Westhill Bulletin

Autumn 2022 Issue 171





Residents relaxing in the sunshine at the Queen's Jubilee Picnic on 5th June

Photo courtesy of Mervyn Barr

Published by Westhill & Elrick Community Council Westhill website – www.westhillelrick.org



www.facebook.com/westhillandelrick



HAVE YOUR SAY....









NHS Grampian has been in consultation with A & L Porter who currently operate five award winning successful community pharmacies in the Aberdeen area, regarding their proposed application for a new pharmacy to open in Westhill, situated across the road from McDonalds.

NHS Grampian has to consider if granting the application is necessary or desirable in order to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list.

A&L Porter plan to provide the following services from the pharmacy should the application be granted:

National Core Services - Dispensing of NHS and private prescriptions, Pharmacy First - including the enhanced Plus Service, Chronic Medication Service, Public Health Services (including Smoking Cessation, Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Health Promotion), Gluten Free Foods Service, Stoma Service, Unscheduled Care Service.

Locally Negotiated Services - Compliance Aid Provision, MAR Chart Provision, Care Home Medication Advice, Palliative Care Network, Substance Misuse Service and ancillary related services, Influenza Vaccination Service, Travel Vaccination Service including Malaria Prophylaxis, Secondary Care Medication Collection Hub, Medicinal Waste Collection Service, Hepatitis C Service.

To complete the NHS consultation Please visit: www.westhillpharmacy.co.uk

For any enquiries about this consultation please contact the Public Involvement Team on 01224 558098.

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Disclaimer: The inclusion of adverts in the Bulletin does not imply that WECC promotes or endorses any particular business or service.

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 November**. The Bulletin will be distributed from 25th November.

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.

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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@qmail.com



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The front cover provides a great memory of the Lazy Sunday Afternoon event of 5th June, which was organised and conducted by Rotary primarily as a family event, as part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. By any measure it was a huge success with hundreds attending; mainly two-and-

three generation families enjoying picnics, games, and gentle competitions, while consuming what seemed to be gallons of soft drinks and tons of ice cream, under all-day sunshine. Our thanks to the Rotarians, Ashdale Hall staff and various other helpers involved, along with the Dark Island Ceilidh Band and for making it all such a great success.

Still with the Queen's Jubilee; to provide a more permanent memorial, WECC have successfully applied to Aberdeenshire Council to name the part of the dual carriageway (A944) from the Brodiach burn to the Tesco roundabout "Jubilee Drive". Coincidentally in a similar vein, this chimes with Jubilee Cottages in Kirkton of Skene, which were so named to commemorate the George V Silver Jubilee in 1935.

Regarding our ongoing planting scheme, I'm very pleased to report that we have received many compliments about the floral displays at the town centre roundabout. Our huge thanks to all volunteers involved in planting, placing and maintaining the displays. Also this year for the first time, courtesy of MAPP Town Centre Management, planters and baskets have been placed at the main shopping arcade. All these taken together provide welcome arrays of colour along with a more pleasant environment for shopping and socialising.

For many months we have received complaints about the quality of pharmacy services in both the town centre and Arnhall. Coincidentally NHS Grampian is currently carrying out a joint consultation on a proposal to open a new pharmacy in Westhill. Their two key areas of interest are to assess the current provision of pharmaceutical services in the Westhill area and to establish the level of support for the proposal from residents. If you'd like to offer your views please see details on the inside front cover and note the closing date for responses is 26th October.

As I write this, Aberdeen City Council are in the process of clearing fallen trees from Carnie Woods, which means that this section of the Westhill Orbital Trail (OT) should be reinstated by the time you read this. If you are accessing the woods please observe all safety signage and take care as some of the routes will have been changed and wooden walkways removed. Also I'm delighted to report that we now have installed a large copy of the OT map outside the NISA shop. This map shows not only the OT but also various interconnecting pathways ("spoke" routes) which, with the OT, provide a selection of walks in most areas for all abilities and ages.

Elsewhere it's good to see the OT being put to good use by other organisations. The Scouts have now adopted it into their Orienteering activities while Westhill Golf Club are planning a Sponsored Walk around the Trail on Saturday 3rd September (see page xx for further details).

In previous editions I have mentioned the launch of our forthcoming Community Action Plan, which is designed to identify projects to enhance the quality of life for residents in Westhill and Elrick. We are now seeking to recruit volunteers to join our steering group, to help identify and progress these projects. See page XX for further details.

Finally, we have had to endure the effects of Storm Arwen and the summer heat wave. As autumn approaches, lets hope that we will enjoy a traditional and tranquil "Indian Summer".

Mervyn Barr Chairperson WECC



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Councillor Iris Walker (Westhill & District)

Pharmacy Services

At the time of writing, residents were still experiencing difficulties accessing local pharmacy services. We had reassurance from NHS Pharmacy Services that they are actively engaging with Lloyd's pharmacy and Skene Medical Group to ensure a safe and consistent service for all patients. Temporary consolidation of the two locations has been agreed and by the time this Bulletin is published, we should have

a clearer idea of how this will work. The branch next to the GP surgery will be closed during August.

Meanwhile, NHS Grampian's consultation on a proposed new pharmacy service for our town remains open until midnight 26th October 2022. Scan the QR code here or visit www.westhillpharmacy.co.uk (see also advert on inside front cover).



Carnie Woods

Carnie Woods, managed by Aberdeen City Council, has been closed for public access to enable forestry contractors to carry out tree clearing to make the site safe again after storm damage. Whilst the woods are out of bounds, there have been reports of unauthorised fires as well as dog walkers accessing the site. Please respect the advice on the signage and enable the forestry contractors to do their work so that we can all enjoy Carnie Woods again.

Consultations

I am pleased that I have been able to book face-to-face consultations again. They will be held, as before, in the Westhill Library on the first Saturday of each month, starting 3rd September, from 10-11. No appointment necessary.

As always I can be contacted by phone 07876 475272, email cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or Facebook and face to face consultation surgeries can be arranged to suit.



Councillor Iris Walker - Westhill and District

Westhill and Elrick Community Action Plan

Westhill and Elrick Community Council are looking for Westhill/Elrick residents of all ages to participate in becoming part of a steering group to enable the community to identify projects, services and other initiatives that are important to them. These priorities will then be reflected in the Community Action Plan.

The process will involve:

- designing a questionnaire to be circulated to all Westhill and Elrick residents
- community engagement with the different community groups
- focus groups
- social media
- analysing the responses
- developing an action plan based on the most important local issues

If you are interested in volunteering to be part of this steering group or have any questions about Community Action Planning please email: planningwecc@gmail.com.



Councillor Craig Miller

At the time of the last Westhill bulletin I had literally just been elected to serve as councillor for Westhill & District on Aberdeenshire council.

Now that some time has elapsed since the election, I wanted to comment on a number of issues that are of concern to residents.

However, the first thing I want to mention is the success of the Jubilee Party held behind the Ashdale Hall during the weekend of celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. It was great to see so many stands and exhibits who had clearly all put a lot of effort into their endeavours and it was also encouraging to see so many local residents come together to celebrate this unique event, certainly in our lifetimes. HM Queen Elizabeth II has devoted her life to the service of this country and it is right and proper that we all enjoyed this opportunity to participate in a celebration of this milestone. The sunny afternoon undoubtedly helped drive up attendance and all seemed to be enjoying the festivities. It is also pleasing that a section of the A944 leading into Westhill has been renamed "Jubilee Drive" in order that we have a lasting recognition of this event. This effort was led by WECC, in conjunction with the community.

I have also enjoyed attending the community council meetings so far.....Echt & Skene and Westhill & Elrick. Unfortunately, I have not made it to Midmar yet but will do so at the next available opportunity. The community councils are lively and it is clear that the committee members are committed to improving the community they live in and represent.

Issues of concern that have been raised so far are the public area grass cutting, the overhanging trees and the state of kerbside weeding. All councillors have been involved in these discussions and whilst the current situation is not ideal, the local teams are working towards getting these issues fixed. Indeed, in some parts of the town, work has already started and it is to be hoped that over the summer this will be completed. We can also see the improvements to road surfaces with many areas now being redressed which hopefully alleviates many of the potholes and poor road surfaces that have been evident of late.

There is still a lot of work to be done and I do want to hear about issues that affect your daily life – if we don't know about the issues, we can't fix them so please do get in touch.

Finally, I would like to advise all residents that myself and Councillor Ron McKail will be holding joint surgeries at Westhill Library on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 11am. These in-person surgeries have not happened since the pandemic changed our lives and we look forward to welcoming residents back to these surgeries.

Councillor Craig Miller Cllr.c.miller@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel 07788 187521

WECC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

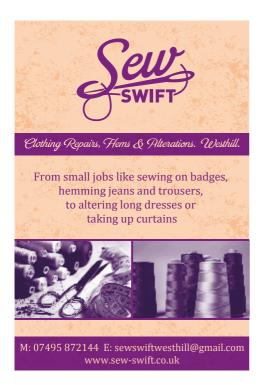
The current Westhill Bulletin business model has allowed WECC to generate surpluses from advertising revenues over production costs. From 2011 WECC has chosen to make some of these surplus funds available as donations to local voluntary groups as finances allow, and around £39,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups over these last 11 years.

The next round of donations for this year will be considered in October 2022. Closing date for applications is 7th October.

See https://westhillelrick.org/people-make-a-place/donations/ for Guidance Notes and the Application form or contact treasurerwecc@gmail.com.

Earlier this year we gave a donation to the Scout Hall Playgroup for a lockable counter top fridge and some children's cycling helmets. Here is photo of the fridge and two helmets.









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Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Lloyds Pharmacy Stores Westhill Causing Public Concern

Customers and patients of Lloyds pharmacies in Westhill are frustrated and angry with the service they have been receiving in recent weeks, particularly when collecting their prescriptions. Queuing outside the shop for lengthy periods is unacceptable, particularly as many of the folks queuing are elderly and we can surmise in many cases are not in good health.

In my contact with Lloyds staff the explanation for the reduced opening hours is that they are operating without a full complement of staff. Covid has affected a significant number of the workforce who have had to self-isolate. Added to this, there has not been a full-time pharmacist available. Getting the services of a locum has proved difficult as there is a shortage of pharmacists nationally. Government regulations quite rightly require a pharmacist to be present in the shop to distribute prescriptions. During times of sickness when a locum couldn't be sourced the pharmacy, as a last resort, has been temporarily closed.



In a message I received from Lloyds they acknowledge the concerns and they 'would like to apologise to customers and patients for any inconvenience'.

I'm also aware from the conversations I've had that the pharmacy staff are working hard to cope with the backlog of work.

How will the Roll Out of 3 Weekly Wheelie Bin Collection Being Launched in 2023 Affect Your Household?

From next year with all households having an additional wheelie bin, the council expect to be able to reduce the waste going to landfill and increase our recycling targets.



The collection system will be:

Week 1: Landfill waste>> (black bin) plus food waste caddy

Week 2: Recycle>> Paper & card (blue lidded bin) plus food waste caddy

Week 3: Recycle >>Cans, cartons, plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays (yellow lidded bin) plus food waste caddv.

An issue of concern is that despite providing kerbside services and information on how to use them, more than 60% of recyclable material is thrown away by households throughout our council area with around 28% of the contents of refuse bins currently being

made up of food waste. Clearly those householders putting the wrong 'stuff' in the wrong bin needs to change.

Large families, those with medical needs or with babies in nappies can request additional refuse capacity. Mindful that not everybody can accommodate an extra bin, the council will provide suitable alternatives, such as smaller or shared bins or bag collections.

Councillor's Surgery

Along with Councillor Craig Miller we will be holding monthly surgeries on the 2nd Saturday of each month in Westhill Library from 10am to 11am. First surgery will be 10th September.

Councillor Ron McKail



WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

Do you know all the things we do at the Men's Shed?

There is so much that is done at the shed, which consists of four main areas:

Social and Activities area

Situated in the "Kabin", the extension added just before the Covid lockdown started, this area is in many ways the heart of the Shed and is set up with:

- A large Tea Table which sees a lot of blethering about just about any subject under the sun
- A fully fitted kitchen this often sees bacon rolls being produced for Friday lunchtimes
- Areas for: Shed admin with 2 computers and a printer; clock and watch repairs; modelling group with two 3D printers and a dedicated computer; model railway group
- A pool table and tables and chairs for our bridge group and music group
- A 55" monitor used for talks by a guest speaker held about every second week during the autumn and winter months. These are open to the public so if you see an interesting topic come along. They are advertised to our members and through bulletin boards in Westhill.

Engineering Workshop

This is where our skilled Engineers carry out a wide variety of work, mostly to support the local community. Examples of work carried out include:

- Checking, servicing and repair of equipment petrol and electric lawnmowers, strimmers, hedge trimmers, mobility scooters, etc. We will sharpen blades.
- Checking, servicing and repairing a wide range of customers' electrical equipment
- · Checking, servicing and repairing donated items ready for sale
- PAT testing to ensure all electrical items leave the Shed in safe condition

Wood Workshop

- Design and manufacture of garden furniture, such as benches, tables, planters, specialist projects (village notice boards, stiles, pergolas, play equipment for schools and play groups, etc., to your requirements.)
- Repair and refurbishment of customers' garden furniture
- Members use the tools for their own projects refurbishing furniture for their own house, to learn
 a new skill, or making new pieces. There are a lot of porridge spurtles made as practice pieces
 on the lathes before getting more complex

Stores

- Donations are sorted for repair and refurbishment and then sold to the community in our 4 tool sales each year in the Westhill shopping centre (or direct from the shed)
- We keep any back that we need in our workshops
- The rest have really had their serviceable life and are sent to the council recycling centre Throughout the Shed, members can work on their own projects and undergo training if they want to be able to use any of the Shed's equipment that they lack experience with.

Opening times

Our opening times are Monday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 2pm-8pm and Friday 10am-4pm.

Why not come along to the Shed to see what we do in more detail and consider joining us. *SheShed:* ladies only, is every 2 weeks on a Monday evening from 6pm to 8.30pm. *SheShed* starts again on Monday 29th August after the summer break. Just drop in, no experience at DIY is necessary, we can teach woodwork from scratch.

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

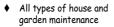
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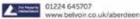
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Westhill Household Waste & Recycling Centre

Westdyke Avenue, Westhill



Recycling facilities for:

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

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday 9am-4.30pm Friday 9am-4pm Online booking required at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ recyclingcentrebookings

Westhill and Skene Lions Club

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Folding Tables Available For Hire see article on page 84

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and cash deposits (with debit card or
personalised pay-in slip) and withdrawals.
Cheque deposits can be made for most
major banks with a completed pay-in slip.
Ask for envelope for your bank. It is open:
Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm

ATMs IN WESTHILL

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

Choosing Cruising

The cruise industry was impacted greatly by the pandemic, but it is making a rapid recovery in 2022. With cruise lines taking delivery of new ships and more on order, cruising is returning to our shores worldwide.

There is often a misconception that a cruise is for older, discerning travellers, but nowadays there is a cruise ship to suit everyone. From the larger resort ships that include everything from ice rinks to grass croquet lawns, to the smaller more intimate ships that focus on the destinations and excellent food and wine. There are also ships specifically built for particular areas of the world, for example, electric powered exploration vessels operating in the Polar regions, with a focus on eliminating the environmental footprint of the cruise.

The biggest advantage I find to cruising as a couple and with family is the ability to unpack once and explore incredible destinations in one holiday. Many cruise lines also offer an overnight stop at a destination, allowing more time to explore in the evening. I've explored Pompeii with the kids, took them for pizza in Pisa and climbed the leaning tower and enjoyed a day in Barcelona on the same holiday. As a couple, we have been shopping with the chef at a local market in Montenegro and visited a winery for a tasting. On returning to the ship, we enjoyed a meal made with the ingredients from the market and the wine. On the same trip we visited Dubrovnik and spent the day discovering all this amazing walled city has to offer.

Entertainment and dining experiences onboard are as varied and diverse as the ships. Broadway shows, poolside cinemas, comedy clubs, pubs, jazz clubs, string quartets. Equally, there are a huge variety of dining options usually on offer, lavish buffets, fine dining, celebrity chefs, American diners, Japanese restaurants, cooking demonstrations and classes. Over the last few years there has been more emphasis on a choice of dining for guests and a departure from the more traditional set dining times and shared tables. When you consider most of the entertainment and food is included in the price of your cruise and often beverages too, it really represents great value. I'm sure you'll have been on holiday when you have wandered the resort looking for a restaurant to suit the family. There's always something to suit even the fussiest of eaters and we also found, travelling with children, there was an opportunity for us to dine as a couple, while they were entertained.

State of the art gyms and fitness classes are available and there are always a wide range of treatments available at the spa.

With over 50 cruise lines covering all corners of the globe there really is a cruise to suit everyone. If you would like more information tailored to your specific needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch – see my advert on page **XX**. I'd be happy to have a chat at a time convenient to you.

Heather Reynolds, Travel Counsellors





Out & About

Our Lazy Sunday Afternoon event on 5th June, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was hugely successful. A great community day and the weather was very kind to us. Thanks to all who joined us for the celebrations!

Rotary supported the WECC with their efforts to create a Westhill Orbital Trail around the town, hanging baskets around the Costa Coffee end of the shopping centre and a flower display on the Holiday Inn Roundabout.

Crocuses have again been planted supporting "End Polio Now". Again, we coordinated with WECC to ensure there was no duplication with their efforts to plant additional bulbs around town.

The Litter Pick has continued every 2 weeks throughout the year making a huge contribution to a tidy community.

A group of hard working Westhill Rotarians attended the Memorial Garden at Crombie School to work on the heavily overgrown flower beds at the front of the school. A great job was completed and the garden is now looking in splendid condition



It is the intention over the coming months to encourage young pupils of the school to join rotary in the form of Rotakids to continue to keep this area pristine and also to join in other activities with a strong community emphasis in mind.



Working with some of the older pupils in Westhill we were delighted to be able to re-introduce the Young Environmentalist and Young Artist and Photographer events and we also hope to send two lucky young Westhill candidates to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp.

June marked the end of our current Rotary year and the start of our new year. Outgoing President Bob Anderson handed over the chain of office to new President Margaret Currie at our handover night at the Holiday Inn, Westhill

Alan Wink assumed the post of Vice President and Ash Major took on the role of Vice President Elect.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary and 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 — Secretary@Westhill.rotary1010.org or take a look at our Facebook page facebook.com/westhillrotary.

Volunteer with us!

Compass Project Navigating healthy, sustainable living

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

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- ✓ Outdoor work: gardening, woodland maintenance, composting, bee-keeping
- ♪ Professional-led workshops
- e.g. dry stone walling sessions
- Join us: Wed PM / Thu AM / Monthly Sat

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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ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

During the Summer we've being doing work on our garden and have planted a new flower bed. We have put hanging baskets and planters at the Hall entrance.

FUNDRAISING

We hope to put on a couple of fundraisers in the Winter around November to February. Anyone interested in joining the fundraising committee should contact the Hall as we plan to do more fundraising for Hall improvements. Possible ideas include a local cinema night, car boots, bingo, quizzes, talent nights, booze and burger tastings, ceilidh. But we need people to help.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We are looking for 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.

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 EVENTS

We offer a wide program of exercise classes, martial arts, children's dance classes, etc., 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



Are you local? Have great ideas? Interested in building community spirit?

Then join our well-established Management Committee Team or Fundraising Team.

For more information, please contact the office on *ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk* or by calling **01224 740137**.

ASHDALE HALL SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER CLASS TIMETABLE

Main Hall or meeting room bookable 0800 to 2200 Mon-Thur and 0800 to 1600 Fri for groups

Monday

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

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

1130 to 1230 - Badminton (private) - Main Hall

1245 to 1815 - 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

0800 to 1400 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1420 to 1800 - Baby Ballet - Main Hall

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

1930 to 2045 - Badminton (private) - Main Hall

Wednesday

0800 to 1300 - 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 1830 - Matwork Pilates - Main Hall - Block booking required**

1745 to 1945 - WCIS (private booking) - MR1

1915 to 2045 - Line Dancing - Main Hall - (term time)

Thursday

0800 to 1000 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1000 to 1730 — Footstars — Main Hall — 10am—12pm, 1—3pm, 4—5.30pm —

http://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 - Main Hall - Block booking required**

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

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

1015 to 1245 - Aberdeenshire Peer Support - MR1 - from August 12th every 2 weeks

1130 to 1230 - Nada's Pilatone - Nada - 07375 933186

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 1130 - Free to book for classes or badminton

1230 to 1530 - Script to Screen Drama Classes - J. Ogilvie - 07989 484315

Free from 1600 for parties and events

Sunday

Free to book for parties and events after 1pm or all day months in advance

1000 to 1300 - Higher Ground Assembly

**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

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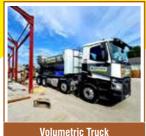


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Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

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@amail.com*.

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

Regular Activities:

- 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
- Skene Youth Club for Primary 1-7, Thursday evenings 6-7pm, October to April.
- Alba Black Belt Academies age 3 to adult. Call 07818 200371 for details.
- Baby Sensory Thursday mornings.
- 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.

Are you interested in volunteering?

There are many reasons to consider volunteering in the CAB. Some of them are:

- Training and skills development –
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- Put your existing skills to use –
 Everyone has lots of different skills gained in their home and work lives over the years that are useful to the bureau.
- Helping clients, helping the community Your contribution in the bureau makes a real difference to peoples lives.
- Improved health and wellbeing volunteering is good for you! Apart from keeping your mind and body active.

"I have been Volunteering as an adviser for 7 years"

"I find the work very interesting and every day is different. At the end of the day it feels good to know that you have helped and supported someone in some way'.

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citizens advice bureau

Westhill Senior Citizens Group

I hope that you are all well and enjoyed your summer. Hopefully meeting up with your family and friends. Our Senior citizens enjoyed a couple of afternoon teas in May and June and a bus trip to Brechin Castle Garden Centre in June.

We restart our meetings on Thursday 1st September and normally would run fortnightly thereafter. However we are having to reschedule our dates as follows:

Thursday 1st September – Introductions, Bingo and AGM

Thursday 8th September – Garioch Fiddlers (tbc)

Thursday 29th September - Spectrum Singers

Thursday 13th October - Vocal Moves

Thursday 27th October - Cats in Pyjamas

Thursday 10th November - Scotch Broth (tbc)

Thursday 24th November - Singers "in the Mood"

Thursday 8th December - Christmas Party at Holiday Inn

We meet in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church from 2pm until approximately 3.30pm. The cost will be £20 per person for the term. We have entertainment for an hour then refreshments which are individually packaged. We have sanitiser and wipes on the tables.

If you need any further information please get in touch.

I have been in touch with dial-a bus and they should be running Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. You will have to pre-book this.

Contact: Heather Cook - 01224 741194; Email - heathercook@tiscali.co.uk or Mika McKenzie - 01224 742004



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Environment and Litter Projects in Westhill

Have you noticed the cloudiness of the water in the ponds in Denman Park in the last month? SEPA and Scottish Water have been trying to investigate the cause, but it is possibly due to paint washings or other liquids emptied into street drains at the West Side of Westhill. These all drain into the pond water. Another possibility is wrongly connected domestic drains. More on this can be found in another article on page **XX**. There is also a sewage leak into our burn further downstream near Lawsondale. Contractors have been employed to clear the debris at the stream, but the cause is not yet fixed.

A recent survey found that 86% of our population are unhappy about the amount of Litter in their area. Does that suggest that all the litter is being dropped by only 14% of the population?

Another explanation is that many are just unhappy about how quickly it is picked up! The truth of the matter is that in these tight financial times Councils are hard pressed to spend more funds on Litter Picking.

£53 million Pounds of public money is spent on dealing with litter and fly tipping each year, while the wider negative impacts of litter cost the Scottish economy and society at least a further £361 million a year. This money could be saved and spent more usefully!





Our youngest and most enthusiastic volunteer

You may have seen our local Council Workers out collecting litter, but they are unable to cope with the amount being dropped or thrown from cars. You can make a difference by never dropping litter or cigarette ends, or even by joining our group of volunteers, who continue to make a big difference in Westhill. There have been problems with the Litter Bins in the Denman Park being inadequate and susceptible to birds pulling stuff out, but new bins have now been installed, which should help with that problem.

In previous articles we have talked about the ongoing efforts to improve the environment in Westhill. Collaboration with Westhill Rotary has worked well. We have now formed the Greenfingers

Group, again including Westhill Rotary and a few residents. This has gone very well, as you can see if you look at the Living Wall and Holiday Inn roundabout. We have struggled somewhat with the Bee Bombs, as two years ago we rotovated a 40 cm trench on the grass border on the land adjacent to Tesco and the Doctors surgery and at the start of The Orbital Path at Lawsondale. We sowed many Bee Bombs but they did not germinate. This year we used an Auger drill and made holes 70cm x 92 cm, planted the Bee Bombs and topped with sand. Again, they did not germinate. The problem seems to be getting water to the areas. It is ironic that the weeds don't seem to struggle. Despite the many projects going on, the new group will endeavour to overcome the germination problems throughout Westhill, where we are unable to transport water.

Our upcoming dates for Litter Picks in 2022 are: 27th August, 10th and 24th September, 8th and 22nd October, 12th and 26 November.

All our picks start at 10:00 at Westhill Tennis Court Car Park and last one hour. All kit, apart from gloves will be supplied and all are welcome to join in.

For further information, on volunteering or if your group may be interested in borrowing our Litter Picking Kit, please contact: Raymond Swaffield, email swaffies@talktalk.net or Ken Stewart, email kennethstewart@talktalk.net.

Skene Parish Church

A group of Christians from across the churches in Westhill meet online every month to pray for our community. Different folks lead it and it is shaped by what is happening at the time in our lives and the lives of those around us. It is such an encouragement to get together, to encourage one another and to focus our attention on the place to which God has called us.

At the end of July we decided to take advantage of the good weather and light nights, and go for a prayer walk. We do exactly what it says on the tin. We walk, stopping and praying at particular points, but also asking God to speak to us through the things we are noticing. There is a real joy in the spontaneity and a great benefit to going slowly, so that you spot things you normally wouldn't pay any attention to.

Starting at Westhill Academy and winding our way past schools, shops, parks, businesses, restaurants, churches, charities, community centres, police station and housing, we asked God's blessing on the young and old alike and we gave thanks for the many ways in which our community is a fantastic place to live and work. And sometimes, even though places were out of sight, like the medical practice, we called them to mind and talked to God about them.

We spent quite a bit of time at Westhill Shopping Centre, remembering, particular, the challenging but amazing work of the Citizens Advice Bureau and Paramount Care (together with all the carers in our community). We stopped beside the orbital map and prayed that God would be known in every nook and cranny. One of our group noticed the 'life saving' defibrillator, with the words - 'heart restarter'. Not only did we pray for the gift of these devices dotted around our community, which are used and save lives, it got us thinking about how Jesus is the ultimate 'heart restarter'.



Our deepest desire, as followers of Jesus, is to be witnesses in this community, to his love and to the gospel. Jesus' life, death and resurrection act like a defibrillator in our lives. As Paul puts it, we were dead in our sins but Christ makes us alive – fulfilling God's ancient promise in Ezekiel. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

If you would like to know more about how Jesus is a life saver, come and join us at one the churches in the community. And if you want to join in with the prayer meeting, you will find more details at www.skeneparish.com.

Starting on Sunday 11th September, we will be running a Christianity Explored course, which is open to everyone, including those considering membership. It focuses on who Jesus is, why he came, why he died and why he rose again. The course will run in the evenings for 8 weeks and we hope to make it hybrid so that you can join in person or online. More details will be available soon. But if you are interested, get in touch with Rev Stella on scampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk and your name will go on the mailing list.

Rev Stella











Tax on Rental Properties

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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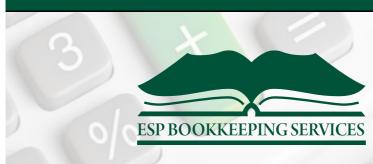
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1st Skene Girls' Brigade

We will restart our new Session on Monday 29th August with an Enrolment/Fun Night in Trinity Church from 6-7.30pm where we will welcome back the girls and any new members too. We have no waiting list, if you have any enquiries please call Captain Fiona Cumming on 07792 471199.



Westhill and District Gardening Club

The Westhill & District Gardening Club meet on the third Wednesday from September through to May in the Lounge at Trinity Church, Westhill Drive, starting at 7.30pm and visitors are very welcome.

Our May meeting welcomed local author, Jim Fiddes, who gave a very interesting talk about the Old Skene Road from its early years to the present. In June we visited Easter Ord Garden and in July we had a tour of the Birkhall Estate Gardens, both well worth the visits and our thanks go to the hosts at both sites.

Future Dates and Topics for your diary are:

September 21st - Fiona MacDonald will give a presentation on House Plants

October 18th – The Club will be taking part in the Inter-Club Garden Quiz being hosted by Dyce Club

October 19th – Neil Cameron will give a talk entitled Gardening the World (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

November 16th – Eric Jensen will be giving a talk and slide show on Nature of the Cairngorms, and will also judge the Members Annual Photographic Competition

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

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.

Bothy 57's beverages, homemade 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 on the colder days. Jill and Steve look forward to sharing a warm welcome.

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









JogScotland Westhill – celebrating 20 years of JogScotland

2022 marked the 20th birthday of JogScotland across the country. Starting from small beginnings with only a handful of groups, today there

are 300 groups running 500 weekly sessions, with 1000 jog leaders and 6600 members. It's come a long way since 2002 and shows no sign of slowing down.

Here in Westhill the club took part in the birthday celebrations, holding a 'Bun Run' at Dunecht Estate in July. Everyone enjoyed their run first, covering either 5K, 8K or 10K then gathered to tuck into some very tasty treats, baked by their fellow club members. These used to be a regular feature pre-Covid but had to stop during the pandemic, so it was nice to see them return. Bun run night is always a very popular night, with a good turnout every time.



Club members have continued to take part in lots of events during the year, covering all sorts of distances from 5K weekly ParkRuns to full marathons. Our regular sessions see our groups completing various distances from 5K – 10K and with groups covering a range of paces, there really is something for everyone.

We're always keen to welcome new members, so if you're looking to join a friendly social running group to help keep you motivated, then just get in touch. If you're a beginner, all we ask is that you can walk briskly for 30 minutes, and if you're already a regular runner, you'll find plenty of running buddies in our 5 different pace groups. We meet at the top car park of Westhill Academy on a Monday and a Thursday at 6:30pm, so if you'd like to come running with us, send an email to jogscotlandwesthill@gmail.com or send us a message via Facebook – @jogscotlandwesthill.



Public Access Defibrillator locations in the Westhill Area



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Holiday Inn, Westhill (inside at main reception)

The below are unlocked by a code which will be given to you by the ambulance call centre when making an emergency call (999)



- Westhill Dental Practice (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Shopping Centre (on wall to left of Coop)
- Westdyke Leisure Centre (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Swimming Pool (on wall to left of main entrance, behind the bike racks)



- Elrick Service Station (on wall to left of side entrance)
- Trinity Church (on wall to left of front entrance)



- Milne Hall in Skene (on wall to right of main entrance)
- Scout Hall (on side wall facing road, behind the bike racks)



- Westhill Community Church (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Golf Club (on wall to left side of entrance)



Accessible during opening hours only

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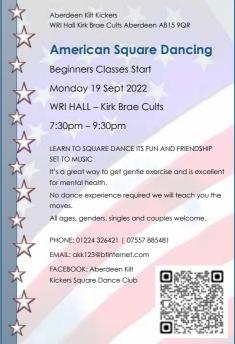
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SKENE MEDICAL GROUP - Patient Info

Hopefully, you are all enjoying the lighter nights and somewhat better weather. The practice continues to run with a half telephone, half face to face appointment model. This seems to function well but there can, at times, be a wait for the next available appointment. This is more apparent at the moment due to staff holidays and absence. Unfortunately, some routine matters make it on to the duty doctor screen which can delay appointments for those requiring urgent care and home visits for our housebound patients. We would appreciate your patience and if the problem is not urgent that you wait for the next available appointment or make use of alternative reviews via the practice pharmacy, physio and nursing teams when offered and appropriate.

We were recently notified that the Arnhall Lloyds Chemist next to the practice will close to patients from 1st to 28th August 2022. The pharmacy at the Westhill shops will remain open. We are obviously aware of the issues that have been happening for some time now and how much of an impact it is having on our patients. Unfortunately, it has been difficult for the chemists to offer a full Community pharmacy service as part of NHS Scotland's Right Care Right Place policy. This has a knock on impact on our workload. We are in regular communication with the higher management at Lloyd's but the situation is outwith our control. As I am sure many of you are aware, there are upcoming meetings regarding a new pharmacy opening in Westhill. Sadly, our reception staff are still taking the brunt of people's frustration with the above issues. Being rude or abusive is not acceptable and takes up valuable time in the running of the practice. You are welcome to express your views to NHS Grampian or Lloyds directly.

Covid is still around and has been quite prevalent in the Grampian area over the last few months. Because of this and the fact you may be sharing a waiting room with someone who is immunosuppressed we would encourage patients to continue wearing a face covering when attending the practice as per NHS guidance.

We are aware of a rumour that Skene Medical Group was going to fold and no longer continue to provide healthcare to the local population. We can reassure patients this is not true. The NHS as a whole is under a great deal of pressure and primary care is no different. We recently advertised for a GP position at the practice and received no applications. Other practices in the local area have handed back their contracts and are now run as satellite practices or by NHS Grampian. We are hopeful we will never be in the position of the surgeries mentioned above, however, the outlook for primary care and the NHS as a whole is hugely challenging.

On a more positive note, we are planning on starting up our enhanced services again. This includes long acting contraception, joint injections and minor surgery. This will take time to get back up and running again but we look forward to being able to offer these treatments.

We have a new practice nurse, Morgan Angus, starting with us soon as well as a new practice pharmacist, Nanette Brown. We are looking forward to working with them and hopefully they will enjoy working at Skene. Dr Claire Milne also returns as a GP registrar after completing the hospital part of her training.



Girlguiding Westhill District

Girlguiding Westhill have had a busy few months celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. Units held their own celebrations, and it was lovely to see so many crowns and corgi pictures! We also joined our guiding friends from Girlguiding Gordon for a large event at Leith Hall in June.

As the biggest district in the county, we had around 200 members attend, and a great time was had by all! The weather was (mostly!) kind to us and we worked on crafts and activities from each decade. This was followed up with some dancing and a VERY long conga!

DISTRICT PHOTO TO GO HERE

Our Guide units (10-14 years) have girls attending the Grampian Regional Camp Escape 2022 this summer, as well as looking forward to international experiences in Holland and Switzerland in the summer of 2023. It's lovely to see girls able to attend camp and large events again.

Our Brownie Units (7-10 years) are all very busy and have been taking advantage of the nice weather and working on some of the outdoor parts

of our programme. 3rd Westhill Brownies were joined by a sign language interpreter who taught the brownies the BSL alphabet and played some games using sign language. 6th Westhill Brownies ended their term with a visit from a magician, and 7th Westhill Brownies had a silent disco.

Our Rainbow Units (5-7 years) have also been busy and also taking advantage of the nice weather. 2nd Westhill Rainbows ended their term with a fun outdoor session with Mudpies having a campfire with songs and marshmallow toasting.

MUDPIES PHOTO TO GO HERE

Our young members have been working hard on their section awards and it's lovely to see so many girls achieving awards.

3rd Rainbows: Bronze – Rosa, Hannah, Jasmine, Lucia, Sophie, Jessica, Midelle; Silver – Rosa, Amber; Gold – Eva, Georgia, Esmie, Maisie, Nina

2nd Rainbows: Bronze - Kirsty, Ava, Emily, Katie, Jessica, Charlotte; Silver - Emily, Jessica, Kirsty

7th Brownies: Bronze - Hayley, Ruby, Sophie, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Ella; Silver - Sophie

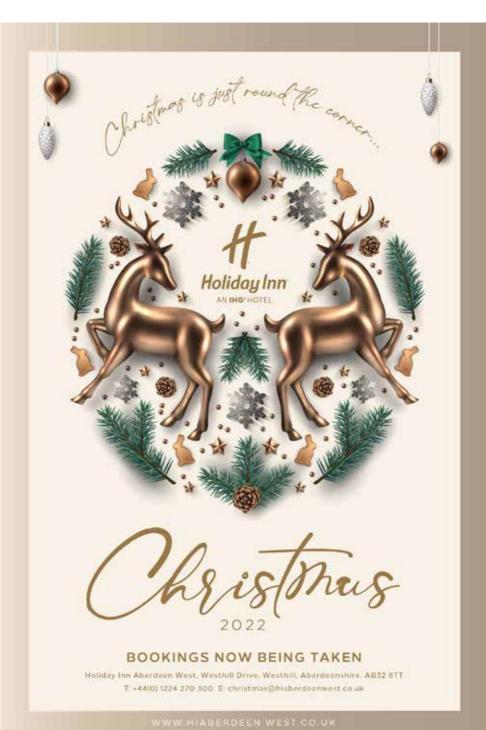
1st Rangers: Gold – Julia, Natasha, Kirsten, Evie, Ellie 3rd Brownies: Gold – Leila, Freya, Hannah, Cherry

RAINBOW AWARDS PHOTO TO GO HERE

Well done to Lauren Davidson on completing her Leadership Qualification and Natasha Lees and Julia Coney on their Young Leader Qualifications. Thank you to these ladies, and all other volunteers in Girlguiding Westhill for the opportunities you give our young members. We

have a number of units who require some additional help so please get in touch to join in the fun.

Karin Mackenzie, Carol Lee & Jane Robb, District Commissioners westhilldc@gmail.com





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Skene Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support

The committee are pleased to let you know about events that have taken place and our proposed events for later this year. We take this opportunity to thank all who have donated so generously to Macmillan

We held a very successful Fizzy Flycup on 14th May in the Milne Hall, Skene and raised £2204.85.

We had a stand at the Echt Show on 9th July and raised £592.42.

We held a collection at Tesco Westhill on 6th August.

On 23rd September we will be assisting at the M&S Macmillan Collection in Westhill. Please come in and see us there.

On September 24th we will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at Lyne of Skene Hall between 10am and 12 noon, please come along and support us.

The next event will be a Bingo & Meal Night at the Ashvale Chip Shop in Inverurie on Thursday 27th October, please check our Facebook page for further information.

We will be holding other events this year and you can follow us on Facebook – *Skene Fundraising Committee-Macmillan Cancer Support* to read about these events. In addition we do place posters around Westhill with the next up-coming event/s.

To donate to Macmillan Skene Fundraising Committee go to macmillan-org.enthuse.com.

The funds raised by the committee remain within this area.

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

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BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

If there is one thing that these winds (gales) that we have been having have made me think it's no more tall plants, only low ones, unless they are protected, as I have lost quite a few.

Now is the time to take photos of your garden and next year you will be able to plan something different, whether it is containers, or a small rockery, let your mind wander into colours and shapes, anything that takes your fancy.

Autumn is almost here, one of my favourite seasons, with all the beautiful colours, but it seems to be coming earlier this year with lots of leaves changing and falling, some trees almost bareclimate change? Who knows!

Have you noticed a change in the number of birds lately? I feed them twice a day and give them clean water; the numbers have dropped a lot; no blackies, thrushes, tits, very few sparrows or starlings.

If you have any old body cream left in tubs or jars, put in a dash of whisky, gin or vodka, give a good mix and you can have a great hand cream for the winter, give it a try!

Have a good season.

Bill



1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

As I take over from as Captain of 1st Skene BBs, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Donny Struthers and Steve Cole as they step back from their front line roles. Their energy and enthusiasm have provided great opportunities for hundreds of boys over the years. I remain indebted to those officers and helpers who continue to give their time and effort to make 1st Skene BBs the success that we are.





July saw our first summer camp in 3 years, with 11 boys and 6 leaders having an energetic and enjoyable week at Badaguish beside Loch Morlich. Activities included: archery, canoeing, cycle expedition, inter tent games, orienteering, hiking expedition with an out-camp, assisting the Cairngorm rangers with non-native tree removal, wild water swimming, water rockets and a barbecue. The weather was kind and the food as good as ever.

The new session will commence early September and we have no waiting lists, so please feel free to join us. *Remember...The Adventure begins here!*

Niall MacBeath, Company Captain

Tel: 01330 860226 | niall.macbeath@btinternet.com



Westhill Golf Club

It's great that the summer months have been kind with lots of sunny weather— exactly what every golfer loves! Thanks to the stellar efforts of our Greens Team the course has been in fantastic condition. I've been a member of Westhill Golf Club for over 20 years, and I honestly can't recall the course ever looking (or playing) this well before. Don't just take my word it — come and visit the course and see for yourself!

Throughout the summer months the course has been busy with a mixture of coaching, medals, match play competitions and opens. We have also seen a healthy number of locals utilising the Westhill Orbital Trail – quite a few walkers are even becoming social members so they can enjoy a 'coffee and piece' at the top of the hill in our clubhouse.

On Saturday 3rd September we will be having a Charity Day, hoping to raise as much money as possible for Parkinson's UK and hopefully also for a local Parkinson's Charity. This is a new style of event for us and will simultaneously involve some participants golfing while others walk round the Westhill Orbital Path (let's see which way is quicker). If any local business are interested in sponsoring/participating in this event please get in touch.

Now a small note from our Ladies Section: We are a small, friendly Ladies Section and would welcome any new lady members. We play both 18 hole and 9 hole competitions and have our 50+ Ladies Day on a Friday where we play fun 9 hole competitions. There are also a variety of social events organised throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more please email Nicky Gold at office@westniligoliclub.co.uk.

Alan McCue Club Captain



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In February 2019 the Legislation relating to smoke detection in your home changed. All domestic properties in Westhill could be affected.

You need to have the following:

- 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 came into effect in February 2022.

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Prince Food Hub run by The Mixing Bowl Aberdeen



The Deeside Food Hub is an online local produce market offering food that is produced, grown or created in Aberdeenshire, with pick up from Easter Anguston Farm or delivery to your door. The Hub opens on the first Thursday of each fortnight and customers can place orders online until the following Monday lunchtime. Producers then prepare your orders which can be picked up from the farm or delivered to your house that next Thursday.

The hub includes a great variety of high-quality produce from fresh seasonal vegetables, pickles, venison, pork, beef, pies, bread, bagel bombs, cheese and eggs through to sauces, chutneys, honey, nut butters, jams, granola, coffee and sweet treats.....to name a few!

The Hub is run by the Mixing Bowl Aberdeen, a local community food interest group and our aim is to enable the local residents of Westhill, Elrick, Cults, Culter, Milltimber and Bieldside to enjoy the excellent food produced on their doorstep while supporting their local economy.

To find out more about the Deeside Food Hub please visit our website: https://www.mixingbowlaberdeen.co.uk/deeside-food-hub and follow us on Facebook or Instagram at Deeside Food Hub.

Please subscribe to our mailing list through the link in our website footer if you would like to hear our news and be notified when we are open for orders.

We look forward to sharing our passion for good local food with you – see you soon!

Tree Planting at Westhill Academy

To increase biodiversity and help the environment, volunteers at Westhill academy have been planting trees all around the school campus. The trees, which were sent from the Woodland Trust's "free trees for schools and communities" scheme (which my biology teacher, Mr Coxon, applied for) are all native species and are part of a pack called "year round colour". The species include hazel, dogwood, wild cherry, hawthorn, rowan and silver birch. Over a 3 day span, 32 pupils and 12 staff volunteers (including me!) managed to plant over 200 trees around the staff car park and the playing fields!

These trees will make the school grounds much more attractive, providing lots of different coloured leaves and flowers through the seasons. Being native species, they will also help to increase biodiversity by providing homes for many species of insects and birds. As they grow, the trees will capture carbon dioxide from the air and therefore play a part in our fight against climate change. The trees are growing really well and some have already burst out of their protective tubes!

This was a really fun experience to take part in as I got to work with a lot of pupils I had never met before while also enjoying spending time outside in the sunshine! It was really nice to give something back and it was an experience that I won't forget for a long time. Make sure to keep an eye out when walking past the school for the trees and to see how they grow!

Abbie McPherson S3 Westhill Academy



WESTHILL BOWLING CLUB

Here we are in August, approaching the business end of the bowling season where the accolades and prizes are handed out. It is perhaps a little too early to report on the achievements or otherwise of the season. We are only at the semi-final stage of our club competitions so no congratulations to any winners yet but well done to those still with a chance of winning and commiserations to those who have been knocked out earlier.

At the time of writing we sit at the top of the Bon Accord fours league with one round left to play and 5 points up for grabs. It would be premature to celebrate but if we manage to pick up two of those points the title is ours. Kittybrewster BC and Whithall BC, our two nearest challengers couldn't match our points total.

In other competitions we had a great run in the Barclay Harvey Trophy seeing off Banchory, Kincardine O'Neil, Portlethen and Millbank. Unfortunately, we came up short in the final against Inverbervie who played exceptionally well and deservedly lifted the cup.

Our singles champion, Andrew Reilly and our fours champions of Garry Forbes, Dave Farquharson, Bill Baillie and Dave Cobban-Shaw went on to represent us in the area qualifiers for the Scottish national finals. Some great performances carried them all the way through to the finals night at Ellon BC where more great bowling saw Dave's team and Andrew lift the respective trophies and qualify for the nationals in Ayr. A great achievement. Well done to all.

On the 14th August we will host our annual Westhill Open Fours event. We had not been able to hold the event in 2020 or 2021 because of Covid restrictions and we are so looking forward to it. The event is over the whole day, starting at 10.00am and finishing about 6.30pm. Teams from across the North East of Scotland will compete for a cash prize and a trophy. It involves a lot of work as we will provide morning teas and coffees as well as lunch to all competitors and offering them refreshments from a temporary bar on the day. We are grateful to Garry Smith and ABERBUILD for their continued sponsorship of the event. The event does help us raise some much needed funds and has been sadly missed.

It probably won't have escaped your notice that the Commonwealth Games have been held in Birmingham this year. Bowls have been part of the games since 1930 and as far as I know it is the only international multi sports festival to include bowls. It is also one of the few opportunities to watch outdoor bowls on TV, although the coverage was mainly on the BBC iPlayer rather than the main channels. I'm writing this article before any results are known and hopefully I'm not tempting fate but Scotland has traditionally done well in the Commonwealth Bowling competitions. If you have watched and been inspired by any of the bowling and would like to give it ago, please get in touch by e mail robert.mutch@btinternet.com or telephone 07562 696193.

You could be representing Scotland at the next Commonwealth Games in Melbourne!

SCAFFOLD TOWER FOR HIRE

The Community Council has a scaffold tower which was bought to help with erecting the Christmas street 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/text David Ritchie on 07989 637461.



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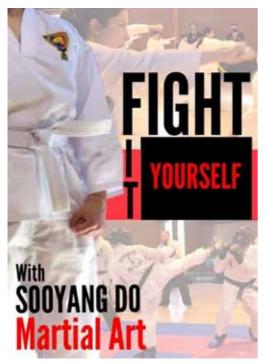
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Westhill Library News

We have had a very busy summer at Westhill Library, with our Summer of Play activities taking place in the school holidays. Activities included Lego, Hama Beads, Flip Book, Craft and Manga Art sessions. We also had Lego We-Do Sessions which combined Lego model making and coding and we will be having more of these sessions in the autumn.

This year's Summer Reading competition has been very well received and it has been open to people of all ages and family groups too. Summer of play activities and books read allowed people to take part and submit their completed entries to be entered into a prize draw. There was also a photographic competition where children could take a photograph of an image that represents life in Aberdeenshire 2022. This year's creative competition was linked to the Book of Deer returning to the North East of Scotland for the first time in 1000 years.

Great news! We have extended our opening hours to offer open browsing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 7pm and Thursdays from 10am to 6pm and Saturday mornings from 9am to 1pm. For details of our opening times, please go to https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/local-libraries/westhill-library/.

There is lots to look forward to for pre-school children with our Bookbug's Library Challenge, which runs all year. Registration is free and this promotes visiting the library and collecting lots of certificates along the way. We have also had a Big Bedtime Story session where children listened to a bedtime story and received a "I've had a sleepover" badge. In addition, to celebrate summer, we had an outdoor Bookbug Teddy Bear's Picnic Session, where children could bring their teddies with them and have fun with songs and rhymes. We are also continuing to offer Bookbug sessions and Storytime sessions for pre-school children on Tuesdays, Thursday mornings and occasional Saturday mornings. These are advertised on the website and our Westhill Library Facebook page. Places at the sessions are limited and booking is essential at https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/children-and-families/bookbug/.

We are also restarting clubs for young and old at Westhill Library. Lego Club is running every Tuesday from 5pm to 6pm for children aged 8 to 12 years old. We have lots of Lego to create amazing models.

Do you enjoy a game of Scrabble? Our Scrabble club has restarted and meets on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12.00pm.

So, if you like having fun with Lego or words, book to join in these free sessions at https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/.

Furthermore, we are now an NHS Hearing Aid Battery Collection Point and hold a stock of NHS hearing aid batteries for NHS patients. To get your batteries, all you need to do is bring along your NHS hearing aid leaflet as evidence that you are entitled to this free service.

For details of upcoming events, please come in and see us or visit the Live Life Aberdeenshire website or follow us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/ WesthillLibrary.



875 (Westhill) Squadron



After almost two years, the squadron and Air Cadet organisation have been able to return to offering the full range of activities for cadets, as were on offer prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

Since the start of the year, a number of cadets have taken part in several camps and courses. Some of the courses included first aid, radio communications, cyber and fieldcraft training, where they learned about camouflage and concealment, building shelters and cooking in the field.

Five of our cadets recently attended the first ever Regional STEM camp at Gordon Barracks in Aberdeen. During the week, the cadets took part in various STEM related activities with the main theme being aviation. They also worked in groups in which they had to design and build a model aircraft and at the end of the week, they competed against the other groups to see whose aircraft would fly the furthest.

In March, the first opportunity in almost three years became available for flying. Three cadets travelled to Tayside Aviation in Dundee, where they undertook a fifty-minute flight in a training aircraft. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to further flying opportunities. This was shortly followed by flying at our Air Experience Flight based at Leuchars Station, formally RAF Leuchars. Five cadets were given some basic flying instruction and were given the opportunity to take the controls of the aircraft during the flight. Some of the cadets have also had their first experience of gliding at the Air Cadet Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Kirknewton in West Lothian.





In April it was announced that Cadet Warrant Officer Kayleigh Weideman was to be appointed as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Aberdeenshire. The role of Lord Lieutenant's Cadet is a prestigious one in which the cadet accompanies and assists the Lord Lieutenant at public and private engagements. As the Lord Lieutenant is the Queen's representative in their area of lieutenancy, cadets will often get to meet VIP's and attend a variety of events. CWO Weideman will take over the role from our own CWO Lauren McIntosh who has held the position for the last two years.

July was a busy time for the cadets with five attending the Wing Summer Camp at RAF Lossiemouth where they got to see and experience the workings of a busy RAF station. The same week, four cadets joined cadets from throughout the region at the National Air Cadet Adventure Training Centre at Fairbourne, Wales, where they spent the week undertaking various outdoor adventurous activities such as rock climbing and abseiling. Two cadets attended the Royal International Air Tattoo camp at RAF Fairford where over a thousand RAF Air Cadets staff and cadets were deployed to assist in the running of the UK's biggest air show.

We have been nominated for a Tesco Community Grant with voting currently taking place until 30th September in the Westhill, Woodend and Dyce stores. Funding from the grant will go towards the purchase of first-aid training equipment, in particular resuscitation mannequins for the squadron. This will enable us to provide training to the staff and cadets in order they can gain their first-aid qualifications and to maintain their skills. Each time you're shopping in Tesco, please vote for us by popping a blue token in the voting box.

We are recruiting new cadets and welcome boys and girls aged between 12 and 17 years to come and join us.

If anyone is interested in joining the squadron, please email oc.875@rafac.mod.gov.uk for more information.





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Westhill Tennis Club

The dry, hot summer has meant that the courts at Denman Park have been well utilised over the last few months. Our coaching has proven very popular over the summer while our social tennis sessions for adults continue on Mondays from 7pm and Saturdays from 2pm.

Our men and ladies have been in action again this season in the North East of Scotland Summer Leagues. With just a few fixtures remaining, all four teams look likely to maintain their positions in the respective leagues.

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

Enjoy your tennis!



Oasis Creative Wellbeing Cafe

Oasis Creative Wellbeing Café is a new drop-in café for adults (18 years upwards) which recognises and promotes positive mental health and wellbeing. The atmosphere is warm, friendly and relaxed, offering a simple way to slow down, be present, connect with others, learn a new skill or just chill out by being there – enjoying the beautiful outlook with a free cuppa. You can participate in some of the activities, e.g. jigsaws, dominoes, origami, painting, board games, crafts, etc., with an opportunity to do some light gardening, kite flying and group walks. The Café offers a way to build up friendships and links with others and is a great way to combat isolation that we all can feel at times.

For more information contact Westhill Community Church at 01224 737380 asking for Leslie or Hazel who will return your call



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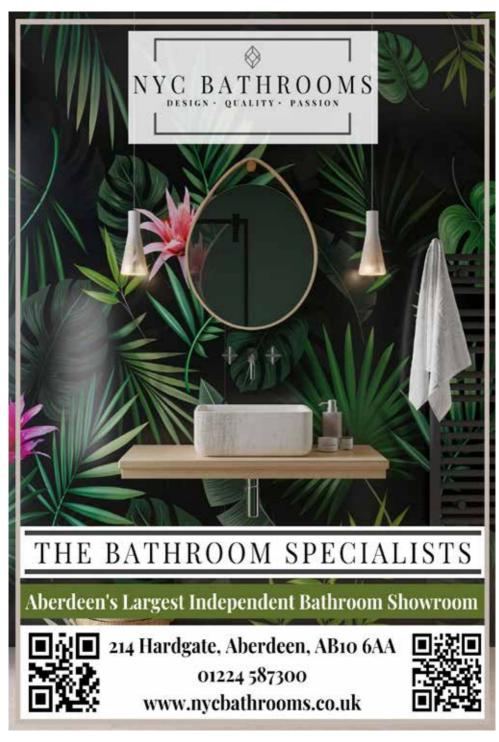






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Mini-Kindergym

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

Friday: 9.30-10.15am (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 & 1.30-2.15pm (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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MIND YOUR DRAINS TO SAVE DENMAN PONDS

The ponds at Denman Park are much loved and visited by the people of Westhill.

The ponds were dugout when the park was first established around 1974 and the three ponds provide a home for a range of aquatic life ranging from micro beasties like pond skaters, water boatman, diving beetles, and midges, to minnows, pond snails, newts, caddisfly larvae, freshwater shrimp and frogs. Ducks, Herons and numerous small birds also visit the ponds. This is a great place for all the people of Westhill and the ponds are frequently used by school groups following the Discovery Trail created by Elrick Primary School pupils and teachers with the countryside ranger.

See https://elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/important-links/arnhall-moss/

If you live in the middle section of Westhill then you can help improve the ponds water quality by checking that your roof and garage rainwater drains are not connected to any washing machines or kitchen outfall pipes. Likewise people doing external painting, waterproofing or cleaning works must not pour the leftovers or the water used to clean the brushes and rollers into the kerbside road drains as this will flow into the ponds.

The Denman Park ponds receive their water from the rain water and road drains in those areas of the town from Morven Crescent near the golf course in the north, Westhill Drive in the east, to Westwood Grove in the west.

There have been occasions when the ponds have had cloudy water coming in from unknown sources however SEPA and Scottish Water have worked together to test and trace the manholes upstream of the ponds to see where the wrong fluids have been poured down a road side rain water drain and take actions to prevent it happening again.

If you do see and smell pollution in the water at the Denman Park Ponds please can you phone the following call lines: **Scottish Water helpline 0800 0778 778**, **SEPA pollution hotline 0800 80 70 60**.

The SEPA online reporting platform is https://www2.sepa.org.uk/environmentalevents

For more information about Arnhall Moss contact:

Steven Gray Environment Planner (Projects)

Natural Environment Team

Environment and Sustainability, Environment and Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council, Gordon House, Inverurie, AB51 3WA Tel: 01467 538 510 | email: steven.gray@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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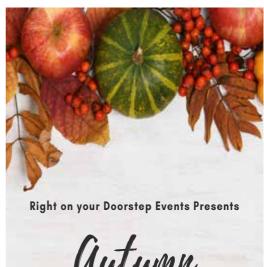
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Office Hours

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www.westhillcommunitychurch.org

GREEN PASTURES

Our café is open 10am–3pm Wednesday to Saturday and we are excited to see you! Please check our Facebook page for updates and exciting new additions to our menu as well as a date for our next bistro night!

Room Hire – We have rooms available for hire by both community and commercial groups.

Please check our website or email bookings@westhillcommunitychurch.org
for more information







WHAT'S ON - THE VARAPUNYA MEDITATION CENTRE

Easter Mains Cottage, Kinmundy, off Westhill Road

The Centre has been based at the cottage for nearly five years now. It's a Buddhist monastery and a Centre for the teaching and practice of Buddhist traditions. Our main community focus is that we teach, for free, mindfulness meditation widely in collaboration with NHS Grampian, Aberdeen Health & Social Care Partnership & other Charity groups. The aim is to help those struggling with their 'mind health' – anger, anxiety, stress, panic and so on – by calming that mind that gives us so much mental suffering at times.

You are welcome to visit at any time or just wander around our meditation woodland, however give us a call first on 07446 545545. The centre is a voluntary organisation. If you have some spare time, you are also invited to volunteer at the centre for various things, including woodland, gardening or cutting grass, etc.

Meditation is a technique to learn about our own physical activity and emotions that effect our mental state and relationship with individuals and other members of the community. It is a skill that can be developed and become a master. Meditation benefits are numerous. Over the next few months, the centre offers meditations on a **Tuesday or Wednesday evening 7pm** (chanting, meditation, Q&A's). We also run a **Wednesday meditation practice group at 8am** via zoom.

With NHS Grampian, there is Mindfulness Monday at 12.00 noon in-person on the last Monday of each month at the Health Village in Aberdeen; also on the second Monday of each month on Zoom at 1pm. Or you can join one of our short courses in the autumn in-person or online. In all of the above we instruct in mindfulness meditation practice and explain how and why it works to improve our mental health.

We also have one of our very special events called Kathina on 23rd October, celebrating the traditional ending of the 'rainy season' (very apt in Scotland!) and the Monks' retreat. It is a celebration of offering robes to monks and also form or raising funds to support the Centre and its activities. Do join us if you are interested.

You can contact us in several ways:

Website: https://www.varapunyacentre.com/contact

Telephone: 07446 545545 Email: varapunya@gmail.com

Email (autumn course & Wednesday practice group): meditationatvmc@gmail.com







Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

We have had a busy summer with a wide variety of weather conditions and other challenges. On the walk to the Falls of Unich a damaged bridge resulted in a tricky crossing of the river. At the end of June a few hardy walkers completed the 20 mile trek through Glen Tilt from Blair Atholl to the Linn of Dee in pouring rain. Two weeks later some members scaled Lochnagar whilst others walked round Loch Muick and Dubh Loch, all in scorching sunshine. The weather is, of course, one of the challenges of walking in Scotland but adds interest and variety.

Forthcoming walks include an ascent of two of the Glenshee munros from Loch Callater, Peter Hill and the Forest of Birse, Ballochbuie Forest, Ben Tirran and Loch Brandy in Glen Clova and a Ballater circular. If you are interested in joining any of these walks please have a look at our programme and use the contact details below to find out more about them. We have had several new members joining us but are always pleased to welcome more.

We walk on alternate Sundays throughout the year with a choice of walks during the summer months. For more information please see our website (www.westhillwalkers.org) for our programme, walks blog and contact details (westhillwalkers@gmail.com) and our Facebook page for updates and photos.





Westhill Photography Club caters to photographers of all standards, living in and around the Westhill area to meet regularly and develop and share their interest and passion for photography. We meet at The Westhill Community Church at Broadshade, Old Skene Road, Westhill every second Thursday evening from 7-9pm from August to May. During the summer break, members remain connected through Facebook and organise their own group activities.

We organise photography outings in the weeks in between to enhance photography skills and try out new tips and tricks. We organise a variety of activities including workshops, talks by guest speakers and critique nights. We hold regular competition nights throughout the year on different subjects where members will have the chance to see their own and other members' work and have them judged. We endeavour to create an enjoyable and non-judgemental atmosphere where every member feels welcome whatever his/her skill level is.

The club encourages members to take part in as many of the activities as possible. The club has members with a wide range of skills from beginner to expert on different subject areas and we encourage members to pass on their skills where possible.

We are always looking for new members to join the club and we offer taster sessions before anyone becomes a club member. If interested, please contact the club chairman Mamdud Hossain by email mamdud. hossain@gmail.com.









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Since the last edition of the Bulletin, it really has felt like Scouting is "back to normal."

In May we held our first 'Family Camp' in five years, after our 2020 camp was cancelled due to the pandemic.

We welcomed almost 70 families to Lochter Activity Centre by Oldmeldrum where we enjoyed a weekend of adventurous activities which included archery, climbing, zip lining, target shooting, segways, go karting, buggy driving, zorbing, digger operating, canoeing, paddle boarding, raft building, cartie making plus a camp fire. It was a great weekend and was fantastic to see families enjoying themselves and brilliant to be able to have everyone together for the first time.







Our sections have all enjoyed a great summer term and been able to make the most of the outdoors and enjoy specialist activities. Redwood Beavers and Kaa Cubs had a great time at the RGU climbing wall in Aberdeen. Most sections did some cycling around Westhill plus practiced putting up and down tents, toasting marshmallows on the campfire. Amazon Beavers had a night of tubing in Aberdeen which was great fun. Lots of badges have been worked on too in all sections including emergency aid badges, environmental conservation, communicator badges etc.

During the summer holidays a number of our youngsters have enjoyed an international camp at Blair Atholl. The 38th Scottish International Patrol Jamborette took place from Monday 18th July–Friday 29th July and saw 500 Scottish Explorer Scouts camp alongside 300 Venturers/Explorer Scouts from around the world.

Three of our Scouts attended the two-week jamborette where they enjoyed a full programme of activities, tours with scouts and explorers from other countries including USA, Japan, Austria, Norway, Netherlands.

Twelve further youngsters from Westhill attended the middle weekend 'Satellite' camp which gives a flavour of the full jamborette experience over three nights. Although it was a very wet weekend, the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the attendees, and everyone had a great time.

All of our camps and activities could not happen without the dedication of our adult volunteers. All of our leaders, assistant leaders, assistants and committee members are unpaid and volunteer to provide our local youngsters with **#SkillsForLife**. We are extremely grateful to them. Due to adult/ child ratios we have limited spaces for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are unable to increase the number of child spaces unless we secure additional adult volunteers. If you would be interested in volunteering with us please get in touch.

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





Abercrombie operate two dental practices in Westhill with a great reputation for preventative and cosmetic dentistry treatments and aesthetic treatments such as Botox and fillers.











Principal dentist and clinic owner Dr. Naga Narra commented: 'At Abercrombie, we're all about combining the latest technology and advanced techniques with excellent patient care. As well as a full range of preventative and restorative dental treatments, such as dental implants, white fillings, crowns and flexi-dentures, we also offer cosmetic options like tooth whitening, veneers and Invisalign.'

'We offer Cone Beam CT scans and OPG X-rays and our iTero system means we can offer 3D scans for dentures, crowns, bridges and orthodontic treatment rather than taking impressions.

We also have our own dental technician and lab on site, providing a fast turnaround on private dentures and denture repairs. We even offer dental plans and patient finance and are currently accepting new private and NHS patients.'

Dr. Narra continued: 'We know that some people feel a bit nervous about coming back to a dentist and may not have been for a couple of years given the pandemic. We are lucky to have a great and friendly team of receptionist and nurses, therefore we can offer as much support as possible. At our Smile clinic, we offer intravenous sedation on a private basis, which many patients find helpful, particularly when getting implants, multiple restorations or during an extraction.





Abercrombie Dental Practice 10 Abercrombie Court Prospect Road, Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 6FE 01224 745447



Abercrombie Smile Design Unit 2/3 Ashdale Drive Westhill Aberdeenshire AB32 6LP 01224 742513

www.abercrombie-dental.com

abercrombie-smile@outlook.com

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Ardene House Vets	.01224 740700
Ashdale Hall	.01224 740137
Boys' Brigade	.01224 742262
Childcare	
Breakfast Club; After School	ol
Club; Holiday Club	.07770 943723
Schools Out Club	
(Old School House)	
Church of Scotland Minister.	
Citizens Advice Bureau	. 01224 747714
Community Centre	
Community Mini-bus	. 07989 637461
Dentists' Surgery	
Abercrombie Dental Practic	e,
NHS – Abercrombie Court,	
Prospect Road	. 01224 745447
Business, Private –	
Ashdale Drive	.01224 742513
Westhill Dental Practice,	
Old Skene Road	.01224 741339
Doctors' Surgery	.01224 849400
Results	.01224 849392
Repeat Prescriptions	.01224 849393
Electricity Emergency	0800 300999
Gardening Club	.01224 748045
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Golf Club	
Girls' Brigade, 1st Skene	. 07792 471199
Girl Guiding	.07974 963717
Health & Social Care Office	. 01467 537745
Lawsondale Pavilion	. 01224 742836
Library	.01224 472871
Nursery	
Bridges	. 01224 744741

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Are you missing from the list?



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

westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

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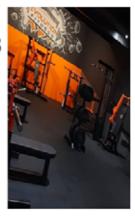
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