

Westhill Bulletin

Spring 2024
Issue 177



Westhill & Elrick

**Community Action
Plan**

Drop-by Event

at

Westhill Shopping Centre

Friday 19th & Saturday 20th
April 2024

10.30am-6.30pm



Published by Westhill & Elrick Community Council
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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 summer issue should be sent in by **Friday 3rd May**. The Bulletin will be distributed from 31st May.

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

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to:

Bulletin Editor – David Ritchie on 01224 744058 or 07989 637461

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

2024 advertising rates:

Eighth Page £35, Quarter Page £62, Half Page £100, Full Page £190

Inside Covers £220, Back Page £252

(There is a small additional one-off charge for new adverts and when changes are made)

For more details on advertising see www.westhilletrick.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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Westhill & Elrick Community Council

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Elected Councillors

The four Aberdeenshire Council Ward 13 Councillors named below are ex-officio members of the Community Council. They attend the monthly meetings when they can but do not have voting rights. They put articles in Bulletin about current topics (see pages 7 to 12). They are also ex-officio members of two other nearby Community Councils in Ward 13.

Councillor Fatima Joji | Councillor Ron McKail | Councillor Craig Miller | Councillor Iris Walker

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 Nisa a week before the meeting and posted on the Westhill website www.westhillelrick.org

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



WESTHILL & ELRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE BEARER'S REPORT

With daylight hours stretching, it's that time of year to think about using them to best effect. But first, we want to reflect on a couple of significant events since the last Bulletin. Thanks are due to all fellow members of the Community Council and members of the Mapp team who helped stage our Christmas Lights switch-on event. It was great to see the community coming together in such large numbers, and we hope it was the prelude to an enjoyable festive season for all.

At our January meeting, members of the Community Council considered an application for a major wind farm development on Hill of Fare, and decided by majority to express an opinion that the application was deeply flawed and incomplete and should be challenged accordingly by the planning authorities. The initial decision rests with the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit.

At the end of January, we held a communications workshop, with the aim of reaching our community more widely and effectively. To start with, we thought it would be helpful to set out the primary purposes of a Community Council so that you could see what we – volunteers and members of the community – should be doing on your behalf.

- *Community Councils are statutory consultees on planning applications that affect our area – from the Brodiach Burn in the east to Mason Lodge in the west.*

Our other purposes are:

- *To ascertain, co-ordinate and express the views of the community, and to take such action in the interests of that community*
- *to pro-actively identify and assess issues of importance to the community*
- *to carry out other activities that are in the general interests of the community*
- *to promote the well-being of the community*
- *to offer a channel to the community to voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare, their environment, its development and amenity*

To these ends, we agreed a plan for 2024 that includes improving our engagement with the community through our other channels of communication – Website and Facebook – which are not as widely viewed as the Bulletin which is delivered to over 5,000 households and many businesses in Westhill and Elrick plus the nearby villages

Our monthly meetings are held in public, and anyone is able to attend. We always welcome anyone who would like to come along to listen to our discussions, consider an issue or raise a concern.

WECC have been working on the next Community Action Plan for Westhill & Elrick; a document covering five years of ambitions for the local community. As a part of this process, there will be a drop-by community engagement event on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th April at the Westhill Shopping Centre. This event aims to gather opinions from as many people as possible regarding what the priorities are for development or improvement in Westhill and Elrick. It is hoped that this additional piece of research will validate our initial findings and help to determine the community's priorities for the years ahead. We would love to see you there for your opinion to be heard (see centre pages for more details).

We also plan to continue with our existing projects which are only possible with the support of volunteers. These are:

- *improving and extending the path network in Denman Park in the spring [see page 73 for more]*
- *supporting the purchase of tri-shaws to help establish a Cycling Without Age Scotland chapter in Westhill*
- *planting spring bulbs in many of the town's green spaces, plus planting summer bedding plants opposite the Holiday Inn*
- *maintaining the width and surfaces of the Orbital Trail and connecting paths using our newly acquired tools [see page 73 for more]*

- *providing equipment for ongoing community litter picks in conjunction with Rotary in Westhill & District [see page 37 for more]*
- *erecting the Christmas Lights and planning to assist the shopping centre management company with a “switch-on” event in December*
- *working with the local community and local Council to improve the presentation of Larg Park*

An exciting and busy year ahead, I hope you'll agree. If you have time, and would like to add your support to any or all of the above, please consider becoming a member of the Community Council, or contact the relevant project leader if your interest is project specific. You'll be warmly welcomed. Membership of the Community Council is apolitical.

If you would like to comment on any of the above and/or express a view on how your quality of life in Westhill could be improved with our help, please write to the secretary at weccsecretx@gmail.com.

Denman Ponds Nature Restoration Project – February 2024 Update

Aberdeenshire Council has secured monies from the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund for a project to treat the surface water entering the ponds and to start bringing the three ponds back to health following pollution incidents in previous years.

The November 2023 tender process was unsuccessful, so the project has been split into two phases and a local contractor has successfully tendered for the phase one works.

Further updates will be provided to let people in Westhill know the start and finish dates for the phase one contract works to improve the quality of the water entering the ponds.

Scottish Water are also undertaking works to the surface water drainage network in Westhill which will improve the quality of the water entering the ponds at Denman Park.

The Denman Park ponds receive their water from the 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.

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, toilet 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.

Scottish Water continue to investigate the surface water drainage system to identify any current sources of pollution arising from wrong connections and inappropriate fluids poured down a road-side rain-water drain and are taking actions to prevent these problems.

If you do see and smell pollution in the water at the Denman Park Ponds please can you phone the following call lines.

The Scottish Water helpline is **0800 0778778**.

The pollution hotline number for SEPA is **0800 807060** and the SEPA online reporting platform is 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 538510** email: steven.gray@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

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Councillor Iris Walker (Westhill & District)

Winter Youth Olympics

Huge congratulations to Elrick's Ethan Brewster in winning gold for Team GB in Gangwon 2024. Ethan and his team-mate, Callie Souter from Forfar were recently crowned Winter Youth Olympic mixed doubles champions in curling at the event in South Korea. Ethan is 16 years old and attends Westhill

Academy. His achievement will undoubtedly inspire others not just in curling, but the wider sports arena.



Consultation launched on Aberdeenshire Council's Development Plan Scheme 2024

Every year Aberdeenshire Council must prepare and publish a document called a Development Plan Scheme. This sets out the anticipated programme for the production of the Local Development Plan and how people can get involved in its production. Recent changes in the law mean that the council must publish a draft of this document and consider the views of people who wish to comment.

Aberdeenshire Council has now started that process by publishing the draft Development Plan Scheme 2024 on its Engage Aberdeenshire LDP consultation hub and are inviting residents and more than 700 community groups and businesses within the area to give their views. A brief survey is provided to assist people in responding to the consultation which is available online here: <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/local-development-plan-2027>. The consultation runs until March 15th, with the results being presented to the council's Infrastructure Services Committee for consideration on May 16th.

The Development Plan Scheme sets out the timetable for the plan's production and focuses on how people can get involved in the current stages of work.

Early Years Provision and the Learning Estate

At the most recent Education & Children's Services Committee on 1st February, there were two significant decisions taken.

The first was for the council to confirm a date on which they would cease being direct providers of Out of School Care (OOSC) after the decision to cease was made by the Committee back in May 2023. This will have an impact on the children presently using the Westhill service. Parents have been encouraged to get in touch with the Early Years team at Aberdeenshire Council to enable further discussions with alternative providers before the termination date of 6th July and we have asked for regular progress updates from the Early Years team.

The second significant report was the "Learning Estates Strategy – Movement Towards a Sustainable Estate". This strategy paper outlined the aspiration to have a "council estate that is fit for purpose to provide modern public services that meet the current and future needs of our communities". The Committee previously agreed that the ideal occupancy level of a school would be approximately 85%, but that a target occupancy band of between 75% and 90% is a reasonable aspiration. The Learning Estates Team will carry out detailed option appraisals for each school cluster with Westhill being one of the clusters in phase 1. Current evidence shows that Skene Primary School is operating on 49% capacity and likely to fall to 33% by 2029.

The programme of engagement has already begun with schools and the wider community with an online survey which closed on Friday 23rd February. Targeted public meetings in response to feedback received will follow in due course.

Please do get in touch if you would like to have sight of either of the two Education reports mentioned above.



Councillor Iris Walker – Westhill and District
phone 07876 475272
email cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Councillor Craig Miller

Pavement Parking

As many of you will be aware legislation is now in force to prevent parking on pavements. This is a council, rather than police enforced law and Aberdeenshire Council are already enforcing this with warnings and fines having been issued.

There is still evidence suggesting that the message is not yet getting through regarding this new legislation, but this is of course not an acceptable excuse for continuing to utilise pavements for parking purposes.

If you are tempted to park on a pavement, even for a brief period of time, you are opening yourself up to the potential for these fines to be levied, but I would also ask you to consider all road users before committing this infringement. Parents with prams and pushchairs and mobility impaired people cannot navigate around cars that are blocking pavements and frequently find that they have no alternative other to go round the car on the road which unnecessarily exposes them to added danger. Together, lets make Westhill safer for all road users.

Aberdeenshire Council Budget

At the time of writing, the final budget for financial year 2024/25 is not known, but with the added pressures from Holyrood, there is no doubt that some services will have to be significantly cut to even cease in their current form.

These decisions are never easy, but this year, the budget process has involved public consultation in terms of what people want to see as services they cannot do without. The process has taken these views into consideration whilst formulating plans, but we know that not everyone will be happy with the final outcome.

By the time of distribution of the Bulletin, the full effects will be known as this will be determined during the February cycle. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns over service levels going forward.

Winter Weather

Once again, Westhill, together with most of Aberdeenshire had significant snowfall in January which undoubtedly caused individual hardships. However, it was noticeable to me around the Ward that road and pavement treatments were quicker and more widespread than they have tended to be in the past. Testament to this is that I did not receive a single email during the period of severe weather. If you did experience issues or were not happy with the level of service provided at this time, please write to me, and let me know.

Councillor Surgeries

Councillor Ron McKail and I are continuing to hold monthly surgeries at Westhill Library. These are held from 10.00-11.00 on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Whilst no appointment is necessary, you can contact either of us to set up a specific time if you want to guarantee availability. If you are unable to attend the surgery, I am happy to arrange meetings at mutually convenient times if you contact me directly. The next surgery will be held on Saturday 9 March at the library within Westhill Primary School.

Councillor Craig Miller

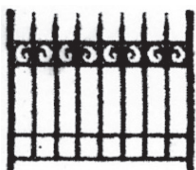
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Ron McKail, Councillor for Westhill and District

Parking Your Wheels on the Pavement Will Result in a £100 Fine

According to emails and phone calls I've received, there are (apparently) some car owners in Westhill who are unaware that from the middle of December last year parking your car on the pavement is prohibited and can carry a fine of £100, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days.

This Transport (Scotland Act) 2019 is enforceable across Scotland with the legislation stating that stationary vehicles must not have any part of their wheels on any part of the pavement. The intention being to make our pavements and footways more accessible for everyone by tackling inconsiderate and obstructive parking.

Provision is made in a limited number of circumstances where pavement exemptions do not apply and Aberdeenshire Council has signposted some nine streets across the Shire. None of these are in Westhill. Pavement parking offences are the responsibility of local council enforcement officers who will issue penalty charge notices to the registered owner of the offending vehicle.

Did Your Wheelie Bin Blow Over in the Recent High Winds?

Bin Lid straps to secure the lid and prevent its contents from littering your street particularly in situations of high winds can be obtained for free from the Westdyke Recycling Centre. (Walk-ins without booking at WRC are at 1200 to 1230).

Protect Your Email Password from Cyber-Criminals by using Three Random Words

At a recent Garloch and North Marr Community Group meeting the guest presenter stated that over £1,000,000 per month is scammed by cyber-criminals in the Grampian Police Division (CityShire/Moray). Victims possibly being us or our neighbours, reinforcing the point that when using the internet we need to be on our guard if we don't want to be hacked.

Secondly a further approach used by cyber-criminals to access our personal information is through a weak email password. Guidance issued by the National Cyber Security Centre is to pick three random words interspersed with different types of characters including numbers, symbols and punctuation marks to create a unique password. Making the password as long as possible makes it harder to crack. Changing your passwords periodically on emails and other e-accounts is also highly recommended. Further information on three random words for protecting email and social media passwords can be found at [NCCSC.GOV.UK](https://nccsc.gov.uk).

NESTRANS – What does this Organisation Contribute to North East Community?

Aberdeenshire Councillors received a presentation on this Regional Transport Partnership whose area of involvement covers Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Many of us were unaware of the scope of its work hence sharing this with Bulletin readers who may be in a similar position.

Nestrans:

- Provides a long-term strategic support to Councils.
- Offers a single voice for the north east when ferry, rail, air or trunk roads are being discussed.
- Facilitates collaboration between Councils and bus operators through North East Bus Forums.
- Provides forums for freight and goods movement and with health providers in its Health and Transport Action Plan.
- In Westhill area, has recently completed its Strategic Traffic Model to ensure that planning decisions take account of traffic needs and that transport investment keeps pace with a particular focus on Active Travel and public transport as well as roads requirements.
- Offers a sustainable transport grants scheme, which can provide up to £10,000 to support businesses and community groups in efforts to implement cycling, or other sustainable travel with more information available at: <https://www.nestrans.org.uk/funding/>.

Councillor Surgeries

Along with Councillor Miller, our surgery is held in Westhill Library on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00hrs to 11:00hrs.

Councillor Ron McKail

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ATMs IN WESTHILL

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- Inside Costco store
- Westhill Service Station shop in Elrick

Denman Pre-school



Two's Group

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Pre-School

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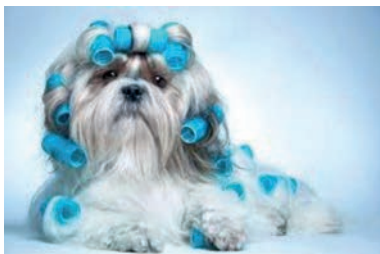


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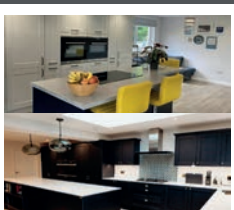
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40 Years of Rotary in Westhill

Rotary
In Westhill
and District



This year, in May 2024, Rotary in Westhill and District celebrates its 40th Anniversary. The inaugural Meeting was held on 15th March 1984 chaired by our first president, local businessman, Bill Leslie.

Currently the club has around 50 members, male and female, from all walks of life, some working, some retired. The Club has an enviable reputation for Fellowship amongst the members who are all ordinary people coming together to create something extraordinary in our local community and beyond.

The club has played a major role in Youth, Community and International affairs.

We regularly sponsor two local students to attend a Rotary Youth Leadership camp, run local quizzes, photography, environmental and art competitions for young people and have established Rotakids clubs within local Primary Schools enabling young pupils to participate in community events with the guidance of experienced Rotarians.



We stage a Senior Citizens Party every December and our members are heavily involved in local affairs in conjunction with the local Community Council.



This includes regular litter picks, assisting with flower baskets and planting around the Westhill area and organising events such as the Lazy Sunday Afternoon Picnics as well as assisting with community events further afield such as the Echt Show and Aboyne games.

Continued.....

40 Years of Rotary in Westhill

Continued.....



Overseas we give financial support to Hope & Homes for Children, Shelter and Aqua Boxes, Shoe Boxes, Mercy Ships and Sand Dams as well as our own projects in Indonesia and Vietnam which helped local villagers with a goat breeding programme and with the building of a vital bridge link to help children reach their school safely. Of course, we also support Rotary's International Foundation Charity and its world-wide project to eliminate Polio.



To raise funds, we run local raffles for star prizes, we have an annual golf competition, provide a casino and funfair stalls for social events and participate in the Bon Accord Centre annual car raffle.

On top of that we meet weekly for a meal and a chat, giving us the opportunity to build relationships with new friends and reinforce our ties to our community.



Did you know?

In the last year our Westhill Rotarians...

*Gave over **3000** hours of their time*

In projects for Youth, Community and Worldwide

*Raised nearly **£14,000***

for various charities, locally, nationally and internationally



In Westhill and District

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



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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.



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A Slow Journey South – California Road Trip

Last October, we set off in search of some California Sunshine.

San Francisco was the first stop on our journey. We spent four nights discovering the city's many attractions. There was plenty of time to visit iconic landmarks like Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge and Pier 39, where we enjoyed clam chowder served in bread bowls while watching the sea lions basking in the warm sunshine. A hop-on hop-off bus tour allowed us to explore the city's fascinating areas, such as Chinatown, Haight Ashbury, Golden Gate Park, and Lombard Street's famous twists and turns.

After exploring San Francisco, we collected our hire car. We continued our journey towards Monterey, taking the Pacific Coast Highway, stopping along the way to take in the views at Pigeon Point and visit charming coastal towns.

Monterey is a stunning coastal town that offers boat trips for whale watching, leisurely coastal walks, and a variety of shops and restaurants on Cannery Row. The town has something to offer everyone.

The highway between Monterey and Santa Barbara is one of the most scenic sections of the route. The journey starts by running parallel to the coast and crossing the iconic Bixby Bridge. This section of the highway, known as Big Sur, boasts some of the most dramatic scenery where the mountains meet the sea. We took a break at Nepenthe to enjoy a delicious lunch with breathtaking views.

Santa Barbara was our next stop for a few nights. Boasting a fabulous stretch of beach, with the mountains as its backdrop, I really enjoyed this laid-back beach city. The Spanish inspired architecture and numerous spots for wine tasting and craft beer added an almost Mediterranean feel.

Our final destination was Los Angeles, and for the last part of the journey, we travelled by train from Santa Barbara. The views from upstairs on the double decker train were incredible.

We had a few fun-packed days in Los Angeles and got to experience all the sights it had to offer, including Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Venice Beach. We enjoyed drinks at the Rainbow Rooms and took a tour of the Warner Bros. Studios. It was a spectacular and glamorous end to a fantastic trip.

The Pacific Coast Highway journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles was a quintessential California experience. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a history buff, or simply seeking a relaxing escape, I recommend it. Highway 1 offers an unforgettable adventure showcasing California's best coastal beauty.

If you would like to know more or simply need help with travel plans. Contact me via the ad on page 72 – or follow me on Facebook/Instagram for updates.



Heather Reynolds, Travel Counsellors



WESTHILL SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us and we can start to enjoy some longer and maybe some warmer, brighter days. When writing this article we haven't had to cancel any meetings yet this winter – long may this continue.

If the weather does deteriorate again and you do find yourself needing help (shopping, clearing paths, etc.) and have no family, friends or neighbours who can help you out then please get in touch – as there are so many helpful people in our Westhill Community.

We enjoyed our Christmas party at the Holiday Inn on 7th December, which 70 persons attended. Entertainment was provided by Jim and Marisha Addison, who are involved with the Blue Lamp in Aberdeen. We were very grateful to AGE Scotland who gave us a generous donation to our Christmas party.

In January we had a singer with backing music – Don Carney; exercises, Bingo and sing along. In February we welcomed Scottish musicians, and “All at C club” – a group of guitar and ukulele players.

Thursday 7th March – Jack Macpherson – singer

Thursday 21st March – Don Carney giving us a talk on “Meeting our Ancestors”

Thursday 4th April – Tara Leiper – singer, pianist

Thursday 18th April – Fiona Kelly – singer

We meet in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church from 2pm until approximately 3.30pm. We have entertainment for an hour then refreshments. We have sanitizer and wipes on the tables.

If the weather is inclement and the schools and public places are closed then we will not be holding a session. We would let you know by email or telephone.

A2B dial-a-bus have been amazing at helping our Seniors to get to and from the meetings. Many have said how helpful and accommodating the drivers have been. Thank you.

For many people the hardest thing to do is to get yourself out the house and come and try something new. Please come along and see how you enjoy our meetings.

If you need any further information please get in touch.

Contact: **Heather Cook** – 01224 741194;
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We offer free, independent, impartial and confidential advice to the public on a wide range of subjects. Examples of regular issues we receive enquiries on include: welfare benefits, money and debt, housing, employment, immigration, consumer, energy issues, relationship issues and legal matters.

South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent and innovative advice organisation providing holistic advice and support to local people.

One of the Twin aims of the Scottish Citizens Advice Bureau Service is to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, or of the services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively.

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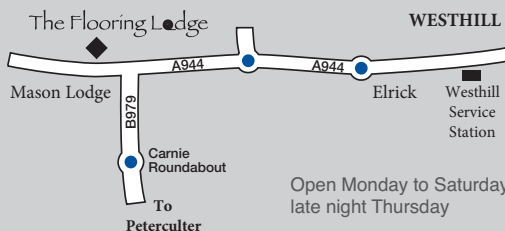
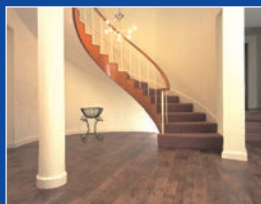
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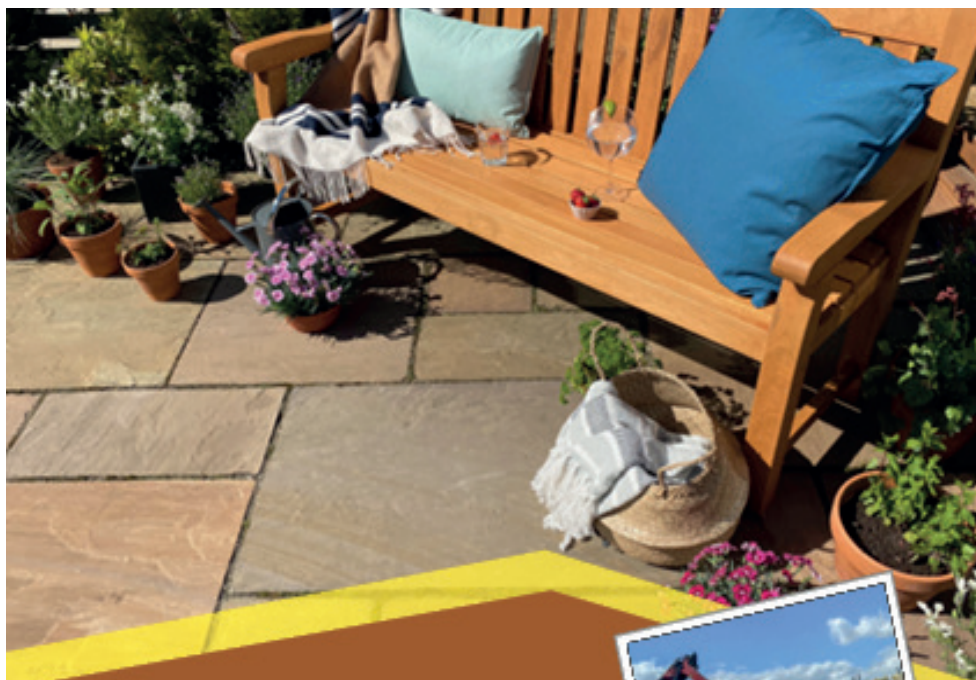
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Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

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@gmail.com.

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

Regular Activities:

- Jazzercise, every Monday and Wednesday 9.45-10.45am and also Wednesday 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, held on Wednesday afternoons, call 07818 200371 for details.
- Baby Sensory – Thursday mornings.

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.

Skene Fundraising Committee – Macmillan Cancer Support

We take this opportunity to thank all who have donated so generously to Skene Fundraising Macmillan Cancer Support.

On 8th October we held a Bingo Night at the Ashvale in Inverurie and raised £585. The Macmillan Burns Supper was held on Friday 26th January at Echt Hall, please check our Facebook page for pictures. The total raised will be announced later.



Our next event was the Skene Fundraising Macmillan Cancer Support Quiz in Dunecht Hall on Friday 23rd February at Dunecht Hall.

We will also be supporting Modelfest on Sunday 17th March.

Please follow us on Facebook – [Skene Fundraising Committee-Macmillan Cancer Support](#) to read about these and future events. In addition we do place posters around Westhill with the next upcoming 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.

Charity No SCO039907
Alison Troup – 07974 790765

Fundraising for
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

So you think that it is all over, well it is now! Or is it? Seasons hot, seasons? We will have to use our own thoughts on when and when not to plant, what to plant, where to plant. The good thing is we are not alone in the world, okay we have had some strange weather this past year but we have survived. Now it's looking forward and learn from the past, use your own intuition and check out the weather. This should help with when to plant and where. I feel that the only thing you can do if things work for you is take notes for future reference. This year I am going to use more pots and raised beds to plant veg and tatties. So think about it and decide for yourself.

Happy gardening.

Bill

SPEAR Physio Says.....

Being active is really good for you, and walking is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to do this. It helps keep your bones and muscles strong as well as improve your balance and even your mood.

As little as a daily 10 minute walk in the spring weather can help you to become healthier.

The key to getting started, in particular if things took a back seat during the winter and the not so kind weather, is to make sure you warm up well and build up slowly. We see many injuries in clinic caused by starting back into exercise too much too fast! If you were walking 10,000 steps a day last summer start back doing what you are comfortable doing now. The most important thing is to listen to your body. Your body is very wise!!

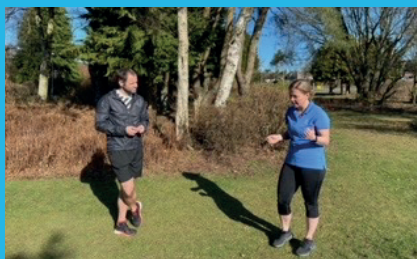
A good tip is to start walking locally and then go a little further each time you are out. Another tip is to go with friends, exercising can be the perfect way to catch up, and friends will make you accountable.

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SPEAR physiotherapists James and Karen enjoying a spring walk in Denman Park



ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

HALL NEWS

Our family Ceilidh was a great success and we had a Primary school age disco on December 22nd.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning more fundraising this year including a Ladies night on April 26th, Kids disco on June 28th, a Ladies night on November 29th and a Kids disco on December 20th as well as others. But we really need people to join the fundraising committee and help come and organise.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We are desperately 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. Our event prices have not changed in four years for those looking for a bargain and those prices are valid to the end of March. Contact ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk.

Monthly Tea Dances are on the 2nd Friday of every month 1.30-3.30pm from April to October.

WESTHILL MARKET (9am–1pm, 1st Saturday of every month)

Our monthly market is held at the Hall Car Park and we have stallholders selling fish, bakery items, local fresh meat, pies, vegetables, loose tea, 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, for full details please see our online timetable: <http://www.ashdalehall.co.uk>. These are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards.

ENQUIRIES

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

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



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



Hello Westhill, Happy New Year, and welcome to 2024!

Greetings from Vinespring Church! It's good to have some relief from the chills of winter as we welcome the start of spring. With warmer temperatures, a lot more people have been noticeably out and about; particularly our elderly folks. We keep praying that help comes to them and to all who may be in need at this time, through the carers around them, and through each one of us as we have the opportunity.

It's truly a privilege and a joy for us to be here as eyewitnesses to another new year; and for this we are thankful to God! When we consider the fact that there are those among us who did not make it into the new year; and that some who did have now sadly passed on. Or the fact that some though witnessing the new year may still be struggling with same issues or challenges with their health, relationships, or finances, as was the case last year; it helps us to have a wholesome context for our gratitude. While we pray for the comfort and strength of those going through a difficult season, we are reminded daily of the need to make the most of every moment we have in this life to be and to do the things that lead to eternal joy. As the Psalmist put it: *"Teach us to consider our mortality so that we might live wisely"* – Psalm 90:12 NET.

Considering our mortality is what we do at Vinespring Church regularly. We do so within the context of God's will for each and every one of us, and His grand plan for humanity as displayed in the Holy Scriptures. This year we hope to grow and deepen our knowledge of God through His Word and our fellowship with others. We are also poised to do more; to push further and to explore every opportunity to share Jesus with our world. Knowing how temporal this life is, we sense the Father's urgency and the need to spread the Gospel of God's righteousness throughout the world. The Scriptures tell us that the systems of this world will soon fade away. Therefore, we are encouraged by His promise to us that 2024 will be a **'Year of Open Doors' (Rev. 3:8)**. Open doors for ministry, for community, for salvation, for mercy, for help and hope. This year could very well be a year of open doors for you too. Open doors for pursuing a lifelong dream. Open doors for healing and reconciliation. Open doors to repentance. Open doors to faith. Open doors for exploring Christianity.

In line with this vision, we would like to invite anyone who may need help walking through their open door to God's saving grace. No matter how inadequate you may feel, our doors are open to receive, support, and come alongside you should you so desire. Our weekly meetings continue **face to face on Sundays 11am at The Events Hub 1 and 2, Prime Four Management Suite, Village Hotel, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8PJ**. We also have our midweek meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. To join virtually and for more details please visit our website at www.vinespringchurch.co.uk or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vinespringchurch. To all residents, we would like to wish everyone a lovely Easter celebration, filled with joy, hope, and victory. May you come to experience God's open door – Jesus Christ.

Team Vinespring



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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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6 SCOTT SKINNER SQUARE BANCHORY

Litter Picking Update

It has been over a year since litter picking featured in the Bulletin, but that's largely been down to the absence of a feature writer! And that's been a



disservice to the small and dedicated army of volunteers who have been busily going about their business these last 12 months keeping our community tidy in the face of a number of challenges, including persistent litter droppers, storms and arguably insufficient bins. So we in the Community Council would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the founder of the concept and our former colleague, Raymond Swaffield, and a huge thank you to the volunteers.

Huge thanks are also due to the Vinespring Church who have supported the costs of litter picking equipment over these last two and a half years, as have our friends at Tesco. Thanks to their combined generosity and by way of perspective, last year there were 15 organised picks involving 23 volunteers, collectively picking for 162 hours. That's at least 162 bags of waste removed from our streets and public spaces. In addition, many of the volunteers go out on their own and pick litter between organised dates. Whilst some might regard litter picking to be a thankless, sometimes cold and dirty experience, with the right kit, volunteers find it to be a very mindful, productive and often sociable experience. In fact, according to research conducted by www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean, 89% of respondents said that getting outdoors for #SpringCleanScotland 2023 helped them de-stress, relax and unwind. WECC supports tackling litter in our community, but we do it all year round.

Organised picks take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month in conjunction with Westhill & District Rotarians, apart from the winter months. WECC volunteers focus on the east side of town; Rotarians to the west. WECC picks start at 10am on a Saturday, from Denman Park car park, and last for an hour. All kit [litter grabbers, bags, hoops and hi-viz] apart from gloves is provided. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. If you would like to pick, but can't manage Saturday mornings, then please also get in touch as we are in the fortunate position of having enough kit to lend to volunteers on a long-term basis. We also have arrangements in place with 3 businesses where collected litter can be dropped off in commercial waste bins.

Several businesses, including the Shopping Centre team, organise ad hoc litter picks in and around their own premises. But at times when Council resources are stretched and so long as unsightly litter in our public spaces continues to be an issue, there will always be a need for community volunteers to take on the fight against litter. The Community Council is happy to be one of the leaders in this fight. We will ask the Council for more bins where needed and have asked for an app that allows us to report when bins are full, just like the app that allows us to report when grit bins are empty.

Join us if you can.

For more, please contact Gordon Prentice at weccclitterpickers@gmail.com.

Kingshill Parish Church of Scotland



Sunday Service Details

Worship 10.30am Trinity Church

Worship 11.15am Skene Kirk

The service will be live streamed to our YouTube Channel at 10.30am.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ-wWCO2QUvEU8BhPTq_xfA

When a politician is launching their election campaign, one of the first things they will do is tell the electorate a little bit about themselves – who they are and what they are about. Their priorities and values will be to the fore, as well as sharing their background and experience. They might even develop a slogan to help get their message across.

This year, with something like half the world's population going to the polls, there will be lots of hopefuls trying to find ways of cutting through the noise to increase their chances of being elected. And no doubt, some slick advertising campaigns will appear to help them on their way. But all the while the public will be looking to see if there is integrity in what they say.

When Jesus began his ministry, the first thing he did was go be baptised by his cousin, John the Baptist. It was a sign of solidarity. He was choosing to identify with humanity – with those he had come to seek and to save. Even though John objected, because baptism was a symbol of sins being forgiven and Jesus was in no need of that, Jesus was insistent.

As he comes up out of the water, the heavens open and a voice can be heard declaring, "*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased*". Such an affirmation tells us something of the nature of Jesus' relationship with God the Father.

Immediately Jesus is led into the wilderness for a time of fasting. It might seem a little strange to us. 40 days is a long time to disappear just as you've launched your career, and we can't imagine many politicians surviving that kind of absence today. But, for Jesus, these days were to be a crucial time of preparation. There would be many temptations on the road ahead of him and he would need all his strength to be able to face them.

Finally, when he emerges, he presents a kind of manifesto. He reads from Isaiah – "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*" It's an extraordinary statement of intent and over the following three years (and beyond) Jesus' words and actions all align with this pronouncement. Time and again he demonstrates both the power and the will to do exactly what he says he will do. And today, the work continues, through his followers and with the help of his Spirit.

If it's been a while since you explored who Jesus says he is and what he is about (or if you've never considered it), why not join us as we reflect on exactly this. We have already begun our journey towards Easter and there is no better time to dig into his words and to all that he did, particularly in the crucifixion and resurrection.

You will find more details about our Sunday services and our plans for Holy Week at www.kingshillparish.com.

Lenten Lunches

@ 12.30pm

Every Friday during Lent we will gather from the across Westhill to worship and enjoy a soup lunch together.

16.02.24 - Trinity Church

23.02.24 - WCC

1.03.24 - Trinity Church

8.03.24 - Trinity Church

15.03.24 - WCC

22.03.24 - Trinity Church





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WESTHILL BOWLING CLUB

I'm writing this at the end of January. Christmas and New Year is a distant memory and we can look forward to the flowers appearing and better weather ahead.

The bowling season opens on Saturday 13th April.

Bon Accord knock outs, Bon Accord leagues and club competitions all get underway in April so there is not much time to get your hand in after the winter break.

In addition to the Bon Accord league and because of the increase in our lady membership we have joined the **Aberdeen And District Ladies Bowling Association** which will allow our lady members to partake in a wider range of activities across Aberdeen and Shire

Bowling has had some exposure on BBC2 over the month of January with the World Indoor Championships being televised. There was a lot of Scottish success at the event with the gents event, in particular, dominated by Scots.

But bowling is not just for the players interested in top competitions. It's a sport that appeals to different people for different reasons regardless of age or fitness levels. Outdoor exercise, company, friendship as well as competitive or not so competitive sport, are only some of the reasons people play.

As per last year, early in the bowling season we will be holding a Try Bowls Day where you can come along and have a go yourself at no charge. We will provide everything you need including bowls, coaching as well as tea and coffee. Look out for details appearing around Westhill.

If you don't know where to find us we are located beside the tennis courts, directly across the Old Skene Road from the Shopping Centre.

If you want to join us for the coming season we offer an introductory membership fee for 2024 of £42.50 for adults. That works out less than the cost of a cup of coffee per week. You will also probably get a cup of tea or coffee thrown in for free. That seems like a very good deal.

We also have introductory rate of £7.50 for juniors (under 18) and also have special rates for people in full time education.

If anyone would like to come and join us and be part of our ongoing story of bowling in the Westhill area please do not hesitate to get in touch by email robert.mutch@btinternet.com or telephone 07562 696193.

Westhill Bowling Club
Denman Park, Westhill

2024 Season

Green opens on Saturday 13th April 2024 at 2pm

New members welcome

No previous bowling experience required

Please contact Secretary Bob Mutch
(robert.mutch@btinternet.com)
for more information



1st Skene Girls' Brigade

Since starting back in January we have entered Divisional Competitions and attended the Aberdeen Division Beach Ballroom Display, also where the Competition winners were awarded their trophies and all physical items were displayed also. There was also a chance for all girls to rehearse together 3 weeks prior to the event and take part in divisional items on the day, a great way to meet new girls from other companies.

Our own Open Night is being held in Trinity Church on Monday 25th March at 7pm, all welcome to come along and see what the girls have been practising and what awards they have earned this session.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself: *Fiona Cumming (Captain)* on **07792 471199** or email fionacumming26@icloud.com.



Westhill & Elrick

Community Action Plan

Drop-by Event

at

Westhill Shopping Centre

Friday 19th & Saturday 20th

April 2024

10.30am-6.30pm

During 2023 the Community Action Plan (CAP) steering group from the Westhill & Elrick Community Council have been collecting your thoughts and comments on how we can make changes and improvements in Westhill and Elrick. Many thanks to the many members of our community who completed the survey and took part in our focus group sessions. Your responses have given valuable insight to help inform the next stage of the CAP process.

A CAP is a participatory process that can build the skills and capacity of a community. It is when people get involved to take action to address their needs, any issues and develop the potential of where they live and work. It provides a framework for implementing positive change by identifying and specifying WHAT will be done, WHO might be involved and HOW it will be done.

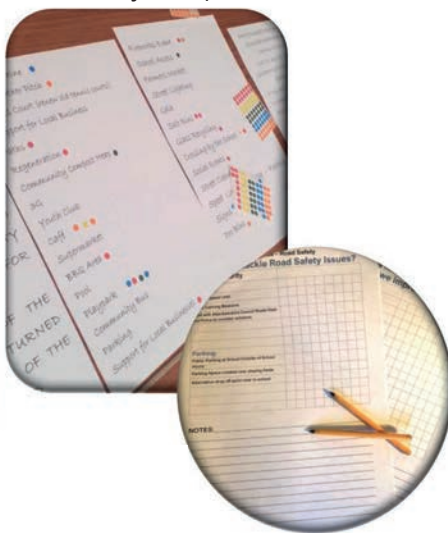
Our action plan will have a lifespan of 5 years. To help us identify your priorities and what actions we need to focus on for this plan we are holding a **drop-by event** at **Westhill Shopping Centre** on the **19th and 20th April**, where you will be able to see the results of the consultation

and have your say on the emerging themes.





be considered by a range of potential stakeholders from the community and public bodies.



The event will run from **10.30am** until **6.30pm** on both days.

The aim of the event is to confirm that what we learned from the consultation is what matters to our community. This validation will help us to distil the many ideas and voices into a common vision and goals. We will then need to refine the relevant ideas into objectives with corresponding strategies and activities to create an action plan to

Drop by and Have Your Say and you will be included in a free draw to win a 'Love Aberdeenshire' Gift Card.



APPEAL FOR CLOTHING DONATIONS

A huge thank you to everyone across our community who has continued to help in providing essential clothing to the asylum seekers. Your generosity is hugely appreciated.

We are now looking for men's joggers, jumpers (or sweatshirts) and (new) boxers, pants and socks. Small/Medium sizes are the best.



*Donations can be dropped off at Trinity Church,
Westhill Drive (Mon/Wed/Fri 9-12pm) or
at Westhill Community Church (when Green Pastures is open).
Please get in contact with Rev Stella on scampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk
if you want to arrange a separate drop-off time.*

If you would like to give financially, you will find details at www.kingshillparish.com/asylum-seekers.html. With your help so far, we have been able to purchase trainers for the men and underwear, all of which have been gratefully received.

Westhill Tangent – part of the Round Table family

Having been VERY busy collecting, sorting and transporting down to Tayside, items for Ukraine and also advising, sourcing items for the Ukrainians in the area who have found accommodation but need furnishings and equipment, the 500 boxes full of Christmas gifts and wishes were delivered safely to various "safe" houses to children. A representative from TASH had travelled out with the boxes and his comments were very emotive – when viewing the video it does make you realise (a) how lucky we are and (b) how helpless we are to prevent any more suffering. The people of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen are extremely generous and still the donations continue to come in.

As a voluntary organisation, Tangent does what it can in the hope that humanitarian efforts will succeed and the world will be a better place for us all in the future.

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Westhill Tennis Club

Writing in late January following two weeks of snow and back-to-back storms, it is with an optimistic tone that the weather will soon be improving and tennis will be more frequent again at Denman Park.

AGM

Following the club AGM on Wednesday 15 November, a new committee was elected.

For a small two-court club we have a strong committee, with nine members, some new faces and others with more experience of the committee and the clubs running. Unfortunately, however, we were unable to elect a chairperson.

The position of chairperson is vital for the smooth running of the club, and essential for the club to meet its constitutional requirements. Can I please ask all members to consider whether they can take on the role. If you need any information on what the role entails, feel free to contact westhilltennisclub@outlook.com or one of the other committee members.

Elected committee and roles for 2024

Chair – VACANT, Secretary – Simon Dennis, Treasurer – Henry Lints; Committee Members: Ginny Reid, Richard Crighton, Vikki Paterson, John Kettle, Karen Dennis, Obina Ugoala, John Purcell; Men's Captain – John Purcell, Ladies Captain – Mellany Hudson, Social Captain – Fiona Glascodine, Welfare Officer – Simon Dennis.

Membership Fees 2024-25

After several years without an increase, it was agreed at the AGM to adopt the following membership rates for 2024-25. Our 2024/25 membership will start from April 1, 2024, but we welcome membership applications at any time. The fees for the year ahead were set at the AGM:

Membership categories include Early Bird (payment by 31 March) and Standard Rate (payments from 1 April). *Adult – £80 Early Bird then £85 standard rate, Family – £160 then £170, Couple – £140 then £150, Student – £40 then £45, Junior (11-17 years) – £30 then £32, Mini (10 and under on 31st March 2024) – £16 then £17* Membership for the new season will open on the 1st March when existing members will receive an email.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free court time for members with online booking sheet
- Social tennis sessions for adults on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm and Saturdays from 2pm
- Competitive tennis in the North District leagues, both men's and ladies' teams
- Opportunities to play in social leagues playing against other local clubs

- Coaching opportunities for all members and organised coaching sessions for minis and juniors from a qualified coach
- Entry to the Wimbledon Ticket Ballot
- Social events throughout the season

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub

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

[WesthillLawnTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub)

Westhill and District Gardening Club

The Westhill and District Gardening Club meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge at Trinity Church, Westhill at 7.30pm from September until May.

Future Dates and Topics for your diary are:

March 20th – Returning speaker – Jim Fiddes with a historical talk about 'Dunecht House'

April 17th – Workshop – learn how to make Buttonholes with Ann Westwood.

May 15th – A very interesting session with Pushp Vaid who will be speaking to us about 'Wellbeing'.

If you would like any information on the gardening club, please contact:

Press Officer – Ann Westwood at ann1.westwood@btinternet.com or

Secretary – Janice Kennedy at westhillgardencub@gmail.com.



1st SKENE COMPANY THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas card deliveries last year. We delivered over 600 cards, raising £260 for company funds. Our next fundraiser will be the Spring Fayre/Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th March at Trinity church: 10am to 12 noon. Anchors and Juniors recently had a visit from the Critter Keeper, with an assortment of creepy crawlies. This was a great hit with the boys – though not everyone wanted to touch one. As we look forward to longer days and better weather, we have a group of boys going up to Abernethy outdoor centre at the start of May. This is always a popular weekend and allows the boys to participate in a variety of outdoor activities and team building games.

Membership is open to all boys between P1 and S6. We meet on a Friday night from 6-30pm at Trinity church (P1 to P3) or Westhill academy (P4 to S6). We have no waiting lists please pop along if you are interested in joining us.

Niall MacBeath, Company Captain

Contact: niall.macbeath@btinternet.com or via our Facebook page:
[1st Skene-Westhill Boys' Brigade](#)



**WESTHILL
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

Leading up to our winter break we enjoyed a successful November focusing on portrait photography. Dedicating a whole month to one topic was something new for us. We organised models, set up various lighting scenarios and with the guidance of local photographer Carol Leith we practised our portrait techniques. Everyone agreed that this was a great way to spend the dark nights and is definitely something we plan to do again.

Getting into the festive spirit we finished the year with a Christmas meal out. We used this as

an opportunity to announce the winners of our end of year competitions. As well as our internal club competitions we regularly compete in the Grampian Eye, an annual photography competition among North East clubs, this year taking place in April.

For 2024 we have some exciting things planned, including an astro photography workshop with Simon White of Whitesky Photographics, a visit to Spectra, Aberdeen's festival of light, and a focus on macro.

Following on from the success of last year's trip to Glencoe we have organised a weekend trip, in March, to Elgin and the Moray Coast.

If any of this sounds like something you would enjoy then please get in touch at the following address Westhill.Photography@outlook.com. We meet at the Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene on a Thursday night from 7–9pm. New members are always welcome.

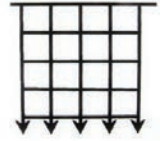




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In February 2019 the Legislation relating to smoke detection in your home changed. All domestic properties in Westhill could be affected.

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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Community Action Plan for Kirkton of Skene

Update Spring 2024

The Community Action Plan has been finalised with the agreement of Aberdeenshire Council. Copies will be distributed to all the homes in the village and surrounding area which received the original questionnaire.

The ideas proposed in the plan can only be taken forward with the support of residents. Please consider getting involved in one of the actions:

- Developing a plan for playground improvements
- Reviewing road safety
- Establishing a paths group
- Exploring ways to improve the appearance of the village centre

To hear more, contact us at KirktonOfSkeneCAP@gmail.com.

Kirkton of Skene CAP Steering Group

Skene Singers Choir

We are looking for new members to join the choir, and while sopranos are always welcome, we need altos and men to balance our communal voice.

We meet in the back hall of Trinity Church on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30pm during school term time. At present, we are singing a variety of musicals, songs from the 'pop' era, and also some more traditional songs.

If you are interested and would like to join us or come along for a trial session, please contact me – see below. No experience is necessary, just the enjoyment of singing with others of a like mind and having some fun!

Ann Imrie – 07742 538665



Ready for another year of activity

It's the beginning of another year and the club has got off to a strong start. We've welcomed the latest recruits to our Couch to 5K programme for 2024 and they'll be working their way through a 10-week Learn to Run programme, taking part in the Run Balmoral event in April. Our friendly, social running club has groups to suit all levels of runner, not just beginners and we're always ready to welcome new members, so whatever your level of running experience, don't be shy, look out your running shoes and come along and give us a try. We run on a Monday and a Thursday at 6.30pm, meeting at the top car park at Westhill Academy. Contact jogscotlandwesthill@gmail.com or visit our website <https://www.jogscotlandwesthill.org> for more information.



WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

Christmas lunch 2023

The Shed held its first Christmas lunch since Covid stopped play in 2020.

Excellent managed and cooked by John Bradley and assisted by many others from the Shed team, we had soup, turkey and all the trimmings, nut loaf for those that wanted it, followed by a variety of puddings.

The pictures show the Shed ready for the meal to start and John and Dennis hard at work setting up. Finally, everyone enjoying the meal and the catch up with shed members and their friends.



In the shed...

The shed is looking at buying a CNC router. This is easiest explained by a picture of what they can do. We have not decided on one yet but watch this space!



We have had many enquiries about the next tool sale

This will be on Saturday 9th March in Westhill shopping centre from 10-1.

But you don't need to wait. You can ask about anything that you need at the shed, phone to see if we have stock or call in to ask and see. Phone number and opening times at the foot of the page. We have a large stock of mowers and garden tools that we have rescued from landfill.

And finally Peter's Horse has bolted

Shed member Peter finally got his rocking horse bolted to its base.

The horse then disappeared as the stable door was unlocked. Peter has spent most of the last year, on and off, building his Rocking Horse from scratch.

This is the second one he has made and thought that it would be his last, but alas, now it seems that his son, not wanting to be left out, would like one too.



Opening Times

Monday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 2pm-8pm and Friday 10am-4pm.

Why not come along to the Shed and consider joining us.

SheShed: ladies only, is on a Monday evening from 6pm to 8.30pm.

contact@westhillmensshed.co.uk / Tel 01224 917345 during opening times
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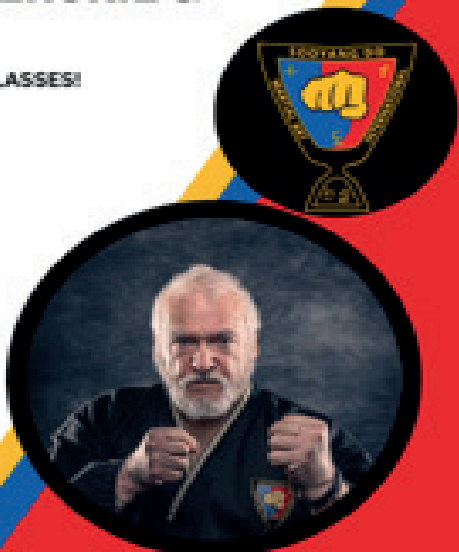
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For the most update information, find and like the "Westdyke Leisure Centre" Facebook page – image of centre as above

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see advert on page 13



Denman Pre-school



This Spring we are celebrating both the arrival of our new Rector, Rev David McCarthy, at the beginning of March and the tenth anniversary of the completion of our church building.

We warmly invite you to join us as we worship and thank God together on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. Afterwards join us for refreshments in the Green Pastures Café. If you are unable to attend in person please feel free to join us online, or follow the service later via our YouTube channel. Full details and links can be found at www.westhillcommunitychurch.org.

Church Office

You can call our office on 01224 737380 or email office@westhillcommunitychurch.org

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COMING EVENTS

EASTER SERVICES – 31ST MARCH

8.00am – Outdoor Praise Service

10.30am – Easter Family Service

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27th April – 10am to 3pm

8th June – 10am to 3pm

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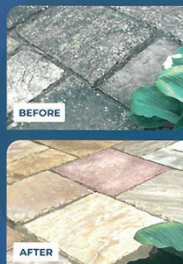
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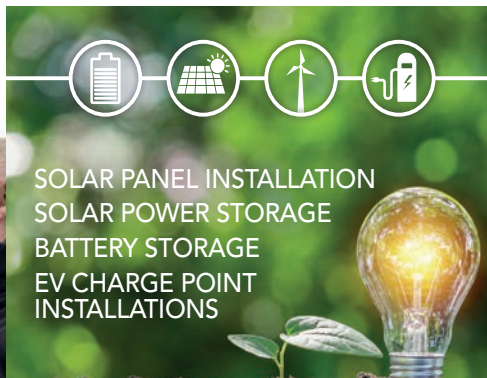
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VISA



Time to turn our attention to the new golfing season which is just around the corner! Truth be told, we have been planning for the spring all winter – whether that be updating and refreshing our annual competition plans or making changes to the course, we are ready to go.

The biggest winter project we undertook was reconstructing our 4th green. Fortunately, the work for that was completed prior to the recent cold snap. The turf now needs to 'bed in' but if the spring weather is kind (maybe a big ask based on recent years) we should be able to make use of the new green in the not-too-distant future. The new green complex is different to the old green and contains a challenging 'top tier' at the back left of the green as well as some new contouring and bunkering to the left hand side. All in all, it should be a fun challenge to play on and one that we are looking forward to.

Following our recent AGM meeting, our membership fees have been agreed for the 2024 season. So regardless of whether you are new to the area, a novice golfer or a past member, now is a great time to get in touch – please see our website (westhillgolfclub.co.uk), social media ([Facebook: Westhill Golf Club](#)) or get in touch via our email (office@westhillgolfclub.co.uk) for more details

As always, it is worth reminding everyone of the wonderful food available within the clubhouse from the 'The Feed Barron'. A social membership (£10 this year) allows you to enjoy this and gives you access to a number of other social events planned for the year – themed nights, quiz evenings, fares, suppers and tribute nights to name a few.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Westhill Golf Club in 2024!

Karen Templeton, Club Captain



Girlguiding
Westhill District

What has:

- Over 10 MILLION members across 145 countries, 250 of which are right here in Westhill
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Every year on 22nd February, The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) celebrates our shared history and give a huge shout out to the amazing things we do. The theme for 2024 is "Our World, Our Thriving Future" and, here in Westhill, we'll be joining in the fun with our own celebrations both in individual units and with an event for all our Girl Guiding members.

It is an international day of friendship and chosen because it is the birthday of both Olave Baden-Powell, who was the World Chief Guide, and Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement.

This year in Westhill, we'll be thinking about Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world, and specifically those in Mexico, Switzerland, India, London, and Africa – the location of WAGGGS centres where members can meet together for friendship, fun, and adventure. Next year, some of our Westhill members will be travelling to Sagnam, India to take part in a leadership development program.

There are so many different ways to support this incredible organisation. If you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved, feel free to email westhilldc@gmail.com for an informal chat and more information.

Varapunya Meditation Centre

As the winter darkness slowly fades, day light is gradually increasing, and plants are rising from their winter solitude willingly sharing joy and happiness. Each and every one – trees, bulbs, flowers, plants – is building connections and feeling connected to belong and break down boundaries. The centre now has comfortably established in the Westhill area and progressively adjusting into the local community. The Varapunya Meditation Centre is no more 'a strange place on the edge of town' but increasingly becoming a part of the community, recently our resident monk was also invited to introduce about the centre and its activities at the Westhill Men's Shed.



Covid was a dark force in our lives, but it also gave people and organisations a good opportunity to learn and advance new information technology opportunities. The Centre was one of the fortunate organisations, able to develop its technology to broadcast to a wider audience. As a result, the Centre extended its outreach nationally and internationally. Nevertheless, we continue endeavour to be part of the local community by engaging in various way within our ethos, i.e. through social work, helping hands and mindfulness meditation.

The first eight-week mindfulness course in Westhill was quickly booked. If you missed it do not worry, the next one will be coming in the summer. So, keep your eyes on this Bulletin in the coming months. Meanwhile, Mindfulness Mondays at the Aberdeen Health Village continues, celebrating its eighth year and rooms have been booked for whole of 2024. During the post Covid period, participants at Mindfulness Mondays dropped off and, at one point, these events might have closed down. For the sake of public benefit, we kept it going. Now slowly, once again, numbers are growing, and we are able to offer support to those who are seeking ways to deal with their mental health challenges through the practice of mindful living. Mindfulness sessions at Aberdeen in Recovery ended and a new one is starting in near future. A new meditation session started in Feb at the University of Aberdeen. These sessions are free of charge as we feel it is worth sharing the knowledge rather than 'selling' it. We offer all courses at the centre or outside free, but your generosity through voluntary work, material support and donations is highly appreciated.

Some of the main events at the centre that may interest you.

13 April: Celebrating Asian New Year with lots of children's games and various Asian cushions on sale.

20 May: Interfaith Mindfulness Day event. Come and join us for a mindful walk and reflections from different faiths on how we can do more for our own mental health.

Further information: www.varapunyacentre.com.

WECC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The current Westhill Bulletin business model has allowed WECC to generate surpluses from advertising revenues over production costs. Since 2011 WECC has chosen to make some of these surplus funds available as donations to local voluntary groups as finances allow, and around £41,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups over these last 12 years.

The next round of donations will be considered in May 2024. Closing date for applications is 3rd May. See <https://westhillelrick.org/people-make-a-place/donations/> for Guidance Notes and the Application Form or contact treasurerwecc@gmail.com.

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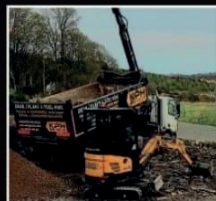
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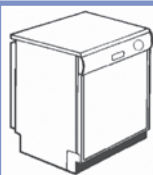
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Westhill Paths Group February 2024 Update



Storm Damage Update

If the evidence of recent months is anything to go by, we're just going to have to get used to dealing with the aftermath of storms. Storm Gerrit at the end of December was the culmination of a very wet spell and left its mark on Westhill's woodland and stressed the town's drainage network in a number of locations. Four more well established trees came down at Carnie Woods, crossing and blocking the new path surface; one of them a direct hit on the newly installed information panel at Peregrine Road. Remarkably, the panel was unscathed and, at time of writing, three of the trees have since been cleared by Council workmen.

Other less well-established trees were blown over at Lawsondale. Thanks to volunteers, these have also been cleared in recent weeks. All woodland paths need constant vigilance these days, so if you come across any obstacles, please let us know.

On the higher section at Broadshade and Golf Club, there is no natural water course leading down from the top of the surrounding hills which means that the lower lying land which includes the golf course and residential properties bears the brunt of the cascading water after prolonged rainfall. We are trying to assist with improving drainage in this sector if we can, as any improvement will also improve the integrity and longevity of the path surfaces.

Active Projects

Carnie Woods – Finishing touches

Contractors will be installing benches, picnic tables and a new information panel in the central rest area, and a new cairn and panel will be installed at Carnie Crescent just as soon as the ground conditions improve.

Boardwalk removal: a pilot project in November involving two sections totalling 20m confirmed the tools and techniques required to remove the remaining 200m. Our plan is to begin this in the spring when the ground is drier. If you would like to help and haven't been in touch previously, please email me to let me know.

Denman Park – extension of path network, bridging improvements and provision of additional rest areas

A contractor has been appointed with some tree and shrub clearing taking place before the start of the bird nesting season in March. The main construction work is planned for early spring after the threat of frosts has passed. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page.

Investigation work has also begun to try and trace the source of the **pollution in the ponds**. Please see page 4 for separate article from Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water.

Maintenance of Denman planted areas – volunteer support: members of the Community Council met with the Garioch Landscape Officers responsible for Westhill and Elrick on 1st February. In the knowledge that the Landscape Services team is under resourced, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways in which community volunteers could support the maintenance of the park's neglected planted areas. The meeting was very constructive and will soon lead to a joint plan of action. If you enjoy this kind of work as part of a social group, please get in touch.

Ongoing Trail Maintenance

Late last year we managed to procure a suite of power tools with the objective of keeping paths free from overgrowing weeds and branches in the spring and summer. Periodic flooding is also a challenge in several parts of town, so we aim to spend time and effort to improve the surface of the farm track on the north edge of Meadowlands, some sections around Lawsondale and a section at the golf club in conjunction with the club's green-keeping team.

If you would like to join us in these voluntary tasks, please let us know. Thank you.

A Gordon Prentice [on behalf of the sub-group] | prenticeg.wecc@gmail.com



2023 was an amazing year for SensationALL!

Last year we supported 511 different individuals of ALL ages and held 577 sessions. The team were incredibly busy!

The festive period might be a distant memory by now, but we had a fantastic time hosting a Christmas Fayre for our families,



where over 70 children came to visit Santa in our relaxed Grotto. We raised an amazing £1,500, so a huge thanks to all the families who came and supported us. A special mention to the businesses and organisations including STATS Group UK, Asda and Westhill Shopping Centre who contributed to making the event magical.

Our 2024 timetable is in full swing and features some brand-new services such as a support group for neurodivergent adults (over 18) with a suspected, or diagnosed, condition like Autism, or ADHD. The informal sessions in our Aberdeen centre, Belgrave House, are a chance for them to meet and socialise with similar people whilst learning more about their condition from our experienced practitioners. Free to attend on Tuesday evenings, email us if you are interested.

We're working hard to meet demand from families and are delighted to announce our Family Play sessions on Sundays are now weekly! This year we are also excited to be expanding our outreach sessions – taking our services out to venues across the northeast.

By the time this edition of the Westhill Bulletin is posted through your door, our next neurodiverse workshop for parents and carers will have started. The 5-week course, on Wednesday evenings at Belgrave House in Rosemount, is full of practical tips and knowledge. Contact us if you are interested in the next block starting in May. Similarly, our 'Beyond the Label' course for professionals (2 sessions) starts on 13th of March, so email us for more information, or if you would like to sign up.

Although we are doing our best to expand services, we are experiencing more demand than ever before from new families and we desperately need to increase our income. In 2023, we had 425 new individuals register with us and there are currently 128 names on our waiting lists. We are determined to find more funding so we can increase our team of practitioners and offer more sessions. CAN YOU HELP US?

If you would like to fund-raise for us, you could do the Kiltwalk, P&J Run Fest, Ride the North, or Beast Race, etc., or attend one of our SensationALL events:

- **SensationALL Dinner Dance** – Friday 8th March at The Chester Hotel. This fabulous evening of dining and entertainment is the highlight of the fundraising calendar. Tickets are £85 per person and includes an arrival drink, an indulgent 3-course dinner, and dancing to the fabulous 'Starsky – Wedding & Event Band'. Plus, there will be fun games and an auction. There are still sponsorship packages available email events@sensationall.org.uk to find out more.

- **Quiz** – join us for a fun evening of questions and trivia! Tuesday 26th March in the newly refurbished Broadstrait Inn. Full details coming soon – email events@sensationall.org.uk to register interest.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for every donation that we receive and to every person who fund-raises for us. Every penny raised goes towards the cost of more sessions, providing emotional and practical support and social opportunities for neurodivergent children and adults.

As ever, we are looking for volunteers, if you can spare a bit of time to help out please get in touch with volunteering@sensationall.org.uk.

Email – info@sensationall.org.uk Website – www.sensationall.org.uk.

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- Artificial Grass Laying
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- Water Pressure Cleaning
- Winter Driveway/Pathway Maintenance
- Gutter Cleaning
- House Exterior Cleaning





Westhill Walkers

Open to all no matter what your age or ability

Well, here we are in 2024 and looking forward to a busy year of walking. We had to cancel a couple of our recent walks due to the bad weather but had excellent days out with a traverse of Bennachie, a visit to the Coyles of Muick, Lord Arthur's Hill and The Gramps. The latter introduced a local walk many of our members had been unaware of.

We walk on alternate Sundays throughout the year with a choice of walks during the summer months. New members will always be made very welcome. 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.

Some forthcoming Sunday walks – all welcome. For more information and to put your name down please contact westhillwalkers@gmail.com.

3 March	Kerloch circuit – 14km
17 March	Tarland to Kincardine O'Neil via Tarland and Deeside Ways – 16km
31 March	Scolty Hill from Banchory – 10-12km
14 April	Cairns of Balmoral circuit – 14km
28 April	The Secret Howff – join the walk to find out where it is! – 16km





FREE

CPR & Defibrillator Awareness

JOIN WESTHILL & DISTRICT DEFIB GROUP ALONG
WITH OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND LEARN
SOME LIFE SAVING SKILLS. ALL AGES WELCOME.

Saturday 18th May 2024

Westhill Community Church

Drop in anytime between 10am - 3pm

♥ Public Access Defibrillator locations in the Westhill Area

Accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week

- McDonald's Westhill (inside to left of counter)
- Premier Inn Westhill (inside at 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 Nisa)
- 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)
- The Happy Barber Mason Lodge (on side wall facing car park)
- Crombie Primary School (on wall to left of main entrance)
- Skene Primary School (on wall to left of main entrance)

Accessible during opening hours only

- Abercrombie Smile Design (inside)
- Abercrombie Dental Practice (inside)
- Marks & Spencer (inside)
- Costco (inside)
- Tesco (inside)
- GPH (inside)
- Banana Moon Day Nursery (inside)
- Screwfix (inside)



**Westhill & District
Defib Group Facebook**



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, home-made soup, hot food, scrumptious home bakes, soft drinks and ice cream are served both from the door and inside, heated by the log burning stove 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**





We've had a productive time over the winter period.

At the end of November, we held our annual family Christmas event which was an afternoon tea with Santa and his elves. Those who attended enjoyed an afternoon tea of scones and homemade cakes with games and activities for young people to enjoy. It was great to see all the families who came to the event.

After Christmas several of our youngsters helped with Christmas tree collections to raise funds for the scout group. Many thanks to those who booked our service. Thanks to you we raised over £500 for our group.

Our youth sections have enjoyed another term of working on badges and developing their skills. This has included trying yoga, conducting experiments

for the scientist badges, wood working/DIY, learning about safety for the home safety badge and lots of our groups have enjoyed haggis, neeps and tattles to celebrate Burns night!

We have a lot to look forward to this year including a trip to watch the Aberdeen Scout Gang show in the middle of March. We have six young people and one adult from Westhill Scout Group taking part in the show which runs from 12 to 16 March at Aberdeen Arts Centre. We also have a family camp planned for May, which is going to have a wild-west theme. Saddle your horses and join the gold rush for a fun weekend!



We are always on the lookout for additional volunteers to help with our scout group including helping with badge records and bookkeeping as well as leaders and assistant leaders. If you would like to get involved, please email gsl@1stwesthillscouts.co.uk.

To keep up to date with our news/or get in touch, see our Facebook page and/or website: www.1stwesthillscouts.co.uk.



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— SPORTS & LEISURE CLUB —

As we commemorate half a century of our Club, we're thrilled to unveil our fresh new brand identity. It's a bold yet thoughtful evolution that perfectly reflects the rich heritage we've built over the decades, while also laying the foundations for the next 50 years.

We're excited for this new chapter in our journey, as we strive to create an even more inclusive and engaging environment for our members. We believe that our fresh brand identity will not only resonate with our existing members, but also attract a new generation of families and sports enthusiasts.

This rebranding is not about changing who we are, but rather, embracing our evolution and the bright future we envision. So, as we celebrate our golden jubilee, we invite you to join us in embracing this exciting transition and to be part of our journey towards the next 50 years of excellence. Book a tour today by visiting kippielodge.co.uk to start your journey in 2024.

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Westhill Library News

Bookbug's Library Challenge 3 February–25 May 2024

Bookbug's Library Challenge is a free initiative that encourages children from 0-5 years to discover and enjoy reading books. Children can collect stamps on a collector's card each time they borrow books or visit the library for an event. When the card is full, they can swap it for a certificate. There are lots of different certificates to collect. The child that collects the most certificates will receive a certificate and prize at the end of the Challenge. So sign up to Bookbug's free fun Library Challenge!

Spotlight on: ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION

Interested in researching your family history? Your library membership gives free access to Ancestry Library Edition on our public network computers. Ancestry is a great resource tool which provides genealogical information including censuses, vital records, immigration records, family histories, military records and court and legal documents.

You can also book an appointment to research points of local interest and family history at our Book to Research sessions. For more information, see the Local Heritage Page on our Live Life Aberdeenshire website: <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/local-heritage>.

Want to find out the latest library news? Please follow us on Facebook. We hope to see you in the library soon.

Opening Times/Contact Info

Tuesday	10am–7pm
Wednesday	10am–7pm
Thursday	10am–6pm
Saturday	9am–1pm

T: 01224 472871

E: westhill.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

W: www.livelifeberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries

What's On?

We have lots of activities coming soon for **Spring into Easter** on 1-13th April including Life Size Board Games, Hama Beads and Lego We-Do Sessions as well as our regular activities:

Scrabble Club for Adults

Wednesdays 10.30am–12pm
Drop in, no booking required

Bookbug for Pre-Schoolers

Thursdays 10.30–11am – weekly
Fridays 2.30–3pm – second and last Friday of each month – Booking essential

Pokemon Club for 5 to 12 year olds

First Saturday of each month, 9.30–11am
Booking essential

Lego Drop In for 5 to 12 year olds

Last Saturday of each month,
9.30am–12pm
Drop in, no booking required

To book and for details of all our activities please visit: www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/ and search for 'Westhill' in Events.

Did you know? You can pick up free food recycling bags, battery recycling bags, dog waste bags and hearing aid batteries (with proof of entitlement) at the library.



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- ✂ **Outdoor work:** gardening, woodland maintenance, composting, bee-keeping
- ✂ **Indoor work:** stripping out, reuse / recycle
- ✂ **Professional-led workshops**
e.g. dry stone walling sessions
- ✂ **Produce Pop-Ups:** firewood & organic food
- ✂ **Join us:** Wed PM / Thu AM / Monthly Sat

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

 Follow us: **@CWTCcompass**

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.**



Compass
Craigton Rd, Cults
Aberdeen AB15 9QD

 Camphill Wellbeing Trust is a business name of Camphill Medical Practice Ltd
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View items for sale in our shop window, listed on our Facebook page and on our online gallery at www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/the-blue-door

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

Please do not leave donations outside the door when we are closed!

The Blue Door raises money for Camphill Wellbeing Trust - a medical charity supporting an extended approach.

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

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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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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Aberdeenshire Council

All Enquiries	0345 6081208
Air Training Corps.....	01224 749151
Ardene House Vets.....	01224 740700
Ashdale Hall	01224 740137
Boys' Brigade	01224 742262

Childcare

Breakfast Club; After School Club; Holiday Club	07770 943723
Schools Out Club (Old School House).....	01224 465202
Church of Scotland Minister ..	01224 745955
Citizens Advice Bureau.....	01224 747714
Community Centre.....	01224 472874
Community Mini-bus.....	07989 637461

Dentists' Surgery

Abercrombie Dental Practice, 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.....	01224 743361
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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Childcare Info	0800 2983330
----------------------	--------------

Playgroups

Scout Hall	07717 442164
Denman Preschool.....	07727 617627
Pharmacy, Porter – Shops.....	01224 742742
Pharmacy, Porter – Surgery ..	01224 279489
Police (non emergency).....	101
or email.....	contactus@scotland.police.uk
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Post Office (Ind Est)	01224 740010

Primary Schools

Crombie.....	01224 472905
Elrick	01224 472910
Skene	01224 472915
Westhill.....	01224 472900
Secondary School, Academy	01224 087850
Scouts.....	01224 746773
Swimming Pool.....	01224 472872
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Westdyke Leisure Centre	01224 743098
Westhill Bowling Club	07562 696193
Westhill Community Church ..	01224 737380
Westhill Men's Shed	01224 917345

**Did we get your
number right?**

**Are you missing
from the list?**

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

westhill.bulletin@gmail.com



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Westhill Swimming Pool

Wet and windy outside and you can't get exercise, no problem.

Your local pool in Westhill would love you to come and join a swim session. The timetable offers something for everyone. From the lane swimmer who powers through to the family who wants to play and increase water confidence. Locals have told us that the deep-water swim is great for their mobility and wellbeing.

Have you looked at our timetable or looked at which sessions you could attend? Our staff can help you find a session that suits your needs. To ensure a place in a session, you can book through our App or website. If you need help with booking, the pool staff can assist.

We are always pleased to see you - you can walk in and often you will get a space during a session. The pool offers a warm sitting area and Wi-Fi while you wait.

We have a suggestion box at reception please help us know your thoughts.

Timetable

(Via Facebook)



Quiet swims – for those who are looking for a quieter session and available for all ages, it is aimed that these sessions are suitable for anyone who does not feel able to attend our busier sessions.

Deep water swim – suitable for anyone who is confident in deep water – this is a 15m length swim.

Tel: 01467 536994 Email: westhill.swimmingpool@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Facebook: @westhillpool



Newly refurbished in Autumn 2023, The Broadstraik Inn has been decorated with lots of Scottish character, giving the place a cosy feel with a modern twist.

LIVE SPORTS

We show a range of live sporting fixtures and events throughout our Bar and Snug areas.



We are dog friendly and welcome your four legged friends in our bar and snug areas, unfortunately they are not permitted in the restaurant

Give the gift of The Broadstraik Inn with a voucher for food and drinks which can be purchased over the phone or by coming in to see us!

The Broadstraik Inn
Straik Road,
Elrick,
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Aberdeenshire,
AB32 6TL

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