# **Westhill Bulletin**

Spring 2020 Issue 161





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#### SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

We 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. We hope you like the new look full colour magazine!

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

#### 2020 advertising rates:

Eighth page £30, Quarter page £55, Half page £90, Full page £170
Inside covers £200, Back page £230

(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 to replace retiring helpers and add to the pool of relief helpers.

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

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#### **Your Community Council – Getting Involved**

Community Councils come in many different forms, reflecting the different communities they represent. Even though there are differences, they all have the same core purpose, which is to act as a voice for their community.

In Westhill and Elrick, that means their main role is to let Aberdeenshire Council and other public bodies know the view of their community. For Westhill and Elrick Community Council, that is simply the beginning. The organisation is actively involved in the organisation of community events, and in gathering the views of other groups in their community, such as tenants and residents' groups or clubs and associations, making sure their views are also heard.

Westhill and Elrick Community Council are looking for nominations for Community Councillors, there are 17 vacancies. If you care about your community and want to make it a better place to live, this is the role for you!

Simply complete and return the nomination form by Thursday 20th February. The form is on pages 3 and 4 of this Bulletin or can be picked up from Westhill Library.

You can download a copy from the home page at www.westhillelrick.org.

Completed forms can be posted to the address on form or handed in to Westhill Library.

The form shows 4 options for eligibility criteria, tick the most appropriate one. For most people it will be the first one (*I am on the Electoral Register and I reside in the area of the Community Council*). The form asks for your electoral number, but this can be left blank if not known.

If you would like to find out more about the role of Community Councillor, please call the Garioch Area Office on 01467 533458 and ask for Margaret-Jane or Alison. Alternatively email Garioch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Office Use	Date Received		Time Received		Initials		No.	
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WE	Community Council Election Nomination Form					
СС	ELECTION OF A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR for					
Westhill & Elrick Community Council		Westhill & Elrick Community Council		nity Council		
Close of nomin	ations	Nominations	require to be submitted b	y <b>4pm</b> on <b>Thu</b> i	rsday, 20 Februar	y 2020
to: AB51 3WA			ane Cardno, Garioch Area Office, Gordon House, Inverurie, och@aberdeenshire.gov.uk			
Date of Ballot (if r	equired)	Thursday, 27	February 2020 between	12pm and 8pm	in Ashdale Hall, V	Vesthill
Candidate's De	tails					
Candidate's surr	name					
Other names in	full					
Commonly used	forename	s (if any)				
Home address in	n full					
Telephone numb	oer					
Email address						
I, the nominee f	or election	, consent to b	peing nominated as a	a candidate fo	or	
		Westhill & B	Elrick		Community C	Council
I confirm that I am not currently elected to serve on Aberdeenshire Council, or the Scottish, UK or European Parliaments. I am 16 years or over and  Please tick if applicable						
I am on the Elec	I am on the Electoral Register and I reside in the area of the Community Council					
My electoral number is:						
or						
I have had my ordinary or principal residence in the area of the Community Council for at least three months prior to nomination						
I am permanently employed or carry out regular self-employed work or voluntary work in the Community Council area;						
I own a business in the Community Council area but do not reside in the Community Council area. I confirm that I am not a Community Councillor elsewhere in Aberdeenshire. (Only 2 spaces available)						
PRIVACY NOTICE The Data Controller of the information being collected is Aberdeenshire Council. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at Town House, 34 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AN. Email: <a href="mailto:dataprotection@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">dataprotection@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>						
Your information is being collected to use for the following purpose:  The consideration and determination of your nomination to a Community Council under Aberdeenshire Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.						

Page 1 of 2

Your Information is collected by Aberdeenshire Council on behalf of the relevant Community Council under the Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils

The Legal Basis for collecting the information is Legal Obligation

If you fail to provide the information required on the attached form, Aberdeenshire Council may not be in a position to accept the form as competent. This means that your nomination form cannot be considered and will be returned to you.

Where the legal basis for processing is either Performance of a contract or Legal Obligation, please note the following consequences of failure to provide the information:

Your information will be shared with the following recipients or categories of recipient:

Your information will not be transferred to or stored in any other country.

Any person who is entitled to see the nomination papers of a validly-nominated candidate at a public election. Email addresses and telephone numbers will be redacted before viewed by any member of the public.

The retention period – The nomination papers will be retained for the period that the Community Councillors are in office and a further two years, and will then be destroyed.

No automated decision-making, including profiling, will be undertaken:

Please note that you have the following rights:

- to withdraw consent at any time, where the legal basis specified above is consent;
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (after raising the issue with the Data Protection Officer first):
- to request access to your personal data;
- to object, where the legal basis specified above is:
  - (i) Performance of a Public Task; or
  - (ii) Legitimate Interests.
- to data portability, where the legal basis specified above is:
  - (i) Consent; or
  - (ii) Performance of a contract;
- to request rectification or erasure of your personal data, as so far as the legislation permits.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice

I understand that I have the right to withdraw this consent at any time by contacting <a href="mailto:garioch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">garioch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a>. I consent to be nominated for the Community Council and confirm that the information in this form is correct.

Candidate's signature:	
Date:	
Witness: I confirm that the above-menti	oned candidate signed the declaration in my presence.
Witness's signature:	
Witness (name in full):	
of (address in full):	
Date:	

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# Westhill Household Waste & Recycling Centre

Westdyke Avenue, Westhill



#### Recycling facilities for:

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

#### **Opening Hours**

Monday to Sunday 9am-4.30pm Friday 9am-4pm Late Night Tuesday 4.30pm-7pm April to September

# LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

Monday 10.00am-7.30pm
Tuesday 10am-5.00pm
Wednesday 1.00pm-7.30pm
Thursday 10.00am-5.00pm
Friday 10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm

Remember to bring your Borrowers Card

> Westhill Library Westhill Drive 01224 472871

#### Aberdeenshire



COUNCIL

#### **Westhill Service Point**

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

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

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

# Westhill and Skene Lions Club

CHARITY SALE OF BOOKS, DVDs, JIGSAWS & BOARD GAMES AT WESTHILL SHOPPING CENTRE 1ST SATURDAY EACH MONTH 9am to 12pm

NEXT 3 SALES ARE 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May

All proceeds go to local good causes & Lions International Disasters Fund

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

0345 833 5963

#### **Sooyang Do Update**

Dave Bremner, Chief Instructor of Westhill/Skene Sooyang Do, had a very busy and rewarding 2019.

The expansion of his group of classes has continued and with plans for new diversity in classes in 2020, Dave is looking to continue in the award winning vein.

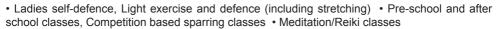
Mr Bremner is honoured to have been asked to take over the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom Sooyang Do Association and has been pleased with the results of actioned plans already put into place.

Having been in martial arts as student – trainee – class and chief instructor for over 40 years and currently holding black belts in 3 different martial art styles and also colour belts in 3 more, Dave was delighted to have been awarded his 3rd Dan Black Belt in SYD. He was presented with his new belt in December at new Dan/colour belt grading and award presentation at Westdyke Leisure Centre.

Sooyang Do are looking to increase their involvement in the competition side of their art, full details to be announced in early 2020.

There was a sparring seminar and competition on 30th November at Westdyke where the standard of competition and officialdom was of the highest standard.

New classes from Dave Bremner:



For more information on classes contact Mr Bremner 07970 188825.

I am also looking to arrange a seminar for sports people to discuss the increased mental health issues being discovered or now openly discussed within all aspects of sport.



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:

19th February – Alan Crane will give a talk entitled 'The Seychelles – General Gordon's Garden of Eden'

20th March - Members Annual Bulb Competition and speaker TBA.

17th April – Jim Fiddes, local historian, a presentation based on 'A Walk Along the Old Skene Road'

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

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





#### Councillor Iris Walker (Westhill & District)

#### **Seagulls**

Following up from previous Bulletin articles, hopefully residents most affected by gulls have been able to take some preventative measures before the winter with the aim of making the environment more challenging for seagulls coming back to Westhill to mate, nest and lay eggs. Seagulls mate in April, and nest and lay eggs in May. In Spring you should check roofs for signs of nesting. Remove nests and pierce the eggs as soon as they are seen then continue to check every three weeks. Tenants should report nests to their landlord as soon

as they are seen. Please do not feed the gulls and pick up any litter and food scraps outside your home. Ensure refuse is stored in secure and lidded containers. There is no quick fix to get rid of these menaces – control measures need to be kept up for several years to be effective.

#### **Pedestrian Crossing**

You will have noticed that at last the new pedestrian crossing on Old Skene Road is now in place, after a few hiccups. Hopefully this will make folk's journey on foot a bit safer. Already there have been reports of vehicles not slowing down on the approach. Drivers have a responsibility to be aware of pedestrians, be able to reduce their speed and stop at a safe distance; pedestrians equally have a responsibility to wait on the footway until all approaching vehicles have stopped; also be sure you are visible to other road users, especially on dreich days.

#### **Swimming Pool**

Westhill Swimming Pool will be out of bounds from Monday 16th March to enable improvement works to be carried out. This will include very welcome upgrades to changing rooms as well as other decorative improvements. It is intended that the pool will re-open by the Easter weekend. Organisations who have bookings as well as regular users will be offered alternative premises between 16th March and 10th April. Our pool is a very well used and much valued facility and I look forward to seeing the work when complete!

#### **Arnhall Moss**

I was pleased to meet recently with council ranger staff and local volunteers who want to continue to play a part in preserving this special area of Westhill. Hopefully others will want to help out too (see page 77). The Management Plan 2020-2024 will be shared once it has been finalised and approved.

#### Thank you!

It doesn't seem long at all since the Christmas festivities; now we will soon be seeing masses of colour around our town when the spring flowers start to push their way through the ground. It never ceases to amaze me as I go around, the amount of good work that "just gets done" by volunteers across our community; whether they are part of a wider organisation, our churches or individuals who take pride in where they live – whether it is planting bulbs, picking up litter or helping a neighbour, or just taking the time to report a fault/repair to the council, it all adds up to a nicer place to live! So, thank you to everybody who does!

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* or Facebook/Tweet me.



Councillor Iris Walker - Westhill and District



iris tweets

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



#### Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

## With the Closure of Westhill's Public Toilets where do shoppers go to 'spend a penny'

Prompted by several incidents of vandalism and a requirement that the shopping site owners want to regain ownership of the public toilet block located behind the RBS building, the Garioch Area Committee agreed to dispense with Aberdeenshire's leasing agreement. The building has

been mothballed for several months and as far as I am aware there was no public outcry for it to be retained. For those requiring toilet facilities, they have access to the numerous

customer toilets at the shopping centre and also Ashdale Hall. Will closing these toilets be a problem-in-waiting for us? Raises issues that when the Kingsford stadium is operational and secondly having an AWPR exit nearby will result in an increased visitor footfall. Toilet access will be required by some. Hopefully they will find the customer toilets in the various shops and cafes accessible and convenient.



# Cash Machine Users Kept in the Dark About the Removal of the RBS Cash Machine at the Shopping Centre

In late January I, along with many others, were surprised the ATM at the shopping centre was being removed without prior notice being given. We've been aware for some time that RBS were making arrangements to relocate the ATM at the shopping centre. However, good business practice would suggest that before removal of the machine at the bank building, relocation of it would have taken place. Not only has this situation been inconvenient for many shoppers it is likely to have a negative effect on the shops and businesses. Many of us use the ATM and spend our cash in the nearest shops. Now we'll get our cash elsewhere and the losers will be the business owners at the Westhill Shopping Centre. Hopefully the relocated cash machine will be in place as a matter of urgency.

# Recently Passed Your Driving Test? Live in Westhill? Want to have your Pass Plus Course paid in Full?

In the previous Westhill Bulletin it was reported that thanks to a donation from Westhill and Elrick Community Council there is still the opportunity for a young recently qualified driver to take the 6 hour modular pass plus

course at no cost to them. To apply for one of these Pass Plus awards the link to the web page is 'aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk'. Include in your application that you are applying for the Westhill and Elrick Community Council Pass Plus grant. If further information is needed please contact me. Apply now as its first come first served and be aware this grant is only available for two applicants.

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



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Clinics at Westhill Health and Therapies Clinic, Unit 5, Westhill Shopping Centre.

Tel: **07967 739706** 

Fmail: maria@dowsdiets.co.uk



Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership

Grant for Young Drivers
Taking the Pass Plus Course

#### £100\* available to young drivers

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

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

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

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

> More information and contact details at: www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk/ road safety/pass plus.html

Aberdeenshire







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



#### **Councillor Alistair McKelvie**



Here we are in 2020 and Christmas 2019 just seems to be a distant memory. However, to briefly reflect on the Christmas activities, along with the Shire's CEO and Director of Education, I attended the Academy Music Concert, where our talented pupils entertained a large audience, including parents, pupils and local residents, catering for many musical tastes. Congratulations to one and all once again, for the organisation and performances witnessed on the night. Three of the Academy's top musicians received awards from

the Rotary Club, namely Ross Farquhar (guitar) Timothy Wang (most improved) and Chloe McNicol (piano).

In my last Bulletin report I indicated that I had asked Police Scotland to look closely again at the traffic issues we are witnessing in Westhill and the AWPR roundabout. There have been 51 recorded incidents on this AWPR junction since its official opening over a year ago. Unfortunately, the Police equipment no longer complies with the new wider lampposts on Westhill Drive for example, and this campaign did not materialise. However throughout the latter part of January, our local Community Police launched a new campaign involving our Schools and traffic/speed issues in and around Westhill. A drop-in session was held at the Library on 27th January where Council Transport Safety Officers also attended.

Hopefully from the review of speeds and other safety issues, like observing the 20 mph around schools, we will determine what action is needed to make our community safer.

Westhill and Elrick Community Council have undergone a difficult year, and at the last meeting it was agreed to dissolve the Community Council forthwith. I am pleased to say that a number of willing and able members of our Community attended that meeting and were able to inform the Area Manager for Garioch that they wish to establish a new Community Council. I would encourage members of our community to get involved in a very rewarding community organisation. Nomination forms can be found on pages 3 and 4 in this issue and in Westhill Library.

Nominations must be in by 4pm on 20 Feb, and an election process will follow if nominations exceed places available, in the Ashdale Hall, between 12 noon and 8pm on 27th February. Further to this the Community Council AGM will be held on 12th March at 7pm in the Holiday Inn.

Aberdeenshire Charities Trust makes Grants of £100–£1000 to individuals or organisations that supports those in need, or community halls, youth groups, etc. In the period 2018 to Sept 19, there were no applications in this area. I would encourage any individual or organisation that requires financial support, to source an application for consideration, via the link below: <a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/funding.">www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/funding.</a>

I am pleased to see that a new study is to take place to deliver a new or active travel/cycle route on the A944 between Kingswells and Westhill. Given the considerable disruption on the existing route along the A944 with planning developments at Prime 4, some of which have still to be completed, this is a most welcome initiative by both City and Shire Councils, working with Nestrans (North East Transport) to explore options to reinstate what was a very popular cycle and pedestrian walkway. Since the opening of the AWPR, there has been a demonstrable reduction in the usage of the current core pathway, particularly with weekend cyclists coming out to Westhill. The public are invited to engage with this initiative, and can comment or make recommendations using the link: <a href="https://placecheck.info/maps/aberdeen">https://placecheck.info/maps/aberdeen</a>. I would encourage residents to engage with this so that Westhill residents has a strong representation.

Alistair McKelvie Telephone 07850 329179

#### Councillor David Aitchison

#### Kingsford stadium

I have been contacted recently by residents concerned by reports in the media about the Kingsford stadium development. The articles focused on proposals being aired by Aberdeen Football Club which seek to address the conditions imposed by Aberdeen City Council when they approved the planning application. These very specific conditions, requested by various ACC departments, were put in place by Aberdeen City councillors to protect local residents, for

the safety of fans, and to ensure sustainable and environmental travel.

The information which I currently have at the time of writing is that Aberdeenshire Council officials have had meetings with City Council colleagues and with the Developer's agents where the developer's proposals have been discussed. Aberdeenshire Council is now awaiting updated proposals which address the concerns that we have in respect of parking in Westhill, traffic movements on the A944 and road safety.

Since the planning permission was granted the issues around traffic movements on the A944 have increased due to the opening of the AWPR and the Kingswells South junction.

#### Westhill Shopping Centre

Planning permission for refurbishment of the Shopping Centre was recently granted. We do not have a traditional town centre which means that the shopping centre is a significant focal point of our community. Changes to the heart of our town should be an improvement and should be scrutinised by elected members to ensure they are better than what we have

Well-designed places are good for our health, our wellbeing and our economy. They are also an outward projection of the aspirations of our community. It would have been beneficial for elected representatives to openly consider and debate the merits of this refurbishment and would have allowed residents views to be channelled through councillors.

However, there was insufficient support among councillors for the proposals to be referred to committee for deliberation meaning that the planning department's recommendation to approve was passed.

I can be consulted at any time by telephone or email on any issue and also hold surgeries at Westhill Library. My next surgery is on Wednesday 4th March at 5.30-6.00pm. Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for a full list of dates.

Councillor David Aitchison

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

cllr.d.aitchison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



@aitchisondavid



# DOG WALKING & PET SERVICES

## Busy Days Dog Care

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- References available from existing customers

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Marriage Proposal Announcement
or even just to let somebody know you care

Chat to me about your idea and I can help make it happen

Collection from Sauchen
(10 mins from Westhill or desvery can be organised for a small charge)
Check out my FB page and message me for further details
Heartfelt Frames

or call me on 07590 984736







#### A.J. LANDSCAPES

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Tidy Ups · Lock Blocking
Paving Fencing · Walling
Turfing · Hedge Trimming
Artificial Grass installed

Free no obligation estimates



#### Westhill Walkers

#### Open to all no matter what your age or ability

At the time of writing we have still had no snow so have had no interruptions to our walking programme. We ended the year with our traditional Boxing Day along the prom. A nice leisurely way to end a successful year with plenty of refreshments on the way! The first walk of the year was also by the sea with an outing to the Sands of Forvie – an old favourite of the group.

In November a group of walkers gathered at Muir Cottage near the Linn of Dee for an early Christmas dinner combined with walks in the area. Many thanks to the organisers and chefs for an excellent weekend. Instead of our usual weekend in a hostel in May we are going to be staying midweek in a stunning lodge near Loch Insh. The option of a hot tub post walks will be novelty for us.

The greatest change in 2020 is our revamped web page which you will find at <a href="www.westhillwalkers.org">www.westhillwalkers.org</a>. This is a massive improvement on our previous site with a link to our 2020 programme, a gallery of photos and we plan to publish walk reports in a blog. We also now have a contact page with a new generic email for the group. Many thanks to Dave Anderson for all his hard work.

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. Our annual membership fees are very modest £15 for an individual or £22 for a family. 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 new website at www.westhillwalkers.org.

Some forthcoming walks – please join us and be sure of a very warm welcome. We meet at Westhill Primary School car park. More details on the web page.			
Sunday 1st Mar 09.00	Hill of Fare M and E/M 11 miles or 7 miles A choice of two walks today – both taking in Meikle Tap.		
Sunday 15th Mar 08.00	Ben Rinnes M 6 miles A return to an old favourite of the club. The walk starts at the distillery and ascends to the hill fort on Ben Rinnes and then descends by Round Hill.		
Sunday 29th Mar 08.00	Coastal Walk from Portsoy to Findochty E/M 9 miles Today we follow the Moray coastline on beaches, cliff paths and rough tracks from Portsoy through Sandend, Cullen, Portknockie and finishing in Findochty.		
Sunday 12th Apr 08.00	A) Ben Earb Ridge M/S 10 miles From Spittal of Glenshee the path follows the ridge over Ben Earb and Meall a'Choire Bhuidhe high above Glen Lochsie. B) Glen Lochsie E/M 6 miles A pleasant walk up Glen Lochsie past Dalmunzie House and the remains of the railway used to ferry stalkers and ghillies from the house to the now ruined Glenlochsie Lodge at the end of the glen.		





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# WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

#### **Shed Extension**

The cabin fit out is progressing well. We should be finished in February. This is the kitchen being installed and the wiring part done. A notice board (on trestles) is an overflow from the workshop.

We hope to get back to normal and plan to go back to our saying "no pressure, no deadlines" which has been suspended for those working on the extension!



The extension will house the kitchen, model group (railway, etc.), computing, electronics, 3D printing and office work as well as the coffee table, meals and space for music group. We are trying to think of a better name than 'social area' and will have a sheet at the shed for suggestions with votes against the names. We have thought of the East Neuk, Hong Kong Wing (because it is in the Far East) and a few others. Note that we don't have to accept the name with the most votes so Sheddy McShedface may not win.

#### Business as (almost) usual...

We have had to lay off social events because of the crowding; the extension will relieve that. Meanwhile we have kept everything else going as normal; music, bridge and railway model construction groups, the Sheshed, tea table banter and friendly atmosphere. So, if you have thought about coming along please do – we hope to give you a warm welcome.

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 are open Monday and Friday, 10am-4pm, and Wednesday, 3pm-8pm, and welcome all men over the age of 18. The Sheshed is run every 2 weeks on a Monday.

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





Charity No. SC017801

Since the last Bulletin Westhill Scout Group has enjoyed the run up to the festive period and then a break over the holidays.



We held our popular 'Soup 'n' Santa' morning in November, which saw families enjoy some delicious homemade soups, the usual chocolate and bottle stalls plus an opportunity to visit Santa's grotto and meet the main man!

It was a great event and is the Group's main fundraiser during the year. The money raised will be used as part of the ongoing development programme at the Scout hut. We also used the event as an opportunity to collect items for the Aberdeenshire North Foodbank and we were delighted

to hand over four big boxes to them, amounting to 72.75 kg of items.

On Remembrance Sunday, representatives from the Group attended the Remembrance Day service at Skene Church to pay their respects and remember those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today. #LestWeForget

With the festive period now past, all our sections have started back and have a full programmes of activities planned. Amazon Beavers will be enjoying a trip to the fire station, Beechwood, Westwood and Keir Scouts will be going on skiing and climbing trips, Bagheera cubs will be welcoming a visit from Westhill First Responders, meanwhile Kaa cubs are looking forward to a ten pin bowling event in Inverurie. Lyne of Skene Beavers and Cubs are planning a trip to Dalguise outdoor centre. All sections are also planning various cooking activities including pancake making.





Many leaders and youngsters are looking forward to watching this year's 60th anniversary Aberdeen Scout Gang Show, 'Time to Shine' at the Arts Centre Theatre in March. From Westhill Scout Group there will be two adults plus seven of our youngsters treading the boards in it! We wish them all the best with it. The show runs from 10th to 14th March and tickets are still available.

This year the Scout Group is holding a family camp at Templars

Park by Maryculter in May. The last time the Group held this event we saw around 200 children and parents come for the weekend and enjoy lots of activities including biking, climbing, water slides plus Bush Tucker Trials! This year's camp theme is #SkillsForTheFuture and we envisage it to be lots of fun with something for everyone. We've got our fingers crossed already for good weather!

None of these fantastic opportunities for our youngsters would happen were it not for all our volunteer leaders, assistant leaders, adult helpers and committee members. We could always do with more volunteers. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping deliver fun and enjoyable programmes that help give our youngsters #SkillsForLife, please see our website <a href="https://www.1stwesthillscouts.co.uk">www.1stwesthillscouts.co.uk</a> for further details, contacts, and joining forms.



# Volunteer with Westhill Scout Group and join in the fun!

Week by week, our volunteers empower young people to try new things, make new friends and stand on their own two feet.

You don't need to be Bear Grylls to join us. You don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger. You don't even need to know how to put up a tent.

Whatever your skillset, lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare, and we promise you'll get more out than you put in.

We provide the training. You show up, get stuck in, and make new memories for life. Sounds fun? Worthwhile? It is! See our website for more details.

1stwesthillscouts.co.uk/join #SkillsForLife

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# Rotary Out and About

The winter season has been a very busy one for us out and about amongst the local community. Running up to Christmas we spent a couple of days bag packing at Marks & Spencer and thanks to the customers' generosity collected over £3,400 for our charities. This money enables us to undertake a lot of activities in and around Westhill and we have seen a few of these over the last three months. The first was our Senior Citizens Christmas Party, where we hosted 100 for an afternoon of food, drink and entertainment.

Then we had our Young Speaker competition with 17 senior pupils from our six local primary schools delivering speeches on topics as diverse as Amundsen, Roald Dahl, deforestation of the planet, single-use plastics, racism in football, and the books of children's author Liz Pichon. The runner-up, Isla Kay from Skene School, in a very realistic suffragette costume delivered her convincing talk on the life of Emmeline Pankhurst. The winner, Phoebe Murray from Crombie Primary, took on perhaps the greatest challenge of all as with panache she analysed 'How to make the Scottish National Football Team great again'.

In January we had one of our favourite events of the year – the Primary Schools Fun Quiz. 46 teams of four children took part in the event over two days. Questions were prepared and posed by our own Margaret Currie, testing the children over a wide range of subjects. The pupils were up to the task and scores were high across all the sections with very stiff competition. Winners in each section were:

P4 – THE QUIZ QUEENS from Westhill P6 – SKENE BEANS from Skene

P5 – DEEP FRIED CHICKEN from Crombie P7 – SKENE SCHOOL HOODIES from Skene

If you would like to participate in these types of events and be part of giving back to the community please get in touch. There are many ways you can help ranging from working only on a specific project to becoming an associate or full Rotary member.

In the current age of recycling what better charity to support than one which recycles cycles. We are therefore organising another collection of your old bikes for re-use in Africa. These will be renovated and sent to provide support to those in need in West Africa by the *re-cycle*. *org* charity. The bikes help older children in rural areas who have no transport to get to school and surveys indicate that they can increase school attendance by over 30% and that around



98% of the bikes are still in use after a 3 year period. We are now also able to accept "kiddies" bikes for re-use via other local charities. Please bring your unused bikes along to the Westhill shopping centre on Saturday 14th March.

Keep an eye out for our purple crocuses which should be coming out across Westhill when this edition of the Bulletin goes out. These were planted as part of Rotary's End Polio campaign.



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#### **Girlguiding Westhill District**

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Girlguiding Westhill Friends of Guiding Spring Fayre

Trinity Church, 10am-12noon Saturday 7th March 2020



#### Stalls on offer include:

- Teas/coffees/home baking Bottle Stall Crafts Chocolate Tombola
- Cupcakes Lucky Dip Tattoos/Face Painting Raffle Volunteering Join Us
- Local businesses

Please come along with your friends and family to support local guiding in Westhill. If you have any bottles or chocolate products to donate, please bring these along on the morning of the fayre.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been having fun with some of the following activities since the last Bulletin: Panto season – Snow White @ Tivoli Theatre, Aladdin @ Arts Centre & Peter Pan @ Inverurie Town Hall; Cinema, tea out, 'Edible Architecture' (fruit towers), sock puppets, Indoor Camp with a Christmas Theme, paramedic visit, Bob's Buddies Owls and The Critter Keeper as well as all the fun activities and badges done through our amazing programme.

Our Waiting List Coordinator continues to do a great job in getting girls into units and all units are operating at full capacity. We would love you to consider volunteering with Girlguiding Westhill whether as an occasional helper, residential helper, Unit Helper, Leader or to offer a skill to units, e.g. sport, craft, accounts, etc., PLEASE sign up at <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/">http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/</a> to find out more. One of us will be in touch to discuss the ways in which you can help that suit you and your circumstances. One more Rainbow, Brownie and Guide unit are what is required to clear the waiting list! Even if you can help with an existing unit, this would allow a more experienced leader to consider opening another unit.

Caroline Gray & Alison Smith, Girlguiding Westhill District Commissioners westhilldc@gmail.com







#### 1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

November, December and early 2020 has been a busy time for the Company. The Company Section entered the National Badminton Competition and the boys played well, progressing to the 3rd round where they lost in a close match against 1st Buckie. We also entered

the BB National Masterteam Quiz and hosted the 3rd round in Trinity Church during December where we did very well and progressed to the Scottish Final. This will be held in Glasgow on 22 February, with the opportunity to win a place in the National Final in Ireland during April.



Badminton 'V' Buckie



Masterteam Quiz

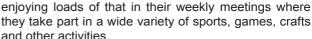
The Company Section boys also delivered over 1,500 Xmas Cards across Westhill and Skene which had been 'posted' at both Trinity and Skene Churches.

Christmas is also a time for enjoyment and the Anchor Boys and Junior Section certainly had fun at a film show on their final evening meeting of 2019 while the Company Section boys had a great evening at a Trampoline Park. They also enjoyed January's calm weather with a mountain bike outing at Tarland Trails.



Anchor Boys 'musicians'

On the subject of fun, both Junior Section and Anchor Boys have been



We do not have waiting lists and although we are

now into the second half of our session, new boys will always be made very welcome. Parents of boys interested in joining can either contact any of the officers, or simply just turn up any Friday evening and join in the fun straight away.

More photographs and videos of all our recent activities can be viewed on our Facebook Page.



Junior Section Uni-Hoc' practice

#### Skene Parish Church

As the hymn confirms, change is all around us. Creation is never the same two days running. The year progresses and each day at the

moment brings a

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away Change and decay in all around I see: O thou who changest not, abide with me!



little more sunlight. Perhaps even a little more warmth (I'm writing with hope!). Spring is the most natural reminder we have, that change is healthy. From the barrenness of winter emerges new growth and new possibilities. Whether it's spring flowers or spring lambs. The seasons and cycles never halt. Endings give way to beginnings, give way to endings.

O but how we try and deny that fundamental truth. We often resist change with every fibre of our being. We want things and people to stay the same. We stamp our feet and cross our arms and work hard to prolong things. We're not very good at endings, even when we know they are coming.

Now don't get me wrong. Sometimes we do need to fight to keep things going, to prevent a premature ending. But equally, there are times when change is not only inevitable, it is also a healthy step. Think about the difference between stagnant water and running water – which would you rather drink from?

In our congregation, we are in a season of change. During March we will be saying goodbye to Marion, our hard-working and compassionate deacon. She has served us lovingly and diligently since 1994. We will be giving thanks for her and sharing our fond memories of her time at Skene. We will miss her very much. But we also want to celebrate with her at the beginning of a new stage in her life, as she looks forward to a



new adventure. We too are looking forward to whoever comes next to serve us. It will be different but that is not something to be afraid of.

As we move towards Easter, our focus will turn to Jesus and his death and resurrection. Jesus says, 'unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds'. Without his death there could be no life, no future, no hope. An ending was needed so that an incredible, powerful and transformation beginning could emerge – as light from a dark tomb.

Whatever season you are in - whatever changes you are facing - I pray that you would find

courage to say goodbye, to let go, to celebrate the endings and to look forward with hope to what comes next.

> Blessings Rev Stella

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me

Date	Time/Place	Event
9th April	7pm Skene	Maundy Thursday Communion
10th April	7pm Trinity	Good Friday service
11th April	10am Skene	Easter Saturday walk
12th	10am Trinity	Easter Sunday service
April	11.15am Skene	Easter Sunday service
	7pm Skene	Easter Songs of Praise

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#### **FUNDRAISING**

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and helped at our fundraising events during last year's Silver Jubilee. We raised £5248 for the Hall.

People and companies also donated £5097 to the Hall.

Anyone interested in joining the fundraising committee should contact the Hall as we plan to do more fundraising this year. We have had the toilets and meeting rooms decorated and new infra-red heating fitted in the main hall. We have further plans for more renovations this year.

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We are looking for two or three extra local people for the Committee. Please contact the Hall if you are interested.

#### **AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

We have various time slots available during the week for let, please email the Hall if you are interested in making a regular booking or for parties/events. Contact ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monthly Tea Dances are on the 2nd Friday of every month 1.30-3.30pm. The Indian Association N.E.S. Holi Festival is on Sunday April 26th. The Westhill Gala is on Saturday June 13th.

#### WESTHILL MARKET (9am-1pm, 1st Saturday every month)

Our monthly market is held at the Hall and we have stallholders selling fish, bread, cakes, local fresh meat, pies, vegetables, jams, fudge, eggs, organic body products, bespoke cards, crafts, jewellery and more. Over the next year we are offering stallholders spaces for free to encourage more stalls to come. Please contact the Hall.

We really need the support of the local community for the Market to be able to continue and to expand as stalls will only come back if more local people come.

Most of the products at the Market are locally sourced and made, with little or no food miles involved. Come along to see the fantastic quality and choice of the goods on offer and help the environment.

#### HALL FACILITIES

We also offer a wide program of exercise classes, martial arts, children's dance classes and toddler/baby classes, for full details please see our online timetable: <a href="http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable">http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable</a> and our upcoming events can be viewed on: <a href="http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-events">http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-events</a> (these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards).

#### **ENQUIRIES**

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

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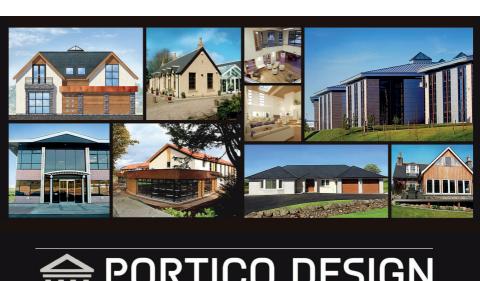
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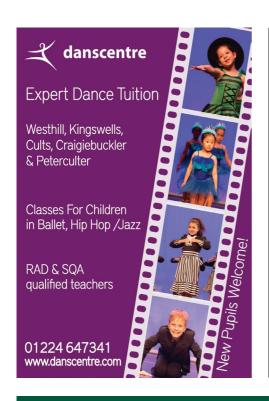
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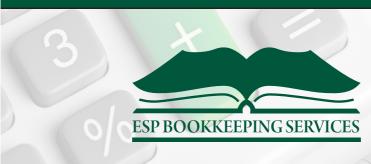


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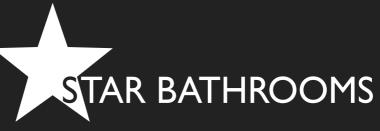
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Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd A limited company registered in Scotland No.SC10559 Charity No.SC01625 Registered office: St John's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EP



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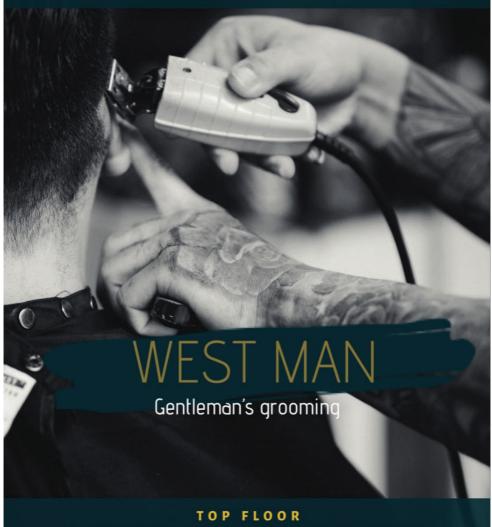
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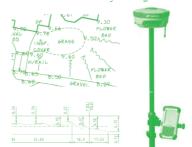
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#### **Adult Badminton**

Westhill Community Centre

Badminton players from beginners to the more advanced can come along to these two different badminton sessions. Badminton is a great game for all ages, making new friends while getting fitter in a fun relaxed manner.

#### **Adult Badminton Classes**

This is a new class in the Westhill Academy Games Hall for beginners or for those just wanting to improve their techniques. The coach will try to accommodate everyone.

Thursday Evenings - 6.15 - 7.15 pm Cost - £5 per session paid in a 5 week block (booking required).

#### Tuesday Adult Badminton Drop In

Come along to this friendly drop in sessions where all levels are made welcome.

Time: - 8.00 - 10.00 pm

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# POLICE SCOTLAND Keeping people safe

#### POLICE REPORT

I am pleased to report further positive engagement in the Westhill Community.

Whilst this article will not be published until February, I feel it is important to make you aware and speak about a week-long campaign that was held on the week commencing Monday 27 January relating to road safety in the Westhill area.



I have been contacted recently by members of the public, councillors and schools regarding road safety in Westhill, whether it be parking issues, speeding issues or safety at the numerous crossings in the area.

As a result, my first campaign in the area was targeting the area surrounding Westhill Primary School. I, along with Councillors, members of Aberdeenshire Council and Westhill Primary School Parent Council members held a public drop-in event on Monday 27 January at Westhill Library from 11am to 2pm, where concerns relating to road traffic issues in and around the Westhill area were discussed.

In addition to this there were a number of activities held during the course of the week including assemblies, workshops and competitions for the pupils as well as speed checks and school car park patrols.

Cllr Iris Walker & PC James Stewart

Aberdeenshire Council also introduced the Park Smart initiative to all school classes during the first assembly of the week. Park Smart

focuses on keeping schoolchildren safe by encouraging drivers to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children from school.

Teachers delivered in-class road safety messages including homework with the intention of creating long-term behavioural change among parents and guardians.

Westhill Primary School pupils also got the chance to enter a road safety banner competition, with the winner announced at the week's final assembly. The winner had their design printed on a banner which has been hung outside the school to promote the road safety message to motorists.

Nominations were also sought from pupils to take on the role of Junior Road Safety Officers for the remainder of the school term. The school and council transport safety education officer appointed and helped the eight successful JRSOs required for the school which comprises four pupils each from P6 and P7.

JRSOs are very important in a primary school, helping to raise road safety awareness and promote road safety issues to everyone in the school and wider community.

The road safety messages are spread across the school year which helps to highlight the importance of road safety.

If you were unable to attend the public drop in session at Westhill Library and wish to discuss any road safety issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you would like to report anything to the Police please use either our nonemergency number 101 or via www.scotland.police.uk or if you wish to remain anonymous, then use Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Please follow us on Twitter @ShireSouthPol for local policing updates.

**PC James Stewart** 

#### Westhill Golf Club

It's pleasing to see the daylight increasing day by day, almost time to get the clubs dusted down, fine tune the swings and get you and your friends 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 <a href="https://www.westhillgolfclub.co.uk">www.westhillgolfclub.co.uk</a>.

Our season will get underway on Saturday 28th March with the traditional season opening challenge match between the Captain and his Vice Captain's team, always played in good spirit but bragging rights are priceless. Our Ladies Section opening match will be held the day after on Sunday 29th.

Considering the amount of rainfall towards the end of the year the course in a very good condition. The recent early morning frosts has meant that the winter course has been operational however we have managed to play on occasions over the full Summer 18-hole course. To offer this at this time of year is an absolute bonus. The Greens Team have been very active throughout the close season and have been concentrating more on the aesthetics of the course but are hopeful of improving two of our most problematic teeing areas, i.e. the 1st and the 15th.

Last year we welcomed 70 new members to the club over various categories, a remarkable achievement considering the number of clubs struggling and indeed closing. As a club we can't and won't stand still, we continually strive to improve our product and service therefore offering customers in return a club they are proud to be associated with. We are very much "a friendly club", welcoming to all standards of golfers with affordable memberships. Should you require further details on memberships please do not hesitate to contact me at the club on 01224 743361 or by email office@westhillgolfclub.co.uk.

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 their golfing achievements of last season.



# 'LEARN TO GOLF' for Boys and Girls\*

Coaching and Membership
– ages 9 to 17 yrs

10-Week Starter Programme – £40

Starts April 2020

For further information contact: George Bruce, Club Manager 01224 743361 Option 1

westhilljuniorgolf@gmx.co.uk

\*A Scottish Golf Girls Hub

Our Junior membership sits over the 100 mark and last year they achieved one of their goals by returning to compete in the Aberdeen Junior Pennant League.

Junior coaching will be available throughout the year, first in the calendar and to commence in April will be a 10-week starter programme. Members, keep an eye in your "inbox", and for non-members, please feel free to get in touch.

Socially it had been a busy time in the Clubhouse. We held a New Year Party on the afternoon of Saturday 4th January with over 70 people in attendance. Our annual Ladies "Tipsy Tea" Party will be held on Saturday 21st March, one of the first dates in our Social Calendar, Ladies don't miss it!! To enjoy our social events, social memberships are available @ £5pp for the year.

Lastly can I please ask all dog walkers to adhere to the signs that we have at various points on the perimeter of the golf course.

As per the code, dogs must be under close control or on a lead, the course is not to be used for exercising purposes.

George Bruce, Club Manager





#### SPRING UPDATE

Thank you to all who joined us for our Christmas Fayre on the 7th Dec - we raised £1050 which is fantastic & helps us to continue running our services for those with complex disabilities and support needs.

Our next fundraiser is our **Spring Fayre** on **Sunday 1st March** at the Holiday
Inn 1pm - 5pm
Free entry & All Welcome
Come by for a browse!

At the end of last year we were sad to announce the departure of our longstanding Chairman, Bob McCracken, after over 5 years of support. Bob's input has been invaluable to the Charity and we are pleased that he remains a close friend to us and will continue to support our development after stepping down. We are however delighted to welcome our new Chair, Janine Chalmers, to SensationALL and look forward to working together & continuing our vision of social inclusion and access to support for all!

SensationALL are thrilled to announce that we will be working with the Westhill & District Sports Hub to organise the



This partnership allows for this valued community event to continue benefiting the Westhill area and the work of the Charity, while bringing runners from across Scotland to this well respected event.

Please visit our facebook page and the Westhill 10k page for updates, annoucements and registration info.

If you would like to be involved in the 10K committee or would like to become a Race Sponsor or Patron please contact **Katie@sensationall.org.uk** 

#### Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

We are continuing to raise money for Phase 2 of the extension and upgrading of the kitchen. Donations are appreciated to continue with this cause.

Our new Meeting Room has now been named "The Mary Gray Room" and is available for bookings.

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.
- 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 please use Facebook or phone Sandra Wisely on 01224 742660. See Facebook page for rates. Milne Hall Management Committee is registered as a charity (SC045034).

**Help wanted** – if you feel you could contribute in any way in looking after and improving the hall, you will be made most welcome. Please contact 01224 742804.



We have a very busy programme planned for the next few months which will provide great opportunities for members to improve and try different skills and techniques.

We have a range of guest speakers lined up for the coming months which includes several well-known local photographers and always makes for an interesting and entertaining evening. There are several internal and external competitions coming up

and we will be running workshops and day trips to places of interest around the North East and further afield.

The club also assists Charlie House Children's Charity by providing photographers and pictures for their organised events throughout the year on a voluntary basis.

If you are interested in joining the club why don't you come along for a few weeks and give it a try. 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*.





#### JOGSCOTLAND WESTHILL

#### A great start to the running year

It won't be long until Winter gives way to Spring and we'll all be looking forward to lighter nights and better



weather. Springtime is a great time to get out and get running but here at JogScotland Westhill we've continued running throughout the colder months and the dark nights and have regularly welcomed an average of 35 runners at our Monday and Thursday night sessions.

Our membership numbers continue to grow and by the end of 2019 we had 166 members, with 110 active members running with us regularly.

The arrival of 2020 has also seen the start of another Couch to 5K programme. Nearly 30 enthusiastic new runners signed up for the 10-week programme which aims to help participants complete the Garioch 5K at the end of March. We're really pleased that so many people want to make running a regular part of their life and look forward to cheering them on as they cross the finishing line and get their well-deserved medals.



The 2020 Couch to 5K group on their first night

Of course, we welcome runners of all abilities throughout the year. We're a social running club and there are groups to suit all abilities, so if you'd like to join a friendly, inclusive group where you'll find plenty of support from our trained Jog Leaders, sign up online with JogScotland at <a href="https://jogscotland.org.uk">https://jogscotland.org.uk</a> and come along to Westhill Swimming Pool on a Monday or Thursday. We meet at 6:20pm and the session starts at 6:30pm.

The five different groups usually cover distances ranging from 5K to nearly 10K so it's a great way to keep up your training, whatever your goal.

2019 was another good year for JogScotland Westhill and we're looking forward to 2020 and all the opportunities that will bring to keep fit and have fun. Studies have shown that it's much easier to stick to a fitness programme if you're part of a group, so come along and give it a go. You'll be very welcome.

#### **Westhill Library News**

Aberdeenshire Libraries are currently looking at the development of Library services across Aberdeenshire and are very keen to hear from members of the community who use and who do not use the Library on future Library provision. The survey should only take 3 to 4 minutes to complete online, paper copies are available from Westhill Library (and all branch libraries). The survey will close at the end of February. All responses will be studied to inform changes (including opening hours) to library provision in Westhill and across Aberdeenshire. We do know we will have outreach hours available which will enable us to hold events and activities both within the library and in the community. Great opportunities for us! We will give an update in the Summer issue.

#### https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ABSLIBRARIES

Are you a football fan? Pop in and see the collection of World Cup and European Cup mascots currently in our display case dating from World Cup Willie who was the mascot for the 1966 World Cup held in England. The mascots were kindly lent to us by one of our borrowers. We're always on the lookout for items to display in our case so if you're an adult or a child with a collection you'd like to display at the library please get in touch.

Our pop-up museum from Aberdeenshire Museums Service has a fascinating display of World War 2 photos, artefacts and newspaper articles.

The newly established Scrabble Club is thriving, but we are still keen for beginner, novice or experienced Scrabble players to join us on Mondays from 10.30 am to noon. The sessions are free and booking is not required.

The weekly Bookbug sessions held on Thursday mornings (during term time) are now once a fortnight. The upcoming dates are 21st February, 5th March, 19th March and 2nd April. The Bookbug challenge is now on for anyone aged 0-4. Pick up a challenge card at the library and collect a sticker every time you visit. Once you have 6 stickers you can choose a beautifully illustrated certificate to keep. Collect as many certificates as you can until Saturday 25th April. At the end of the Challenge, one lucky winner in each library will receive a book prize plus a much sought after mini Bookbug toy!

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

Like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WesthillLibrary.

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

#### 1st Skene Girls' Brigade

We have been very busy over the past 5 months.....

The girls have been working towards gaining their badges – the Explorers (P1-P3) have been learning all about The Animal Kingdom, the Juniors (P4-P7) have been focussing on Crafts and Games.

The older girls, the Brigaders (S1-S6), have been collecting donations for the local Foodbank as part of their initiative.

The divisional competitions are in February where we will be entering the Junior/Brigader Choir and also the Junior and Brigaders each have physical ones to enter too.

Next in our calendar is the Annual Divisional Display which we will attend as a Company, to be held in the Beach Ballroom in March and then our own Open Night is on 30th March in Trinity Church at 7pm, all welcome.

Our girls all agree "WE LOVE GB".

Any enquiries please call (Captain) Fiona Cumming on 07792 471199.

#### BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

Spring is on its way but don't get too excited, our weather can change very quickly. Save some time just now by doing weeding and cleaning up while the ground is soft enough to pick out the weeds that are showing.

Take time now to sow seeds three or four in pots, to give them a good start for planting out later on when the chance of frost is past, removing the weakest ones so the strongest have a better chance. Make sure your pots are clean and beasty free.

If you are thinking of changing the look of your garden, try drawing a plan of the shape you would like, then have a look at the space you have to work with and go for it. If it doesn't work out change it next year.

For those people who don't have gardens, try some old pails or pots. Bore three or four holes in the bottom, fill with compost 2 or 3 inches from the top, and sow some carrots, beetroot, cut and come again lettuce, strawberries – this could be the start of something new – nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Enjoy your garden, the exercise and fresh air is good for you (no matter what age).

**Bill Loudon** 



# SKENE MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT INFORMATION

As many of you will be aware the way GP services are being delivered across Scotland is changing. Stage one of the New GP Contract is being implemented between April 2018 and April 2021.

Some services have been introduced at Skene and more information will be provided as others become available.

#### Pharmacotherapy service

Many of you will already be familiar with this service. Skene has Practice Pharmacists and a Pharmacy Technician.

They will:

- · Answer medication queries.
- Review medications when you have been discharged from hospital or attended an outpatient clinic.
- Contact you if your medication is in short supply and tell you what changes are being put in place.
- · Contact you if your medication is changed because it is no longer provided on NHS formulary.

#### First Contact Physiotherapy service

This is a new acute **self-referral** service based in the Practice on a Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon.

If you have a new pain in your:

- · Shoulder, elbow, hand, wrist, hip, knee, ankle, lower back, mid-back, or neck OR
- · Spinal related pain, pins and needles or numbness OR
- · Problems with muscles, ligaments, tendons, bones, tennis elbow, carpal tunnel, sprains, strains OR
- · Arthritis new flare-up.

**NO GP APPOINTMENT IS REQUIRED:** to access this service please ask for an appointment with the First Contact Physio. The Physio will assess you and if required refer you onto other further physio services.

If you see a GP first then you will **not be eligible** for the First Contact Physio service and will join the waiting list for the musculoskeletal hub which presently has a waiting time of over 15 weeks.

N.B. Presently this service is strictly for new conditions – so nothing you have already seen a GP for. It is for over 16 year old patients and the Physios cannot see antenatal or postnatal issues or open wounds.



#### 875 (Westhill) Squadron

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS the next generation

It's been a while since we last appeared in the Westhill Bulletin, but we are still on the go in the Westhill area and will hopefully be appearing in future editions.

2019 was another busy year for the Squadron with cadets taking part in several events and activities during the year including a skiing trip, camps, courses and assisting with public events such as Balmoral Road Races and Glack Attack.

Throughout the year, the cadets have worked on their classification training and leadership skills as well as first aid training. Every cadet holds a formal first aid qualification, a vital life-saving skill they can use outwith the ATC.

The squadron also took part in the annual Wing Field Day, which is a day of several competitions in which the 18 squadrons within the Wing compete. The squadron came 3rd in the drill competition and 2nd in the banner competition.

During the year, several cadets took part in various sporting competitions at local, regional and national level, including cross country, athletics, swimming and netball. The squadron were the overall winners at the Inter Squadron Swimming Competition held at Westhill Swimming Pool.

During the summer holidays, a number of the cadets attended several camps throughout the UK including the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford and an adventure training camp at Fairbourne.

Also, during the summer holidays, Cadet Sergeant McIntosh attended at RAF Cranwell where she undertook and successfully passed the Air Cadet Leadership Course. This course is one of the top non-aviation courses a cadet can be selected for and is a very challenging but rewarding course.

Later in the year, Cadet Flight Sergeant Flett was awarded an Air Cadet Pilot Scheme course at Tayside Aviation in Dundee. The course gives cadets free 12 hours of flying training which can be put towards a Private Pilots Licence. Cdt FS Flett successfully passed the course gaining his flying wings and is now working towards gaining his PPL which he hopes to complete by Easter.

In December, some of our cadets visited the Original 106 studios to hand over their donation for the station's annual Christmas appeal. Within two weeks, the cadets had donated a total of 18 carrier bags and 2 boxes of food and other items for the appeal. During the visit, the cadets got to find out what it takes to put a show together and were taken into the studio while a show was being broadcast.

After everything the cadets have done throughout 2019, it was recently announced that we are one of the top three squadrons in North East Scotland Wing.



We are only a few weeks into the new year and already it looks like it's going to be a busy one for the cadets and staff.

We are currently recruiting new cadets and welcome boys and girls aged between 12 and 17 years to come and join us. Cadets can take part in activities such as flying, target shooting, sports, adventure training, camps on RAF stations in the UK and abroad. Cadets can also gain BTEC qualifications and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We also provide a free uniform.

If anyone is interested in joining the squadron, please email 875@aircadets.org for more information or visit our Facebook page 875 (Westhill) Sqn ATC.

#### **Environment and Litter Projects in Westhill**

This year a new Development Plan for the Arnhall Moss and Denman Park is being finalised. The ground is owned and managed by Aberdeenshire Council and the Plan is reviewed every five years, after consultation. For various reasons, some parts of the previous plan were not carried out and decisions as to what we would like to be done now, must be made. We have been liaising with the Academy and hope to get pupils involved in some of the projects anticipated to develop the site. A small group of us are currently in discussion with the Council on what we feel should be priorities, as of course, funding will be an issue and choices on the way ahead will need to be considered. It is likely that a newly reconstituted WECC will have a say and if you feel that you have an interest in this area, please put your name forward to join and help in getting the best from what is an important and pleasant place, where we all can enjoy nature. Improving the ponds and ensuring safe access for children to the water, while maintaining paths and appropriate trees and vegetation will clearly be important.

In 2019 our group ran a campaign to target dog poo offenders, which we hope has been at least partially successful and we expect to develop further topics for us to concentrate on in 2020.

Our small group of Litter Picking Volunteers will be active again from February. We try to keep the Denman Park area, as well as the surrounding paths, etc., as litter free as possible with our monthly Litter Picks. You could do your bit by joining us on these picks. It only takes one hour, once a month and we provide the kit that is used. We are always looking for more help so please consider giving it a try.



Our dates for Litter Picks in 2020 are: 21st March, 18th April, 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 15th August, 19th September, 17th October, 21st November

All our picks start at 10:00 at the Westhill Tennis Court Car Park.

For further information, or if your group may be interested in borrowing our Litter Picking Kit, please contact: Raymond Swaffield, email <a href="mailto:swaffies@talktalk.net">swaffies@talktalk.net</a> or Ken Stewart, email <a href="mailto:kennethstewart@talktalk.net">kennethstewart@talktalk.net</a>.

#### SCAFFOLD TOWER FOR HIRE

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

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

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

#### Westhill & Kingswells First Responders

We are a small group of dedicated individuals who work closely alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service in providing medical help to members of our community. We are called to a variety of different incidents, most commonly chest pains and



breathing difficulties and in extreme cases, cardiac arrests and even strokes. Because we respond to calls from within our own community, we usually arrive before the nearest ambulance. This means we are able to provide more immediate assistance to those in need and in turn increase the survival rates of out of hospital cardiac arrests.

We are continuing in our efforts to increase public CPR and defibrillator awareness and are determined to teach the lifesaving skill to members of our community. We provide comprehensive CPR and defibrillator awareness sessions to groups within our community free of charge. If you are interested in learning more about CPR and defibrillators then please drop us an email and we would be more than happy to come out and visit your group.

Our recruitment drive is well underway and we currently have several new members in the middle of undergoing their training and we are looking forward to welcoming them into our team. However, we continue to need extra volunteers to ensure full coverage across Westhill and Kingswells and thus we are still on the lookout for new volunteers to join our team. If you have a few hours to spare each week and love helping others, then we would love to hear from you! Full training will be provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service with regular training meetings held throughout the year. We hold two meetings a month where we are able to refresh our skills and also plan events in our community.

As some of you may have seen, we are currently participating in the Tesco Bags for Life charity event. We are looking to use our donation from this event to purchase lifesaving equipment and provide training to our members. We would be grateful for your support in this initiative by voting for us in participating Tesco stores. We are also holding a bag pack in Tesco Westhill on 8th March 2020 between 2 and 7pm to raise funds for the group. We look forward to meeting some of you there!

We would also like to thank everyone for their continued support so far this year and also the Holiday Inn Westhill for allowing the use of their facilities for our meetings. Please feel free to contact us anytime via email at <a href="mailto:westhillkingswellscfr@gmail.com">westhillkingswellscfr@gmail.com</a> with any queries you may have.



Hi everyone, Happy New Year and welcome to 2020!

Once again we are in that season of goals, fresh commitments and resolutions. Some of us may have decided on a lifestyle change, to exercise more, to quit a harmful habit, to explore Christianity or to become part of a local Church assembly. Whatever your New Year resolution may be, we all know that such decisions may be private, but we would often need the support and encouragement of positive associations to stand any chance of fulfilling such goals or commitments.

At Vinespring Church we not only build each other up in faith and love, but also in personal discipline and responsibility, through our fellowship with God's Word and with one another. We believe that by being accountable to each other and to the truth of scripture, we can grow more wholesomely into the fullness of the nature and stature of Jesus Christ. This is also reflected in our theme for this year – "Complete In Him". taken from Colossians 2:10.

To find out more please visit our website: <a href="https://www.vinespringchurch.co.uk">www.vinespringchurch.co.uk</a>, or feel free to drop in any Sunday morning at Aboyne Banchory Suites, Holiday Inn Westhill at 11am. We'll be happy to see you. Till then, have a blessed year ahead!

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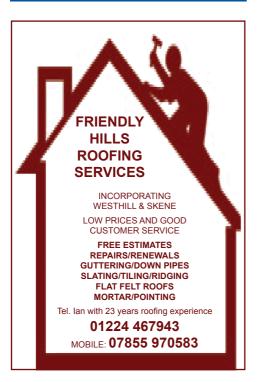
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#### **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

#### South West Aberdeenshire

#### New service for EU nationals to settle in the UK

The South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice and information about debt, benefits, housing, utilities, employment problems, consumer issues, immigration and other personal matters.

Recently we started working on a new project which provides a **specialist service** for **EU/ EEA Nationals (EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland)** living in Scotland.

Funded by the UK Government, this service helps EU Nationals and their family members through the online application process for the Settlement Scheme, to secure their rights to continue living in the UK after Brexit.

#### If you:

- have difficulty accessing an Android mobile phone
- have limited access to the internet
- find it difficult to get the evidence you need to apply
- · have specific immigration or residency issues

Please get in touch via the contact details at the end of this page.

#### **Energy Advice**

Are you worried about your energy bills, needing advice on how to save money and how to keep warm?

Whatever the energy issue you may have, we are here to offer free, impartial and confidential support and guidance. We can give you information and guidance on a range of energy issues, such as:

- How to get better energy deals and save money
- How to switch energy supplier or tariff
- · How to complain about your energy bill
- Guidance on home energy efficiency
- Advice on grants and benefits available to help you pay your energy bills

#### Free Drop-in Sessions

In November 2019 the Westhill Bureau office in Westhill Shopping Centre restarted drop-in sessions, where anyone can come in without the need to make an appointment. Sessions are run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays initially from 10 am to 11.45 am, when the last client will be seen.

The Bureau office in Banchory runs similar sessions on Tuesdays at the same times at its Posties Walk location. Each interview is expected to take about half an hour. For those clients who prefer an appointment system, there are still appointments available to book by calling 01224 747714.

Any client intending to use the drop-in service should look at our website *www.swacab.org. uk* for information on what to bring to the session.

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

#### **Westhill Tennis Club**



After a break over the winter months, we're looking forward to play picking up at Denman Park with a range of club nights, league matches, coaching and social events on offer throughout 2020.

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

We will soon be taking membership applications for 2020-2021 and always welcome new members. 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 & Thursdays from 7pm and 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 memberships run from the April to March but applications are welcome at any time. Please get in touch for more details or see our website.

If you can 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.

Over the past twelve months, we have had the courts repainted and treated for moss and lichen to keep the courts playable. We also had a nearby tree removed to let more light on to the courts which will hopefully mean we avoid further issues with moss. Fees will also help us fund the eventual resurfacing of the courts once they reach the end of their serviceable lifetime.

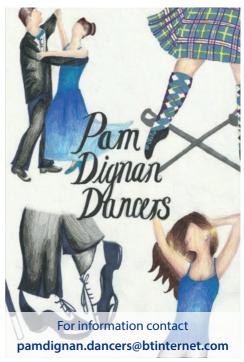
#### Contact

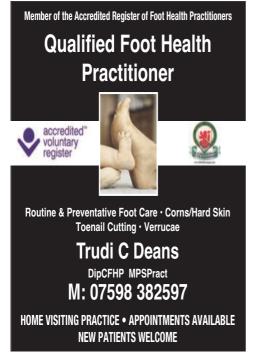
Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

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









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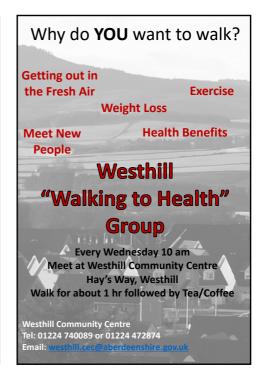




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#### **Greenspace Project**

The Greenspace project seeks to develop a new approach to the creation and maintenance of green spaces across Aberdeenshire to increase biodiversity and the types of recreation spaces available for communities. Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and the Greenspace Officer are promoting biodiversity in Westhill through our Climate Week Tree Planting Day on Saturday 28th March, 1pm to 3pm at Hillside Road, AB32 6BJ. (see poster on opposite page)

A key aspect of Greenspace projects is to seek and to develop practical enhancements at sites for the benefit of biodiversity, carbon reduction and improved green spaces, through local community involvement as part of the wider green network. This will likely lead to a reduction in well maintained grassy areas, while increasing more natural spaces, with increased tree planting, woodland areas, and wild flower meadows. Biodiversity hotspots are important for supporting pollinating insects that are valuable for many food crops. As well as helping mitigate flooding by holding on to rainwater, they also capture vast amounts of carbon

The numbers of wild pollinators are in decline and they are a vital part of our biodiversity and the wider environment. These wild pollinators are facing several significant pressures arising from changes in land use, habitat fragmentation, diseases, and pesticides. It is important to help these wild pollinators as they support our economy by contributing to our food and farming industries.

Further information and updates are available at:

Parks & open spaces in Aberdeenshire:

https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace

Email: Greenspace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Facebook: @AberdeenshireGreenspace

Email: garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/AberdeenshireCouncilRangerService

Website - http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service

#### **Pam Dignan Dancers Recent Events**

The Pam Dignan Dancers danced for the Speakability Burns Lunch at the Beach Ballroom on 16th January. The dancers were (I-r) Carmen-Rose Mateus, Isabella McAulay,

Olivia Porter, Blair Porter, Maura Docherty and Scott Riddoch.

On right are the older dancers at the Tartan Ball for Prosource IT UK at the Marcliffe on 18th January.

For more info on Pam Dignan Dancers, email Pam at pamdignan.dancers@btinternet.com.

Pam is going to start a new pre-school class on a Wednesday.





## CLIMATE WEEK 20th – 29th March 2020

As part of Climate Week you can make a difference in your local Community.

Come along and join the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and the Greenspace Officer to plant trees in Westhill.

Saturday 28th March 2020, 1.00pm – 3.00pm Meet at Hillside Road, Westhill AB32 6BJ

All equipment will be supplied on the day. Please wear sturdy outdoor footwear and waterproof clothing. Hot drinks will be provided.

#### **Booking Essential**

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/

tree-planting-at-westhill-as-part-of-climate-week-tickets-89746416949











The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

The South Aberdeenshire LAGs are being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 programme

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/ranger-service www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/facebook/rangerservice





www.westhillcommuitychurch.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

#### **Vestry of WCC**

On 31st January 2020 our Rector, Ian Ferguson, will retire. Ian first came to Westhill 38 years ago. Over the years the congregation grew from a handful of faithful people to over 200. We worshipped in a house, a school, shared space in Trinity Church, Ashdale Hall and in 2014 moved into our own purpose built Church on Old Skene Road. Families came and went. Babies were born. Couples were married. Inevitably we lost many near and dear to us and throughout all that time Ian was shepherd, friend and family to all who worship at Westhill Community Church. Alongside his wife, Heather, who began our Care in the Community ministry among many others, Ian has served our Church faithfully and his retirement will be a great loss but we look forward to seeing him enjoy his retirement as his family grows, with a new grand-baby due this year. We will still be seeing Ian around Westhill and in our church and cafe and we all wish him the very best for the coming years.

#### From our Rector lan

Dear friends, after almost 38 years as priest at Westhill Community Church it is now time for me to retire. I will be retiring on the 31st January as Rector.

During my time here, most of the significant moments of my life occurred.

I married a most wonderful lady, Heather, who has been my best friend as well as my wife.

Our son Daniel was born here and raised in our church and became Youth Pastor. We have also experienced the joy of having a beautiful daughter-in-law Becky and our adorable grand-daughter Zoe Grace

It has been an enormous privilege and honour to serve as priest and rector of Westhill Community Church.

I count myself greatly blessed in leading an extraordinary congregation who have sought to be faithful to God and to His word. They have held fast the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and have faithfully contended for 'the faith once delivered to the saints'. And I rejoice at the many who have come to a living experience of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I also give thanks for the many who have served the Lord through the years in various capacities and roles, using their gifts and abilities to further the growth of God's kingdom.

I look back with enormous gratitude for all that has been achieved both within the church and throughout our community.

I arrived at Westhill in April 1982. Over the years I have enjoyed and have been enormously blessed through working with the other congregations in Westhill. In particular I have worked with outstanding church leaders during my time at Westhill. I thank them for their love and support over the years, in particular, Rev Iain Thomson, Rev Stella Campbell and Marion Stewart and Father Chris Brannan and Father Peter Barry, not to mention many within their congregations, whose friendships I value.

A new chapter opens for me and Heather as well as that of the Westhill Community Church. It will be an exciting time that lies ahead as God guides us into the future.

Heather and I would like to wish all within our community the very best for 2020. Slainte mhor agus a h-uile beannachd duibh. We trust that you will be blessed with good health and know "the peace of God that passes all understanding".

I arise today
Through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me;
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me



**Rev lan and Mrs Heather Ferguson** 

# **WESTHILL 10k**

## SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2020

The Westhill 10k returns for the 5th consecutive year!
This year organised by local Charity SensationALL in partnership with the Westhill & District Sports Hub.

Funds raised will be split between the Sports Hub and SensationALL who provide life long support to those with complex disabilities and support needs.

online early bird registration opens 10th February at www.sensationall.org.uk

Check out the Westhill 10k and SensationALL's facebook pages for updates!

#### Westhill & District Senior Citizens

On Thursday 12th December, 70 members (and friends) enjoyed our Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn. The food and service were excellent. Entertainment was provided by Paradise Express – a band from Kemnay who had a few of us up dancing! A good time was had by all.

In January/February we enjoyed Jim & Marisha Addison (Jazz Musicians); Bill Oag (Singer) and dancers; Tara Leiper (Singer and Pianist).

This year we have the following booked:

Thursday 27th February – Inverurie Glee Club

Thursday 12th March – Mike Hamer – Guitar

Thursday 26th March - Westhill Academy Musicians

Thursday 9th April – Garioch Fiddlers

Thursday 23rd April - Albacappella Singers

Thursday 7th May – Afternoon Tea with Entertainment – Holiday Inn

Thursday 21st May - Health & Social Partnership Talk

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

We are a friendly group and usually have approximately 36 persons per session. We have plenty space left for new members and warmly welcome any new members who find themselves lonely or isolated or just needing a chat.

Our Group meets alternate Thursdays 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).

In December we were very sorry to lose 2 of our members, May Wallace and Jean Mackenzie, who will be sadly missed.

Contact Heather Cook for further information — heathercook@tiscali.co.uk telephone 01224 741194 or Mika McKenzie on 01224 742004.













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#### Alison Donaldson BAcc CA

How is my business doing this month?

I'd love to grow my business can I afford I wonder what our profit will be this year?

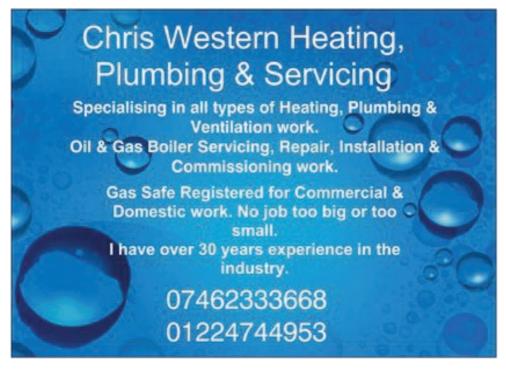
I need a Chartered Accountant, but can't afford one on a full, or even part time basis....

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

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

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

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



#### **New Year, New Start To Your Finances**

For many people, the New Year often brings around an opportunity for change. Whilst for some this may mean adjusting a lifestyle or taking up a new hobby, January can also provide a chance to review your financial situation and get a financial plan in place.

In previous years, polls have consistently shown that financial resolutions are nearly always at the top end of the public's list of things to change.

However, many people were resigned to failure, and had said they didn't think they'd achieve their financial goals.

New Year's resolutions can be notoriously difficult to stick by. However, there is one excellent way to help make sure you start the year on a positive financial footing by making an appointment to come and see us (the cost of which is met by us) and start your planning with a local, award winning firm who puts you central to everything we do.

Talking money is good for your health.

Make an appointment by calling (01224) 747889 or email enquiries@forbeslawson.co.uk

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#### **Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support**

Our first event of 2020 was the Dunecht Burns Supper on Friday 24th January. It was a very enjoyable event. Thanks to all those who supported us, by supplying and preparing the traditional meal, those who so ably provided the entertainment after the meal and to the Rob Roy ceilidh band for playing the music. Thanks to those who came along – we hope to see you all again next year! The total amount raised will be reported later.





As part of the Macmillan Mammoth Quiz the committee is hosting a quiz night on Friday 28th February in the Lyne of Skene Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Entry, including a game of "Heads and Tails", is £5/person with a maximum of 6 /team. BYOB and nibbles. This is a national quiz which has proved to be great fun over the years. We hope to see you there.

In February the committee will meet to plan the years 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 2020 and wish to donate money to Macmillan, then please get in touch.

Last year a team of 9 people took part in the Aberdeen Kiltwalk, walking either the 26 mile or 16 mile route. Together they raised in excess of £6,500. As one of the team, I thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Over 3,200 people participated, walking to raise money for various charities. It was an incredible experience to take part in. If you would like to be part of a 2020 team for Skene Macmillan Committee, please register on the Kiltwalk website, or get in touch with me. The date for the Aberdeen 2020 Kiltwalk is Sunday 7th June.

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



#### **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 Award completions - very well done!

Bronze Award: Erin Abercrombie, Mollie Alexander, Rebecca Brewis, Ellie Cochran, Julia Coney, Amelie Dougall, Iona King, Natasha Lees, Joshua Love, Imogen MacDonald, Philip Macmillan, Roan Massie, Evie McCabe, Erin McChesney, Robbie McKenzie, Aaron Reid, Rozhan Safari, Beth Scott, Amelia Tkaczyk.

Silver Award: Cara Benson, Freddie Bradshaw, Jewel Jacob, Jopaul Jobi, Laura Kessack, Findlay Mackay, Abi Taylor, Guy Taylor, Richard Varghese.

Gold Award: Onabure Ebodaghe, Cameron McChesney, Kieran Pirie, Catherine Ramsay, Jan Walicki.

That's a bumper batch of Award completions over the last few months with no fewer than 33 participants listed. Many congratulations to you all, especially our latest Gold Award achievers!

We started our 13th year with 6 Bronze teams each with 7 members and a further 32 on our waiting list for access to Bronze Expedition section training. We are delighted, and relieved, to have added a further 2 teams at Bronze Award level with everyone on the waiting list offered a place. All are now busily preparing their expedition routes navigating their way around the Rothiemurchus area near Aviemore with team supervisors. Silver and Gold Award teams have their expeditions plans at an advanced stage too so they can take a break in May to concentrate on schoolwork.

Many thanks to everyone in our local community who help our Duke of Edinburgh Award participants by providing opportunities for Volunteering section activities (uniformed groups, charity shops, sports teams, local churches, SensationAll, schools, animal welfare and environmental groups). The Assessor reports you write for participants are greatly appreciated. We enjoy reading about the difference our Bronze, Silver and Gold Award level participants are making in our local community. Those weekly hours add up when you have over 100 young people volunteering over a 3, 6 or 12 month period. Thank you for letting them help your organisation. We are always on the lookout for more opportunities so please get in touch. Remember, if you have STARTED YOUR AWARD and need help to finish it, contact: WesthillDoE@aol.co.uk.

#### WESTDYKE LEISURE CENTRE

4 WESTDYKE AVENUE, WESTHILL TEL (01224) 743098 • westdykeleisure@gmail.com

#### Mini-Kindergym

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

Friday: 9.45 (crèche available), 10.45

#### Kindergym

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

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

#### **Jumping Jacks**

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

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

#### **Gymnastics**

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

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

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

#### **Toddlers**

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

Monday morning from 9.30-11.30

#### 2's Group

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

#### **Indoor Bowling**

For both beginners and experienced players.

Monday: 1.30-3.00

ALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES ARE LED BY QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED COACHES
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GYM HALL AVAILABLE FOR PARTIES SATURDAY/SUNDAY

#### **OUTSIDE LETS INCLUDE:**

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

#### **DENMAN PLAYGROUP**

Monday-Friday: 9.15-12.25 Age 2.5-4 years
Our qualified staff run a warm and welcoming playgroup offering a fun environment catering for each child's individual needs

#### **USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

A2B dial-a-bus hotline	01467 535333
Aberdeenshire Council	
All Enquiries	0345 6081208
Adult Education Classes	
Air Training Corps	
Ardene House Vets	
Ashdale Hall	
Boys' Brigade	01224 /42262
Childcare	
Breakfast Club; After School	
Club; Holiday Club	07770 943723
Schools Out Club	
(Old School House)	01224 465202
Church of Scotland Minister	01224 745955
Citizens Advice Bureau	01224 747714
Community Centre	
Community Education	
Community Mini-bus	
Dentists' Surgery	01224 744000
Abercrombie Dental Practice	
	<b>5</b> ,
NHS – Abercrombie Court,	04004745447
Prospect Road	01224 /4544/
Business, Private –	
Ashdale Drive	01224 742513
Westhill Dental Practice,	
Old Skene Road	01224 741339
Arnhall Practice	01224 849484
Doctors' Surgery	01224 849400
Results	
Repeat Prescriptions	
Electricity Emergency	
Gardening Club	
Gas Emergency	
Golf Club (Pro)	
Girls' Brigade, 1st Skene	
Girl Guides	
Lawsondale Pavilion	
Library	01224 472871
Nursery	
Bridges	01224 744741
Childcare Info	
Mother & Toddlers Groups	
Westdyke Leisure Centre	01224 743098

Playgroups		
Scout Hall	01224	742059
Skene	07789	871601
Denman	01224	743098
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Shops	01224	742742
Pharmacy, Lloyds - Surgery	01224	279489
Police (non emergency)		
Post Office (Shops)		
Post Office (Ind Est)		
Primary Schools		
Crombie	01224	472905
Elrick	01224	472910
Skene	01224	472915
Westhill		
Secondary School, Academy	01224	087850
Scouts	01224	740795
Social Work Department	01224	849499
Squash & Fitness		
Peter Nicol Centre	01224	742329
Swimming Pool	01224	472872
Tennis Club	07913	042446
Trinity Church	01224	742512
Veterinary, Town & Country	01224	741685
Water Authority	0845 6	018 855
Westdyke Leisure Centre	01224	743098
Westhill Bowling Club	01224	360706
Westhill Community Church		
Westhill Men's Shed	01224	917345

# Did we get your number right?

# Are you missing from the list?



If you need any changes, why not get in touch by email?

westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

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