. If we all taken a little more care and give a little more thought to how we separate these materials, we can drive that up to 70% which would make us the best in Scotland.

Every household has a weekly food waste collection already although some choose not to make use of it. Food waste is sent for composting and the compost is used in agriculture and horticulture. There is no need for any food waste to end up in the landfill bin.

I know some residents are concerned about not having space for an extra bin, but alternative arrangements will be available for people living in flats or with no space for wheelie bins, as they are now. For any household that has medical or other challenges, help and support will be available as it is at present.

We all need to be more thoughtful about how we throw stuff out. I hold my hands up to – very occasionally – cutting corners when time is tight, or when my mind is elsewhere and popping something in the landfill bin which doesn't really belong there. If you are being asked to be more thoughtful, I make a personal pledge here to do the same; taking more care is essential for the environment and at a time when council budgets are shrinking, it makes sound financial sense as well.

Farewell to PC Steve Middleton

I cannot let the chance go by without saying a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Westhill and District community to PC Steve Middleton who retired earlier this month from his role within the community policing team of Police Scotland, covering the Garioch area, including Westhill and its rural areas. Steve served ten years in the oil industry before joining the Police in 1989 as he wanted a more fulfilling career. He has been a tutor to twenty-eight probationers and has served in both the City and the Shire and spent four years in the "vice squad". I am told that his career highlight was a run-in with Billy Connolly in 1998. Steve had been passed a message from CCTV controllers that they suspected the driver of a posh Range Rover was dealing drugs on Market Street. After a brief chat, Billy gave an innocent explanation and Steve has lived off this story ever since! Steve became the Community Officer for Garioch three years ago. He has always been exceptionally helpful and a real community leader and we will all miss him in his official role, but look forward to seeing him around Westhill as a civilian!

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 December we saw the opening of the AWPR. This hugely significant improvement to the transport infrastructure of our region was eagerly awaited and has been welcomed by individuals and businesses in our community. From a purely personal point of view I have already benefited from reduced travelling times when making journeys to and from the central belt. I am sure many of you are also seeing the benefits when making similar journeys, to both north and south.

Travel from Westhill directly into Aberdeen was never likely to see immediate benefits compared with travel around the AWPR. I have been contacted with concerns about travel during peak times which is now affected by queueing at the South Kingswells roundabout as well as issues at other locations. There is no doubt that the new road has caused "knock on" effects and these were largely anticipated. What could not be predicted was the exact specific changes which would occur as motorists altered their behaviour and routes taken due to the AWPR.

A study of the changes in travel patterns caused by the AWPR will be undertaken by Nestrans the local transport partnership for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen. This widespread study of factors like new traffic flows and behaviours should enable the local authorities to take actions to further improve travel in and around our region. While it will take time for studies to be completed they will be invaluable when informing future decisions. I will pass on any updates on the progress of this work when I receive them.

I can be consulted at any time by telephone or email on any issue and also hold surgeries at Westhill Library on first Wednesday each month from 5.30 to 6pm.

My next 3 surgeries are 6th March, 1st May and 5th June.

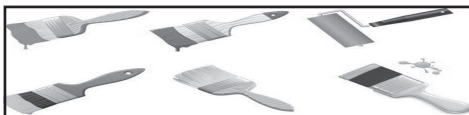
Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for a full list of dates.

Councillor David Aitchison

2 Fare Park Circle, Westhill, AB32 6WJ

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Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Charging Points for Electric Vehicles to be installed in Westhill

A good news item is that two 22kw charger points are to be installed at Westhill Library during the latter part of February. Installation is being carried out by SSE and these will be operational during early March.

Lawsondale Sports Centre awarded £10,000

A second good news item for Westhill is that the Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust has been awarded £10,000 from the Garioch Area Committee's Strategic Budget. The £10,000 which will be used for pitch landscaping and pavilion improvements will contribute to the overall project cost of £770,000. Congratulations to the Trust for their hard work on behalf of the Westhill community.

Car Parking Charges at Westhill Shopping Centre

The owners of the shopping centre gave notice several months ago that vehicles parking for over three hours would be fined £100, with a reduction if you pay the fine earlier. However from the emails I am receiving it is apparent not everyone is aware of these parking restrictions. While there is a sign at the entrance to the shopping centre warning of the parking policy it is positioned as you turn off Old Skene Road and with traffic coming from all directions it is extremely unlikely motorists are stopping to read the sign. For my part I have pointed this out to the site agents MJ Mapp, asking if they could either relocate the sign or provide another one which is more visible.

Council's Domestic Waste Collection Moves to Three Week Cycle

Aberdeenshire Council's waste strategy has been revamped with the intention to increase recycling rates and decrease the amount of household waste going into landfill. Dictating this policy is that from 2021 dumping our waste in landfill sites will cease. The alternative disposable for our household waste is a new 'energy from waste plant' (EfW) being built in Torry as a joint venture with Moray and Aberdeen councils. It will come on stream in 2021.

Why are these changes necessary?

On recycling our rate currently is some 43.7% with the target being 70%. If all householders complied with council policy we could achieve this figure. Regrettably some 50% (30,000 tonnes) of the non-recyclable waste in our black bins is recyclable, being made up with food waste and garden waste as well as materials which should have been placed in the blue bin. A positive change in householder behaviour as in 'put the right stuff in the right bin' could save £3 million. Landfilling of waste costs twice as much as recycling which reinforces the point that this is a saving of your and my taxes as well as benefiting the environment. Monies which could be used for other council services such as education, health and social care or repairing potholes.

What are the changes?

The Council's policy in order to protect the environment and make savings is to move to a three week kerbside collection cycle. The food caddy will be collected weekly.

Week 1 – Black bin for household waste. In the coming months a 180 litre bin will replace the current 240 litre black bin.

Week 2 – Blue bin for recycling, paper, card and cardboard.

Week 3 – A new bin will be provided for recycling metal, cartons and plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays.

Information on these changes will be promoted by the Council in the coming months.

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.



Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

We are continuing to raise money to create the new meeting / multifunction room and the extension and upgrading of the kitchen. Donations are appreciated for this cause.

Future Events: *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

SPRING 2019 – PREPARATION

Once the ground starts to get a bit warmer, then is the time to start preparing the garden for the planting of seeds and plants. Lightly rake out weeds, avoid disturbing resident bulbs and plants; if you have kept soil from grow-bags, now is the time to scatter it along your planting area to help improve the texture of the soil.

Preparing slug and snail traps with coffee grounds and crushed eggshells mixed and put around young plants is a good deterrent, as is a plastic cup half filled with beer and dug into the ground about two thirds up the cup and placed at intervals around the planting area (at least they will die happy!). Another deterrent is to put two rings of copper tape round flowerpots; if they get past the first one, the second one will do the job.

Happy gardening!

Bill Loudon

Litter in Westhill

It's a New Year and probably by now many of us will have already failed to keep to our resolutions! I would, however, ask you all to make a resolution that is not too difficult to stick to. Please, do not drop your litter and properly dispose of your dog poo. On page 74 in this Bulletin you will see that WECC are attempting to discourage the all too common practice of owners leaving dog mess on our paths and parks. I was recently shown a short poem that I feel encompasses the message we are making.

Be Ye Bairn, Man or Wuman,

Be Ye goin or be Ye cumin

For Scotland's Pride

No Scotland's shame

Gather yer dog poo and tak it hame.

If you could spare an hour on an occasional Saturday morning you also could help our group by joining our Litter Pick. We would like to extend the area we cover but can only do so if we can get more volunteers.

Our dates for Litter Picks in 2019 are:

16th March, 20th April, 18th May, 15th June, 20th July, 17th August, 21st September, 19th October, 16th November.

All picks start at 10:00 at the Westhill Tennis Court Car Park and last only one hour.

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

Going from strength to strength

So here we are in the second month of 2019 enjoying all the new enthusiasm that the new year brings to our popular little running group.

We kicked off January by launching our couch to 5k programme again. This ten week progressive programme is supervised by our team of qualified jogleaders. It is designed to get people of any ability up to the level of jogging 5k non stop. 35 excited people turned up to start (or restart) their running journey in the friendly and supportive environment of our local jogscotland group. Combined with our ever increasing regular runners this saw over 80 runners regularly pounding the streets and paths of Westhill on our twice weekly runs.

The club, supported by the Westhill & District Community Sport and Leisure Hub, has had a tremendous 2018. We have almost doubled our membership which is now in excess of 140, although some run more regularly than others, all our runners have had huge personal achievements. Running 5 and 10ks for the first time or getting new personal bests. Completing half and full marathons in the heat of the 2018 summer. As well as running or volunteering at the free, weekly park-runs both at Hazlehead and Aberdeen Beach on a regular basis. Our individual club runs totalled 2547, equated to over 50 discrete runs per week and it gets even more impressive when we think about just how far we've run, considering we only run around Westhill. In 2018 our three groups (Green, Red and Blue) covered a remarkable 13,294 miles.

With the group expanding so quickly, 2018 saw us train 6 new jogleaders to ensure that we can support every runner regardless of pace with their running journey. Our compliment of fully trained, enthusiastic and patient Jog Leaders have motivated all our new runners throughout 2018 to embrace a healthier and more active lifestyle through running.

Meeting every Monday and Thursday at Westhill Swimming Pool at 6.20pm, we begin our warm-up at 6.30pm. Our biggest group, the greens regularly run about 3.5 miles (6k), with our mid-paced group of Reds covering about over 4 miles (7k) in the same time. Our quickest Blue group run 5 miles (8k) during the post warm-up 45 minute sessions.

Although we've been pounding the streets for years, we held our 2nd AGM under the new governance model on Mon 4 February at the Holiday Inn Westhill. Our chair for the past couple of years, Leslie Murison stood down. The success of the group in 2018 is a credit to Leslie's enthusiasm for running and JogScotland Westhill and the committee and members are greatly appreciative of her efforts.

So, if you are reading this and keep finding an excuse not to join JogScotland – STOP IT!

Speed, size, gender – none of that matters – remember “FEAR” – Forget Everything And Run.



*2019 Couch to 5k group
with their leaders*

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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 £29,000 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 3rd May. Applicants must be voluntary organisations based or operating in Westhill, Elrick, Kirkton of Skene or Garlogie.

At November 2018 donations were made to Westhill Photography Club, Westhill Primary Lego Club, Tiffin Club, Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene Playgroup and Westhill Community Church.

Donation requests can be sent at any time to the WECC Treasurer by email to treasurerwecc@gmail.com 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.

Note the new treasurer email quoted in the winter issue was wrong. If you have sent an email to wecctreasurer@gmail.com in last few months, please resend it to treasurerwecc@gmail.com.

For more information, please contact: **David Ritchie, Treasurer, Westhill & Elrick Community Council, tel. 01224 744058.**



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Please follow us on

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for future craft shopping events.

Date for your diary....

Spring Fair Late Night Shopping Event

Thursday 21st March 2019

6.30pm – 9pm

Westhill Community Church,

Old Skene Road, Westhill

Hope to see you there!

Westhill & Kingswells First Responders



With Christmas and New Year passed for another year we begin to look forward to 2019 and set goals.

We are delighted to say that Michael Harper passed his exams and is now a qualified First Responder. Greig Scott is currently receiving his training and will be a fully fledged First Responder by the time this edition goes to print. We also have another 3 volunteers awaiting courses. We continue to seek new volunteers for our group as it allows us to provide more consistent cover for our area. If volunteering is something you would like to do why not consider Westhill & Kingswells Community First Responders? For further info please email: westhillkingswellscfrr@gmail.com.

Michael Harper has already signed himself up for an individual fundraiser for the group. Michael is walking/running or swimming 2019kms over the course of the year! If you would like to make a donation for Michael's efforts you can do so by looking up our Facebook page and you will find the link to the Justgiving page. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

We continue to provide free CPR and use of defibrillator awareness sessions in 2019. Lesley, Megan and Liam recently provided a session to the Westhill Gardening Club members and coming up we have a session with the Scouts. If your group or business would benefit from this free service do not hesitate to contact us on the above email address.

We were delighted to receive cheques for £300 from the BP ETAP Community and Charity Committee, and for £400 from the Westhill & Skene Lions Club. We would like to sincerely thank them for choosing our group to donate to.

For any upcoming events and group news you can follow us on our Facebook page.

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
COUNCIL



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

WESTHILL MUSIC

Westhill Music has been going for a year now! We have played a wide range of music – Scottish fiddle, blues, jazz, quartets, popular songs, music from musicals – none difficult but a pleasure to play – and to put our own stamp on them. There are only four players at the moment, and it would all sound richer and be more fun if two or three more people could join in. It doesn't matter if you are not expert with your instrument – neither are the rest of us! We meet at the Westhill Community Centre on Wednesday evenings (7.00pm to 9.30pm). Email Brian Priestley at westhillmusic@hotmail.com for further information – we need to have the music for your instrument – but why not give us a try!

Westhill Tennis Club

A new tennis season is just around the corner as spring draws nearer. We are all looking forward to another year of club nights, league matches, coaching and social events.

We will soon be taking membership applications for 2019–2020 and have once again frozen our prices to encourage new members to sign up.

Whether it's been many years since you last played, already play regularly, or you are completely new to tennis, Westhill Tennis Club will have something to offer you. Tennis is a great activity that can keep you in shape no matter what age you are.

We encourage anyone looking to join the club to get in touch ready for the new season starting on 1st April.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free use of floodlit courts for members through online booking system
- Social tennis evenings for adults on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm; Saturdays from 2.30pm
- Competitive tennis in the North District leagues, both men's and ladies' teams
- Opportunities to play in social leagues playing against other local clubs
- Coaching opportunities for all members and organised coaching sessions for minis and juniors from a qualified coach
- Entry to the Wimbledon ticket ballot
- Social events throughout the season

Our membership year runs from April to March but we welcome applications at any time. Please get in touch for more details or see our website.

Annual membership fees: Family: £150; Adult: £75; Student: £35; Juniors: £28 (11–17 years); Minis: £15 (10 or under on 31st March 2019).

If you are in a position to volunteer a couple of hours per month, then our committee could do with your help to support the club. Please get in touch for more details.

Non-members can also use the courts throughout the year with 'pay and play' bookings of £5 per hour available through the website.

The fees from members and non-members ensure that everyone using the club's facilities pays towards its maintenance and upkeep. This will help us fund the eventual resurfacing of the courts once they reach the end of their serviceable lifetime.

Contact

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub

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

In person: Monday evenings from 7pm (Adult Club Night)

Coaching: Vikki Paterson vikkipaterson@hotmail.com

Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

Our first event of 2019 was the Dunecht Burns Supper on Friday 25th January. This was a very successful and enjoyable Burns Supper, with very proficient speakers and entertainers, followed by a lively ceilidh. Thank you to all who took part in this evening and helped make it such a success. The total raised has still to be finalised.

As part of the Macmillan Mammoth Quiz the committee is hosting a quiz night on Friday 22nd February in the Lyne of Skene Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Entry is £2.50/person with a maximum of 6 per team, BYOB and nibbles. We hope to see you there.

In February the committee will meet to plan the year's fund raising activities.

The committee is very grateful to individuals who donate money to Macmillan, often raised through personal sponsored challenges, or collections at family celebration events. These donations, when passed to the local committee, can then be used for the benefit of patients and their families in our area. If you are holding such an event in 2019 and wish to donate money to Macmillan, then please get in touch.

If you would like to help at a Macmillan fund raising event, the committee would love to hear from you.

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

Kath MacBeath, tel. 01330 860226

VINESPRING CHURCH

Happy New Year!

After a rather busy festive season, at Vinespring Church we are delighted to welcome everyone to 2019! As the psalmist declared so do we: "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless his Holy name!". We are glad and grateful to witness yet another start to a new year, filled with hope and opportunities to see God at work in lives and communities all around us.

God has been good to us. If you looked closely you could find that the same is true for you also. Regardless of how the previous year may have ended, or the new year had started, it is never too late for Him to give anyone a testimony of His grace and mercy.

For us as a church, 2019 is our year of "Running with Horses". Yes, it may sound interesting and far fetched but by faith, we will be going forward in that direction. Taken from Jeremiah 12:5, we are determined to obey God and yield to the challenge. We are filled with great excitement and anticipation for all that God has in store for us and for our community.

For anyone out there who feels exhausted by life's challenges, or who may be coming to their wits end with various conflicting expectations or fears, Jesus still offers a more 'glorious ride' through this life than we could ever achieve on our own two feet alone. He did say that: "in this world you will have troubles; but in me you have peace". So, the invitation remains to one and all – to come.

Our weekly meetings continue as usual, every Sunday at The Holiday Inn by 11am (Sunday Service). More details at www.vinespringchurch.co.uk.

Every blessing...

Team Vinespring



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU South West Aberdeenshire

New Financial Health Check Service Launched

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 are providing a new service aimed at giving individuals and families a 'financial health check' to see if they are eligible for additional support that they may not know about.

Background

This new service is funded by the Scottish Government over the next two years and is one of the measures intended to address Child Poverty. The health check will cover eligibility for a range of issues such as access to free school meals, benefit uptake, council tax reduction and cheaper deals on energy and other utilities to reduce household costs. This service also provides personalised advice on money matters which will help people avoid paying more for essential goods and services.

The initiative is available to anyone who wants it, but there are certain groups who are encouraged in particular to contact the service. These include:

- *Lone parent families* • *Families which include a disabled adult or child* • *Larger families*
- *Minority ethnic families* • *Families with a child under one year old* • *Families where the mother is under 25 years of age* • *Older people and those approaching pension age*

The service will be available through a freephone telephone number 0800 085 7145 or in person at our office in Westhill, by calling 01224 747714 for an appointment. The financial health check involves a short confidential interview with a CAB adviser and is available free, like the rest of CAB services, to anyone who asks for it.

For more information, please call us at our bureau on 01224 747714, Suite 2, 1st Floor Offices, Westhill Shopping Centre, Old Skene Road, Westhill AB32 6RL.

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 (with debit card or personalised pay-in slip) 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 Saturday 9am to 5.30pm

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

“Year of Young People” Celebration Event – November 2018 at Trinity Church



This was an exceptional, well arranged and well supported celebration that recognised the efforts, courage, service and caring done by our local young people. The event, co-hosted between Skene Parish Church and Westhill Rotary, started with a keynote address by Sam Leys (formerly of The Prince’s Trust) who talked about perseverance, determination and will.

We had a range of awards, starting with our Young Carer being awarded to Miss Eleanor Cozens, who later performed for us as Rotary’s Young Musician of the Year 2016. Following this the Westhill Academy YoYP Effective Contributor was awarded to Oliver Watt (S2). There was an opportunity to hear from various young people, including representatives from the ATC, the Guides and the Scouts. We had a reflection from Rotary Young Speaker 2017 Mathew Doel and were delighted to bring a special video messages from the Olympian Tim Baillie MBE and from WCC Youth Pastor Daniel Ferguson.



The award for Rotary Young Citizen was presented to **Daniel Hay** by Inaugural President Bill Leslie. The evening then concluded with the Skene Parish – Young Heroes – Coping with Adversity Award. In fact, the judges had recommended three awards – which were made to **Alex Critchton** (<12yrs) **William Cozens** (12–18yrs) and **Greg McKay** (18–26yrs). Each winner and nominee were presented with a certificate and a prize on the evening.



SUPPORTING
year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

who were nominated. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the young people in our parish.

Our Hub Inspires an Active Community

Best Wishes to everyone in 2019 from the Westhill and District Community Sports Hub.

Details of the recently launched Ruth Boyd Bursary Fund are included below. Applications are being welcomed.

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 him 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 and 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, a grant of £500 was recently made to the Elrick PTA for outdoor activity equipment for early year's pupils.

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

It has been a busy few months for the swimmers attending a variety of different swimming meets across Scotland. Three of our swimmers competed in the Scottish National Short Course Championship in Edinburgh in December.

In December we held our Awards Evening, this annual family event celebrates all of our swimmer's achievements throughout the year and from our Club Champs meet in November. It's a great evening bringing all swimmers and their families together.

As usual we will be hosting our Invitational Meet in May and Minnows Meet in September and also 'Take the Plunge' will take place in June, for local primary schools, coinciding with Westhill Gala. Information for this event will come via your primary school.

If your child is in level 4, 5 or 6 with the 'Learn to Swim Programme' or reached this level and aged 7–10 years 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

So Christmas has been and gone and we are well into the New Year now. And that means that the bowling season is fast approaching its conclusion. Our club competitions are reaching the latter stages, with semis and finals right around the corner and our end of season Prize Giving Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 6th April.

Our Open Triples Tournament, held in November, was won by Jennifer, Fraser and Finlay Ross from Fetternear, defeating our home team of Amy Murray, Eric and Sarah Walker in a keenly contested final. We thank our sponsors for the tournament, Grampian Wills, Billy Fraser (Farrier), John Findlater (Blacksmith), Midcontinent (Aberdeen) Ltd and Garlogie Inn, all our club members who helped with the running of the tournament and all the players that took part, in helping to make the tournament what it is. Thanks again.

Our club has also had success in open tournaments held throughout the North East this season, winning at Old Rayne, Daviot, Garioch Indoor Bowling Centre, Drumoak, Keig, Monymusk and Rothenorman. We've performed so well that at some of these tournaments it's been an all Garlogie final.

In November, 4 of our members, Alan Masson, Billy Fraser, Murray Masson and Sandy McDonald, travelled to Wales to be part of Team Scotland at the 2018 British Isles Short Mat Bowling Championships. Even though they competed well, results wouldn't quite go their way but they were part of a strong and improving show from Scotland. Two more of our members, Sarah Walker and Jemma Lingard were also part of Team Scotland in the first Ladies International between Scotland and England, held in Dumfries in January. Our ladies battled bravely but didn't quite match a strong team from England.

Early in February, several of our members travelled to Dumfries to take part in the Scottish Short Mat Bowling Federation Singles and Rinks Championships, with hope of winning national honours and for the chance to qualify for Team Scotland for the 2019 British Isles Short Mat Bowling Championships which takes places in Aberdeen in November 2019. They will also be competing in the Scottish Short Mat Bowling Federation Pairs and Triples Championships, which will be held in Stonehaven from 12–14th April.

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to read our little article. Even though we are reaching the end of our season at the end of March, we are always on the lookout for new members and if you are interested in coming along, please feel free to get in touch with our secretary, Alan Masson via phone (07736 808064), email gibc1@outlook.com or our Facebook page (facebook.com/GarlogieIndoorBowlingClub). We play in Garlogie Hall on a Tuesday and Friday night from 7–10pm and we welcome anyone from 10 years and up, from complete beginners to seasoned professionals.

Let's play Bowls

Alan Masson, Secretary, Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club



Girlguiding Westhill

All the units are having a very busy term and are looking forward to our annual Thinking Day event on 22nd February where we all get together and think about other Guiding units around the world.

Our units have been busy continuing getting to grips with our new programme, continuing badge work and supporting community projects. We have welcomed a number of new girls this term and are excited to have them join us.

The Girlguiding annual Spring Fair is fast approaching on Saturday 9th March in Trinity Church and it promises to be a fun filled event for everyone, so please do come along and support us. There will be plenty there to keep you entertained. Please keep your eyes peeled locally for more info.

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.



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We will also be at Westhill Shopping Centre on **Saturday 27th April
10am–2pm** if you can do without gardening tools till then!



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Live Life Aberdeenshire

You may have read recently that the Library Service is now part of Live Life Aberdeenshire. It is the new name of Aberdeenshire Council's sport and cultural services. The new website has been launched, please take a look at it when you have time. It is bright, engaging and, most important of all, informative. www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk

Lego Club

For Lego builders we now have a weekly Lego Club on Monday afternoons from 3.15 to 4.15pm – there are Lego Challenges to try or you can choose to create your own design.

Bookbug

Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free programme that encourages children from birth to four to discover and enjoy their local library. The Challenge began on January 5th and will run until Saturday April 27th. To participate in the Challenge the child must be a Library member, every time they visit to borrow books or attend a storytime their Collector's card will be stamped and after 4 visits they are awarded a certificate. As the Challenge runs until the end of April they can choose to continue to be involved and collect as many certificates as they wish.

Green Dog Walkers Scheme

The Green Dog Walkers scheme is a friendly way to tackle dog fouling issues in our local area. Members of Green Dog Walkers have taken the pledge to always clean up after their dog, to carry extra doggie bags and to gladly give you a bag for your dog if required. You can join the scheme at the library by filling in a very short form. We will then give you a membership card which allows you to collect packs of free doggie bags from us whenever you need them. You'll also receive a gift of either a dog collar or snood as well as a badge. Take the pledge today!

Skene Heritage Society

Jim Fiddes, Chairman of the Skene Heritage Society, has a new book due out on 1st March, the result of four years research, interviewing and writing. It is called *The Granite Men: a history of the granite industries of Aberdeen and North East Scotland*. It covers quarrying, sett making, granite yards, export of granite monuments and granite building. The book is 336 pages long with around 85 illustrations and costs £20. It is published by The History Press and copies will be available from bookshops and on Amazon.



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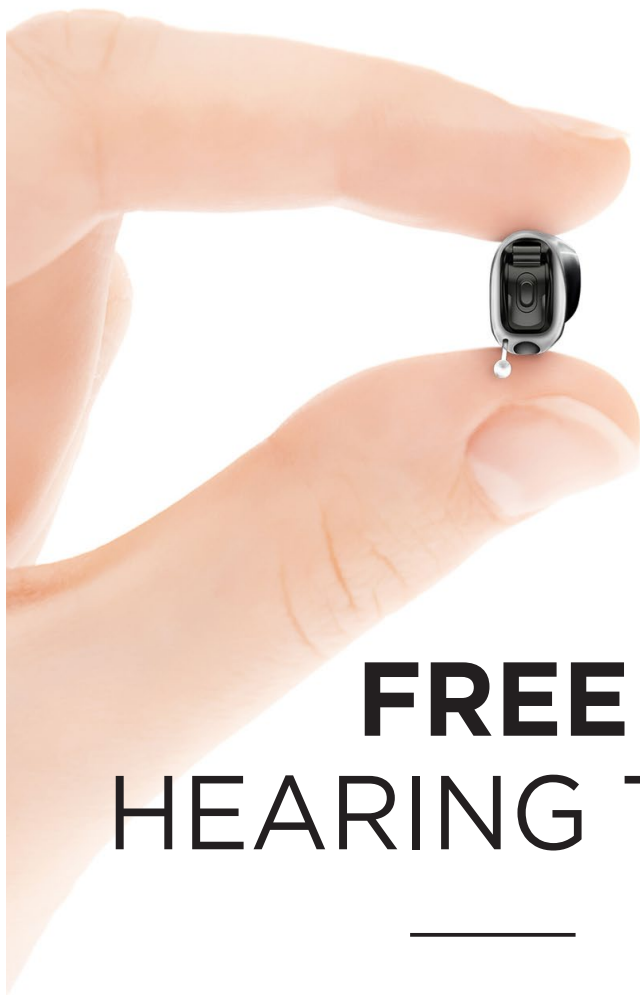
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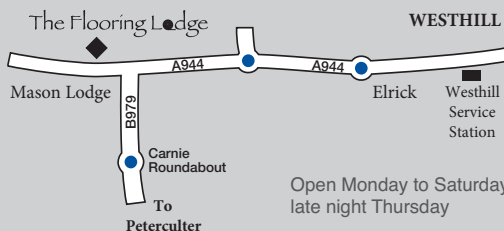
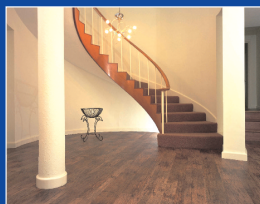
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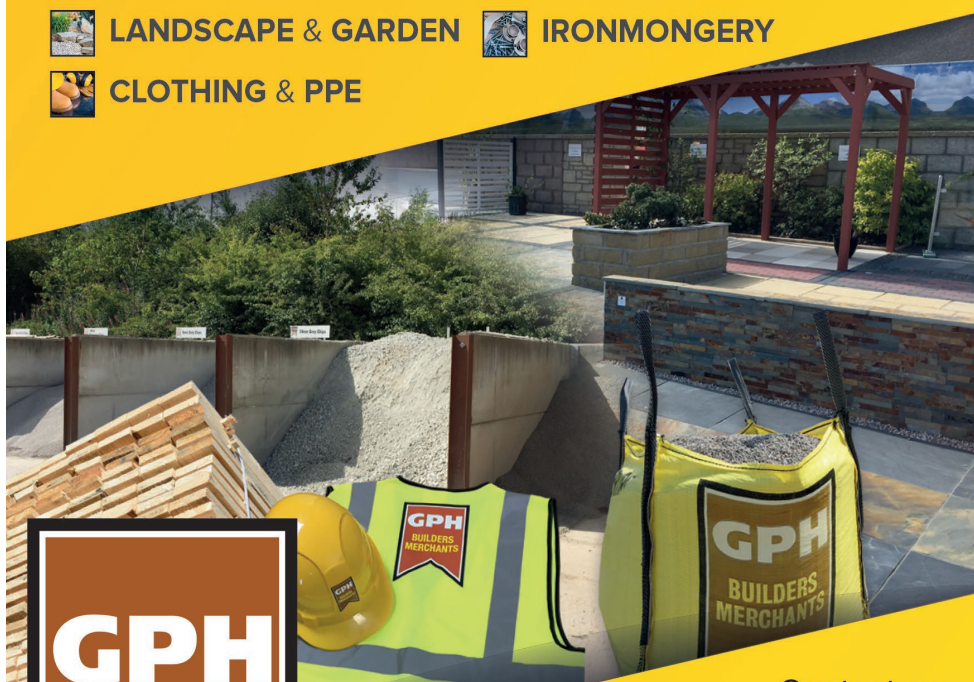
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We offer therapeutic options to address illness, improve resilience and maintain wellbeing.

Our particular expertise includes:

- Learning disabilities, including autism, ADHD
- Children's health: 0-18 years
- Chronic conditions, e.g. ME, stress, allergies
- Mistletoe therapy



To find out more, contact us on: 01224 862008 or by email: admin@cwtf.scot

www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk

Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd
A limited company registered in Scotland No SC120539 Charity No. SC016291
Registered office: St John's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EP



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If you can help, please get in touch:

Pamela Blue Door Manager: **01224 861830** or
Catherine CWT Administrator: **01224 862008**
admin@cwtf.scot

The Blue Door Charity Shop raises money for Camphill Wellbeing Trust - a medical charity providing an extended approach to help patients of all ages address illness, build resilience and maintain wellbeing.



Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd
A limited company registered in Scotland No SC120539 Charity No. SC016291
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ASHDALE HALL SILVER JUBILEE

We at Ashdale Hall would like to wish all our clients and hirers a very happy and prosperous 2019. The Hall had a very busy time over the festive period with fundraising events, ceilidhs, dances and parties, along with our regular programme of classes. We had a lovely Christmas market on 1st December with stalls offering a wide variety of produce and crafts, it was a great way to buy unique gifts and stock up on festive fayre! Blackburn Dance had 4 Christmas and New Year dances; the RSCDS country dance and several Christmas parties added to the festivity at the hall.

The Hall was officially opened on 29th January 1994 and so we celebrate our Silver Jubilee this year. Several fundraising events will be taking place this year so we can upgrade our facilities and keep it open for another 25 years. If anyone wishes to volunteer on fundraising committees please contact the Hall.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

The Blood transfusion service was held at Ashdale Hall on 10th January and will be back on Thursday 13th June.

WRESTLING SHOW

This popular show returns to the Hall on Saturday 30th March. For further details and tickets information will be on the Wrestlezone website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Westhill Producer's Market, Saturdays – 2nd March, 6th April and 4th May (all 9.00am–1.00pm).

Monthly Tea Dance, Fridays – 8th March, 12th April and 10th May (all 1.30pm–3.30pm)

Youth Life Cafe, Fridays – 15th March, 26th April and 17th May (all 7.30pm–10.00pm)

Blackburn Dances, Sunday evenings – 21st April and 12th May

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

***Westhill Gala Day* – Saturday 8th June**

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

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

HALL FACILITIES

The Hall hosts regular Dances, Family Ceilidhs, Shows, Concerts, Gigs and Scottish Nights. The Hall is also frequently used by various community groups and individuals for fundraising events and parties. We also offer a wide programme of exercise and Martial Arts classes, children's dance classes and toddler/baby classes, for full details please see our online timetable: www.ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable and our upcoming events can be viewed on www.ashdalehall.co.uk/current-events (these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

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

Scottish registered charity no. SCO21493



NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT

Neighbourhood Alert is a secure community messaging system that allows authorised organisations to send messages to people in their communities who have registered to receive such communications. Messages can be sent by email, telephone or text.

The Neighbourhood Alert system was designed and constructed by VISAV Ltd, Nottingham, initially for use by Nottinghamshire Police but that partnership has since grown to encompass eight UK Police Forces, including Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.

Links in Scotland have developed to include Perth & Kinross Community Watch, Scottish Borders Alert and Rural Watch Scotland. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and Police Scotland have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding which provides an agreed framework to support future partnership working at national and local levels.

Registering for Neighbourhood Alert

A person need not be thinking of starting up or joining an existing watch scheme in order to register to receive Neighbourhood Alert messages, and they can sign up at either neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk or ruralwatchscotland.co.uk at no cost.

Persons registering need to provide their name, address and a way of being contacted (email, telephone or text). However, as some of the authorised organisations like to tailor their messages to a particular demographic or to persons with specific interests, the registration process asks for details of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion and sexual orientation, albeit for each of these there is a 'Prefer not to say' option.

When registering, persons can choose to receive alert messages from one or more of the partners involved, currently Police, British Transport Police, Fire & Rescue, Local Authority, Crimestoppers, Scottish Business Resilience Centre, Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau) or SGN (network gas supplier). It should be noted that not all of these partners are involved in Neighbourhood Alert across the whole country.

Time's up –

On a personal note, this is my last Police report for the Bulletin, March 1989 has quickly moved onto March 2019 and 30 years means I am going to be looking for a new job.

From Grampian Police to Police Scotland, I have served in different departments, meeting different folk in different situations – the time has flown by.

Working for four years in what people would call the 'vice squad' was the most entertaining, but I must say the past three years working as the Garioch Community Officer has given me satisfaction and a vast workload. Serving the local communities, especially Westhill and Elrick where I have been lived since the mid 80's, has been a pleasure. I have raised my family here and can tell you it is an excellent and safe thriving place to live.

Your community is lucky to have excellent hard working councillors and of course, David Ritchie is tireless in helping the community, not least in the production of this Bulletin.

I now look forward to telling my Grandchildren about the day I stopped Billy Connolly suspecting him of drug dealing! (See his *autobiography*)

Finally, PC James Stewart is replacing me and I hope you support him as much as you have supported me.

www.scotland.police.uk • PC Steve Middleton



Westhill Golf Club

It's pleasing to see the daylight increasing day by day, almost time to get the clubs looked out, get the swings fine tuned and get yourself back on the golf course. All Sections fixture lists are nearing completion and once again there is plenty opportunity to win a prize or two!! Keep a look out on our website www.westhillgolfclub.co.uk for updates.

One to look for is our 9 Hole Par Three Open that will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 11th April. That is the first day of the US Masters and hopefully after having watched their own par 3 competition the night previously this will get you in the mood and participate in our Open. Bookings one can be made on the visitor's section of our website. Entry is £10pp to include food on completion, open to everyone.

The course has been in great condition throughout the winter months, so much so we've managed to play on summer greens for longer than anticipated. We look at the greens daily and if they are playable, we will do.

Over the winter months our Greens Team have been busy reshaping and resizing some of the bunkers. Such bunkers as the one on the right hand side of the 18th green and the one to the right hand side of the 13th green. These bunkers were identified as being too big and not easily maintained due to quite severe contouring. Both bunkers are now half the size and have gentler contouring, however they can still penalise a stray shot. Pictures of the latest projects can be seen on our regular Facebook and Twitter feeds. The Greens Team were presented with a new uniform courtesy of local company Subdrill. Subdrill have been long supporters of the Club and with this latest gesture has given the team their own identity and gives a good image. Many thanks to Club member and Subdrill Operations Manager Mark Paton for their sponsorship.

Our younger golfers held their own prize presentation in the Clubhouse in December. Very pleasing to see such a turn out for our Junior section and celebrate in their golfing achievements of last season. Our Junior membership is over the 100 mark and this year our Junior Golfers will make a return to the Aberdeen Junior Pennant League.

There will be various opportunities for Junior coaching throughout the year, first in the calendar and to commence after the Easter break will be a block of ten weeks offering coaching for 10–11year olds. Members please keep an eye in your 'inbox' and for non-members please feel free to get in touch.

Socially it has been a busy time in the Clubhouse. We held a New Year Party on the first Saturday in January, a great event for all the family. At the time of writing our 2019 social calendar is to be confirmed but one already confirmed due to the success of the first one is our 'Ladies Tippy Tea Party' to be held on Saturday 23rd March from 2pm–6pm. Ladies DON'T miss it!! To enjoy our social events, social memberships are available @ £5pp for the year.

George Bruce, Club Manager



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1st Skene Girls' Brigade

The girls are currently practising hard for their Divisional Competitions, they will also be attending rehearsals at the Beach Ballroom ready for the Annual Display there on 10th March.

Our Open Night is to be held in Trinity Church at 7pm on Monday 25th March for anyone interested in coming along to see what the girls' have been doing and what badges and trophies they have gained during the session.

Fiona Cumming, Captain



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 November to January this year **763** appointments were lost due to non attendance of pre-booked appointments. Cancelling your unwanted appointment will allow us to offer it to another patient.



Oil and Gas UK Medicals

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.

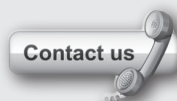
OIL&GASUK

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

Prescription requests should be made online or by calling our dedicated repeat line number on **01224 849393** which are both available 24 hours a day, then allow 2 working days to collect your prescription from your preferred local chemist.



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 – sleep well, do well

The amount of sleep that you need varies, depending on your age (babies need the most), how healthy you are, whether or not you're stressed, or how active you are. Someone who has just played a few games of squash will probably need more sleep than an elderly or inactive person. Not getting the sleep that you need can have a major impact on how well you are able to work, whether you're a shop assistant, an administrator or an athlete. An office worker will be less focussed and therefore less productive if sleep deprived. If an athlete is fatigued through lack of quality sleep, then they are more prone to injury, and are likely to under perform when competing or during training. In a study of 158,000 older women in the U.S., those who slept for 7–8 hours a night were least prone to falls. Those who slept five hours or fewer per night had a 25% increased incidence of falling. The women who were sleeping less were also shown to be at a greater risk of breaking a bone when they did fall. This implies that bone 'strengthening' happens at night.

When we're asleep we're expending less energy on moving and making decisions. Our breathing rate slows and deepens, our blood pressure decreases. The body uses this time to carry out physical and mental repair. The levels of various hormones change when we're asleep, to promote healing, tissue and bone repair, and growth in children. The circulation of stress hormones decreases. The production of the hormone Prolactin increases when we're asleep, which helps to reduce any inflammation. Whilst asleep, our brain sorts and files away the experiences of the day, in order to learn from them once awake again. If lacking in enough sleep, our decision making skills and reaction times are poorer. A reduced ability to judge distance and speed can also result, with negative consequences for top sports people or someone behind the wheel of a car. Some studies indicate that fatigue suppresses the immune system, making us more likely to get ill, and our perceptions of pain, depression and tension worsen.

Sometimes in response to my questioning patients, they say they find it difficult to get to sleep, or just generally 'don't sleep well'. There's lots of help out there for insomniacs, from meditation to medication, from simple relaxation techniques, a hot bath before bed, a walk in the fresh air, to GP prescribed medication. If this is a problem you have, do some research into what you can do about it, or speak to your GP. If you're just 'too busy' to schedule in the ideal 7 or 8 hours resting time each night, because of work or family commitments, consider the above and think it through. You'll be healthier and better prepared to cope with whatever goes on in your life if you're well rested. Sweet dreams.

Heather Wood, Chartered Physiotherapist

Tel. 01224 742139

www.heatherwoodphysio.com



WESTHILL
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

WELCOME!



www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

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



CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

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

Thursday 21st March

6.30pm–9pm

Saturday 8th June

10am–3pm

[www.facebook.com/
rightonyourdoorstepevents/](http://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 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.**

We have a new 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.

2019 LENTEN LUNCHES

Friday 8th March – Trinity Church (led by Church of Scotland)

Friday 15th March – Westhill Community Church

Friday 22nd March – Trinity Church (led by Catholic Church)

Friday 29th March – Trinity Church (led by Church of Scotland)

Friday 5th April – Westhill Community Church

Friday 12th April – Trinity Church (led by Catholic Church)

We meet for devotions at 12.30pm followed by lunch at 1pm



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 completion:

BRONZE: Oyin Ajayi, Aonghas Ewen, Chloe Gammie, David Gray, Caitlin Harries, Julen Hernandez Zubizarreta, Findlay Mackay, Jack Thomson

SILVER: Catrina Anderson, Rory Cameron, Angus Flett, Grace Hopkins, James Marriner, Matthew Mills, Ilke Tanyeli, Zoe Reid

GOLD: Kieran Grieve

Training is progressing for this year's 7 Bronze, 4 Silver and 4 Gold teams. That's 100 plus local participants and a huge commitment from our enthusiastic and committed volunteer group. Very pleased to have Jan Walicki along as a young leader helping younger participants for his Gold Volunteering section. If you are aged 14–24 and missed the 2018 enrolment then get in touch to get started with your Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections with email support then join the fortnightly Thursday training sessions from October 2019 for your Expedition section. **Remember, if you have STARTED YOUR AWARD and need help to finish it, contact: *WesthillDoE@aol.co.uk*.**



The latter part of 2018 was a busy time for all involved in Westhill Scouting.

You may have noticed the poppy mural outside of the Scout Hut during November, which was our contribution to the 'Poppies with Purpose' poppy walk. The walk was created to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and remember those local to Westhill and Skene who lost their lives.

All of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, plus those who use our hall such as the Pam Dignan Dancers and the Scout Hall Playgroup, coloured in or painted old CDs to create a cascading poppy mural on the side of the Scout Hut.

Taking part not only added to the town's overall reflection of Remembrance Day but reminded the youngsters of the importance of remembering those who fought and who were lost.



At the end of November, we held our annual Soup 'n' Santa event in the Scout hut. The fundraiser is always a popular fundraising event in our calendar enjoyed by many families with children involved in Scouting.

As well as raising funds for the Scout Group, we also took the opportunity of collecting essential items for a food bank and we were delighted to donate 125kg of food stuff. Redwood Beavers also decided to donate to a local food bank too as part of their Christmas activities.

Our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have exciting plans for the next few months including activities based around Burns Night, Chinese New Year, British Science Week and pioneering.

A number of our young people will be performing in the Aberdeen Gang Show 'Stage Door' which is being performed at Aberdeen Arts Centre from 12–16 March. Tickets on sale now!

We have also started planning the Group's attendance at the 'Gordon Gathering' in May which sees all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from across the Gordon District come together for a weekend camp. It's always a great experience for all involved with the opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

For further details about Westhill Scout Group –

Contact Us: Group Scout Leader, Chris on 01224 746773

Join Us: Waiting List enquiries – jacqpop@gmail.com

Scout Hall bookings: westhillscouts@hotmail.co.uk

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www.musicalsteps.co.uk



Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Another successful walking year is now behind us and we are all looking forward to the year ahead. Our first walk of the year along the canal at Port Elphinstone and then through Keith Hall estate attracted an impressive total of 33 walkers including several new ones. The programme for the first six months of the year is now available on our website at westhillwalkers.wordpress.com.

At the end of the year we had a very enjoyable weekend at Muir Cottage near the Linn of Dee where we were treated to an excellent early Christmas Dinner. A pre-dinner walk ensured good appetites whilst a walk the next day helped with the surfeit of calories. Many thanks to the organisers, cooks and washer uppers. Our next weekend away will be to Callander Hostel from 10th to 13th May. More details will be available to members soon.

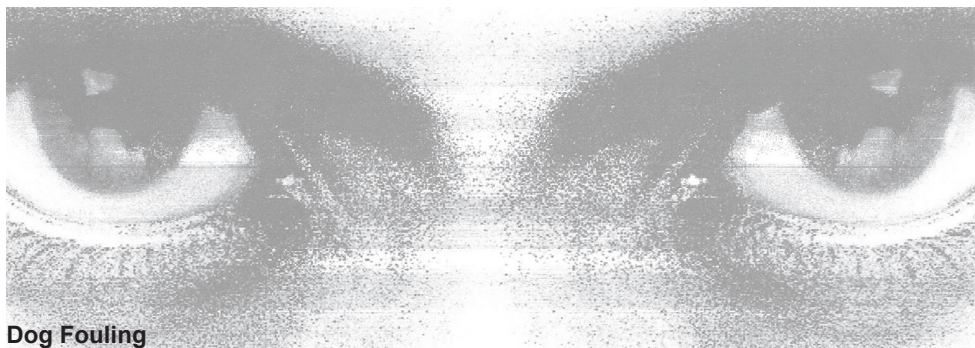
We meet on alternate Sundays throughout the year and in summer we have a choice of walks on most days to cater for a wider range of abilities. In addition to our walks we have a variety of social events throughout the year and several weekends away to give us the opportunity to walk in new areas.

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)**.

<i>Some forthcoming walks/social events – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome. More details on the web page.</i>	
<i>Sunday 3rd Mar 08.00</i>	<i>Carnferg from the Forest of Birse 13km</i> <i>From the old church we follow track to Glencat Farm then climb Carnferg, descending SW to join the Fungle heading towards Birse Castle the start.</i>
<i>Sunday 17th Mar 08.00</i>	<i>St Cyrus – Johnshaven – Inverbervie 14km</i> <i>A popular coastal walk, starting at St Cyrus and following the coastal path to Johnshaven and on to Inverbervie.</i>
<i>Sunday 31st Mar 08.00</i>	<i>Mortlich Hill 10km</i> <i>Starting at the lay-by on the B9119, we climb Craiglich and follow paths to Mortlich Hill, descend past the Loch of Aboyne to the car park in Aboyne.</i>
<i>Sunday 14th Apr 08.00</i>	<i>Finding the Sheilin of Mark 8km (approximately)</i> <i>A combined walk and navigation exercise to find the well hidden Sheilin of Mark south east of Loch Muick. Distance, ascent and time depends on navigational skills!</i>
<i>Sunday 28th Apr 08.00</i>	<i>Orienteering on Bennachie</i> <i>An orienteering exercise around the Bennachie tops. More details to follow.</i>

Westhill and Elrick Community Council Environment Group



Dog Fouling

Responding to concerns from residents in Westhill and Elrick regarding dog fouling, our group have purchased Glow in the Dark signs. The theme of them is YOU ARE BEING WATCHED if you are allowing your dog to foul and not BAG and BIN it.

If you have a problem in your area with dog fouling or litter, we wish to try to help! We are looking for suitable locations to attach our posters. If you can make recommendations, please let us know.

Contact Ken Stewart, email: kennethstewart223@gmail.com.

See the Litter article on page 13 for details of the monthly Litter Pick

Westhill & District Round Table

Hello from all at Westhill & District Round Table.

As we bounce into spring 2019 we would like to send out some thanks for those of you who participated, volunteered, collected, shared, liked, commented and more importantly donated to our annual Santa Sleigh run. A grand total of £7,102 was raised which will be distributed to several charities and organisations from around Westhill and the local areas. A small selection of the charities which have benefited from some funds from our Santa Run are:

- Chernobyl Children's Lifeline • Roxburghe House (Aberdeen) • SensationALL
- Westdyke Community Football Club • St John's Ambulance
- Neil Jaffray Award • Gathimba Edwards Foundation • Local Playgroups

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes for this amount of money to be raised, if you are a male and aged between 18–45 and would like to help us make a difference as well as go to regular social events which range from going for dinner, to hillwalking and watching the Ice hockey, then we are the group for you! Please message us on Facebook for more information.



WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

Reindeer

After we said reindeer were going to be made on facebook we had to close the orders after 2 days when it got to 300. Then the elves got to work. They had a special guest who dropped in to check on quality control.



Recycling

We continue to have a great relationship with the recycling centre, at one time getting a small steam engine which we cleaned up and sold to one of our members. But normally it is garden tools which we refurbish. Another charity, using gardening as therapy for their members, had their tools stolen from their garden shed, while at Foot Dee a group of locals have taken over a small green to turn into a rest and blether area. We were pleased to be able to offer some tools and a lawnmower to them.

FREE Repair workshop

Bring in anything that needs to be fixed; from a wobbly chair to an electrical item that doesn't work or a mower that does not start and we will have a look at it. If we can fix it on the spot we will. You may need to pay for spare parts and leave it with us to get them – but it will be your decision. This is a one off on **Wednesday 13th March from 1pm to 6pm** so come along to the shed 'antiques road show style'.



Sheshed

The Sheshed has grown to about 30 members now and in January this year we started a new set of introduction sessions for new joiners while the others, having built their own garden bench, joined in with the reindeers. As shed member Peter said "each one my wife makes means one less for me".

New groups

Started during the year were a **Guitar group** where Jake is an excellent teacher and an **Electronics group** who will be using microprocessor boards,

at present to assist the railway group who are making a model of Peterhead prison railway. And just a glimmer in the eye at present is a photography group. Please feel free to come along to see what's going on and join in if interested – no fees remember.



The Piper Alpha set for the Westhill Academy Rock Challenge

The set won a prize and the Academy reached the semi-final.

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

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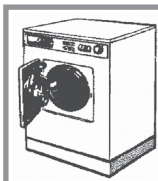
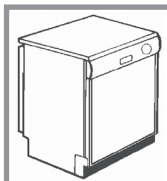
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THE FERRYHILL RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

The Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust was formed in 2007 to save what remained of the Ferryhill Railway Depot in Aberdeen.



The Ferryhill site comprises two sites – the largest site belongs to Network Rail and the other belongs to Aberdeen City Council. The Council part of the site has a B listed 1850s engine shed and the Network Rail site has an 'A' Listed 1906 Ransom and Rapier 70ft turntable, a coal ramp, a water tower and associated brick office buildings.



Extensive restoration work has been carried out on the Turntable and it is expected to be returned to service by March 2019. We expect to turn the steam engine 'Tornado' in that month as well. Tornado is expected to visit Aberdeen five times in 2019.

The 1850s engine shed has had some remedial work done to it, to arrest further deterioration. However, extensive work requires to be carried out on the building roof, the windows and we also need to install a new floor, incorporating railway lines.

In addition to the above, we have a number of railway wagons, coaches, steam rail-motor, steam crane, diesel crane, steam locomotive, Wickham maintenance trolleys and a diesel locomotive – all waiting to be refurbished.

FRHT has obtained planning permission for a path from the Council site to connect us to Duthie Park, which will provide easy access to the railway site. This access to the public will require additional volunteers to show the public around the various aspects of the site and explain the history. We have also incorporated a 'Mens Shed' where you can carry out some personal work if you wish.

We require volunteers to help – skilled or unskilled, to assist with the restoration of the above work. Unskilled volunteers can be 'trained' by us, if they wish. All ages from 16 upwards (no limit!!) will be gladly welcomed by us. By becoming a member of the FRHT, you are helping to recreate and preserve some of Aberdeen's railway heritage.

We also have a website – frht.org.uk. If you are interested in volunteering, or need further information, please call Gordon Simpson on – 01224 749914 or 07818 130517.

Proposed Conservation Area for Dunecht

Dunecht has been identified as a Proposed Conservation Area within Aberdeenshire for some time, what this means is that it has been highlighted as a settlement which has a distinctive historic and architectural character and interest. Conservation areas are the settlements which are identified as most distinctive to Aberdeenshire and have unique place making qualities which make Aberdeenshire a great place to live, work and visit. Dunecht Village is dominated by Dunecht Terrace which was built by George Bennet Mitchell for A.C. Pirie after he bought Dunecht House and estate in 1899. It was the first phase of Dunecht's development as a model village. Viscount Cowdray's factor David Morris added the shops to the Terrace in 1923 and 1936.

Conservation area status is aimed at making a positive contribution to a settlement as a means to ensure its distinctive character can be enjoyed by this and future generations. Engagement with the local community and interested parties is an important part of the review process. The formal process of assessment and review, to see if Dunecht meets the criteria for conservation area status, will begin in January 2020. It takes approximately 12 months and will include a 6–8 week public consultation process. However, Aberdeenshire Council are eager to hear from interested parties in 2019 to get their views on the proposal and hopefully make contacts which will shape the process and contribute to the final documentation.

If you would like to know more about conservation areas in Aberdeenshire and what this means, as well as see examples of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans already produced you can find all this information at the following link: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/built-heritage/conservation-area/>.

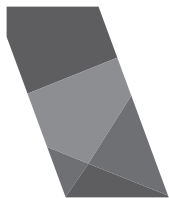
Alternatively if you would like more information on the proposal and what it means for you or would like to contribute in anyway please contact cheryl.roberts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Westhill Craft Club

A new group for those interested in Craft has been started in Westhill. Bring a craft project (one of those projects you've been meaning to finish or that craft stuff that's been lurking in your cupboard for ages!). Come along for a spot of crafting, natter and a cuppa. Once the group becomes more established we may do group and community projects directed by a group member. Bring anything you like. For example, card making, beading, embroidery, cross stitch, knitting, crochet, pottery, polymer clay, lino cutting, painting, papercraft, decoupage – anything you like as long as it's not super messy! We meet in the Lounge room at Trinity Church, 09:30–11:30, every Friday, but there is no obligation to come every week, just drop in. We share the costs of room hire and that is usually less than £3 per person. Everyone welcome but adults only.



Enquiries, contact Nicola Seal via facebook or on email, westhillcraftgroup@gmail.com. We also have a facebook group – *Westhill craft group* – which you are welcome to join.



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- Reflections and intentions entering 2019
 - New year, new hobbies
 - Share your top holiday tips
 - Meet new people


We meet on last Thursday of month
9:30am–11:30am
at Westhill Community Centre
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Hays Way, Westhill

Learning cafes are a monthly opportunity to bring people together in their local area to share their thoughts, openly explore and discuss ideas. No prior knowledge or expertise required. For everyone! Refreshments provided.

Contact	Ann Bothwell
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Westhill & District Senior Citizens Group

We enjoyed another splendid Christmas Lunch at the Holiday Inn on Thursday 13th December with 66 attending. We had a lovely meal followed by entertainment, a good time was had by all! We are very grateful to all the staff at Holiday Inn for making this day for us.



We have been very grateful to receive funding from our local Co-op. If you have a Co-op card 1% of your Co-op purchases goes towards local causes. This is distributed throughout our community.

We started back on 17th January with an entertainer – Diane Peers. We used all kinds of musical instruments to move our arms and legs in time to the music! Got us all moving!

On the 31st January we had a Kemnay band – Paradise Express.

Our Programme for February to June 2019:

Thurs 14th February – Kirkton Singers

Thurs 28th Feb – Glee Club Inverurie

Thurs 14th March – The Great Dames

Thurs 28th March – Westhill Academy School Band

Thurs 11th April – Skene Singers

Thurs 25th April – Donald Grassie

Thurs 9th May – tbc

Thurs 23rd May – tbc

Thurs 6th June – last meeting in the Hall

Thurs 13th June – Bus Trip

We have entertainment for around an hour then tea/coffee with biscuits/cakes.

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.

Cost is £3 per session for refreshments and a one off £6 annual subscription (paid in September).

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



Pam Dignan Dancers

A group from the Pam Dignan Dancers performed at the Stroke Association Burns Supper at the Beach Ballroom.

Back row: Carmen-Rose Mateus, Summer Mo

Middle row: Olivia Porter

Front row: Scott Riddoch, Isabella, McAulay, Blair Porter



We have a very busy and full programme up to the summer break which will provide very good opportunities for members to improve and try different skills and techniques.

We have several guest speakers lined up for the coming months and they will cover topics from Astrophotography to Wedding Photography. There are several internal and external competitions coming up and several day trips to places around the North East and further afield

We still have space for a few more members, we meet every 2nd Thursday at Westhill Community Church, so if you are interested in coming along no matter what level you are, please contact *Bruce.christie@me.com*.



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Rotary Out and About

It seems strange to be talking about Christmas at this stage of the year but since the Bulletin last went to press we have had one of our major events of the year, the Senior Citizens Christmas party. The celebration was in the Ashdale Hall and we welcomed around 100 guests to an afternoon of food and entertainment, including the Crombie School Choir, the Pam Dignan Dancers and the Rock Choir. All of this compered and helped along with some couthy stories by our old friend Iain Duncan.

In the lead up to Christmas you may also have bumped into the Westhill Rotarians at the bag packing sessions kindly laid on for us by Marks & Spencer. This is an important fundraiser, which allows us to put on events like the Christmas party and the many youth and other activities we undertake.

One of these was the initiative to promote The Year of Young People and the creation of awards to celebrate the positive citizenship and important responsibilities assumed by many young people. In conjunction with Skene Parish Church we held a star studded presentation event to celebrate the positive citizenship and important responsibilities assumed by many young people.

Awards were presented to:

- Young Citizen – Daniel Hay (photographed)
- Young Carer – Eleanor Cozens;
- Westhill Academy Effective Contributor – Oliver Watt (S2);
- Skene Parish, Coping with Adversity – Alex Critchton (<12yrs); William Cozens (12–18yrs) and Greg McKay (18–26yrs)



Looking ahead in our calendar we have a Charity Indian Night taking place at the Holiday Inn Westhill with our own executive chef Pushp Vaid in charge of the menu.

We are also running our Bikes for Africa appeal again this year and are looking for support from the local community. It is a chance for you to look out that old or unused bike and put it to good use rather than sitting taking up space in your garage or shed. Last year we collected over 60 bikes, which were refurbished for us by Halfords and then sent to provide much needed transport to deserving individuals in some less well-off countries – see our advert on page 40 for more details and please bring you old bikes for “re-cycling” on the 27th April or 11th May.

If you have read this far you will have an idea of some of the great activities that Rotary undertakes so if you would like to find out more or be a part of our team supporting projects in the local community then we would love to hear from you. There are many ways of getting involved from simply helping out on a specific project to associate or full Rotary membership.

We meet weekly at the Holiday Inn Westhill on Thursday evenings. If you would like to come along to get a flavour of what we are all about then please get in touch using the contact details in our advert on page 31 or speak to any local Rotarian.

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.

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Kindergym

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

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

Jumping Jacks

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

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

Gymnastics

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Community Centre..... 01224 740089

Community Education 01224 740089

Community Mini-bus..... 01224 744058

Dentists' Surgery

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NHS – Abercrombie Court,

Prospect Road 01224 745447

Business, Private –

Ashdale Drive..... 01224 742513

Westhill Dental Practice,

Old Skene Road..... 01224 741339

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Doctors' Surgery 01224 849400

Results 01224 849392

Repeat Prescriptions..... 01224 849393

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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 01224 743098

Playgroups

Scout Hall..... 01224 742059

Skene 07789 871601

Denman..... 01224 743098

Pharmacy, Lloyds – Shops 01224 742742

Pharmacy, Lloyds – Surgery.. 01224 279489

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Post Office (Shops) 01224 740858

Post Office (Ind Est) 01224 740010

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Crombie..... 01224 740900

Elrick 01224 741900

Skene 01224 743242

Westhill..... 01224 740225

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Peter Nicol Centre..... 01224 742329

Swimming Pool 01224 744933

Tennis Club 07907 486255

Trinity Church 01224 742512

Veterinary, Town & Country ... 01224 741685

Water Authority 0845 6018 855

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Building Trades & Other Tradesmen

A.J. Landscapes	17
aandm Bathrooms	85
Abbey Masonry.....	6
Abby Birnie Plasterer.....	76
Aberdeen Slating Services	50
Ace of Trades	19
Aspect Building Design.....	55
B. Mackland Builders	77
Blue Flame Heating.....	21
Bob Deans painter & decorator	17
Bonnie Banks Gardening.....	56
Braemoral Joinery	16
Chris Western Heating, Plumbing & Servicing	89
City & Shire Domestics	19
Cumming Fire & Security Ltd.....	59
David Massie Carpentry & Joinery	78
Dean, Chartered Land Surveyor.....	6
Docea Painting & Decorating	79
Duncan Bathrooms.....	45
Electro-Tek Electrical Contractor	32
Friendly Hills Roofing Services.....	19
GB Tiling Services.....	84
Groundwater Architectural Design.....	85
Handyman George Duncan	10
Hugh Will Property Maintenance	40
i-Protech (Electrical & Security).....	59
John Findlater (Skene) Ltd	5
John Mullen Joinery.....	89
JST Plumbing & Heating	20
K. Milne Plumbing & Heating.....	84
Kevin Allan, Painter & Decorator	76
Lister Domestic Electrical	78
Little Plumber.....	17
Mark Mennie Glazier	39
Midmar Timber Centre.....	57
Only Heating.....	inside front
Painting & Decorating.....	55
Perfectshine.....	10
Smarten My Drive.....	32
Star Bathrooms.....	43
Steve Mackenzie Joinery.....	56
Stuart Grassick Builders	16
T&M Slating Flat Roofs.....	36
T&M Slating.....	71
The Handyman Can	41
The Kitchen Gallery	42
Westhill Bathrooms.....	60
Westhill Electrical Services.....	37
Westhill Fencing & Decking.....	56
Westhill Joinery & Building Services	71

Transport & Driving

D.S.L. Taxi Westhill.....	6
Duncan's Taxi	59
Excel Driver Training	21
PGM Taxi Service.....	50
Spectrum Driver Training.....	16
Westhill Cars	back page
Westhill Community Minibus	17
Westhill Taxis.....	53

Health & Leisure

Abercrombie Dental.....	47
Be Bonnie	79
Bikes for Africa.....	40

B-Naturals Chorus	55
Camphill Wellbeing Trust.....	60
Dans Centre	44
Dickies Pharmacy Kingswells.....	33
Dows Diets	10
Duncan & Todd	34
Garlogie Inn	83
Golf Club.....	65
Hampton by Hilton Hotel.....	46
Happy Barber	49
Heather Wood Physiotherapy.....	77
Holiday Inn Tribute Nights	54
Kippie Lodge Sports & Country Club.....	48
Lee Beaute	32
Low & Co Hair Design	39
Musical Steps	72
Northern Arts Club	78
Pam Dignan Dancers	13
Pregnancy Yoga	78
Serenity Nails	76
Sooyang Do Martial Arts.....	83
Trudi Deans Foot Health Care.....	77
Village Hotel Tribute Tour	51
West with Style.....	62
Westhill Bowling Club	14
Westhill Health & Therapies Practice	79
Westhill Rotary	31
Zen Beauty.....	72

Professional Services

Aberdeenshire Computer Services.....	41
Aberdein Considine	61
Acumen Financial Planning	58
Alison Donaldson Chartered Accountant	77
Bark n Bubbles	14
Busy Days Dog Care	14
Certax Accounting	44
Dim Bim Cakes.....	53
ESP Book-keeping Services.....	44
Forbes Lawson Financial Planners	38
Forbes Lawson Financial Planners	84
Grampian Accounting	35
Luke and Learn Guitar.....	59
McCue Wealth Management	inside back
Oven Valet.....	89
Paws and Claws Day Care.....	20
PC Paul	72
Photos To DVD.....	20
Portico Design Architecture	35
Ride On Sports Maintenance	36
Saji Dress Design.....	76
Schools Out Club.....	36
Sew Swift.....	19
The Cleaning Company.....	55
Westhill Marketing	21

Retail

Florist Ann Westwood.....	72
Foxlane at Carnie	32
GPH Builders Merchants	52
Hearthwood Logs & Kindling	53
Men Shed Tool Sale	29
Right on Your Doorstep Events	21
The Blue Door Charity Shop.....	60
The Flooring Lodge	49
Village Store Skene.....	29

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