

Westhill Bulletin

Autumn 2024

Issue 179



Westhill & Elrick Community Council Nominations Open

Nominations are being sought for Westhill & Elrick Community Council.
(see article on page 4)

Forms must be received by Sunday 8th September 2024 and a ballot will take place on 19th September 2024 in Ashdale Hall, Westhill between 6pm and 8pm, **only** if there are more than 17 nominations.

You can find the nomination forms at [Community council elections - Aberdeenshire Council](#) or by scanning the QR code or email weccsecretx@gmail.com



SCAN ME

A short inaugural meeting of the new Community Council will take place on Thursday 26th September via Zoom, and the first monthly meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn at 7pm on Thursday 10th October.

For further information contact the WECC secretary David Ritchie weccsecretx@gmail.com or phone 07989 637461.

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involved in the
future of your
community?

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

SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

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

Adverts and articles for the winter issue should be sent in by **Friday 1st November**. The Bulletin will be distributed from 28th November.

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

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to:

Bulletin Editor – David Ritchie on 01224 744058 or 07989 637461

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

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

Chair — Vacant

Vice-Chairs

William Munro | Becky Ferguson

Secretary & Bulletin Manager —

weccsecretx@gmail.com | westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

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Tel 07989 637461

Treasurer — treasurerwecc@gmail.com

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Kate Lumsden

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Rachid Meghezzi

Tim Yeomans

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 page 9). 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



At the WECC AGM in June we reflected on the achievements of the last year. The stand-out area has been the fruition of projects to improve the **Paths and Green Spaces** in Westhill. Grant funding of over £400k was received for 3 projects:

- The path between Broadshade Avenue bus turning circle and Westhill Golf Club was formalised and widened. This path is part of the Orbital Trail.
- Restoration/upgrade work on the paths through Carnie Woods – also on the Orbital Trail.
- Transformation of the path network in Denman Park. Two new accessible burn crossings were completed in May and work is ongoing to add around 900m of new paths upgrade some existing paths and provide additional rest areas. This work will be completed soon and we hope to see many residents exploring the new circular paths and through routes, especially wheelchair users who were previously limited to where they could go.

Also, in Denman Park a team of volunteers have been regularly tackling some of the planted areas that the Council's Landscape Services team hasn't been able to get to during the dormant season, following acquisition of power tools financed by another grant. The volunteers do the pruning and Landscape Services dispose of the waste. We plan to do more this coming autumn/winter.

We hope residents are once again enjoying the display of hanging baskets and planters at the green wall at the shopping centre. The plants are supplied by Aberdeenshire Council and planted by the team of Green Spaces volunteers.

WECC and Rotary volunteers continue to organize litter picking sessions round the town once or twice per month. Some of these volunteers also go out regularly themselves, all doing their bit to keep Westhill tidy. If you would like to get involved in any of these initiatives, please get in touch.

Community Action Plan

There was a Westhill Community Action Plan Stakeholders meeting with Aberdeenshire Council in June, the themes discussed were Outdoors, Green Transport, Sports and Recreation, Facilities, Community Activities and Young Peoples Voices. The discussion resulted in a number of actions and projects to be carried out by WECC working in conjunction with a number of external partners. Details of this will be in the Plan that is now being finalised.

Your chance to influence

As reported in the Summer Bulletin, Aberdeenshire Council has now set a universal election date for all community councils. The current WECC members were elected in May 2023 and previously would have served for 3 years, but will now need to face re-election in September. More details on this are on the front cover and on page 4. You may have seen some of the publicity about the elections, put out by Aberdeenshire Council.

We hope that this will stimulate interest from members of the community with an interest in issues that affect the community, particularly those listed in the Community Action Plan. We would also like to see more representation from people with young families. We recognise that everyone leads busy lives, but apart from a meeting once a month on the second Thursday evening, everything else is optional. Members find that they can take on roles and tasks to suit their own interests, skills and experience and generally find that they get a lot out of being a member of the Community Council.

It is a self-nomination process, for anyone age 16 or over, the closing date for nominations is 8th September.

Community Council Elections 2024

In 2024, Community Council elections are changing and for the first time all Aberdeenshire Community Councils will be elected on the same date, with nominations sought for all spaces on all Community Councils.

Nominations to join your Community Council will open on **19 August 2024** and close on **8 September 2024**.

Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make them a better place to live. We hope that previous members will want to continue representing their communities but are also keen to encourage new people to become involved and give up some of their time to sustain and develop their communities. Whatever your background, you have something to bring to your Community Council.

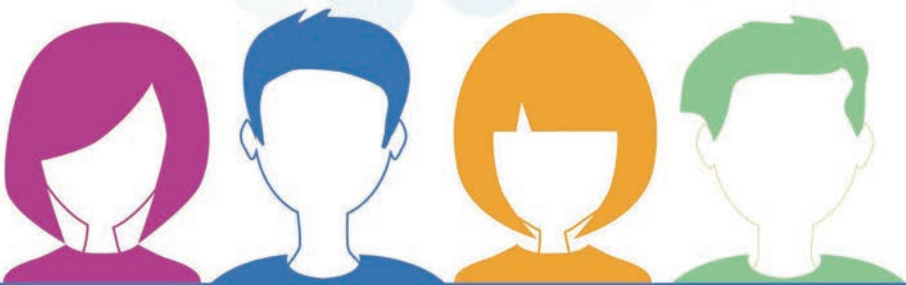
If there are not enough candidates to meet the minimum numbers to form the Community Council, a Community Council will not be able to be formed and this will leave a considerable gap in the representation of local views and involvement in development of policy and how your area develops and grows.

As a Community Councillor you will be provided with training and support and you will learn about how things work, get to develop and undertake projects and get a real sense of achievement when you see the difference you can make.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor you can find the nomination forms at [Community council elections – Aberdeenshire Council](#) or by scanning the QR code or email weccsecretx@gmail.com



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WARD 13 COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Iris Walker



Cllr. Ron McKail



Cllr. Fatima Joji



Cllr. Craig Miller

Joint Report

As a new approach, we have prepared a joint report for this Bulletin.

We would like to hear from you, the local residents, on what topics you would like us to talk about in these quarterly Bulletins. We always have our own ideas but to make this more inclusive and useful for you we are soliciting your input – please contact any of us with the details provided at end of this article, and we shall endeavour to incorporate appropriate suggestions.

Westhill Groups Looking for Funding?

Constituted groups in Westhill looking to fund a community project might like to consider applying to the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund for grants up to £5,000. Projects which fulfil the application criteria include:

Improving the appearance and maintenance of their area. Community health initiatives. Promoting community-based initiatives including energy efficiency. Help local groups to meet the needs of their community. Tap into the talent and resources that exist locally.

The deadline for applications is **20th October 2024**.

To apply and to access guidance enter 'www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/funding/garioch/#aifund' into your search engine.

Theft of motor vehicles without forced entry or use of a car key is on the Increase

Recently Mark Irvine of Police Scotland's Grampian Division circulated information through his Neighbourhood Watch platform that 'relay theft' highlighted how cars can be stolen which operate with keyless entry. Equally concerning is that the theft of motor vehicles without forced entry is on the increase. We suspect that a large number of Bulletin readers open their car door without placing a key in the lock.

Car thieves use an electronic device to relay the signal broadcast between the contactless key and the car. The car is tricked into thinking the key is close and unlocks the door. Typically, the relay device only needs to be within 10-15 metres of the key to work. The car will continue to run without the key until the engine is turned off.

Avoiding Relay Theft

- Use a Faraday box (a Faraday box is made of conductive material that shields its contents from electromagnetic fields) to block any signal being sent or received by your car keys and get into the habit of always putting your keys in such a box when you return home.
- Make sure your spare key is also stored in a Faraday box or wallet.
- Store your keys far away from your car in a fully enclosed metal box.
- Never store your vehicle keys next to the front door.

Councillor Surgeries

Cllr. Iris Walker holds her surgeries on the first Saturday of each month at Westhill Library from 10.00-11.00. The next dates are Saturday 7 September and Saturday 5 October.

Cllr. Craig Miller and Cllr. Ron McKail hold joint surgeries on the second Saturday of each month at Westhill Library from 10.00 to 11.00. The next dates are Saturday 14 September and Saturday 12 October.

No appointments are necessary, but to avoid waiting time you can contact us ahead of time to book a specific time if that is more convenient for you.

Cllr. Iris Walker | Tel. 07876 475272 | email cllr.i.walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Ron McKail | Tel. 01224 742095 | email cllr.r.mckail@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Fatima Joji | Tel. 07787 95531 | email cllr.f.joji@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Craig Miller | Tel. 07788 187521 | email cllr.c.miller@aberdeenshire.gov.uk | Facebook: [Craig4Westhill](https://www.facebook.com/Craig4Westhill)



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy

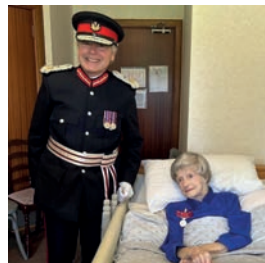
The Lord-Lieutenant's Update August 2024

The Lieutenancy team continue to have the honour and pleasure of participating in a number of memorable events and celebrations across Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy.



British Empire Medal for Edna Edmonds

It was an honour to present Edna Edmonds with the British Empire Medal in July. Edna received her award in the King's Birthday Honours in June. Edna, a remarkable lady, was organist at Skene Parish Church for 70 years. She played inspiring and moving music at countless services including many weddings and funerals, never letting anyone down and making an incredible contribution to the life of the church over so many decades. The presentation took place among many family and friends at Annesley Care Home in Torphins.



Raising the Aberdeenshire Flag at Elrick School

Mrs Jean Haslam DL was delighted to attend an Aberdeenshire Flag Raising event at Elrick Primary School. The flag was raised by Tristan Davidson (joint winner of the Aberdeenshire Flag competition last year) and is a wonderful legacy for him to leave the school as he moves on from P7 to Westhill Academy after the summer holidays.

In 2022 a competition was launched to design a flag for Aberdeenshire. Pupils from Newtonhill Primary School near Stonehaven were the winners. However, judges took inspiration from Tristan Davidson's entry to add an all-important finishing touch – the crown. Tristan had also designed a flag with a castle in the centre – but had adorned it with the crown to represent the area's royal links.

The Aberdeenshire flag is a mix of purple and gold, with a castle in the middle bearing the image of a crown. The castle is symbolic of the many castles situated around Aberdeenshire (the county has been nicknamed "Scotland's Castle Country", being home to more than 260 castles). Also, together with the crown, the castle can also specifically represent the royal residence of Balmoral Castle. The gold stands for Aberdeenshire's fields of ripe barley (and the whisky produced from it), while the purple stands for the heather-covered mountains of the county.

One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from The King and myself to those celebrating their 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th Birthdays. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website. <https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/>

With best wishes, Sandy Manson – *His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire*



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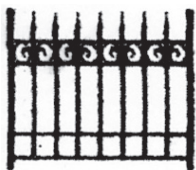
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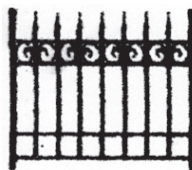
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Charges are £15 per day for 1 to 2 days, then £5 per day for each additional day, or £45 for one week. Transportation available at £10 each way.

For more information and to book the scaffold, call/text **David Ritchie** on **07989 637461**.

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Cala Homes puts community at the heart of Burnland Meadows development

With Cala's Burnland Meadows development coming to life, their Community Pledge initiative also sees them create a bespoke plan of community support for the local area.



Cala Homes housebuilding talk at Westhill Primary School



A typical Cala showhome promoting Cala's vision of a better future

Burnland Meadows' five-bedroom Macrae showhome, implements their 'Showhome Of Support', which showcases ten local products inside, highlighting some fantastic local businesses. Visitors will find products from brands such as Singularity, Seal Ceramics, West End Chocolates, Daisy Chain and Pretty Little Ladybird Crafts, to name a few.

In recent months, Cala have been working closely with Westhill Primary School to show pupils how Burnland Meadows has been created from the planning stages to

homebuyers being welcomed into their new homes.

P7 pupils enjoyed an interactive Land to Life session with Eleanor Jack, Land Assistant at Cala, which covered some of the history of their community, fun facts about the Westhill area and an in depth look at how they discover new locations to build neighbourhoods of family homes.

Cala will be implementing further initiatives under its Community Pledge as Burnland Meadows grows.

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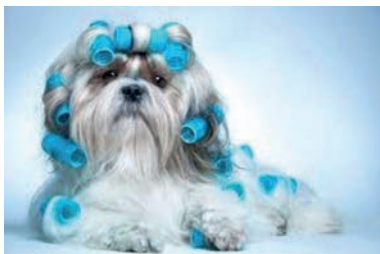


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Out & About



Lazy Sunday

We organised and hosted another very successful "Lazy Sunday" in Westhill on 9th June. A huge crowd enjoyed picnics, entertainment and funfair stalls and the weather was kind to us during the afternoon.



Youth and Schools

May and June saw us organise multiple competitions for local schools, including young photographer, young artist and young speaker. Once again, our youngsters displayed an awesome range of talent and ability. Our Rotakids continue to be involved in community projects including self-organised litter picks.

Many congratulations to Amy Dempster of P5A at Westhill Primary School on winning the National Junior prize at the Young Photographer competition of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland! The theme of the competition was 'Rebuilding' and Amy took a photo of the regeneration of Carnie Woods, following the destruction by Storm Arwen in 2021.

Amy was presented with her winner's trophy by Ash Major, President of Rotary in Westhill and District.

Community

Our Rotarians continue to be seen out and about in Westhill and further afield lending a hand with community projects and events. This has included assisting Westhill & Elrick Community council with repairs to the Westhill Orbital Trail, putting up hanging baskets at the shopping centre green wall, maintaining the Westhill Welcome Stone and of course our regular litter picks. We've also been assisting at Echt Show, Aboyne Highland games and providing funfair stalls at Crathes car Rally, Culter and Banchory shows.

Pétanque Court

Westhill & District Rotary are pleased to confirm the completion of the Pétanque Court located in front of the Denman Park pavilion. This has been made possible with support from the Aberdeenshire Council and Miller Plant. Whilst landscaping is still ongoing, the court is now open for the community to use.

In order to take advantage of the pavilion, it is envisaged a pétanque club should be formed to allow members a base to play socially and to take part in competitions within the North East of Scotland.

Anyone interested in forming a club or just being a member of a pétanque club should register their interest with David Dent, davidwdent25@gmail.com in the first instance.

Any Rotary clubs looking for a game of pétanque with Westhill Rotary, should contact Pushp Vaid pushpvaid@gmail.com.

Well-Being Classes

One of our members, Pushp Vaid, has initiated an invigorating well-being class every Tuesday from 10am to 11am at the Bowling Club in Westhill.

Discover the secrets to a balanced, joyful life as we guide you through exercises and practices designed to boost your health and happiness. Connect with like-minded individuals and become part of a supportive community focused on holistic well-being.

For more details or to sign up, reach out to Pushp at pushpvaid@gmail.com.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary and give something back to the community either by becoming a Rotary member or simply to lend a hand with some of our projects, then please get in touch – Secretary@Westhill.rotary1010.org or take a look at our Facebook page facebook.com/westhillrotary.



BILL'S GARDENING CORNER

It is just a case of win some and lose some; take note of what you don't have growing and what you do have growing and look around at others with nothing.

Some folks are groaning where has our summer gone, others are looking forward to autumn with all the different glowing colours. Embrace this time of year and get out your camera. Take snaps of the trees and clusters of different plants and heathers, mounds of falling leaves in different and weird shapes.

Don't forget to bag leaves and put them into the compost heap, turn it over every week to help it to decay and crumble, ready for putting on the garden.

One thing I can say is my grass has grown twice as quick this year.

Enjoy your garden, no matter what comes up.

Bill

SPEAR Physiotherapy says.....

Back packs come in all sorts of designs, shapes and sizes. Carrying heavy back packs including school bags can be the cause of back and neck pain, shoulder problems and poor posture.

So if your child is taking a back pack to school or you are using it for hill walking or just carrying the shopping here are 5 top tips when choosing a back pack.

1. Make sure the back pack is the right size; no wider than the chest and no lower than the hollow in the back
2. The frame of the bag should mould to the spine
3. The bag should be light weight and have padded straps
4. Adjustable waist and shoulder straps
5. Separate compartments to allow for easy weight distribution

To carry the back pack

1. Pack the heaviest items closest to the spine and ensure the zips are done all the way up to keep the contents close to the spine
2. Always wear a strap on each shoulder
3. The back pack should weigh no more than 10-15% of the person's body weight
4. Adjust the shoulder straps so the back pack is high on your back. The pack should not extend past your waist
5. The back pack shouldn't swing from side to side when walking.

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'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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Sustainable Travel

– Tips for Responsible Travel



I haven't been away over this last period between issues. I thought I would share some tips on Sustainable Travel with you. I'm inspired by some of my customers' questions about reducing their travel plans' impact on the environment.

Geographically, we are slightly disadvantaged if we wish to travel abroad sustainably. Direct flights are not always an option, and travelling by rail can reduce the time spent in the destination. However, I wouldn't write rail travel off completely. A train journey can be just as much part of the holiday as sitting back and taking in the views.

Not only does sustainable travel help protect the environment, but it also allows you to experience new cultures and destinations more authentically. Here are some tips on how you can ensure you have a positive impact on the people you meet and places you visit while also having a more enjoyable holiday.

BUY LOCAL – Buying local means the money you spend on holiday stays in the local economy.

Book excursions using local companies and guides.

When you arrive, try to buy locally made souvenirs and go to local bars, cafés and restaurants to eat local specialities, often prepared with locally grown fresh produce.

BUY GREEN – Choose public transport where possible or cycle or walk.

Bring eco-friendly suntan cream, mosquito repellent, and other toiletries with you – especially if you are going swimming or exploring off the beaten track. When I visited Mauritius, I was surprised to learn that some sunscreen is unsuitable for marine environments.

Avoid any souvenirs made from shells, coral or endangered species.

KEEP YOUR FOOTPRINT SMALL – We all do our part at home to manage the amount of rubbish we produce and our water and energy use.

Take a refillable water bottle with you; many hotels now have water stations where you can refill it.

Pack a couple of reusable, foldable bags for shopping.

If there are recycling facilities, be sure to use them.

RESPECT LOCAL CULTURE AND WILDLIFE – Learning a few words of the local language (hello and thank you as a minimum) is always appreciated. It's usually polite to ask permission before taking photographs of people.

Be wary of excursions that involve animals in captivity or interaction with wild animals (such as elephant rides or swimming with dolphins). Opt for wildlife tours with qualified guides where you can see animals in their natural habitats.

These tips will stand you in good stead wherever you travel. However, for more specific destination advice or simply to discuss your travel plans, contact me via the ad on page 76 or follow me on Facebook/Instagram for updates.

Heather Reynolds, Travel Counsellors

WESTHILL SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

I hope the end of the summer turned out to be warmer and drier than the start of it!

We have had the summer off and raring to go on THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

We meet in the Hall at the back of Trinity Church on Ashdale Drive from 2pm to 3.30pm. We have entertainment for an hour then refreshments (please bring your own cup). Please note that parking may be limited due to ongoing building work at the back of the Hall.

Our Programme to October

Thursday 5th September – the Drama Wifies

Thursday 19th September – Once Upon a Tune

Thursday 3rd October – Banchory Country Dancers

Thursday 17th October – Singer and Accordionist

The cost will be £25 (to December 2024).

We are very sorry to see that dial-a-bus are now finishing running at 2.30pm – which will impact on our Seniors getting home. We normally have 10 Seniors using dial-a-bus at our fortnightly meetings. We have still to resolve this issue.

If you would like any further information please contact: **Heather Cook** on 01224 741194 heathercook@tiscali.co.uk or **Mika McKenzie** on 01224 742004.

Charity No. SC014265

APPEAL FOR CLOTHING DONATIONS

A huge thank you to each and every one of you who has given so generously in response to our call for clothing for the service users in the Hampton by Hilton Hotel – you are stars, and your donations have made such a difference to the lives of these young men who are so far from home and in such need. It is such a witness to the kindness and compassion that exists in our community.

Currently, we are especially in need of *men's jackets, sweatshirts/hoodies/fleeces, jeans, boxers, socks, trainers and backpacks.*

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We are looking to support the male asylum seekers housed in our community with **LIGHTLY USED or NEW CLOTHING** donations.

- ❖ Jackets (S/M/L) [URGENT]
- ❖ Sweatshirts, hoodies & fleeces (S/M/L) [URGENT]
- ❖ T-shirts (S/M/L)
- ❖ Jeans & shorts (S/M/L)
- ❖ Trainers
- ❖ Underwear & Socks (New)
- ❖ Backpacks



If you require any further information about this ministry or if you work for or have a business who would be keen to partner with us in any way, please contact sandramcgregor@westhillcommunitychurch.org.

**Donations can be dropped off at Westhill Community Church (Tues-Sat 10am-3pm)
or at Trinity Church, Westhill Drive (Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-12pm)**

If you would wish to support this work by giving a financial donation, details of how to do so can be found on www.kingshillparish.com/asylum-seekers.html.



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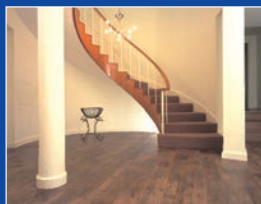
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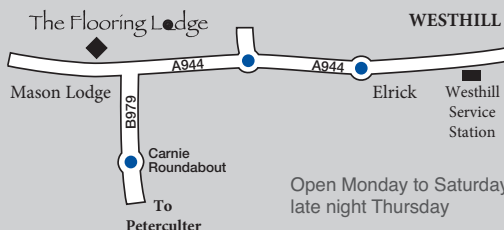
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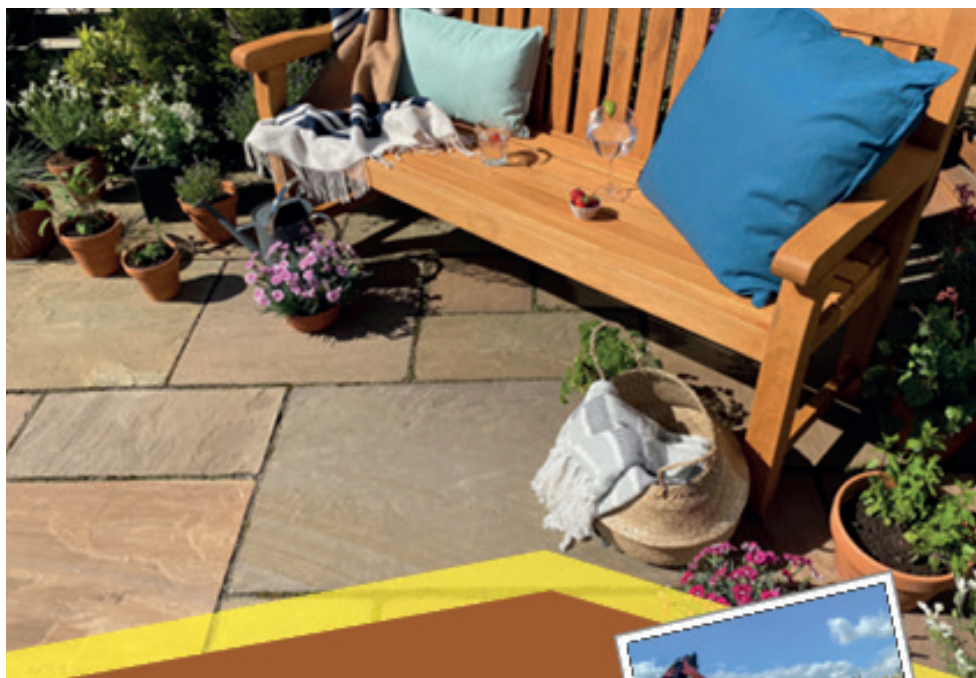
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Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene

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 and Wednesday evenings. Phone Chief Instructor Dave Bremner: 07970 188825. See advert on page 62.
- 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.
- Mindful Movement with Qi-gong, Tuesday 7-8pm and occasional weekend dates.

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.

We held the Fizzy Flycup at Skene Hall on 11th May, it was a beautiful day and we raised the fantastic amount of £3089, thank you to everyone that attended.

A relaxation class was held at Peterculter Church Hall and all proceeds from the event came to the Skene Fundraising Committee – £355.

We had a stall at the Echt Agricultural Show on 13th July, amount raised has still to be confirmed.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 28th September 2024 in Lyne of Skene Hall 10am–12 noon, please come along** and see us. If you are intending to hold your own or office Macmillan Coffee morning please contact us. If you give the money you raise to the Skene Fundraising Committee we can ensure the proceeds will remain in the Aberdeenshire/Aberdeen area.

Please follow us on Facebook – [Skene Fundraising Committee-Macmillan Cancer Support](#) to read about these events 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**



ASHDALE HALL (WESTHILL DRIVE)

HALL NEWS

Our Kids Disco in June was a great success in raising extra funds for the Hall.

LAZY SUNDAY

The Lazy Sunday on June 9th in the afternoon was a great success.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning more fundraising this year including another 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.

CRAFT FAIR

There will be a Christmas Craft Fair on Sunday 24th November 10am-4pm for which we are taking advance bookings at £20 a table space.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Please contact the Hall if you are interested in finding out more about being involved.

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.

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

Our monthly market is held in the Hall's front car park and we have a variety of stallholders selling fish, shellfish, 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 the next page and 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.

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

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



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

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

ASHDALE HALL SEPTEMBER CLASS TIMETABLE

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

Monday

0930 to 1015 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1030 to 1115 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1130 to 1230 – Zumba Gold – Main Hall – 07891 000836
1400 to 1500 – Abricabeats – Main Hall – 07960 443299
1500 to 1700 – **Free to book for classes or badminton/pickleball**
1745 to 1830 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1845 to 1930 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1945 to 2045 – Badminton (private term time) – Main Hall

Tuesday

0800 to 1000 – **Free to book for classes or badminton/pickleball**
1000 to 1200 – Pickleball (private) – Main Hall
1200 to 1530 – **Free to book for classes or badminton/pickleball**
1545 to 1800 – Baby Ballet – Main Hall
1815 to 1915 – Choi Kwang Do – Main Hall – hello@westhillckd.org
1930 to 2045 – Badminton (private) – Main Hall

Wednesday

0900 to 1000 – Zumba – Main Hall – 07729 622489
1030 to 1130 – Soulsa with Tammy – Main Hall – tammym2786@gmail.com
1130 to 1300 – **Free to book for classes or badminton/pickleball**
1330 to 1430 – Badminton (private) – Main Hall
1600 to 1700 – Pam Dignan Dancers – Main Hall
1730 to 1845 – Kuk Sol Won – Main Hall – 07983 981172
1915 to 2045 – Line Dancing – Main Hall – (term time)

Thursday

0800 to 0900 – **Free to book for classes or badminton/pickleball**
0930 to 1730 – Footstars – Main Hall – 9.30am–12pm, 2–2.45pm, 4–5.30pm –
<http://www.footstars.co.uk>
1800 to 1900 – Choi Kwang Do – Main Hall – hello@westhillckd.org
1915 to 2115 – Badminton (private) – Main Hall – Spaces available for players

Friday

0830 to 0915 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
0930 to 1015 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1030 to 1115 – Matwork Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
1130 to 1600 – **Free to book classes, badminton/pickleball or parties/events. Except the 2nd Friday of every month due to Monthly Tea Dance 1.30-3.30pm.**

Saturday

0900 to 1200 – Rugby tots – Main Hall – 07970 690204
Free from 1600 for parties and events

Sunday

1000 to 1300 – Higher Ground Assembly – Main Hall
Free to book for parties and events after 1400

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

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SKENE MEDICAL GROUP – UPDATE

As I write this, it appears that the long awaited summer may have arrived and, as a result, everyone seems just a wee bit happier. This has provided a bit of welcome relief at a time where there are very few, if any, good news stories surrounding the NHS. Here at Skene Medical Group, we continue to appreciate the support and understanding of the vast majority of our patients with respect to the ongoing significant challenges faced by Primary Care. We continue to face some challenges that are present at a national level and others which are unique to Skene. Patients will have been aware that, in the last 12 months, following the departure of Dr Chris Mercer we have seen both Dr Kathleen N'Dow and Dr Joanne Currie retire after many years of sterling service, and all are being missed by both their patients and colleagues alike. I will retire at the end of September, meaning that four of the partners will have left within the space of 13 months.

The good news is that this week we welcomed Dr Luisa Ashman and Dr Graeme Harrison to the Practice. They will be followed by Dr David Garioch who will join us as a partner at the end of September. David has worked intermittently at the Practice over the last couple of years as many of you will know. We consider ourselves very fortunate in having been able to recruit at a time where medical manpower is possibly the most significant threat to practice sustainability. Those of us who have recently left, or are about to leave, are therefore very happy that the Practice is in extremely safe hands going forward.

There are wider challenges around general practice funding, and these are very eloquently explained in a letter from the Grampian Local Medical Committee which is currently available to read on the Practice Website. I would encourage patients to have a look at this as it explains why we are facing some of the significant resource challenges and how these have evolved over time. In particular, here at Skene, we have only received 65% of the resource that should be allocated to us as part of the new GP Contract Improvement Programme. In particular, we should have a full time Urgent Care Nurse Practitioner who can help with house calls and “on the day emergency activity”, but, unfortunately, we have not had such an individual since well before the pandemic.

Patients will be aware of the 8am telephone log jam that affects most GP surgeries. NHS Grampian is changing certain aspects of its IT system, and one very important change will be the loss of our current, dedicated, “non switchboard” number. This means that **all** outgoing calls from Skene Medical Group will come from NHS Grampian's central switchboard and will be prefixed 03. It is vital, therefore, that patients' telephones can accept 03 numbers in the future. This may be an issue for patients whose telephones block so-called “**no caller ID**” incoming calls.

The final challenge that we continue to face, and the one which is unique to Skene Medical Group, is that of the provision of medical care to the residents of the Hampton by Hilton hotel. As patients will be aware, this is part of the UK Government initiative to accommodate individuals whose requests for asylum are currently being processed. These are individuals often with very traumatic personal experiences and complex medical needs and who mostly require interpreter services when interacting with the Primary Healthcare Team. This obviously takes more time and hence has an impact on appointment availability. Many local community groups and churches provide excellent support for this population, and at the Practice, we strive to provide the same level of medical care as we would to any other individual within our Practice catchment area. This has, however, created a significant

additional administrative and clinical workload for the Practice. There is no increased clinical provision, and it has come at a time where sustainability was already a very real issue. Due to factors out-with the control of NHS Grampian and, indeed, Aberdeenshire Council, this is the only such accommodation in Aberdeenshire and therefore, the entire workload falls upon Skene Medical Group, unlike in the city where several practices will share the workload. We can assure patients that we have highlighted this repeatedly to the appropriate management structures within the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership and, indeed, our elected representatives. This is an ongoing issue and we very much hope to secure some form of increased clinical input to help manage the situation and, once again, we are grateful for the understanding of all parties at this particularly stressful time.

As someone who will very soon join the ranks of Skene Medical Group patients as opposed to staff, I am confident that my health needs will be in very capable hands going forward. The news that Dr Stuart Reary who, until recently, has been the Director of Primary Care in Grampian, is now moving to a job as GP Advisor to Scottish Government, reassures me that the particular issues around the provision of general practice in the North East of Scotland will be highlighted at national level and hopefully some of the long-standing inequities will be addressed.

Let's hope that by the time this article is published, the weather is as impressive as it is today.

Best Wishes

Gary Ritchie – *On behalf of the partners and staff of Skene Medical Group*



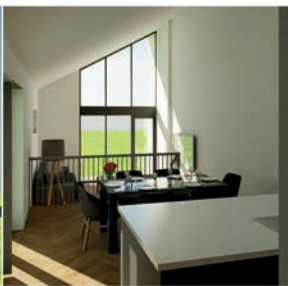
Tax on Rental Properties

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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Westhill Chapter

Our volunteers have been busy over the last couple of months offering **FREE** rides in the fresh air in our unique e-Trishaws for the elderly and people of all ages with limited mobility and/or disabilities.

Recent trips have included passengers from the Westhill & Elrick Community including

- **SensationALL**
- **Westhill Senior Citizens Group**
- **Pitcairn Nursing Home**

Our Trishaws take up to two passengers at a time. Typically rides last 45 minutes to an hour. We work closely with care homes, other official organisations and groups and individuals.

Safety is our priority; all our Pilots are fully trained.



We are looking for volunteers who like helping people and being outdoors in our local community. **YOU** can get involved as a volunteer pilot in this amazing form of cycling and make a real difference.

Trishaw Pilot is the cyclist who is responsible for all aspects of preparing for, conducting a ride, and completing post-ride duties.

Trishaw Co-Pilot accompanies Trishaw rides using their own bike or one provided by the Chapter. Their role is to help passengers to board and disembark the Trishaw, ride alongside the Trishaw, and provide general help when needed.

Trishaw Co-Passenger accompanies a passenger undertaking a Trishaw ride, provides a befriending role and ensures that the passenger gets maximum enjoyment and is comfortable and safe throughout the ride.

Your commitment could be as little as a few hours per month to suit your schedule or more if you like; full training will be given to those interested. Please contact us by email westhill-cwas@outlook.com.

If you are part of a group who looks after people with mobility issues or want more information, please do contact us.



WESTHILL BOWLING CLUB

Here we are in August after a great summer of sport. The Euros, the Olympics and some great bowling at Westhill. Perhaps the summer didn't live up to expectations but I can't recall too much play being lost to rain but it was cold some days.

We can't dwell on the weather. We can affect what happens on the bowling green, where we have had some external successes and some disappointments. It is a little too early to report the internal season. We are only at the semi final stage of our club competitions.

On the wider bowling scene, for a second year we missed out on winning the Bon Accord fours league with Kittybrewster retaining their title. We will be back in 2025 looking to take back our crown. We are the semi final stage of the Bob Accord Top Ten where we play Balgownie with a final place against Northern or Abergeldie up for grabs. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this we will have been successful in this competition.

In other competitions, following on from our victory of 2023 we successfully defended the Barclay Harvey Trophy. The early rounds of the competition are played against other clubs all over the North East of Scotland. The final was held on the Banchory Green where we met Laurencekirk. We saw them off to lift the silverware again. Well done to our team of Craig Burnett, Gary Forbes, Paul Reilly, Dave Mackie, Scott Runcie and Dave Farquharson.



Barclay Harvey Trophy winners



Local Area 4s winners



National Championship at Ayr

The trophy itself is a magnificent piece of silverware, too valuable to be on general display so it went back to its place of safe keeping immediately after the presentation.

Our Over 55 Fours team of Dave Farquharson, Gary Forbes, Bob Mutch and Paul Reilly won the local Bowls Scotland area championship and went on to compete in the Scottish National Championships at Ayr. Paul was unavailable for Ayr with Stewart Forbes taking his place. After some early success we were eventually squeezed out by the tightest of margins by the eventual winners, Westend of Stranraer. Congratulations to them.

By the time you are reading this our annual Westhill Open Fours event will have passed (held on Sunday 18th of August). The event is over the whole day; starting at 10.00am and finishing about 6.30pm. Teams from across the North East of Scotland will be competing for a cash prize and a trophy and need feeding and watering throughout the day. We are, once again, grateful to Garry Smith and ABERBUILD for their continued sponsorship of the event.

Westhill Bowling Club are honoured that one of our members, David Cobban-Shaw, has been appointed as the Junior Vice President of the Bon Accord Bowling Association. David will progress to be Vice President next year and President for 2026. Congratulations David.

Bowling is a sport enjoyed by all ages and all abilities. If you would like to try, please get in touch and we can arrange a taster session. We have plenty equipment available.

Please contact robert.mutch@btinternet.com or telephone 07562 696193.



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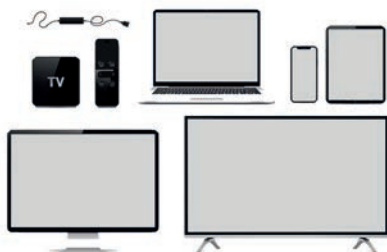
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SJP15020c_DS BI (07/24)

Westhill and District Gardening Club

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

We are always happy to welcome new members who wish to learn more about gardening and nature related activities in the local area and the wider world too.

In June we visited Springhill community garden in Aberdeen, and recently enjoyed a trip to Gordon Castle gardens in Fochabers.

We resume on Wednesday 18th September with a talk from Sandra Hunter about weaving.

On Wednesday 16th October we welcome Jimmy McRae who will tell us about the plants and culture of India.

On Wednesday 20th November Gary Carroll from the Fire and Rescue Dogs will be joining us with his furry friends.

If you would like any information on the gardening club, please contact:
Press Officer – Ann Westwood at ann1.westwood@btinternet.com

Scottish Action for Mental Health

The charity SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health) has recently expanded its team for suicide prevention in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray, more than doubling the number of dedicated team members working in the field. Among the new additions include two Community Engagement Officers for Aberdeenshire, with Mike Taylor responsible for South Aberdeenshire and a portion of Central Shire. The priority areas for the Grampian team include:

- Empowering communities to have open and honest conversations around suicide
- Improving support for bereaved people and communities
- Working alongside people with lived experience
- Supporting children and young people

Mike Taylor, Community Engagement officer, said: “We want to work with as many organisations, colleges, businesses and more to encourage conversations around mental health and suicide prevention.

“We want to remove the stigma facing people with mental health problems, and bring down the barriers for those seeking support. With 1 in 20 people thinking about suicide at any one time, it's something that can touch any of us. Suicide prevention is everybody's business.”

Community Engagement officers can provide training free of charge to adults or young people, delivered either face-to-face or digitally. The team can also provide resources to be displayed in staff areas or at events, and have a free app, providing up-to-date resources and signposting for people in crisis.

September 10th will mark World Suicide Prevention Day with the theme “Changing the narrative – starting the conversation.” This day will provide a crucial moment to discuss suicide and open the conversation nationally, but it's important to note that suicide, and the challenges that can arise from it, require community collaboration all year round. See <https://www.iasp.info/wspd/> for more details.

To discuss receiving free suicide prevention training, or for more information, email Mike at michael.taylor@samh.org.uk. You can also use the QR code here to download the Prevent Suicide Northeast Scotland app.





Community Action Plan for Kirkton of Skene

Update Autumn 2024

There has been progress on most of the issues identified through the CAP residents' consultation:

Paths – Skene Paths Group has been established, currently comprising seven residents. Several potential path projects have been suggested. A scoping exercise is being undertaken on each of these, to identify which projects might be taken forward.

If you would like to join the group, please contact us via the email below.

Traffic and road safety – The Road Safety Unit of Aberdeenshire Council will shortly undertake a safety review of Kirkton of Skene. The unit has been briefed on the specific concerns which were raised through the CAP residents' consultation.

Public spaces – To stimulate some ideas on how we might improve the appearance of our village, we have approached Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment at Robert Gordon University. The school is keen to get involved. It proposes to hold a 'brainstorming' day with staff, students and Skene residents. Please email us if you are interested in getting involved – the date has not yet been set.

Playground facilities – The Reverend Stella Campbell was our lead for this topic, linking with Skene School. Her departure from Kirkton of Skene means that the CAP steering group will need another volunteer to take this forward. If you can help with this, please contact us via the email below.

Keeping in touch – If you have any questions/comments, or would like to get involved, please email us on KirktonOfSkeneCAP@gmail.com.

Kirkton of Skene CAP Steering Group

Westhill Photography Club meet at the Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene from 7-9pm on a Thursday evening, from August to May. We are a friendly Club that welcome all levels of photographers from beginners to enthusiastic amateurs. Whatever the level, there is always someone there to lend a helping hand.



We have an exciting new programme planned for the months ahead, including indoor workshops, outdoor meets and talks designed to engage, inspire and challenge our members.

As well as our regular meetings we often plan trips further afield. Earlier this year we spent a weekend photographing the beautiful towns and villages of the Moray Coast. Deeside has also been a favourite for day trips.

We are always looking for new members and offer taster sessions where you can come along to the Club for a few weeks before committing to a membership. If this sounds like something you would enjoy please email Westhill.Photography@outlook.com.





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1st SKENE COMPANY THE BOYS' BRIGADE

This year our session ended with a farewell party for Rev Stella. The Juniors had sailing on the Loch of Skene – courtesy of SPLASH whilst Company section had a walk up Scolty hill. Over the summer break we had a camp at Monymusk where the boys enjoyed hill walking and mountain biking followed by a hike and overnight camp.

Our new session starts on Friday 30th August. 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 Tennis Club

The summer has meant that the courts at Denman Park have been well utilised over the last few months with our coaching proving very popular over the summer while our social tennis sessions for adults continue.

August is the month where we substantially reduce our membership fees and this year is no different.

Our half-year rates are: *Adult – £45, Couple – £75, Family – £85, Student – £25, Junior (11-17 years) – £15, Child (10 and under on 31st March 2024) – £10.*

Packages can be found at:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WesthillLawnTennisClub/Membership/Join>.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free court time for members with online booking sheet
- Social tennis sessions for adults on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm and Saturdays from 2pm
- Coaching opportunities for all members and organised coaching sessions for minis and juniors from a qualified coach
- Entry to the Wimbledon Ticket Ballot
- Social events throughout the season

Our men and ladies have been in action again this season in the North East of Scotland Summer Leagues with the fixtures due to end late August.

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

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[WesthillLawnTennisClub](#)

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Enjoy your tennis! 🎾





WESTHILL AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

make friends, share interests and help our community

RIP Bob Paton

Sadly our chairman, Bob Paton died of cancer in July. He was a very nice guy, always willing to help and with a surprising surge of energy whenever it was needed. We are missing him.

Raffle

There will be a Men's Shed raffle this year, every address in Westhill and surrounds will get a raffle book delivered. We would appreciate you buying a ticket to help the Shed – through funds like this we can keep the lights on and continue to help the community.

We held the second tool sale of the year and raised £1200. Also, the satisfaction of mending things that were broken and making items in the wood shop. Many of them for schools.

Projects in the Wood Shop

We were donated a metal Westhill sign and decided to build it into a bench. The picture shows it completed. It was donated to the shopping centre and is now in front of the shops. The gun metal finish to the stove enamelled metal parts always looks very smart.



Westburn Bowling Club Benches

Westburn Bowling Club needed their benches refurbished. They are big and took a lot of work.



Denman Pre-school

Denman Pre-school visited the Shed and asked them if they could build a fort, tepee and picnic table.



Opening Times

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

Why not come along to the Shed and consider joining us – it is free and you will be helping the community.

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

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Aberdeen Curling Club

CURLING – a sport for you?

Curling, often referred to as 'chess on ice' is a unique and strategic sport that has captivated audiences worldwide. Originating in Scotland, curling involves sliding granite stones along a sheet of ice towards a target called 'the house'. Players use brooms to sweep the ice in front of the stone, influencing its speed and direction. This seemingly simple yet intricate sport requires precision, teamwork and tactical prowess.

Aberdeen Curling Club (ACC) is one of many clubs which play at the superb facility Curl Aberdeen located next to the Tesco on Lang Stracht. This world class facility often hosts tournament such as the World Mixed Curling Championship upon its 6 ice sheets with space to socialise afterwards in the lounge bar.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games massively raised the interest in curling in 2022 with the Women and Men's team taking home Gold and Silver medals.

Founded in 1871, Aberdeen Curling Club recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, ACC is a vibrant, friendly club with a range of members from beginners to more experienced players. We, like most of the clubs are looking for more players, interested in the sport. Curling is suitable for all ages over 9 and we cater for various abilities and fitness levels, and as the RCCC "Curling's Cool" school campaign suggests, and I think all curlers would agree, it is great fun to play, a true team sport, with a lovely social atmosphere!

The basics can be learnt very quickly through "Come and Try" sessions led by the team of registered coaches at Curl Aberdeen and then, if you wish, a structured beginner's course will have you ready to play in a team and further develop your game. You do not need to buy or use your own stones (at 20kg each they are not the easiest things to carry around!) All you initially need is warm comfortable layered clothing and clean footwear with good grip. During your early familiarisation and games, brooms are available for your use and curling shoes are also available to hire for a reasonable fee. If the delivery technique of sliding out is of any concern the coaches can suggest other methods which are increasingly commonplace.

For more information, please visit aberdeencurlingclub.com or find us on social media [@aberdeencurlingclub](https://twitter.com/aberdeencurlingclub). If you're interested in giving curling a go, simply send us an e-mail at aberdeencurlingclub@hotmail.co.uk and we will then arrange an informal chat about curling, a tour of Curl Aberdeen and arrange a 'Come and Try' session for which there will be a small charge.

On behalf of Aberdeen Curling Club, I hope the above has piqued some interest and we very much look forward to your making contact with us.

Graham Stanley, President, Aberdeen Curling Club

GRAMPIAN 50+ NETWORK

The Grampian 50+ network is interested in helping to set up a 50+ walking group in this area.

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haycrawfordc@gmail.com | Telephone 07802 824529

Aberdeen Kilt Kickers

Aberdeen Kilt Kickers went Orange when they handed over a cheque for £2442 to Maggie's Aberdeen which was their chosen charity for last year.

Every year we choose a local charity which means something to the members. We chose Maggie's as a wee tribute to Terry Mathieson who died with Lung cancer in 2022 and had support from Maggie's Aberdeen. Maggie's support people who have been diagnosed with cancer and the people who love them. There are Maggie's centres through the country and they do amazing work.

This is how Maggie's will use the money we raised:

"The £2442 that as raised will make a tremendous difference at Maggie's. It's enough to pay for two separate activities that are in demand now: firstly an eight-week Mindfulness Course to support our centre visitors to feel more relaxed, encourage focus and acknowledge what they're experiencing as they come to terms with their diagnosis and its implications, and also a Family Day at a centre, which gives families coping with cancer an opportunity to meet programme staff for support and guidance as well as hearing from other families going through a similar experience. As you know we work hard to provide the very best cancer support to anyone who needs it, and we also work hard to raise the funds needed to pay for this support to be available. The latter part we can't do without people like you and the Kilt Kickers and on behalf of the team we are sincerely grateful."

To raise money the Kilt Kickers have monthly raffles, a bonus ball draw and one member makes and sells tablet/toffee. Derek/Moira have a Christmas village display in their house each year and visitors can view the display, have coffee and leave a donation. Donations instead of Christmas cards and just donations.

AKK have a membership of twenty eight at present which makes it an amazing amount of money to raise but like square dancing it's all about team work and helping each other.

So proud to be president of AKK, an amazing bunch of people, and they square dance as well.

See advert for AKK on page 94.



Gina Mathieson, AKK President



Local Support for Enterprising Aberdeenshire Business Programme

The team at the newly launched Enterprising Aberdeenshire initiative have been delighted with the interest and enthusiasm shown by local people. The project only began in February but already staff are busy booking appointments, hosting events and helping local people to start businesses and connect to each other.

Project Manager, Keith Bell said "I am delighted to see so many new businesses signing up for training and support and connecting to each other across Aberdeenshire. There is clearly an appetite for support delivered by our coordinators on the ground with a sensitivity to individual communities opportunities. It truly is exciting to see some of the incredible and unique offerings our fledgling entrepreneurs are developing and as the whole programme is free to access, I am sure we will be helping many more people in the months ahead."

Enterprising Aberdeenshire, designed and delivered by Aberdeenshire Council, is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is a community project that provides local, tailored business support throughout the region to pre-start and new businesses.

As well as one-to-one support, there is also an exciting range of free networking events and free training sessions taking place all over Aberdeenshire.

For more information on Enterprising Aberdeenshire

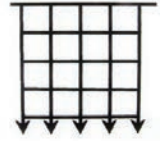
<https://www.facebook.com/EnterprisingAberdeenshire> | <https://www.instagram.com/enterprisingaberdeenshire/>
or contact your local co-ordinator Gayle.Walker@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.



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HOMEOWNERS – IMPORTANT NOTICE

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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Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club

With autumn approaching and the night's drawing in, do you fancy trying something new? Do you want to take up a sport that is open to any age or ability? Why not try indoor bowls.

We are an indoor bowling club of about 30 members, based in Garlogie that was founded in 1981. We play on Tuesday nights from late September to the start of April, on carpets rolled out in Garlogie Hall, in friendly practice bounce games, individual and team club competitions and out and about in open competitions at

other clubs around the local region. Our members come from Garlogie, Westhill, Skene, Midmar, Peterculter, Kingswells, Newtonhill and Aberdeen

Bowls is an easy game to pick up the basics of and a great game to learn all the nuances and tricks and bits and pieces that form the game as a whole. Many of our members have played for years and still haven't mastered it. This can also lead to other opportunities in stadium bowling (like on the TV), outdoor bowling or even short mat bowling, of which some of our members have represented Scotland at National and International level. It's a very sociable game, played in a friendly atmosphere, with that little competitive edge there too.

We have gentlemen, lady, teenage and retired members of all abilities and experiences. And we are on the lookout for anyone who might be interested in becoming a new member of our club. You can be an existing bowler or someone who is brand new to the sport. You can be male or female and junior members would have to be at least 10 years old. We have equipment you can use to give the game a try and see how you get on. Our existing members will be on hand to show you how to play the game and give encouragement and advice.

Our season starts on Tuesday 17th September, however if you are interested in becoming a member or would like to give indoor bowls a try, why not come along to our **Open Day and Duck Race at Garlogie Hall on Sunday 1st September from 1-4pm.**

If you would just like some more information, please get in contact with our secretary, Alan Masson via, email (gibc1@outlook.com) or our Facebook page (facebook.com/GarlogieIndoorBowlingClub).

Amy Murray, Secretary, Garlogie Indoor Bowling Club



WESTHILL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

– A New Chapter Is Opening

Our club has been providing extensive opportunities for playing **Table Tennis** in Westhill since 2006, and we are opening an exciting new chapter in our history with a move to the **Westdyke Leisure Centre** starting in early September.

Having been effectively forced to leave the facilities at Westhill Academy that we have let for some 18 years we are delighted to announce that we have been made very welcome at the Westdyke Leisure Centre, where we are more than pleased to be able to support the revitalisation of such a vital local sports facility.

Initially our activities will be restricted to **Monday evenings from 1900 to 2200**, when we shall be able to make **ten tables** available for club members, but it is hoped that we shall be able to expand our access opportunities in future months.

The club has always offered opportunities for players of all abilities, including coaching for beginners, and both social play and competitive play in the Aberdeen & District Table Tennis League. Last season we fielded six teams across the four ADTTA League Divisions.

We have a popular Evergreens Group within the club, and you will more than welcome if you wish to join them on a Monday evening.

Over the coming months we shall be endeavouring to offer taster sessions for local players on a structured basis, and we shall promote these on our club website <https://westhilltabletennisclub.co.uk>. The site is currently being updated following our change of venue.

If you are interested in participating in local table tennis – “**A Sport for Life**” – please do contact us at westhilltabletennis@gmail.com.

Jamie Glendinning, WTTTC Secretary



1st Skene Girls' Brigade



We will be returning to Girls' Brigade with an Enrolment /Fun Night on Monday 26th August. We look forward to seeing all the girls, and hopefully some new girls too from 6-7.30pm in Trinity Church and thereafter every Monday school term 6-7.30pm.

We have no Waiting List, all P1-S6 girls are welcome to come along and see what we do.

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

Aberdeenshire Council's Environmental Health Service has received several complaints over recent months with regards to some residents in Westhill feeding gulls by throwing food onto the ground and open surfaces which is causing birds to flock. Please remember that these birds are very adept at getting food from natural sources and we do not need to provide it for them. Gulls' natural behaviour is to return to an area where they are repeatedly fed and such feeding leads to increasing numbers in areas where they receive food. The birds then cause a nuisance to communities through noise, fouling and aggressive behaviour, particularly when they are rearing and protecting their young.



Feeding gulls also increases the likelihood that they will nest on nearby houses and commercial buildings, sometimes causing damage which can be expensive to resolve. Encouraging gulls away from their natural coastal nesting sites into urban areas also risks them being injured and killed by vehicles, which sadly does happen.

As this is a community issue, the Environmental Health Service is working with businesses, schools and impacted residents to try and reach a solution which benefits everyone. The community must work together to reduce the appeal of urban living for gulls so that they remain in their natural habitat. You can do this by reducing the food available for them and making your property less attractive for the gulls to nest on. How can you stop gulls from scavenging? Gulls often hunt for meals in bins and take food when it is dropped on the ground.

You can help reduce the amount of food available and stop them foraging by:

- Not feeding gulls
- Keeping food out of sight
- Storing your waste securely to prevent gulls getting into bags
- Disposing of your litter properly

LIVING WITH URBAN GULLS

To find ways on how to manage gulls see the RSPB website <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/birds/gulls/deterrents> and NatureScot website <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-gull-management>. They offer advice from everything on how to stop gulls nesting on your roof to how you can apply for a license to remove nests during the breeding season.

Please only provide food for small birds solely from bird feeders in your garden, such as peanut/seed dispensers. The absence of gulls in your garden will result in a greater variety of birds visiting your feeders as they discourage other birds from feeding. Further information about living with urban gulls can be found at Aberdeenshire Council's website by searching for 'Living with Urban Gulls'.



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THE BRAMBLES



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Solar energy: lighting the way for a greener future

By Stuart Munro of i-Protech

If ever there was a time to invest in green energy, it's now. With energy bills continuing to rise, home and business owners across the north-east are increasingly recognising the value of installing solar panels and battery storage systems into their homes and properties.

The rush for solar panels began when the Chancellor announced in last year's Spring statement that the VAT payable on 'energy-saving' materials would drop from 5% to zero from April for five years. This, coupled with a range of other incentives such as the introduction of grants, financial schemes, and interest-free loans (in Scotland, interest-free loans of up to £17,500 are available) from organisations such as Home Energy Scotland and the Energy Savings Trust has helped fuel that growth.

Whether you're a homeowner looking for a cleaner, greener, and more economical way of living, or a business looking to offset some of the costs of an increasingly turbulent energy market, here's your whistle-stop guide to solar energy.

Solar for Homeowners

While a south facing roof with no shading is ideal, solar panels can also be fitted on east and west parts of the roof. The average house can accommodate between 10 and 14 solar panels, at an average cost of around £5,000 to £6,000.

Technology associated with solar energy has improved immeasurably in recent years. The development of batteries, for example, means that extra energy generated during daylight can be used to charge the battery, rather than directing it to the National Grid, storing the electricity for future use by the household. It can also be diverted to an existing immersion heater.

Installing solar panels can be a big investment, so it is important that you do some research before committing to that spend. Pay back varies for each home, but the current average is between five to 12 years. With the increase in energy prices, this will reduce. When you choose to move away from fossil fuels and adopt solar power, you are instantly reducing your carbon footprint, contributing towards a cleaner environment.

Solar for business

If you're looking to future-proof your business and cut electricity costs by as much as up to 70% with reduced grid energy consumption, solar panels are the way to go. With the rising cost of electricity and the huge surge in fuel bills, you can protect your business going forward and reduce bills by making and using your own.

The installation of a solar battery allows the storage of excess electricity produced by your panels for later use, or to store low-tariff electricity.

Generating cost-efficient electricity on-site with no CO₂ emissions also helps companies achieve their business aims, while at the same time improving their environmental, social, and corporate credentials. Having positive green credentials can have an impact on customer choice and loyalty.

It can also have a positive effect on the employment and retention of employees, for example by installing electric vehicle chargers.

Of course there is an initial outlay, but payback is relatively quick for businesses and the mid-to-long-term benefits more than outweigh any commercial solar panel and battery storage costs.

See i-Protech advert on page 70.

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01224 747714 enquiries@swacab.org.uk

You can also contact the National Gambling Helpline on free phone 0808 8020 133 or visit gambleaware.org for more advice.

The Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux - Citizens Advice Scotland Scottish charity number SC016837

Westdyke Leisure Centre

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The centre is available for parties, one off sessions and block booking if holding classes. Contact us by email to arrange bookings, to view the spaces, or for more information on

DenmanCC@hotmail.com



Classes/Activities available:

- Aglow Sports Konsult
- Denman Toddlers Group
- Elle Arts
- GCRA - Cardiac Rehabilitaion
- Guitar Lessons with Matthew Lunan
- Men's Indoor Football
- Mindfulness with Qigong
- Rehab and Physical Activity Class
- Slimming World
- Pilates
- Westdyke Community Club (FC)



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see advert on page 15



Denman Pre-school

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- Refreshments and a snack provided.



A very warm welcome for you to join us for any of our services and meetings. Sunday morning worship is at 10.30am, followed by refreshments. 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.



Our Minister

Our minister, Dave McCarthy, joined our church in March 2024. Before this he served churches in Glasgow and Edinburgh for many years. His vision is to serve the local communities and to work in partnership with other churches both here and around the world, and above all to let everyone know that they are welcomed and loved by God. His office door at the church is often open, so please feel free to drop by for a chat!

Dave can be contacted at dave@westhillcommunitychurch.org.

Church Office

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

Room Hire

We have rooms available for hire by both community and commercial groups. For more information please check our website or email bookings@westhillcommunitychurch.org

Food Bank

Contact the team on 07379 836380 or email foodbank@westhillcommunitychurch.org

Other Assistance

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

The Green Pastures Café

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He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.

When it comes time to die, make sure that all you have to do is die.

Jim Elliot, Christian martyr (1927-1956)

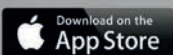


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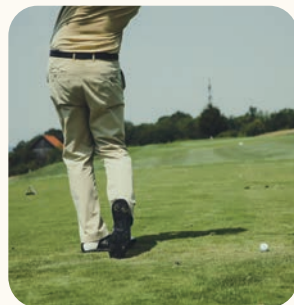
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06

NOVEMBER

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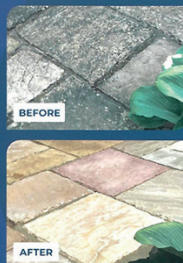
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The very mixed weather this year has been a bit of a challenge. There is no doubt that golf is the most fun when the sun is shining. Still our members have been out, enjoying the course and the company of their friends and fellow club members.

Our golfing calendar has been quite busy this year. The Mixed Texas Scramble and Senior Gents Stableford Opens were well attended and I am hoping for a fine day for our Gents Strokeplay Open. We are looking forward to our Adult Junior Open in September and to the Gents Stableford Open in October. Lots going on and it is always good to see so many members and visitors enjoying our facilities.

Visitors are always welcome, of course, whether for the Opens or just for a round with friends. And if there is anyone reading this who has been thinking about joining, get in touch (the email address is below). We do have some good deals available on membership at the moment.

If you would like to keep informed about what's on, either on the course or in the clubhouse, follow us on Facebook (Westhill Golf Club). Even if golf is not your thing, social members can take advantage of the wonderful views and the great food (from the Feed Baron) and we have a variety of social events throughout the year, (like our upcoming Disco Night and Undercover Oasis in September). So generally, there is something for everyone.

If you need any more information, you can check out our website (westhillgolfclub.co.uk) or email office@westhillgolfclub.co.uk and we look forward to welcoming you all to Westhill Golf Club.

Karen Templeton, Club Captain



Westhill A2B is a council operated minibus service providing travel for shopping or other local services or facilities. The service is free to use and is available for people that have difficulty walking, people with other disabilities or residents who don't live near a regular bus route. This A2B service offers low floor and wheelchair accessible transport. It operates Monday to Friday in Westhill, Elrick and Kirkton of Skene. First pick-up from 9:30am, last drop-off by 2:30pm.

You must book your journeys on this door-to-door service and can book up to 7 days before travel or 14 days for health-related trips, but no later than the day before travel. To make a booking please call the A2B dial-a-bus hotline on **01467 535333** or email a2bdialabus@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

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Meditation and Buddhist Centre in Westhill

Meditation is one of the central teachings of the Buddha. The Buddha was born and lived 2600 years ago. He attained enlightenment – liberation from identities and attachments through the practice of meditation. At the heart of meditation practice is mindfulness practice, which is to cultivate positive mindset and development of clear, stable and non-judgemental awareness. Practice of mindfulness is highly effective to make a right choice in life to find calmness and live a peaceful life.

Mindfulness practice is simple. However often we like to make things complicated and sarcastic. As a result, it may seem simple to learn but it is difficult to maintain the practice. Normally, people tend to look for the destination before learning to walk the path. Practice of mindfulness meditation is a practice that one learns to pay attention to present situations without being soaked by feelings and emotions. It is a skill to understand the situation that is unpolluted by views and perceptions. It would rather assist one to act calmly and more wisely toward those situations.

Generally, we are pre-occupied with thoughts of past stories or future or fantasies. There is a beautiful saying 'past is history, future is mystery and present is a mastery.' No one can undo the past events. One can only learn a lesson from it. Similarly, one can expect the possibility of a planned event to take place but cannot be guaranteed. There is always possibility of failure. One should have a mindful gap for any possible of indeterminate. Present moment is amazing. It is happening here and now. I am breathing. I am reading. I am sitting etc. It is a result of continuation from the past and also the cause to carry things out in the future.

Mindfulness practice is to overcome dwelling into those previous events or worrying about future activities. We can experience our lives here and now, which brings calmness of mind, clarity of things and cultivate trust within oneself. It is a beautiful moment that does not have to rely on or depend on anything but simply enjoy the being.

Practice of mindfulness meditation is like learning play a guitar. Simply learn to notice a breath in your belly or nose and keep on trying to maintain your attention to the sensation of breathing. Initially, one may find it difficult but mindfully reminding to be aware of it gradually increase attention in the moment. Daily practice is essential for the development of skill.

Mindfulness practice begins with paying attention to breath by being aware of it. It is not exercise but awareness. No adjustment but simply attend to the breath. Knowing different breath; shallow, deep, long, short, smooth or coarse. When mind is distracted back to breath and feel it.

Varapunya Meditation Centre is a Buddhist monastery and learning meditation based on Buddhist teachings. The centre offers various in-person and online meditation sessions. We also offer courses on meditation and Buddhist studies in various local organisations like, Aberdeen Health Village and Aberdeen in Recovery, etc. You do not have to be a Buddhist nor have to change your faith. We offer a friendly environment to all backgrounds. All services are free but generous donations are welcome to continue our services.

If you are interested to volunteer or learn Buddhism and meditation, please do not hesitate to join us. For more 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 £43,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups over these last 13 years.

The next round of donations will be considered in October 2024. Closing date for applications is 4th October. 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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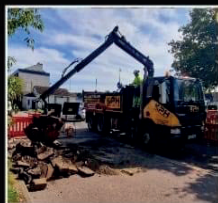
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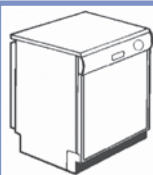
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Westhill Green Spaces Update

Denman Park

As I write this, we are heading towards the completion of the transformation of the path network in Denman Park. Most of the features – new bridges, paths and steps are now in place. It only remains for the new paths to be finished in a hard wearing and permeable bonded material composed of recycled black tyre granules and coloured aggregate. Work should be complete by the time you read this. Funding has come from the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme administered by Aberdeenshire Council.

Work has also finished on the installation of the downstream defender which was designed and installed to improve water quality in the Denman Ponds. The contractor took the opportunity to recycle some of the largest excavated stones to create another unique and surprising point of interest – a **stone circle**.



New bridge under construction in south east corner, connecting to pedestrian crossing at "Tesco roundabout" on Straik Road

Quite separately, but also in the park, Westhill Rotary secured funding to install a **pétanque court** for public use, alongside the tennis courts and bowling green. For more details on this, see the Rotary article on page 19.

Please visit the park if you haven't already done so over the summer and let us [the Community Council] know what you think of the new features and what future improvements you would like to see in the park.

Volunteer activity

Elsewhere, our team of volunteers has been extremely busy over the summer months, mostly trying to keep our paths and green spaces accessible and free from overhanging vegetation in and around town, sometimes supported by the Council's Landscape Services team. This work included patching wet sections at **Meadowlands** and **Lawsondale**, clearing the car park at Carnie Woods and clearing the path between Dawson Drive and the northern sector of the **Westhill Orbital Trail**.

We took a break from path work in June to plant the tubs and overhanging baskets at the junction of Westhill Drive and Old Skene Road with bedding plants supplied by the Council. Around the same time, a small team also helped clear weeds from the car park at **Westdyke Leisure Centre** with the help of a group of enthusiastic asylum seekers.



Come the autumn, and as mentioned in the last issue, we hope to find time and resources to remove the remaining **boardwalk in Carnie Woods**, working alongside the City Council's Ranger service.

If you would like to comment on any of these activities or join us in these voluntary tasks, please use the email addresses below. Thank you.

WECC contacts:

Gordon Prentice | prenticeg.wecc@gmail.com **Mervyn Barr** | mervynbarr@yahoo.co.uk

We've been mega busy at the Old Schoolhouse this summer!

We had a fun packed **Summer holiday programme** for children of all ages, from pre-schoolers to up to young adults. Sessions took place in Westhill, Aberdeen, Ellon, Fraserburgh and Inverurie.



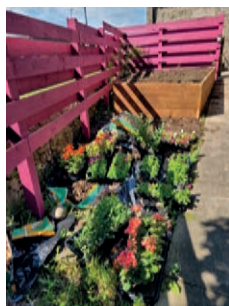
As always, we aim to support the whole family and our picnics and family play sessions were enjoyed by all. We even had the **Critter Keeper**, David, visit with a spider, a cockroach, a rabbit, a bearded dragon and a snake! He told us some really interesting information about each of them and everyone had chance to touch them.

Despite the changeable weather, we used the garden lots with the highlight being **Water Play** sessions – the kids loved throwing water balloons and shooting super soakers! There was a fabulous turnout for the **Family Teddy Bear Picnic** when the Westhill Chapter of

Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS), kindly joined us to offer rides around Denman Park for the families.



We are delighted to be part of the Westhill community and would like to take this opportunity to say a huge **“THANK YOU”** to all our amazing volunteers who help out in our services and around the building, saving us time and money! Special mention to **Donald** and **Derek** who between them take on lots of maintenance and gardening jobs that we simply couldn't afford to use contractors for. Thanks also to the **Westhill Men's Shed** for building a huge raised bed for the garden and to **Foxlane Garden Centre** who generously donated loads of plants and soil. Plus, this year we've been excited to have teams on-site from local businesses including **Technip**, **Chap** and **Kuehne & Nagel** to keep the grounds looking tidy and fresh!



We are always looking for new volunteers, and we'd love to hear from teens doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards, people interested in gaining experience working with those with complex needs or anyone interested in giving back to their community. There are loads of different ways to get involved so get in touch! volunteering@sensationall.org.uk

Currently, demand for our sessions and support is growing faster than ever! We have over 90 names on waiting lists for places in groups and are desperately trying to raise more money so we can expand our timetable. You can help by supporting our upcoming events:

- **Quiz Night**, The Broadstrait Inn, **Tuesday 17th September**
- **Firewalk**, The Old Schoolhouse, **Saturday 23rd November**
- **Fundraising Ball**, The Chester Hotel, Aberdeen, **Friday 14th March 2025** – a fabulous evening of food, dancing and fun! Sponsorship packages available as well as tickets.

Email events@sensationall.org.uk to find out more.

SensationALL is here for **ALL** ages and **ALL** conditions with or without a formal diagnosis. If you'd like more information about our services visit our website www.sensationall.org.uk or contact us at info@sensationall.org.uk, you can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.





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Westhill Walkers

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In spite of the less than inspiring summer so far Westhill Walkers have been out and about. We have watched the sun rise from Bennachie on the summer solstice, trekked through the Cairngorms from Glenmore Lodge to the Linn of Dee via the Lairig an Laoigh, scaled Mount Keen and enjoyed several other walks of varying distances.

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.

1 September	Carn an t-Sagairt Mor (munro) – 17km Loch Callater – 13km
15 September	Geallaig Hill circuit – 13km
29 September	Lecht mine and College of Scalan circuit – 13km
13 October	Burn o'Vat and Loch Kinord circuit – 12km
27 October	Kirkhill Forest and standing stones – 13km



Westhill Library News

What We're Reading...

New books we loved include:

'You are Here' by David Nicholls

From the author of 'One Day' comes a fun, poignant, post-pandemic romance charting a new relationship between two unlikely people during a long-distance walk across England.

'Wimbledon: a personal history: the players, the place, the magic' by Sue Barker

A fascinating insight for sport's lovers from fan-favourite Sue who, after spending half a century as a player and broadcaster at Wimbledon, now returns with behind-the-scenes details.

If these popular titles are not available on our shelves you can reserve them online, or in the branch, for pickup at Westhill.

What's On?

Starting in September, board games will be available all morning in the library on the first Saturday of each month. Pop along for a fun game of Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes, Guess Who? and many others! Suitable for children and adults, no need to book.

Our regular activities include Lego club, Scrabble club, Alzheimer Scotland social club, craft sessions and Bookbug sessions amongst others.

To check what's on and book a place, visit www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/ and search for 'Westhill' in Events.

'Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible'

Barack Obama

To see what we're up to, 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

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Summer Play and Reading 2024

It's been a busy summer at the library! Teddy Bears' Picnic, Creative Castles, LEGO WeDo, Chess Club, Bookbug, Pokemon Club, Stretchy Storytime, Mr Men and Little Miss Jamboree are just some of the activities we've been up to.

Thanks to everyone who came along and participated, it was great to see you all. We're looking forward to more events over the coming months.

If you took part in Summer Reading the prize draw will take place soon. We would love to hear your feedback, please visit <https://forms.office.com/e/NasYcaLs2J>.

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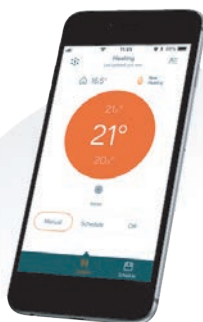
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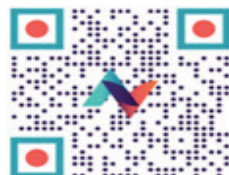
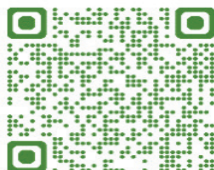
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- Premier Inn Westhill (inside at reception)

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- Crombie Primary School (on wall to left of main entrance)
- Elrick Service Station (on wall to left of side entrance)
- Garlogie Inn (on left side of building facing the car park)
- Lyne of Skene Hall (on wall near main door)
- Milne Hall in Skene (on wall to right of main entrance)
- Scout Hall (on side wall facing road, behind the bike racks)
- Skene Primary School (on wall to left of main entrance)
- The Happy Barber Mason Lodge (on side wall facing car park)
- Trinity Church (on wall to left of front entrance)
- Westdyke Leisure Centre (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Community Church (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Dental Practice (on wall outside main entrance)
- Westhill Golf Club (on wall to left side of entrance)
- Westhill Shopping Centre (on wall to left of Nisa)
- Westhill Swimming Pool (on wall to left of main entrance, behind the bike racks)



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- Banana Moon Day Nursery (inside)
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- GPH (inside)
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- Screwfix (inside)
- Tesco (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.

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With lighter nights on the run up to the school summer holidays our sections enjoyed doing lots of outdoor activities.



Amazon and Redwood Beavers enjoyed cycling trips to earn their cyclist badges. Amazon beavers also enjoyed learning how to play bowls during a visit to Westhill Bowling Club, they did map and compass reading on a hike up Brimmond Hill and a Beaver Olympics at the scout hut! Redwood Beavers enjoyed a taster session at the RGU climbing wall to try climbing and bouldering, a camp-fire night and a hike at Castle Fraser. Both Beaver colonies also completed their gardening badges.

Our cub packs were also very busy. Kaa cubs enjoyed a cycle around Dunecht estate, an educational visit to Forest Farms ice cream, sailing at Loch of Skene, fishing at Lochter and paddle-boarding at Granite Adventure. Shere Khan cubs enjoyed a trip to Mounthooly Fire station where they had a tour of the station, vehicles and fire fighting equipment, they also worked on their pioneer badge and also their environmental conservation badge.

Keir scout troop worked on teamwork challenges, they practiced their navigational skills with a night at Hazlehead park and they made bread on a camp-fire. Some Scouts from Keir enjoyed attending the national Adventure camp at Kilmarnock and Scotjam at Scout Adventures Lochgoilhead where there were lots of adventurous activities to take part in.

Westwood scouts enjoyed fishing at Raemoir, and worked on a variety of badges.

Our big event was our family camp at the end of May which saw around 150 young people and families camp at Templars scout site for our Wild Westhill family camp. We had a great weekend of activities including problem solving and team work activities, archery and tomahawk throwing, craft activities of woggle making, tie dying and para-cording, gold rush and trading post which saw sub camps compete against each other to earn the most camp dollars. It was a fun weekend with lots of memories made and badges earned.

A big national scouting event this summer was the Scottish International Patrol Jamborette. Held every two years at Blair Atholl, over 550 Scottish Explorer scouts camped alongside around 300 visitors from countries such as USA, Canada, Norway and Ireland for two weeks to take part in a wealth of fun activities.

We were delighted that four of our Explorer scouts attended the full Scottish International Patrol Jamborette. With limited spaces, one Explorer attended with Gordon district, one with Buchan and two with Deeside. The four young people had an amazing time doing lots of activities from canyoning and climbing, to crafting and performing and also taking part in the infamous Atholl Experience Mud Run. They also enjoyed making new friends from across the globe.

In addition to the four young people attending the main camp, we joined forces with Inverurie Scout Group to ensure a number of our scouts and explorers could attend the middle weekend 'satellite' camp which is held in the adjacent field. Everyone who went had a great time taking part in some of the main camp events including the international camp-fire evening.

All of the fun our young people have experienced in the last few months would not be possible without our adult volunteers. A big thank you to them for continuing to make these opportunities available to our young people.

To keep up to date with our news/or get in touch,
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Joe Kenn

Mobile: 07960 410131

Volunteer with us!

Compass Project

Navigating healthy, sustainable living

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

The project is developing a community space with no-dig garden, orchard and bee-keeping. Our newly refurbished Multi-Purpose Hall is due to open in September 2024; get in touch if you would be interested in hiring a space!



Want to get involved?

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

Find out more & get involved:

www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk/compass

Follow us: @CWTCcompass



Compass
Craigton Rd, Cults
Aberdeen AB15 9QD

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



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



57-59 N Deeside Road, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9DB

Visit Us!

Open Wed - Fri: 10am - 4pm

Donated goods & volunteers welcome!

If you can help, please get in touch:

Pamela Blue Door Manager: 01224 861830
or email: bluedoor@cwtf.scot

Visit our Facebook page for sneak peeks
of new stock: @BlueDoorCharityShop



**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
to health.

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,

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West Day



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Open Days

02, 09 and 16 September 2024

Aberdeen Kilt Kickers
WRI Hall Kirk Brae Aberdeen AB59QR
7:30PM - 9:30PM

T: 01224 326421 - 07557885481

E: akk123@btinternet.com



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

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
Childcare Info	0800 2983330

Playgroups

Scout Hall.....	07717 442164
Denman Pre-school	07727 617627
Pharmacy, Porter – Shops.....	01224 742742
Pharmacy, Porter – Surgery ..	01224 279489
Police (non emergency).....	101
or email.....	contactus@scotland.police.uk
Post Office (Shops)	01224 740858
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
Tennis Club.....	07929 191816
Trinity Church	01224 742512
Veterinary, Town & Country ...	01224 741685
Water Authority	0845 6018 855
Westdyke Leisure Centre	07727 617627
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

Hot Sun, Cool Fun: Dive and Refresh!

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 you 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)



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

Pool Play Session - aimed towards family groups where the floor is raised and the large floats and toys are out.

Lunchtime Swims - Monday to Friday from 12pm.

Early Morning Swims - Tuesday-Thursday from 6am.

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



Are you planning your child's educational journey?

Robert Gordon's College encourages pupils to explore what they are passionate about, in an atmosphere where they will be motivated, value hard work and strive to do their best. We aim to spark a love of learning, to challenge and stretch pupils to be intellectually curious.

Join us at our Open Events:

Saturday 14 September 2024

Friday 8 November 2024

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Friday 6 December 2024



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