Westhill Bulletin

Winter 2021 Issue 168





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CONTENTS

Air Cadets	. 50	Library News	. 63
Amateur Swimming Club	. 23	Macmillan Cancer Support	. 64
Ashdale Hall	. 23	Men's Shed	. 18
Ashdale Hall Class Timetable	. 24	Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene	. 42
Bill's Gardening Corner	. 64	Pam Dignan Dancers	. 82
Boys Brigade	. 94	Rotary Club	
Central Aberdeenshire Federation of Halls		Scouting	
Chairperson's Report	3	Senior Citizens Club	. 42
Christmas Lights Storage	. 82	Skene Medical Group - Patient Info	. 57
Cllr David Aitchison		Skene Parish Church	. 29
Cllr Iris Walker	. 17	Sooyang Do Martial Art Loses a Founder Member	. 61
Cllr McKelvie	. 13	Tennis Club	. 69
Cllr Ron McKail	11	Vinespring Church	. 35
Community Church	. 81	WDCSH - YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU	. 93
Compass	. 45	WECC Community Support Fund	. 64
David's Desert Challenge		Westhill Bike Club	. 90
Environment and Litter Projects	. 41	Westhill Bowling Club	. 58
Gardening Club	. 86	Westhill Open Award Group	. 86
Girl Guiding	. 30	Westhill Walkers	. 85
Girls Brigade	. 36	Winter Sun Trip to Tenerife	7
Golf Club	. 36		
Health & Wellbeing - Alcohol	4	See also Notices list on the next page and	
LogCootland Woothill	76	Adverts Index on page 96	

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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.

Adverts and articles for the winter issue should be sent in by Friday 4th February. The Bulletin will be distributed from 25th February.

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

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

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

2022 advertising rates:

Eighth Page £32, Quarter Page £57, Half Page £93, Full Page £175 Inside Covers £205, Back Page £235

(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.

NOTICES

Advertisers Index96	Scaffold Tower Hire63
Banking Services in Westhill6	Useful Numbers95
Household Waste & Recycling Centre6	Westdyke Leisure Centre75
Lions Club Book Sales6	

Westhill & Elrick Community Council

Chair

weccchair@gmail.com

Mervyn Barr, 6 Kingswells View, Westhill, AB32 6RZ Tel 07890 802181

Vice-Chair

William Monroe

Secretary

weccsecretx@gmail.com

David Ritchie, 11 Fare Park Drive, Westhill, AB32 6WE Tel 07989 637461

Treasurer

treasurerwecc@gmail.com

Gordon Prentice

Bulletin Manager

westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

David Ritchie, 11 Fare Park Drive, Westhill, AB32 6WE Tel 07989 637461

Planning Convener

planningwecc@gmail.com

Diane Priestley

Ordinary Members

Malcolm Collie

Heather Cook

Donald Davidson

Becky Ferguson

Audrey Findlay

Kate Lumsden

Elaine Manley

Alan McCue

Justin Reid

Kenneth Stewart

Raymond Swaffield

Tim Yeomans

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

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

If you would like to join the meeting remotely a Zoom link can be sent - contact weccsecretx@gmail.com



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to the Winter Bulletin. Reflecting on the past year I was struck by some "signs of the times" in Westhill. Quite recently we have a return of rush-hour traffic as people increasingly return to their workplaces; indicative of some significant return to normality. Elsewhere our local economy is benefiting from a resurgence of the oil price, while many oil and gas related companies are morphing into

broader-based "energy" companies. At Arnhall we have seen the recent arrival of Paintshed and Toolstation, a good sign that Westhill can attract a range of businesses beyond oil and gas, and finally the Westhill property market is very lively as more people discover that Westhill is a really great place to live.

Still reflecting on the past year, the summer planting scheme at the roundabout and the green wall was trialled as a pilot and has been very well received; so much so that there are plans to repeat and extend it further next year. In the meantime the summer plants have been cleared away before the first frosts arrive and will be replaced by a simpler winter display.

Looking towards a colourful aspect of spring, at the time of writing volunteers are in the process of planting approximately 1000 daffodil and narcissi bulbs at the bases of the waymarker posts, around the Westhill Orbital Trail. Our thanks to WECC Volunteers, Rotarians and other individuals who have helped in this. If you'd like to get involved in similar "green" activities in future, please contact the Secretary at weccsecretx@gmail.com.

Historically WECC has distributed modest cash grants to local organisations and I'm pleased to report that we continue to do so, with the most recent grant of £500 from our Community Support Fund going to Elrick Primary Parent Council to support purchase of an Art Island. If you think your organisation might benefit from a cash grant please see page 64 for further details on how to apply.

This year we have some exciting new plans for our Xmas tree lights "switch-on" on Saturday 4th December and it's rumoured that Santa may even put in an appearance! Please see the poster on the cover of this Bulletin and keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates.

Regarding Health and Wellbeing, in our third article in the series, the focus is on the negative health effects of excess alcohol consumption, which often occurs in the form of binge drinking. For some, traditionally Christmas and Hogmanay combine into one long party – but health professionals strongly emphasise adhering to safe limits. See page 4 for further info.

Looking towards 2022, the Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. There will be an extended national bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, to provide an opportunity for local communities to come together to enjoy their own celebrations, alongside or in conjunction with the ancient tradition of Lighting of Beacons on the 2nd June and the Big Jubilee Lunch on the 5th June. The Big Jubilee Lunch is designed to encourage communities to get to know each other a little bit better in a spirit of fun and friendship, perhaps by street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbecue.

Check these links for information on past versions of these events www.queensjubileebeacons.com and www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch. In the meantime if you have any ideas on these or other celebrations that could be held please forward them to weecsecretx@gmail.com. Also please contact us if any group or individual would like to be involved in organising an event.

Finally as we look forward to the festive season we can at least anticipate a better time than last year when Covid restrictions prevented the usual family gatherings. Have a good one!

Mervyn Barr Chairperson WECC

Health and Wellbeing

14 Units per Week

We are approaching the festive period, a time when many of us will overindulge, especially given the restrictions we faced last Christmas and New Year. However, it can also be a difficult time of year for a lot of people, and a time when alcohol use increases. The Scottish Government advise that the maximum weekly intake of alcohol should be no more than 14 units, spread out over 3 days, to minimise any health risks – this applies to both men and women.

Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) have been providing free, confidential advice to drug and alcohol users and their loved ones for many years in Aberdeen City and Shire; this can be a one-off telephone call for some brief advice or longer term structured 1-1 support to help reduce alcohol use.

The quickest way to refer in is by contacting the ADA Helpline (below). A worker will take some details from you, and someone from the Aberdeenshire team will phone you back to discuss your needs – this is called the Gateway service. ADA offers a range of support methods including face to face appointments in your local area and telephone and/or video appointments at a time and place that suits you – appointments can be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. ADA can also signpost and refer to specialist services to discuss medication, housing, support with financial issues and often work alongside these services to give you a full support package. However, if you just want a one-off telephone call, or a couple of appointments ADA can do that too, whatever you feel you need to help make a positive change.

Alongside structured 1-1 support, ADA also has a service called **Moving On, Moving Out (Mo/Mo)** which aims to connect people back into their communities. Mo/Mo runs face to face and online groups throughout Aberdeenshire and can also offer lower level 1-1 support.

All the services are strictly confidential, and they will work with you at your pace.

For more information, please contact the **ADA Helpline** on **03333 448355** or **01224 594700**, check out the website: *alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk* or find them on **Facebook**.

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- Inside Co-op store
- Outside Tesco store
- Inside Costco store
- Westhill Service Station shop in Elrick

Winter Sun Trip to Tenerife

In the last issue I explained the protocols for travel abroad, so much of that has now changed and will continue to do so. It has become a bit easier to travel abroad and people are travelling again, including myself. I am currently writing this from my sunbed in Tenerife.

We set off from Aberdeen late October for some quality time as a family, in the sunshine. With all our paperwork in order and printed off, check in is relatively the same as it always was. A top tip is to have everything printed, makes for a much smoother check in process.

My children are grown up and Tenerife ticked all the boxes, in terms of being able to cater for all age groups and interests. The short travel time from our front door was also a big advantage. The weather has been in the mid 20's every day, just perfect, whether you're lazing by the pool or out and about discovering what the island has to offer.

I have been to Tenerife several times but, for various reasons, I never had the opportunity to discover the island in a bit more depth. So, this time I was determined to explore, so hired a car for a couple of days.

First stop on our itinerary was a trip to the Teide National Park and a cable car ride up the volcano. An almost alien landscape, plenty of viewpoints to stop at. The views are breathtaking and there is a choice of two walks once you arrive at the top of Mount Teide. Good walking shoes and slightly warmer clothing are required. If you are visiting, prebook your cable car tickets and arrive either very early morning or after 1pm. It was very busy.

The cliffs at Los Gigantes, a dramatic landscape rising from the sea, is a great place to spot whales.

I have been to Santa Cruz in the North a few times and it's always an interesting day out. I like to wander round old streets and admire the architecture of older buildings. San Cristobal de Laguna is a few miles west of here and is full of character. Declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1999 it's streets maintain the layout of the town in the 16th century. A highlight of our trip and well worth a visit. I think a long weekend in this picturesque town with plenty nice bars and restaurants would be fabulous. Have a look at my Facebook page for some inspiration.

We also visited Garachico and its natural sea water pools and lovely little town.

Throughout our trip it has felt very safe, mask wearing is akin to home, you must wear a mask in shops and entering restaurants and bars until you are seated.

If you are yearning for the feeling of the sun on your skin and the sand between your toes, give me a call. See advert on page 77.

Heather Reynolds, Travel Counsellors

Rotary Out & About

It seems to have been a very long time coming but at last we have been able to start our Rotary meetings in person once again at the Holiday Inn, Westhill. Whilst these have still included a degree of social distancing and extra covid precautions it feels good to get back to some form of normality. Our speakers have been a mixture of in person and via Zoom and all have given us some interesting topics to discuss. Best of all about these get-togethers, however, has

been our chance to meet in person the 8 new members who have joined us during the 18 months of lock downs.

With the lifting of restrictions, we have also been able to undertake some additional activities and over the autumn held a couple of golfing events. The first was a charity fundraising day at the Westhill Golf Club. 13 teams enjoyed the day out with participants travelling from as far as Perth and Oldmeldrum as well as locally from Aberdeen and Deeside. The weather was kind and the golf club entertained us well with over £1,200 raised for our local charities.



The second event was a fun day for our members, our annual 'Hackers' golf outing. 4 teams took part with golfing abilities (or non-abilities) covering a wide range and the format of a Texas Scramble allowed everyone to enjoy the event, irrespective of golfing prowess. The winning team of lan McCombie, David Dent and John Glascodine squeezed home with their high handicaps giving them an advantage in the final scoring. They are seen here on the first tee ready to enjoy the day.

As things ease, we have been out and about more in Westhill, undertaking our regular litter picks and running a successful Bric-a-brac stall at the monthly Westhill market and the car boot sale. We supported the Poppy Scotland appeal with a collection day at Tesco and plan to help out over the Christmas rush with bag packing at Marks & Spencer. It is also time for us to get digging with our annual planting of purple crocus bulbs in support of the End Polio Now campaign, so look out for an even bigger display around the town next spring.

Although contact is still restricted with the schools our Youth section have been able to coordinate a collection for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. This is a wider Rotary initiative that over the years has distributed over 1 million shoeboxes filled with gifts at Christmas to families in Eastern European

countries, such as Romania, who are in need of some basic materials.

Closer to home, the Senior Citizens Party will run again this year in December, so we are looking forward to entertaining the Seniors community as usual at the Ashdale Hall.

If you feel that you would like to learn more about Rotary or give something back to the community either by becoming a Rotary member or simply to lend a hand with some of our projects, then please get in touch – *john. glascodine@gmail.com*.





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Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Would Age Scotland's Campaign 'Checking In to Cash Out' help Older People Living in Westhill?

Being recently appointed as an Older Peoples champion by Aberdeenshire Council, I have an interest in, and I'm very much aware that throughout Scotland and no doubt closer to home there

are pensioners in our society living in dire financial straits or are on the cusp of it. Unfortunately many are not claiming the allowances they are entitled too for a variety of reasons, possibly due to digital exclusion, not knowing where to find advice and support and a complicated claims process. The campaign by Age Scotland's whose tag line of 'Checking In to Cash Out' is to target the 150,000 pensioners in Scotland who are living in poverty and raise awareness of the various payments for which they could be eligible. These could include pension credit, attendance allowance and reduction in council tax. Age Scotland are providing the opportunity for people to 'check in' to see if they are entitled to more 'cash out' by phoning their helpline advisors who will carry out in confidence a benefits entitlement check and advise if the claimant is losing out. Freecall phone number is 0800 12 44 222 – Weekdays 9am to 5pm.

Comparative Data on Garioch Area Wards - How Does Westhill Compare?

In a recent Aberdeenshire Council Community Impact Assessment data shown compared the four council wards in Garioch on five demographic factors. It was a useful report and illustrated how Westhill compared with the 3 other Garioch area wards which included the main population centres of Inverurie, Insch, Kemnay, Blackburn and Kintore. Westhill results were mainly positive. On a ranking of less vulnerable to more vulnerable spectrum Westhill was shown to be less vulnerable on Covid, Age and Economic and ranked as 'Best' in comparison to the other 3 wards. In the other two factors Health, Westhill was 3rd 'Best' and on Social Data '2nd Best'.

Community Safety

A high level of concerns to many of Westhill residents, at least according to the issues raised with me, relate to motor vehicles not observing the mandatory speed limits. Complaints I've received have been passed on to the local Police Scotland Inspector and he has wherever possible increased the number of speed checks by his team. The message for all of us vehicle drivers is to observe the speed limits.

Congratulations to Westhill Men's Shed

What wonderful news for our community and what an achievement for a group of volunteers who in the past month were the recipients of a Queens Award for Service to the Community and then having further recognition topped off with winning the Scottish Shed of the Year.

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

Councillor Ron McKail





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Councillor Alistair McKelvie



Westhill Scouts – I had the pleasure of attending the Scout Group AGM recently, and was pleased to see that a number of officers, from the various Scout packs, were to receive long service medals. None more so than Chris Pinnell, who as leader of Westhill Scout Group, has dedicated many years to the development of the young people within our Communities. Many congratulations to the Scout Leaders, supporting members of all the Packs, and to the Guides Leader, who was also recognised in the awards presentations.

In his annual report the Leader referred to 'a very difficult year' having been experienced, with huge challenges in continuing the Scout activities, while complying with the covid guidelines and safety issues.

As a community, we owe them all a great deal, as they work to organise activities, plan trips, fund raise and guide the youngsters through their Bronze, Silver, Gold awards. Not forgetting of course, teaching them the leadership skills, and the importance of working in teams, that will become so important in their future education and working careers.

Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Reduction – we are currently undertaking a huge exercise to improve the insulation and energy efficiency of our housing stock. This is required to meet legislation which is part of the move to de-carbonise and reduce Co2 levels. There are complexities in doing this where it requires the removal of existing gas boilers, for example, in a move to electric heating, as it can expose the tenants of council properties to increased energy costs, as electricity supply far outweighs gas or oil tank/heaters installations. I understand that grants to mitigate this will be available. In addition, future house building will be restricted from 2025 to electric supply only, as new houses will not be allowed to install any carbon based heating as above, but will rely on electricity, like storage heaters, heat pumps, or other alternatives.

Many of you may have seen the recent media coverage on heat pump installations and the cost to install and run these facilities, being approximately £10,000. It is some time away, but it makes sense to consider that governments will require all existing homes with carbon dependent heating to move to electric or perhaps hydrogen powered pumps, if technology develops that for domestic use. I understand there will be grants available, to support those who are concerned at affordability of such a massive change, but governments will no doubt be looking at ways of mitigating costs, by further financial assistance perhaps. In some further research, I understand that there are now many more manufacturers designing and building heat pumps for the future, and this is anticipated to increase competition, and reduce overall costs substantially.

Electric Vehicle Charging at Home – there is a great deal of media coverage now on the move to electric cars, and several manufacturers have already announced an 'all electric' production line between 2025-2030. As this develops, there will be a demand for domestic charging installations, which currently costs around £900-£1,000, with a £350 grant available through the government OLEV grant system, and a further £250 from the Scottish Energy Trust. Terms and conditions apply to both these grants, and applications must be made before any installation takes place, via government approved installers. The recent demise of many energy companies, together with resource issues, has impacted on lead times that it takes to have a charger and smart meter installed, and in my experience it has been over 4 months.

Home Safety Legislation – I have had requests for guidance on the regulations that will soon come into force around fire and heat alarms in our homes. From February 2022 all homes will require either hard wired or interlinked alarms to be installed.

The average 3 bed home will require 3 smoke and 1 heat alarm, with a carbon monoxide alarm where gas appliances are in operation, estimated cost of £220, where it does not require an

electrician to install and can be installed by the homeowner. Each alarm should contain a 10 year Lithium battery. Funds are to be made available to support those homes who require financial help via government grants and Care and Repair Scotland, and Scottish Fire and Rescue are also installing this equipment into higher risk properties.

Interlinked alarms do not require Internet/Wifi to operate fully, as they work on radio frequency, like bluetooth connectivity, and some of the more expensive equipment also have remote control facility. These regulations already apply to private rented properties.

> Alistair McKelvie Telephone 07850 329179



Councillor David Aitchison

Last year in one of my Bulletin contributions I commented on how during the first lockdown we, as a community, had benefited from the physical layout of Westhill. We have many paths throughout the town which can be used and enjoyed by walkers, runners and cyclists. These routes were a definite advantage as we tried to cope with the challenges of lockdowns and travel restrictions. We now also have the Westhill Orbital Trail, which was highlighted in the last Bulletin,

adding to the mix of active routes in and around our community.

There has been for some time an aspiration to further develop active travel projects throughout our area. This has been accelerated because of the benefits such schemes were seen to provide during the pandemic.

One project which I see being developed through my participation in Nestrans, the Transport partnership for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, is the A944 Active Travel Route Study.

While there is an existing shared use foot and cycle path adjacent to the dual carriageway, this contains narrow sections, junctions with limited visibility for both motorists and active travellers and sections where cyclists are required to dismount.

The aim of the study was to develop options that could encourage modal shift, provide links to key destinations and encourage active travel as a means of both leisure and commuting.

The aspiration and vision is for active travel users to be provided with the same level of eastwest priority as motor vehicles along the route. The proposals developed as part of this study enhance and improve sustainable modes of travel and support the drive towards net zero carbon emissions and build on a previous feasibility study undertaken that considered the deliverability of an improved active travel route along the route of the A944.

The project is progressing and will now form part of the A944/A9119 Multimodal Corridor Study which predominantly covers the A944 and A9119 corridors between Westhill and Aberdeen City Centre. I will provide more information on this study when updates are available.

I can be consulted at any time by telephone or email on any issue and also hold surgeries at Westhill Library. My next surgery will be advertised when public health guidance permits these to resume. Check www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk for a full list of surgery dates.

> Councillor David Aitchison Mobile 07876 475227

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Councillor Iris Walker (Westhill & District)

Westdyke Issues

Following on from the issues raised in the summer (antisocial behaviour or ASB, landscape maintenance, litter and general use of the park (often referred to as the Westdyke or Larg park), I want to provide a brief update on the work done since then and what happens next. A short-life multi-agency group convened back in May, when ASB was being regularly reported, to look at a joined-up approach. The group included Police Scotland, Scottish Fire

& Rescue, Westhill Academy head teacher, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety and the Garioch Area team. A watching brief has been maintained to share any incidents reported via the Area Office with Police Scotland. The Police increased the number of patrols and active surveillance in the area and at the time of writing report that the antisocial behaviour has decreased. The local Rotary group have confirmed that they almost always cover the Westdyke area when they do their regular litter picks, which is really appreciated. They report that the amount of litter has decreased slightly and hopefully that will continue. Residents also raised concerns about the type of play equipment in the park and how the park is used generally. I met with Malcolm and Kate from WECC recently who are very keen to take forward a piece of work looking at how this community asset can be improved. This project would be driven through public engagement and would involve anyone with an interest in the facility, so please look out for more information in due course if you want to play a part in this.

Warning over smoke alarm scams

Trading Standards Scotland has issued a warning about the potential for scammers and rogue traders to take advantage of those unsure of the new legislation about installing smoke alarms by February 2022. This could lead to paying inflated costs for inferior products and fitting or to becoming a victim of a financial scam.

The advice highlights where you can get trusted information. Always remember to get a minimum of two quotes for any potential work from reliable and trusted traders, and if needed, seek advice from someone you trust.

Further information can be found on the Trading Standards website – https://www.tsscot.co.uk/fire-alarms-standard-scams/.

Climate Change

Did you follow COP26 or did you find it a bit "blah, blah, blah"? I don't know at this point which take-home messages from the event will hit the headlines or if any radical policy changes will be announced. To find out what is being done locally, you can check out the following link. "Climate Ready Aberdeenshire" is a cross-sector initiative aiming to increase understanding and awareness of climate change risks and opportunities within Aberdeenshire. They work with communities to find out what their priorities are and how they can be supported to mitigate and adapt to climate change – https://climatereadyaberdeenshire.org/.

Christmas and the New Year

Community groups and organisations are, as usual, way ahead with their Christmas event planning and I look forward to seeing the trees up and the lights on around the town and rural settlements as well as joining in some of the celebrations. I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas, and good health and happiness in 2022!

Please get in touch by phone 07876 475272 or email *cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk* if I can help with any local issue.





WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community



STOP press

Westhill Men's Shed has been voted as we go to press as the Scottish Men's Shed Associations shed of the year. Needless to say, we are dumbfounded coming so hot on the heels of the Queen's Award. More details in the next bulletin after we have been formally presented with the award.



Queen's Award for voluntary service

Lord Lieutenant Alexander Manson presenting the Queen's Award to the chairman David Thomson for services to the Westhill and district community with special recognition re Covid-19 for making face visors for the community and care homes

New service at the Shed: Watch and Clock repair

By good fortune Westhill Men's Shed now has a team led by a time served watch and clock maker who is a member of the British Watch & Clock Makers Guild AND a donation of watch and clock repair equipment. We are able to give estimates for repair to clocks and watches (including battery replacement). If anyone is disposing of watches or clocks, we would appreciate if they could be donated to us to use for spares.



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Compass will transform the former Waldorf School site into a centre demonstrating practical solutions for healthy, sustainable lifestyles.

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Want to get involved?

- ↑ Outdoor work including creating no-dig beds, harvesting, composting, weeding etc.
- i.e. dry stone walling sessions

Find out more & get involved: www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass



Compass is a project of local charity, Camphill Wellbeing Trust. The Trust provides medical and therapeutic services to help patients and their families address illness. build resilience and maintain wellbeing.



Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd A limited company registered in Scotland No.SC120539 Charity No. SC01629' Registered office: St John's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EN



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Check the website or our Facebook page for the latest updates.



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ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

FUNDRAISING

Anyone interested in joining the fundraising committee should contact the Hall as we plan to do more fundraising.

There is a Christmas Fayre on Sunday 28th November from 10am to 4pm (see advert below).

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.

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, bespoke cards, crafts, jewellery and more.

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 CLASSES AND BOOKINGS

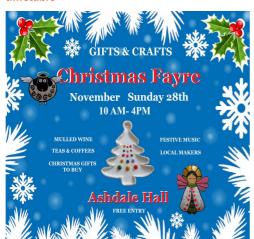
We also offer a wide program of exercise classes, martial arts, children's dance classes and toddler/baby classes, for full details please see our online timetable: http://ashdalehall.co.uk/current-timetable – these are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards.

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**.

Scottish registered charity W.D.P.H.Scio. SCO49243

See next page for the December Class timetable





ASHDALE HALL DECEMBER CLASS TIMETABLE

Monday

0930 to 1015 - Matwork Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required**

1030 to 1115 - Matwork Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required**

1230 to 1430 - Abricabeats (1 to 4 years) - Main Hall

1500 to 1800 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1830 to 1930 - Jazzercise - Main Hall - Online booking with Jazzercise

1945 to 2045 - Badminton (private term time) - Main Hall

Tuesday

0945 to 1045 - Jazzercise - Main Hall - Online booking with Jazzercise

1100 to 1200 - Spear Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required++

1215 to 1400 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1420 to 1800 - Baby Ballet - Main Hall

1545 to 1745 - Penny's Art Group - Meeting Room 1

1815 to 1915 - Choi Kwang Do - Main Hall - hello@westhillckd.org

1930 to 2030 - Badminton (private) - Main Hall

Wednesday

0800 to 1045 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1100 to 1200 - Spear Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required++ From November 10th

1200 to 1315 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1330 to 1430 - Badminton (private)

1600 to 1730 - Pre School and Tap/Ballroom/Latin - Main Hall

1745 to 1845 - WCIS (private booking) - MR1

1800 to 1900 - Spear Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required++

1915 to 2045 – Line Dancing – Main Hall – (term time) from 1st September

Thursday

0800 to 1045 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1100 to 1700 - Footstars - Main Hall - 11-12pm, 1-3pm, 4-5pm -

https://www.footstars.co.uk

1800 to 1900 - Choi Kwang Do - Main Hall - hello@westhillckd.org

1915 to 2045 - Badminton (private) - Main Hall

Friday

0830 to 0915 - Matwork Pilates - block booking required**

0930 to 1015 - Matwork Pilates - block booking required**

1030 to 1115 - Matwork Pilates - block booking required**

1200 to 1300 - Badminton (private)

1300 to 1600 - Free to book classes or badminton. Free from 1pm for parties/events. Except the 2nd Friday of every month due to Monthly Tea Dance 1.30-3.30pm.

Saturday

0800 to 1100 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1230 to 1730 - Script to Screen Drama Classes - J. Ogilvie - 07989 484315

Free from 1800 for parties and events

Sunday

Free to book for parties and events all day

**All Matwork Pilates Classes marked with an asterisk need to be block booked in advance, contact Annette on annette.macpherson@ymail.com or 07817 736525, or website www.westhill. physiotherapy.co.uk

++ Spear Pilates Classes marked with a cross need to be block booked in advance, contact *pilates@* spearphysiotherapy.co.uk

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Skene Parish Church

Watch. Prepare. Rejoice. Behold.

These are words that can help us as we embark on another Advent season.

Like the wise men, who set out on their travels long before Jesus was born, we are watching to see signs of what God is doing in our lives and in the life of our community. It is easy in the busyness of December to get so embroiled in our 'to do' lists, whether at home, in school, at work, or in the church, that we forget to lift up our eyes and look out for God. Thankfully the wise men were keeping watch.

Like Mary, who had to ready herself for labour, we are preparing ourselves again to enter into the wonder and joy of Jesus' arrival. Advent is a season when we can prepare our hearts to celebrate the good news of Jesus coming as one of us. We spend so much time getting our homes



ready, getting stocked up with food, purchasing and wrapping presents – what time are we setting aside to acknowledge and reflect on the saviour to be born?

Like the Shepherds, who praised God when they found Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, we will rejoice when the moment arrives, and we can sing with the angels 'glory to God in the Highest'. It's been such a hard year, and there has been a limit to our rejoicing. And yet, nothing stops us from finding ways of glorifying God at Christmas. Remember the shepherds didn't arrive with gifts – they simply brought themselves to the manger. But no doubt God loved the enthusiasm with which they came and the energy they carried as they left.

Like Joseph, whose life was turned upside down, we will see once again, the goodness, kindness and love of God. We will behold God's plan in person, as Joseph did when he held the boy and named him Jesus.

Date	Time/Place	Event
19th Dec	10.30am Trinity	Joint Nativity Service
	6pm Skene	Carol Service
22nd Dec	10am Trinity	Christmas Movie Families welcome
24th Dec	4pm Trinity	Christmas Eve Service A pop-up nativity "The Impossible Promise"
	11.15pm Skene	Watchnight Service "Light in the darkness"
25th Dec	10am Skene	Joint Service of Celebration
26th Dec	10.30am	Online Service on our YouTube Channel
2nd Jan	10.30am Trinity	Joint Service of Worship

Everyone at Skene Parish Church wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Here are some of our events to which you are warmly invited.

Blessings, Rev Stella

For more details go to www.skeneparish.com.



Girlguiding Westhill District

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and Adult Volunteers continue to have great fun participating in programme activities since we restarted after summer. 2nd and 3rd Guides were represented at the first Gordon County Camp

post-lockdown. This was a fun (wet!) weekend (10th–12th September) at Crathes Campsite where girls joined with over 100 Guides, Rangers and adult volunteers to participate in "Highland Capers" outdoor activities and remind ourselves what it's like to camp!

There are two planned international events in the Summer of 2023 – Haarlem Jamborette in Holland and a trip to Adelboden in Switzerland, to include a visit to Our Chalet, one of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Centres. We are delighted with the number of Westhill girls who have applied to participate.



Apologies the link to express your interest as a volunteer was omitted from the article in the last edition of the Bulletin – please find it here:

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer

We have TEN very full and active units for the following age ranges:









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7-10 years

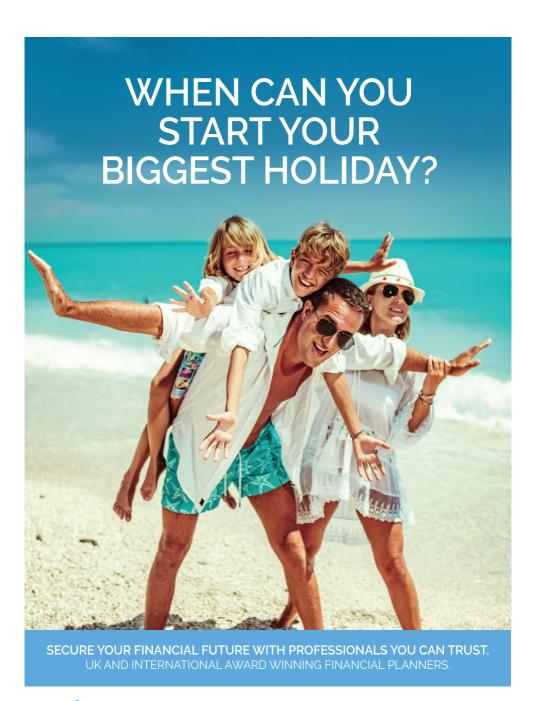
10-14 years

14-18 years

Meetings for these sections happen across the week, Monday to Thursday. We would love if you would consider offering to help – we need Unit Leaders, Unit Helpers, Young Leaders (14-18), Unit Occasional Helpers, Treasurers, Friends of Guiding fundraisers, visitors with a skill to share, the list goes on!

For those on the waiting list, our Waiting List Co-ordinator will be in touch with those at the top of the list to offer spaces in units to begin in January.

Caroline Gray and Alison Smith, District Commissioners westhilldc@gmail.com





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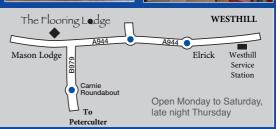
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It's November and fall has been upon us. Indeed, it's that time of the year when the trees after their usual seasonal display of brilliant colours, let go of their foliage as they ready themselves to survive the coming winter. From nature, and of nature, there are volumes to learn. Even the great sage – Solomon the Wise, once counselled the sluggard to go learn from the ants about how to adjust to the seasons.

The Preacher in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything and a season for every business under the sun. A time for war and a time for peace; a time to laugh and a time to cry. A time for rejoicing and a time for weeping. And, while we may all be experiencing the early chills of winter, we will all not be having the same times and seasons in our lives. Throughout this period, some have been offered new jobs, bought new homes, or welcomed new ones into their lives and homes. Others have gotten married; or recovered from Covid or other deadly illnesses. At the same time, there are those still reeling from the devastating loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage or even their entire reputation. All happening through fall.

But there is one thing that we can be confident about: God is good ALL THE TIME. God promises us that whatever our times or seasons this fall, He will be a very present help for every troubled heart who reaches out to Him. And He promised that whoever calls on Him for help, will be saved. The seasons may change, as we go into winter; but God's promises abide and are unfailing forever.

It's Fall, again. Yet as we race towards winter and the coming season of joy, festivities and feasts; we can choose to make this period a time of healing, and love, and forgiveness, towards our closest and dearest; and towards all men. If the trees know enough to lay aside the weight of their leaves, however beautiful they may have been, we could all learn from the trees, and lay aside the grudges, the resentments, the regrets and the ills of the past. With faith in God's promises, we can make the adjustments necessary for our times. That way, we can be truly available for the best that our heavenly Father has in store. And what a gift to all concerned, if we could do so in this season, just in time for Christmas!

Meantime, Vinespring Church continues to meet in person at the Holiday Inn every Sunday at 11am; and online via Zoom. For more information, please visit www.vinespringchurch.

Blessings everyone, and have a jolly good Christmas when it comes.

Team Vinespring

1st Skene Girls' Brigade

We started back on Monday 6th September with 10 of our original members and we now have an additional 8 bringing us up to 18 girls.

We have started work on Competitions and Divisional items and the girls are all having a great time dancing, making crafts and signing instead of singing this session.

We have no waiting list so if you have a girl P1-S6 who is interested please do not hesitate to call (Captain) Fiona Cumming on 07792 471199.



Westhill Golf Club

As our summer season draws to a close it only seems right to look back over what has been a hectic season. We began with the incredible cold weather snap in the early spring. Since then, our greens team have done a fantastic job to present the course in a beautiful manner and this has been noted by both members and visitors. We have been lucky to witness some fantastic rounds of

golf with numerous rounds 'under par' and more than one new course record!

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have been able to complete all of our regular club competitions. I would like to express my congratulations to all the winners and look forward to handing out prizes at our prize giving in November. I would flag (sorry for the pun) one fantastic achievement from club member Dylan Singer. He won one of our club championship events in 2020 and was entered into the interclub 'Champions of Champions' event with other club championship winners from both 2019 and 2020. In the end, he finished as runner up which is incredible!

It has been an extraordinary year for our junior golf! We have 100+ junior members and over 70 juniors took part in our popular 10-week beginner coaching programme. One of our popular events for new beginners are the 'GolfSixes': this year we played home and away against Craibstone and the Petroleum Club. Congratulations to our two teams who came 1st and 2nd. For our more advanced juniors playing off the 9-hole yellow tees, we played in some friendly matches against Stonehaven and Peterculter. The kids really enjoyed playing over the infamous gully at Stonehaven!

For our older juniors playing off the 18-hole whites, we had another good Pennant season, with some tough matches against Murcar, Deeside, Ellon and Portlethen. Congratulations to Lewis Coull who represented us in the final of the AJPL Spence Trophy. This was a 72-hole scratch tournament and Lewis was narrowly beaten in the final

We now turn our attention to the 2022 season and have some fantastic course improvements in mind so keep an eye out!

Alan McCue Club Captain











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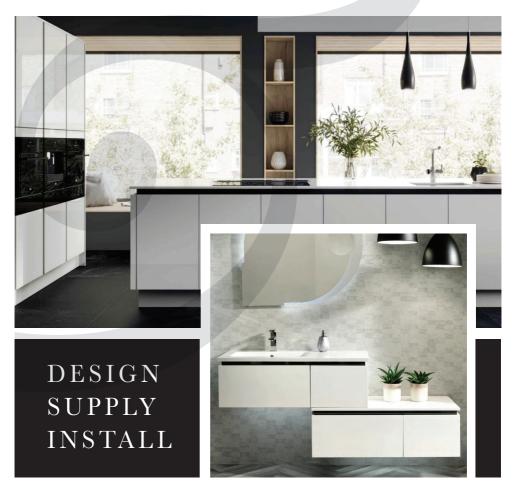
If you're renting out a property then it's important to make sure you are claiming all the legitimate expenses you can so as to minimise your tax bill each year. It is important to file accurately and on time to avoid any penalties and interest.

Most of the time, when people do not fill out a tax return for a property, it is because they are making a financial loss and think a return doesn't need done. This unfortunately isn't the case and it may be that a taxable event still occurs. There are many common misunderstandings about what can be claimed Even in the case where no tax is due because of a loss a return should be filed so you are able to utilise or/and record those losses. Filing can also prevent an HMRC inspection as they will know a property is being let but don't know if it's profitable or not.

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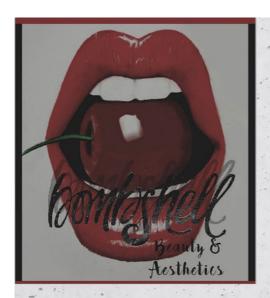
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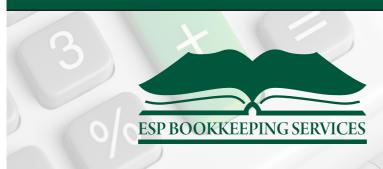
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Environment and Litter Projects in Westhill

Following an impressive effort during the year, the small group of volunteers who have been carrying out fortnightly litter picks, will be enjoying a break during the winter months. We would like to congratulate all of them taking part for helping to keep the environment in Westhill more attractive. We also wish to thank the Rotary Club group who join with us and enable us to widen the areas that we are able to cover. The staff from Tesco, Starbucks and McDonalds who join with us are also well appreciated. We have been disappointed at the amount of litter that is being dropped and



uncollected in the Academy Playing Field. Several residents have complained to us about this sometimes unsightly eyesore. Our volunteers are hard pressed in keeping on top of it. Talks with the school have not yet helped to resolve the situation but we hope to make some progress soon. Our regular Litter Picks will resume in Spring, and we would welcome any new volunteers. If you know of an area that is badly littered, please inform us, and we will attempt to clear it, if possible, at the next litter pick.



The WECC Environment Group, during the year, has worked closely with Mervyn Barr, the WECC chair, in relation his to Planting Scheme. This plan is to bring together interested parties involved in horticultural interests for Westhill. Our group have been involved in

many projects including "Bee Bombs", the preparation of flower barrels, and hanging baskets at the Living Wall and Holiday Inn roundabout. We would like to thank David Dent and his Rotary Team for their unconditional help in this. Without them, we would not have had enough manpower to complete these tasks.

We have started our Autumn Bulb planting of Daffodils, Narcissus, Crocus, and Bluebells. Rotary are also planting 5000 crocus bulbs. WECC are concentrating on plantings around the marker posts for the Orbital Trail this year, but more will follow! At the beginning of November, we took down the hanging baskets and tidied the Barrel Planters.

We continue to be involved in the plan to tidy up the Denman Pond and surrounding banks. With help from the Arnhall Moss Group, we have commissioned two surveys on how best to tackle the pond pollution problem. Thanks also to Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services for their guidance and help in this.

"Plant a Tree for Jubilee" is an upcoming project, and we hope to be planting saplings and hazel trees early next year.

With so much planned in the Planting Scheme, it is important that we attract numerous volunteers to help, to maximise what is possible to achieve for Westhill. Could you be part of this ambitious plan?

For further information or suggesting litter problem areas, or offers of help with the planting, please contact: Raymond Swaffield, email swaffies@talktalk.net or Ken Stewart, email kennethstewart248@btinternet.com.

Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

The hall is open subject to Covid restrictions. The hall is busy most evenings but we have a large hall, small hall and meeting room available for hire mostly during the day. These are suitable for exercise classes, baby and toddler groups, craft groups etc. Please see our Facebook Page. Our hall can also be booked for children's parties, funeral teas, etc. To enquire about hiring, please email the booking secretary – *milnehallbookings@gmail.com*.

Future Events: See Facebook page for further and more up to date details.

Regular Activities: As Covid Restrictions Allow

- Jazzercise, every Wednesday 9.45-10.45am and 6.30-7.30pm.
- 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.
- Alba Black Belt Academies age 3 to adult. Call 07818 200371 for details.
- · Baby Sensory Thursday mornings.
- Puppy Classes Thursday 7-8pm
- Westhill Guitar Club every second Tuesday 6.30-8pm. See Westhill Guitar Club Facebook Page for more details.

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.

Westhill Senior Citizens Group

We are pleased to report that we re-started on Thursday 2nd September and have enjoyed a variety of entertainment including Ukuleles, Snowy (guitarist), Melting Pot, talk on WW2, Tara Leiper with Banchory singers. We have our Christmas lunch booked at the Holiday Inn on Thursday 16th December – which we hope will go ahead!

Numbers attending have been between 30 and 42 – which has been good to see. We have had guite a few new members.

We take a register of all attendees, ask members to wear masks when entering and leaving the building and if they wish to sing along with the entertainer. We have gel and wipes on the tables and the food for refreshments is now individually wrapped.

In 2022 we plan to restart on Thursday 13th January and meet fortnightly thereafter.

We meet in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church from 2 until approximately 3.30pm.

Contact Heather Cook for further information – *heathercook@tiscali.co.uk* telephone 01224 741194.



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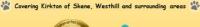
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COMPASS

How does your garden grow at Compass?

Local medical charity, Camphill Wellbeing Trust (CWT) launched Compass in September 2020. With the project well underway to transform the former Waldorf School site on Craigton Road, we have some **super opportunities for the local community** to get involved as we begin sharing practical solutions for healthy and sustainable lifestyles.



Compass has received a fantastic **1864 hours of volunteer support** to help lay paths, create compost heaps, maintain outdoor spaces and assist with indoor work. We have created **14 demonstration no-dig beds** which have already provided a wide range of tasty, organically-grown produce and will continue to produce more as we introduce winter vegetables. Members of the public can come along to our **Produce Pop-Ups** and take home fresh, locally-grown vegetables on a donation basis.

Our Compass volunteers have enjoyed **learning first-hand about the no-dig method** and **composting** used onsite with many starting to implement some of these practices at home. Growing your own produce, including over-winter veg, has great benefits for health and wellbeing providing time outdoors, exercise and the satisfaction of eating something grown yourself. It also supports our environment and the circular economy by keeping produce local. To find out more come along to our volunteer days or keep an eye on our website/Facebook pages to discover the seasonal produce on offer at our next Pop-Up.







We are looking for practical hands! Future volunteer days will also include the stripping out of the kindergarten building, so bring your tools as we take it back to its bare bones. We also plan to hold **Dry Stone Wall workshops** to help rebuild our perimeter walls. If you are interested in the opportunity to work with an experienced dyker, please let us know! Further outdoor work will be facilitated by our newly appointed Outdoor Areas Coordinator and volunteers can assist with the planting of fruit trees as we plan our orchard.

To find out more and sign up for volunteering, updates and event information, visit: www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass, follow us on Facebook: @CWTCompass or email compass@cwt.scot.

About Camphill Wellbeing Trust:

CWT is a medical charity providing an extended and integrative approach to health and wellbeing. It aims to address illness, build resilience and maintain wellbeing.

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875 (Westhill) Squadron



It's been a busy time for the squadron over the last few months. With restrictions easing, this has allowed the organisation to resume some activities.

In August, The Lord Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire was finally able to visit the squadron to present Cadet Warrant Officer McIntosh with her Lord Lieutenants Cadet certificate, something she had been waiting for since June last year. On the same evening, our Chaplain formally enrolled 16 new cadets into the Air Training Corps in the presence of their parents. This is the largest intake of cadets the squadron has ever had at any one time.

Also on the same night, the Lord Lieutenant presented some of the cadets with their new rank slides during a promotion ceremony. Cdts Laing and Douglas were promoted to Corporal, Cdt Cpls McIntosh and C Weideman were promoted to Sergeant and Cdt Sqt K Weideman was promoted to Flight Sergeant.

One Saturday in September, four of our cadets and a member of staff had an early start to travel to our gliding school at RAF Kirknewton on the outskirts of Edinburgh for air experience gliding. For the cadets, this was the first time they had experienced gliding and fortunately, the weather held out and they were able to get two flights each. This resulted in all four of them being awarded their blue gliding wings.

In October, on a rather damp day, CWO McIntosh undertook one of her first engagements as Lord Lieutenant's cadet when she accompanied the Lord Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire during the visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay to Inverurie. During the visit, CWO McIntosh accompanied Prince Charles as he toured the Farmers Market and local businesses.

Later in the month, Cadet Flight Sergeant Kayleigh Weideman undertook her Method of Instruction (MOI) assessment following the completion of the MOI course. Cdt FS Weideman delivered a very interesting presentation and coped well when faced with some challenging questions from some of her fellow cadets. Following the assessment, the Wing Training Officer presented Cdt FS Weideman with her yellow Instructor Cadet lanyard.

We are 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, and camps on RAF stations in the UK and abroad. Cadets can also gain BTEC qualifications and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.





If anyone is interested in joining the squadron, please email oc.875@rafac.mod.gov.uk for more information or visit our Facebook page 875 (Westhill) Sqn ATC.



Bothy 57's ambition is to create a welcoming outside shelter on the neighbouring site of a former garage.

We anticipate that you will enjoy a weekly home bake and coffee at this Kirkton of Skene destination, along the footpath from Westhill and Elrick. So, if you have any suggestions or comments on the idea of an outside shelter, please

email us at bothy57skene@gmail.com.

Bothy 57's beverages, home-made soup, hot food, scrumptious home bakes, soft drinks and ice cream are served both from the door and inside, heated by the log burning stove. Jill and Steve look forward to sharing a warm welcome.

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 6 days a week All are welcome

Working with the Echt and Skene Community Council, we attempt to mitigate the occasional flooding at 3 places on the footpath to Westhill. We're making some progress. However, we prioritise a result if more people can *log any flooding on https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/roadfaults/* thank you. Generally, if anyone would like to get involved with this then please email *contact@echtandskenecc.co.uk*.







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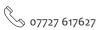
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- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes.
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallway and landing.
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen.
- All fire alarms are to be ceiling mounted and must be **interlinked**.
- Carbon monoxide detectors are to be fitted where there are carbon fuelled appliances (such as boilers, fires, open fires, heaters, stoves or a flue).

The Regulations come into effect in February 2022.

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SKENE MEDICAL GROUP

The last few months have seen yet more change in Skene Medical Practice as we try to work out what is the best way to provide an efficient, safe medical service for our patients in these challenging times. Due to unsustainable demand, negative feedback from patients, and the way of working that Econsult entailed, the decision was taken to stop it and revert to something more akin to how we were working previously, but with some adaptations both in response to what we learned through having to work differently over the last 18 months and also in response to ongoing covid restrictions. Over the last few months we have adopted a hybrid model of face to face appointments and telephone appointments with the crucial difference that these are now open to be booked by you. We would ask, however, that you consider which type of appointment suits your needs best with face to face appointments being most appropriate for those who need an examination, those who struggle to communicate on the phone or who have something to discuss which is more sensitive. We decided to have pre bookable telephone appointments as we learned through covid that these were popular and that we could meet many needs through this format. We hope that the new system is working well for you and we continue to welcome constructive feedback on this and any other aspect of the practice. If you have booked an appointment and then no longer require the appointment please call us to cancel to allow us to offer this to another patient. A number of appointments are booked then patients do not attend or answer their phone when called.

As mentioned previously, we have been doing hypertension, diabetes and ischaemic heart disease clinics for a number of months. We have a back log to get through so please be patient as we try to work through this. Asthma and COPD reviews are also being scheduled for some patients, with those who have more severe asthma being called initially. Should you feel your asthma is worsening, however, particularly as we approach winter, then please do contact us. We receive lots of questions about our other services including joint injections, minor surgery and gynaecology services. At present we are still not able to offer these in keeping with most practices but we are looking at how they can be re-introduced in the near future as long as it is safe to do so. We will keep you updated regarding this but in the mean time if you have an urgent issue please contact us as we can refer you on to other services or place you on the waiting list for when we restart.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding covid or the covid vaccine please initially look for information on www.nhsinform.scot. If you still have questions please contact the Covid Hub directly which can be accessed through calling 111. Both flu and covid vaccines are now managed and administered by the health board so the practice is not able to help answer questions regarding the practicalities of these.

If you are on medication please check your supply regularly so that you do not run out, bearing in mind that it takes at least 3-4 days to process any prescription before it is ready at the pharmacy. As the festive season approaches this is particularly important to avoid a last minute rush.

As we draw to the end of the year we would like to thank our staff for adapting so efficiently to all the changes and providing an excellent service at reception and behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. We would also like to thank our patients for their understanding through what has been another momentous year.

Kind Regards,

All at Skene Medical Group

WESTHILL BOWLING CLUB

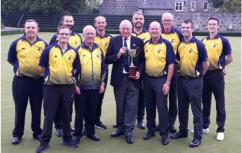
With our outdoor bowling season ending on 25th September we can look back with pride on the achievements of the season.

All internal club competitions were keenly fought, producing some exciting finals and perhaps some unexpected results, with the underdogs triumphing. Congratulations to all winners and the best of luck to those who have qualified to represent Westhill Bowling Club in Scottish National competitions in Season 2022.

Outwith internal club competitions we have two exceptional achievements to report. Firstly, Andrew Reilly, our club singles champion and therefore our representative in the Bob Accord Association Champion of Champions event, went on to lift the trophy by defeating the representative of Cults B.C. in the final, having previously swept aside the champions of Polmuir, Culter and Balgownie. Well done Andrew.

On the same day, Sunday 5th September, that Andrew lifted the Champion of Champions crown, our Top 10 Team took on Newhills in the final of that competition. In a thrilling final Craig Burnett put the first point on the board for us by winning the singles. With our fours rink up but our triples struggling it looked like it would come down to who won the exceptionally tight pairs match. And so it proved, with Scott Runcie drawing a superb last bowl to beat the Newhills toucher in the ditch and take





the shot and win the points. Well done to all who played their part in bringing the silverware back to Westhill.

It was truly a proud day to be the president of Westhill Bowling Club

After the playing part of the season finished we have held two events at the pavilion. Firstly, presentation of Trophies and social evening where the individual winners were presented with their hard won cups and shields, followed by some games of bingo and a finger buffet. In late October we held a very successful Race Night to help us raise some essential funds. The financial success of this event was aided by races being sponsored by some local companies and we thank Garry Smith of Aberbuild, Kris Main of Aquanox Technical Solutions, Bill Baillie of Bill Baillie Snooker Services, Northern Lights Lampshades and Shaun Sinclair of Westhill Boiler Services. We thank you all and everyone else who gave of their time, efforts and donations to make the event the success it was.

And so we closed a successful season, we can now look forward to the start of the 2022 season in April. It seems a long way off but it will soon be upon us. If anyone would like to come and join us and be part of our ongoing story of bowling in the Westhill area please do not hesitate to get in touch by email *robert.mutch@btinternet.com* or telephone 07562 696193.



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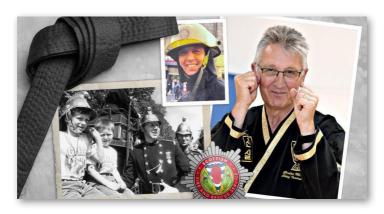
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Adult/senior classes – 11/12 to no upper age limit

For more class information contact dbmartialarts28@gmail.com or 07970 188825

Thanks to all students/parents for your support over this strange time.

Here's to a positive injury-free 2022.



Sooyang Do Martial Art Loses One of Our Founder Members

I would, like to pay tribute to the enormous contribution Gordon McIver gave to Sooyang Do since our very formation in 2003.

Gordon, his wife Colleen ("Mrs McIver") and daughter Gemma originally began training with me in Choi Kwang Do in 1999, under the direct instruction of Mr Derek Dalgarno, who was himself one of my first group of students to grade to black belt. Their enthusiasm and dedication was obvious from the start and it was no surprise to see both Mr and Mrs McIver become Assistant Instructors before graduating to black belt in 2003.

On achieving black belt status, both Gordon and Colleen became fully fledged instructors and through their skill and hard work, they both became extremely successful school owners in their own right.

With the founding of Sooyang Do in 2003, I was both proud and delighted that Gordon and Colleen, as well as our Westhill Instructor Dave Bremner supported me in my new venture, but the enthusiasm and commitment these instructors was unequalled and unrivalled. Not only did they join me in what was an energy sapping but hugely rewarding recruitment campaign, with countless days spent teaching hundreds of children during the day, followed by adult classes in the evening, Gordon also took on a massive amount of work behind the scenes, working as Vice Chairman, and Chairman, but carrying out so many other duties with an unerring efficiency, which proved challenging for those of us less organised in our approach.

Both Gordon and Colleen went on to enjoy spectacular success as school owners, a degree of success which was thoroughly deserved, thanks to their skill, honesty, decency and hard work. Gordon encapsulated the tenets of "courtesy, integrity, humility, and respect" which are the cornerstone of Sooyang Do and which make us unique.

Gordon was not necessarily the most gifted or athletic of martial artists, having begun his training at a relatively late age, yet he enjoyed the admiration, loyalty and respect of all of the many hundreds of students he taught over the years, who he coached successfully to a very high level of competence. It is impossible to exaggerate the positive influence Gordon had on so many young people, who were privileged to have him as their instructor.

Having suffered so much in his final months, Gordon is at peace and whilst I am not a religious man, I would like to think a part of him might be celebrating a last minute winning try for Scotland in the final of the Rugby World Cup, or having even more fun reminding us all that we are late with a form, or that a number of our student licences have expired.

In short, Gordon was a gigantic figure in Sooyang Do who cannot be replaced, to whom I will always be indebted and who will be greatly missed.

JIN SIL Master Bruce Wood – Founder



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a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to all

Westhill Library News

A warm welcome back to borrowers old and hello to borrowers new now that the library has reopened, it's great to see you all.

We currently have Open Browsing on Mondays from 10am to 3pm, Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm and Thursdays from 12pm to 5pm. During Open Browsing you can come into the library to borrow and return books, pick up reservations, browse the shelves, use our PCs, collect recycling items and spend time studying or relaxing in the library just as before.

If you prefer not to come into the library at the moment we also have two Click and Collect sessions per week on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm and Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm. At Click and Collect you will have a 15 minute slot where you can pick up items you've reserved, collect a book bundle you've ordered or return your books. For more details on Click and Collect or to book an appointment go to www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/click-and-collect/ or telephone 01467 532929.

Please note that our hours are subject to change but up-to-date opening times can always be found on the Live Life Aberdeenshire website. The library will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period, closing at 5pm on Thursday 23rd December and reopening on Wednesday 5th January.

Printer at home broken or run out of ink, did you know we have wireless printing in the library? You don't have to be a library member to make use of this service and can print directly from your own devices to our printer. We now use a new printing solution called Princh. With Princh, it is possible to print from any mobile device, tablet or laptop from home or at the library. Just print, pay online or with cash at the library and pick up your items. You can send your print jobs at any time from any place. Once you print, you will have 24 hours to collect your items. If you prefer, you can wait until you are in the library to send your print from your mobile device.

If using a phone or tablet, download the free Princh app from the App Store or Google Play You can also print from your own laptop by visiting the **print.princh.com** webpage. For more details see **www.livelifeaberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries/princh-printing/**.

We're very happy to have restarted our Bookbug sessions. For now, numbers attending are limited and booking is essential. These sessions of songs, rhymes and stories are for babies up to pre-school children with their parents or carers. To find a Bookbug session or to see what else is on in Aberdeenshire libraries go to the Events page on the Live Life Aberdeenshire website.

We hope to see you in the library soon.

Follow us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/WesthillLibrary.

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.

WECC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

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

WECC started to give donations in 2011 and since then a total of around £37,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups. See https://westhillelrick.org/people-make-a-place/donations/for Guidance Notes and the Application form or contact treasurerwecc@gmail.com.

Note we have only spent a small part of the donations budget for the financial year to March 2022 as there has only been one application so far. The next round of donations will be made in February 2022. Closing date for applications is 4th February. Get your applications in by then and it is likely we will be able to support your group!

Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

This has been a challenging year for fundraising and thank you to all that have donated so generously to MacMillan.

We were fortunate that the government covid restrictions changed allowing us to hold our Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September, at Lynne of Skene Hall. We raised a fantastic amount of £1256.31 on the day. Many thanks to all who attended and those that gave donations.

We supported a collection at Boots in Inverurie on Saturday 16th October for their Macmillan Moment and we are pleased to say we helped to achieve the sum of £506.58 on the day.

Our next event will be a stall at the Affa Fine Market at Milton of Crathes on the 5th December between 10am-2pm, please come along and visit the stall.

We would normally hold our Burns Supper in January 2022, but due to the ongoing Covid restrictions we have decided not to hold it in 2022. Our next Burns Supper will be January 2023.

Charity No SCO039907

If you would like to be a volunteer or join our committee please contact me at the number below.

ease Fundraising for

Alison Troup - 07974 790765



BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

The good thing about winter is spring is on its way.

In Scotland we have beautiful scenery and Autumn emphasises that with the gold, red, brown and orange – what joy to see such colours. And winter gives you time to catch up in the greenhouse and shed to clean all tools pots and get rid of webs.

With Christmas here shortly gift cards are always welcome and garden centres now have lots of goods not only for the garden worth a look, but now dogs are also allowed into centres with you. Look out for bargain seeds, plants and bulbs. Try something different and enjoy your garden; it can be fulfilling and is good for your health.

If you have water butts remember to half empty them, disconnect any pipes and wrap the taps against frost. Last but not least, enjoy the festive season, good health and happiness for 2022.

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Westhill Tennis Club

After a record level of membership at Denman Park this year, we urgently require support in the running of the tennis club. We are currently operating on a skeleton committee and we are in need of volunteers. The roles don't require much time but are vital in allowing the club to continue operating. Please get in touch if you are interested.

It has been brilliant to see the refurbished courts being utilised and we hope our new members have enjoyed the facilities. Throughout the winter our social tennis sessions for adults continue when the weather allows on Mondays from 7pm and Saturdays from 2pm.



Our men and ladies had a strong return to action this season in the North East of Scotland Summer Leagues. Our men's A team finished third in Division 2 while the B team, in its first season back in the league, won Division 5 and sealed promotion to division 4 next season. The ladies' side finished third in Division 4 after a positive season.

Fees

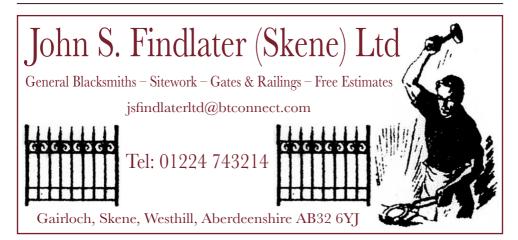
We have recently reduced membership fees. Our half-year rates are: Adult - £40, Family - £80, Couple - £70, Student - £20, Junior - £15, Child - £8.

Packages can be found at: https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub/Membership/Join Benefits of membership include:

- · Free court time for members with online booking sheet
- · Social tennis sessions for adults on Mondays from 7pm and Saturdays from 2pm
- 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

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub
Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub
Coaching: Vikki Paterson vikkipaterson@hotmail.com

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Friday: 9.30-10.15am (crèche available) & 10.30-11.15am

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: 1.00-1.45pm, 2.00-2.45pm (crèche available)
Thursday: 9.30-10.15am, 10.30-11.15am & 1.00-1.45pm (crèche available)

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: 10.00-10.45am, 1.00-1.45pm & 2.00-2.45pm

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JOGSCOTLAND WESTHILL

Running with JogScotland Westhill is a great way to get started with running and to keep up the motivation to continue. Here, JSW member Donnah Blake tells us how she went from new runner to completing this year's Loch Ness Marathon!



January 2018 was time for New Year Resolutions. I wanted to get fit and about to join an exercise class until I heard about a new Couch to 5k group at JogScotland Westhill. Not being able to run for a bus, I liked the sound of the challenge – to run 5km at the end of the 10-week course. The reward would be a t-shirt and an all-important medal (we all love a medal)!

Throughout January, February and March the friendly Jog Leaders guided and encouraged our C25K group, starting with running between lamp posts before taking a breather. As our strength and endurance grew, we began running for longer until we could run continuously for over 30 minutes. The enthusiasm, support and commitment of the Jog Leaders helped us keep running whatever the weather and up those 'cheeky' hills!

The camaraderie and motivation we gave each other resulted in us running the Garioch 5k at the end of the course. We all completed it, marking the occasion with a celebratory lunch where we could look back proudly on all our efforts.



This was just the start of my running journey and I aspired to run further and compete in more running events. After many group chats and a few Saturday night drinks, I'd wake up on the Sunday morning having signed up for yet another event. We tackled 5Ks, 10Ks but didn't stop there. The next milestone was the 2019 Inverness Half marathon! That was an adventure (and a half)! We saw every type of weather that day, ending with a proper soaking. Our

spirits weren't dampened though, and we continued to run with JSW, taking part in events near and far, virtual and 'live,' collecting many medals and t-shirts along the way.

Being part of JSW also helped me achieve something I never thought I would or could do – run a marathon! After recovering from a cancer scare earlier this year, I decided to answer the question of what it'd be like to run 26.2 miles and raise money for charity. Together with my extra-special running buddies, we tackled distances in training that I never thought possible. I even got up at 6am on weekends for our long runs – a real challenge if, like me, you're not a morning person! Having gone through the blisters, tears, exhaustion, and even the runner's trots, before I knew it, I was on the start line for the Loch Ness Marathon, with donations totalling £816 for Macmillan Cancer Support. I did it! It was an emotional experience, but what an achievement!

What's next? Now to give back some support to JSW, so I have signed up to be a Jog Leader! It's time to help others run their dreams and achieve their goals ... and earn those medals!

If you're inspired by Donnah's story, don't wait until January. Send us an email at <code>jogscotlandwesthill@gmail.com</code> and we'll be ready to welcome you. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30pm. Who knows what you'll be able to achieve?

Watch out for us too on Monday 20th December when we hold our annual Santa Run, dressed in Christmas outfits and making a few stops for some carol-singing!



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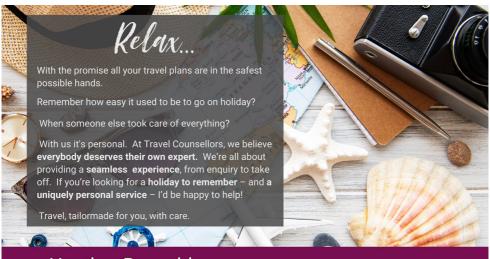






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Services

Every Sunday at 10.30am - Morning Worship

Our services are all shown online for anyone who can't come along in person.

Please join us on YouTube. Search for Westhill Community Church and you can see all of our online services plus tune in on Sunday for the latest one! We'd love to see you there!

www.westhillcommunitychurch.org



Our café opened in May, with all necessary restrictions and precautions in place. See our Facebook page or church website for more information.

Room Hire – It may be possible to hire our rooms in accordance with any Government guidelines. Please check our website or email bookings@westhillcommunitychurch.org for more information.



If you need assistance of any kind you can contact our team by calling Sandra on 07484 603593 or email sandramcgregor@westhillcommunitychurch.org

Our Food Bank is also open and you can access this by calling the team on 07379 836380 or email foodbank@westhillcommunitychurch.org

We appreciate it's hard to ask for help but please don't suffer in silence. If you need assistance just call. Your call will be treated in confidence with great love and care.

Please check our website for updates and opening hours once the lockdown eases. www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

Youth Activities

Check on our website or get in touch with our Youth Pastor, Daniel.ferguson@westhillcommunitychurch.org to find out more!

Office Hours

Hours may vary currently. You can call our office on 01224 737380 or email office@westhillcommunitychurch.org

2021 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

19th December - Nativity Service - 10.30am

24th December – Family Christingle Service – 4.00pm

24th December - Christmas Eve Midnight Service - 11.30pm

25th December - Christmas Day All Age Nativity Service - 10.30am

Please know that we as a church seek to bring the love of Jesus to our local community so should you wish for us to pray for you or your family, access our feedback or receive support of any kind, please don't hesitate to get in touch via our church email: office@westhillcommunitychurch.org.

Pam Dignan Dancers

Olivia, Blair, Maura, Corinne, Erin and Emma went to the New Pitsligo Highland Dancing Competition on 30 October – this was the first one in a very long time.

They all did well and came away with lots of medals and three Trophies.

They are looking forward to the next one.

There are spaces in the Tap class (primary 1-3), Tap class for Academy children and the Ballroom class – all at the Ashdale Hall on a Wednesday.

Contact pamdignan.dancers@btinternet.com.

Christmas Lights storage

The Westhill & Elrick Community Council has been putting up the festive street lights in Westhill & Elrick since 2005. Around 40 lights are now put up each year.

For a number of years a farmer near Westhill has allowed us to store the lights in his barn but he is going to be selling the farm and we need to find a new storage location.

We would be delighted if a resident with space in a garage or shed could allow us to store some or all the lights there. If you can help, please contact the WECC secretary David Ritchie at weccsecretx@gmail.com or phone **07989 637461**.

Central Aberdeenshire Federation of Halls VACANCY

The above group are currently looking for a Secretary/Treasurer who would assist in basic bookkeeping and secretarial duties for some remuneration. *Is anyone in the community willing to come forward and join us?* If so, please contact Ron on 01330 860669 for further details.

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Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Although we still don't have a fixed programme we have managed to have a series of walks every alternate Sunday. These walks are chosen a few weeks in advance and are currently restricted to members only and places have to be reserved. The lifting of restrictions in numbers and social distancing has made the walks much pleasanter.

Walks this autumn have included Banchory to Crathes, Corryhabbie Hill, Methlick to Haddo House, Glas Maol where walkers climbed either two or four of the munros and Pannanich Hill near Ballater. Many thanks to the leaders of the walks.

Congratulations to Heather Wood who completed her munro round on Beinn na Lap from Corrour Station with the group staying overnight at the Loch Ossian Hostel. Good luck to David Christie whose plan to trek across the Sahara in aid of Maggie's Centre and in memory of his wife Mhorag was scuppered first by Covid then by Morocco closing its doors. He will now be trekking across the Jordanian Desert in November. He has already raised nearly £3k.

Obviously nobody has any idea when things will get back to normal but we are still very happy to welcome new members to the club. Keep an eye on our website at http://www.westhillwalkers.org and our Facebook page for updates and photos.





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

As you know, the change of licensing between Aberdeenshire Council and DofE Scotland prevents us from continuing to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award locally. Several parents have been in touch by email wanting to enrol their child for the DofE Award so word is still not fully out there or not fully understood. We remain disappointed as a volunteer group when there is clearly an unmet demand. While we can still support active enrolled participants at their current level, some of the functionality of the online portfolio system, **eDofE.org**, is no longer available to us. For example, we can no longer report Award completions. If you have uploaded evidence and think we have not noticed then do email and we will follow up.

COMING SOON – a repeat of the plan going forward for Westhill Open Award Group is that we are in discussion with Youth Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council hoping to bring you **Youth Achievement Awards at Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels!** It is all about progressing through those levels from taking part (60 hours), through assisting (90 hours), leading (120 hours) and ultimately, at Platinum Award level, providing peer education (135 hours). Evidence is gathered for submission in a portfolio with peer assessment of activities. It is based on open programmes which our volunteers will help participants to plan-do-review and most importantly show individual progression. We are keen to still offer an expedition element as we know how much participants gain from – and safely enjoy – that experience. So, that's the challenge for our volunteer group and we will keep you informed as plans progress! At the moment we are working on a constitution for our group then considering group roles, insurance and operating procedures. More soon!

Westhill and District Gardening Club

The Westhill & District Gardening Club is very pleased to announce that the club is now back up and running, subject to covid regulations and restrictions. We meet on the third Wednesday from September through to May in the Lounge at Trinity Church, Westhill Drive, starting at 7.30pm.

We held a successful meeting in October 2021 when we enjoyed a talk from Simon Whitworth, Acting Aberdeen Countryside Ranger. Following on from that meeting, Club member Berwyn Williams gave us an enlightening talk on Carbon Capture in November.

Future Dates and Topics for your diary are:

8th December 2021 – Ann Westwood will give us a demonstration entitled 'Festive Flowers' 19th January 2022 – A.G.M.

If anyone would like information about the club please email us at westhillgardenclub@gmail.com.

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Our sections have enjoyed a varied programme of activities over the last few months and making the make the most of the last of the summer weather.

Our Scout Troops enjoyed doing back woods cooking and team working exercises.



Our Cub Packs practiced putting up and taking down tents, they did shelter building in Carnie Woods, perfected their campfire skills, worked on sports such as basketball and hockey, completed their cycling badge and enjoyed trips out to Brimmond Hill and also trampolining.

Our Beaver colonies also had a fun term. They've enjoyed playing new games, and gained badges including Health and Fitness, International badge, Experiments badge, Creative badge, Cycling

badge and Amazon Beavers completed their Cooking badge by making muffin pizzas and cake!

We were absolutely delighted to see the return of camps. In September Bagheera and Shere Khan Cubs held a joint one night camp at *Lochter Activity Centre* where cubs went fishing, water zorbing, riding segways and scaling the climbing wall before ziplining their way down plus a campfire. Everyone had a great time.

Beechwood Scouts also held a one night camp at Templars where scouts slept in hammocks and shelters.

The Group held its AGM at the end of September which saw parents and other interested parties hear about the current status of the Group. Our thanks to Councillors Walker and McKelvie for joining us. Congratulations to Leader Rae Taylor who was presented with a Chief Scouts Commendation, and a 20 year certificate.

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of former Group Scout Leader, John Hoskisson after a long illness. John had started his volunteering in Birmingham in 1966, and was part of Westhill Scout Group for almost 40 years. Our thoughts remain with John's wife Mary.



We are delighted to have been selected as one of the three *Tesco Community Grants Scheme* recipients in the Westhill store from now until the end of December. If you are a Tesco in store shopper, and get a token, please consider our blue token counting box.

We recently held information sessions on zoom to bolster our cohort of adult volunteers. We were pleased at the level of interest and delighted that a number of parents stepped forward to take on roles within the group. We look forward to them taking up new positions with us.

To keep up to date with our latest news or to apply to our waiting list, see our website www.1stwesthillscouts.co.uk.



WESTHILL

Breeze & Guided Club Rides

| Floy to led you are not quite ready to join a club ride yet, why not start with a Breeze or Guided ride?

| Guided rides are mixed men and women, Breeze rides are for women only. You do not need to join the club or pay any membership fee. These are free rides led by a qualified British Cycling cycle coach and ride leader.

| Routes are fully risk assessed and planned for various abilities from beginners 3-mile traffic free rides up to 50-mile hilly challenging routes for the more advanced. All rides are friendly, fun, sociable and non-competitive, most also include a coffee and cake stop. — we all like cake! — and it is guilf free when you have cycled there and back. We always ride at the speed of the slowest person, and no one is ever left behind.

| Joining a Breeze or Guided ride you will be fully supported, and it is a good way to learn how to ride in a group before progressing to club riding. If you would like more information your local Breeze/Guided Rides, alternatively go to Letsride.co.uk.

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David's Desert Challenge on Behalf of Maggie's Aberdeen Cancer Support Centre

This month I'm challenging myself to complete a 100km trek across the Desert in Jordan in memory of my beloved wife Moragh who sadly passed away in December 2019 after a long fight with cancer.

I'm undertaking this challenge to raise vital funds for Maggie's Aberdeen as I believe passionately in them and the help they provide. Both my wife and I benefited from their support throughout a very challenging time and it was invaluable. Due to the pandemic and treatments being delayed Maggie's is needed more than ever before.

Maggie's provides free practical, emotional and psychological support to anyone affected by cancer, not just the individuals that are impacted but the family and friends as well.



Will you support me in my mission of raising vital funds to help the local people of Aberdeen and the shire that are impacted by a cancer diagnosis?

I am funding the trip myself, so 100% of the money raised goes directly to Maggie's – www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-christie7.

David Christie, Phone: 07731 333033



YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

YOU!

The Westhill & District Community Sports and Leisure Hub (SCIO) is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to work with the committee, partners and members to further the aims of the Hub.

Our Key Aims:

- Work with local clubs and partners to promote sports and leisure participation in the area
- 2. Assist the Westhill 10K committee to organise and promote the annual Westhill 10K run
- 3. Develop and drive forward proposals for a new sports and leisure facility in Westhill

If you are driven, enthusiastic and eager to see improvements in sports and leisure facilities in Westhill we would welcome your help. Please contact us at **hello@wdcsh.org**.

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JTEAD FAST AND

1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

Delighted to report we resumed face to face meetings on Friday 3rd September with The Anchor Boys located in Trinity Church Hall and both Junior and Company Sections within Westhill Academy where they are all following a varied programme of activities. In addition to indoor activities, the Junior Section have been out and about with an evening's walk up Brimmond Hill.



The more senior boys in the Company Section had been focused on Expedition training leading up to a 3 day/2-night Duke of Edinburgh Silver and BB Queens Badge Expedition in the Cairngorms. During this they are responsible for their own camping equipment, preparing their meals and most importantly navigation with very limited supervision by a D of E assessor. The boy's route was from Aviemore to Braemar via Strath Nethy, Fords of A'an, Derry Lodge, Allanaquoich and Mar Lodge and all

successfully completed this assessment over the weekend of 24th-26th September.

The same senior boys also provided support to St Fittick Rotary Club who had organised a unique event to raise funds for a charity project in Serra Leone. With the support of the Highland Cattle Society and landowners they recreated a Highland Cattle Drove, with real Highland Cattle, full dress Jacobite soldiers and sponsored walkers over the ancient Fungle Drove Road on Royal Deeside. Our boys set up en route and provided the walkers with refreshments including, very traditionally, freshly cooked bannocks.



The event was a great success with perfect weather and well behaved cattle. Over £5,000 was raised by the walkers and it is anticipated this will be grant matched by the wider Rotary organisation so there is every likelihood £10,000 will be committed to the charity project. Well done to the Boys and St Fittick Rotary Club.

As the festive season approaches, we intend to resume our Christmas Card Delivery Service with collection boxes located in Trinity and Skene Churches from Friday 20th November till Wednesday 16th December. For COVID management issues 'Stamps' will not be on sale beside the boxes this year and we will stamp the envelopes before delivery. At 25p per card this service offers significant savings against the price of 1st or even 2nd class stamps. Please remember we can only deliver to houses in the Westhill and Kirkton of Skene area.

As a reminder, the Boys' Brigade caters for boys from Primary 1-3 in the Anchor Boys, Primary 4-6 in the Junior Section and Primary 7-18 years of age in The Company Section where they have the opportunity to participate in a structured programme of sports and activities leading to Duke of Edinburgh and Queens Badge awards.

We do not have 'Waiting Lists' and new boys will always be made very welcome.



Photographs and videos of our activities are regularly updated on our Facebook page. Why not have a look and see what we are up to.

Donald Struthers, Company Captain 01224 742262 • www.1stskenebb.co.uk

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Community Centre	01224 472874
Community Education	01224 472874
Community Mini-bus	01224 744058
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Business, Private –	
Ashdale Drive	01224 742513
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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Building Trades & Other Tradesmen		Beaux Boutique	33
A. Reid Garden Services		Bombshell Beauty & Aesthetics	39
aandm Bathrooms		Bothy 57 Café	
Aberdeen Slating Services		Compass Project Volunteering	
Ace of Trades		Cryozest Health & Beauty	
Alert Electrical		Dans Centre	
APC Property Services		Diet Consultant	
Aspect Building Design		Garlogie Inn	
B. Mackland Builders		Glentanar Lounge at Holiday Inn	
Blue Flame Heating		Happy Barber	
Bonnie Banks Gardening		Kippie Lodge	
Braemoral Joinery		Lee Beauté	
Chris Western Heating, Plumbing & Servicing		Low & Co Hair Design	
City & Shire Domestics		Luke and Learn Guitar	
Cluny Locksmith and Joinery		Pam Dignan Dancers	44
Cumming Fire & Security – Smoke Detection		Queens Cross Dental	
Cumming Fire & Security Ltd			
D & M Conservatory Insulation		Sooyang Do Martial Art Travel Counsellors	
David Massie Carpentry & Joinery DC Maintenance Services		Trudi Deans Foot Health Care	
DGR Construction		West with Style	
Docea Painting & Decorating		Westhill Choi Kwang Do	
Electro-Tek Electrical Contractor		Westhill Health & Therapies Practice	
GB Tiling Services		Zen Beauty	
Groundwater Architectural Design		-	
Hugh Will Property Maintenance		Professional Services	0.0
i-Protech		Aberdein Considine	
ITS Fire & Security		Acumen Financial Planning	
Joe's Gardening Services		Adam Cochran Photography Belvoir	
John Findlater (Skene) Ltd	69	Blue Sky Business Space	
John Mullen Joinery	65	Burnett Criminal Defence	
K. Milne Plumbing & Heating	87	Busy Days Dog Care	
Kevin Allan, Painter & Decorator	4	Carer Required	
Kirkwood Homes		Compu-Care	
Lister Domestic Electrical		Denman Pre-school	
Little Plumber		Doggie Style Dog Grooming Salon	
Maintenance Matters		Doggy Dudes	
Mark Mennie Glazier		Dows Diets	
Midmar Timber Centre		ESP Book-keeping Services	40
MJS Landscaping		Forbes Lawson Financial Planners	31
NorDan		Fyfe Moir & Associates Accountants	
NYC Bathrooms		Grampian Accounting	
Only Heating		James Wilson PC repair	
Painting & Decorating		Kelldun Canines	
RS Joinery		McCue Wealth Management	
Skene Powerclean		Oven Valet	
Steve Gray Plumbing & Heating		Paws and Claws Day Care	
Stuart Grassick Builders		PC Paul	
T & M Slating		Perfectly Pressed Ironing Service	
Voytek Plastering and Painting		Photos To DVD	
Westhill Bathrooms		RE/MAX	
Westhill Boiler Services		Ride On Sports Maintenance	
Westhill Electrical Services	5	Storie Cruden & Simpson	
Westhill Fencing & Decking		The Cleaning Company	
Westhill Joinery & Building Services			
Transport & Driving		Retail	
DJ Autos	83	Costco	
Excel Driver Training		Dim Bim Cakes	
Spectrum Driver Training		Florist Ann Westwood	
Westhill Cars		Foxlane at Carnie	
Westhill Community Minibus		GPH Builders Merchants	
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