

Westhill Bulletin

Winter 2025
Issue 184



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council

Westhill Christmas Community Event

Westhill Shopping Centre
Saturday 6th December
from
4 to 5 pm

Music and Carols with Brass Band
Switch on Tree Lights
Free Hot Chocolate and Goodies

Santa will be attending in his Sleigh!- see page 11

**Bring the Family
and enjoy a
Community Event**



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council



facebook

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



website

Attic Theatre
presents

ALADDIN



5th ~ 21st December 2025

Tivoli Theatre, Aberdeen

Tickets available from www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre



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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 Spring issue should be sent in by Thursday 12th February. The Bulletin will be distributed from 26th February. All contributions or enquiries should be emailed to: westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to Bulletin Editor David Ritchie on 07989 637461. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents attached to an email. Articles larger than 600 words may be edited. Photos can be included but send them separately from the Word doc.

2026 advertising rates:

Eighth Page £36, Quarter Page £64, Half Page £103, Full Page £195,
Inside Covers £225, Back Page £260

(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 07989 637461.

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Gordon Prentice

Planning Convener

planningwecc@gmail.com
Diane Priestley

Elected Councillors

The four Aberdeenshire Council Ward 13 Councillors named below are exofficio members of the Community Council. They attend the monthly meetings when they can but do not have voting rights. They put articles in Bulletin about current topics (see pages 7 & 8). 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

Ordinary Members

Mervyn Barr
Malcolm Collie
Heather Cook
Charlie Flint
Audrey Findlay
Darren Green
Kate Lumsden
Elaine Manley
Hazel Mustard
George Okoroma
Tim Yeomans

Community Council meetings are held on 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm in Holiday Inn West, Westhill and are open to all residents of Westhill & District. The agenda is placed in the noticeboard outside 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



Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the winter issue of the Westhill Bulletin. In this issue I would like to focus on some subjects which have been affecting our community, including two where we need your help.



Westhill Bus Services

In the Autumn Bulletin we reported that in early 2026 Stagecoach were planning for the No. 6 bus to start going up to the Westhill Drive turning circle in the evening, thanks to successful lobbying on your behalf. In fact they started doing this loop in late August. Timings at the turning circle are half-hourly from 1840 to 2010 then hourly up to 0010, Monday to Saturday.

We are now also delighted to report that a new No. 4 bus started on 27th October (in addition to the No. 6 evening service). It goes up Westhill Drive to the turning circle, then to Union Square via our Tesco, ARI & Broad Street. It is at the turning circle every 2 hours from 6am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. See the Stagecoach advert on pages 46 & 47 for more detail. We encourage residents to use this service so that it is commercially viable for Stagecoach to continue to operate it.

Aberdeenshire Council Proposal to Remove 81 of 140 Grit Bins in Westhill

Following a review of budgets earlier in the year, Aberdeenshire Council is proposing to remove 81 grit bins that don't meet the gradient criteria [slope less than 5%] as one of many necessary cost saving measures. The original plan was to remove these bins before the end of the year, but following pressure, the Council has now asked Community Councils to participate in an "adopt a grit bin" scheme if residents wish to retain their grit bin, but at the Community Council's cost.

In order for us to assess the financial risk, we need to know by email to weccsecretx@gmail.com if you live near one of the 81 and need it to be left in situ. For more information and a link to a detailed map showing bins earmarked for removal and those staying in place, please visit: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/winter-maintenance/grit-bin/grit-bin-removals>

Disabled Parking at the Shopping Centre

It has been reported to WECC that blue badge holders have been having issues utilising the accessible parking spaces at the Shopping Centre. Please do remember that these spaces are reserved for blue badge holders and should not be used otherwise. It is also worth noting that the parent and child spaces are for those with young children requiring extra space to get in and out of the car safely. Please do think of others and park considerately at the Shopping Centre at all times.

Christmas Switch-on event

We are looking forward to the annual Christmas Switch-on event on Saturday 6th December 4pm to 5pm at the Shopping Centre. Please come along whether or not you have little ones with you, as it's a fun afternoon to get you into the Christmas spirit. The Holiday Inn is graciously supplying the free hot chocolate again and there will be lots of goodies supplied by local shops; not forgetting carol singing led by a traditional brass band.

The Santa Sleigh project has been resurrected by the Scouthall Playgroup, supported by the Round Table. See their advert on page 11. It will be in your street in December, taking a collection for local good causes and it will be at the Switch-on event on 6th December.

WECC monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday at the Holiday Inn Hotel at 7pm. We always welcome anyone who would like to come along to listen to our discussions, consider an issue or raise a concern. Email weccsecretx@gmail.com.

In the meantime, have a lovely festive season [or whatever the politically correct phrase is these days]

Arthur McArthur, WECC Chair
weccchair@gmail.com

BANKING SERVICES IN WESTHILL

MOBILE BANK

RBS – Wednesdays 11am–12 noon
at Trinity Church car park

POST OFFICE

The Post Office in Nisa at Westhill Shopping Centre can be used for bill payments and cash deposits (with debit card or personalised pay-in slip) and withdrawals. Cheque deposits can be made for most major banks with a completed pay-in slip. Ask for envelope for your bank. It is open:
Mon–Fri 9am–5.30pm | Sat 9am–1pm

ATMs IN WESTHILL

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

Westhill and Skene Lions Club

CHARITY SALE OF BOOKS, CDs, DVDs & JIGSAWS

AT WESTHILL SHOPPING CENTRE
1ST SATURDAY EACH MONTH
9am to 12pm

NEXT 3 SALES ARE: 6th December, 7th February, 7th March

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

Donations of books etc.
welcome on the day or phone/text David on
07989 637461 to arrange delivery or
collection

Folding Tables Available For Hire

Westhill Household Waste & Recycling Centre

Westdyke Avenue, Westhill

Recycling facilities for:

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

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday 9am–4.30pm
Friday 9am–4pm

Online booking required at
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
recyclingcentrebookings](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebookings)

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Charity No. SCO43773

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and organisations

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- Two minibuses have towbars

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Email: westhill.minibus@gmail.com

**Volunteer drivers wanted for a
few hours per month**

1st Skene Boys' Brigade



Our new session is well underway with good numbers in all sections.

Anchors and Juniors have enjoyed an evening walk up Brimmond Hill and have had a visit from the countryside ranger who took them searching for bats.

Company section volunteers helped steward the Braemar Highland games and during the holidays some boys spent time helping process Christmas boxes to be sent to Ukrainian orphans. Company section also attended the recent Armistice service at Skene Kirk. Friday nights are generally very active with 'Pirates' being a firm favourite.



We still have spaces and will be delighted to welcome any new starts. Anchor boys (P1 to P3) meet at Trinity church on Friday 6:30 to 7:45 pm, Juniors (P4-6) Westhill Academy 6:30 to 8:00 pm and Company section (P7 upwards) Westhill Academy 6:30 to 9:00pm. If you are interested, please come along and give it a try.

Niall MacBeath - Company Captain

Contact: niall.macbeath@btinternet.com

or via our Facebook page:

1st Skene-Westhill Boys' Brigade

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Do you need help with transport to appointments?

Royal Voluntary Service has a community transport service that can help you get to a medical/health or social appointment, whether that be going to the GP, hospital, optician, dentist, a social club, hairdresser or visiting a family member/friend in hospital or care home – we are here to help.

Our service operates Monday to Friday during the hours of 10am to 4pm.

Is this chargeable?

Yes, we charge by mileage.

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VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**

How do I refer:

We welcome referrals from anyone of adult age, who cannot access public transport or has a disability which prevents them from driving or has no other means of transport.

Volunteering - do you want to help your local community?

If you would like to join our Aberdeenshire team as a Driver or Service Support Volunteer you can search for volunteering opportunities on <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteering/>

To find out more about referring or volunteering please call the Aberdeenshire team on **01224 937110** or email grampiansupport@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

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garlogiehall.org.uk



Blue Door

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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](https://www.facebook.com/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,
Murtle Estate, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9EP
www.camphillwellbeing.org.uk **01224 862008**



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fsb⁸⁸
MEMBER

WARD 13 COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Iris Walker



Cllr. Ron McKail



Cllr. Fatima Joji



Cllr. Craig Miller

Vaccinations

Have you had notification of an appointment for winter vaccinations?

The centre at Inverurie has a large number of missed appointments – often more than 100 per day.

There is a cost associated with this, as well as depriving others of necessary appointments and we would like to request that if you receive a notification from NHS and cannot make the appointment, please contact the NHS and let them know this so that the appointment can be offered to someone else.

Westhill at the Heart of Citizens Advice Support for South West Aberdeenshire *Bureau helps local residents secure £1 million in vital financial gains each year.*

Westhill is at the heart of the South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau (SWACAB), which continues to provide crucial support for people feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis. Recently, Westhill councillors attended the Bureau's AGM and heard firsthand about the vital difference SWACAB makes across the community.

From debt and welfare advice to help with housing and energy bills, SWACAB offers a lifeline when options run out. The team works with clients to find solutions, restore confidence, and bring peace of mind. Westhill records the highest number of enquiries, highlighting the town's vital role in the Bureau's work. Many local volunteers give their time to help neighbours get back on their feet.

Last year alone, SWACAB helped clients secure around **£1 million in financial support**, with benefits reaching far beyond money—improving wellbeing, family life, and confidence.

As demand grows, SWACAB is looking for volunteers, trustees, and supporters to join the team and make a difference in the community.

Find out more or get involved at www.swacab.org.uk or email enquiries@swacab.org.uk.

Aberdeen International Airport: Scottish Transport Awards' Airport of the Year

Aberdeen International Airport has been **named Airport of the Year at the Scottish Transport Awards**, recognized for its sustainability, innovation, and outstanding social value—cementing its position as a leader in aviation.

Councillors attend meetings at the airport to hear firsthand about its ongoing work and connections with the local community.

The airport continues to expand its role as the North East's gateway to the world, with new routes including direct flights to Paris with EasyJet and Krakow with Ryanair. Popular routes like Alicante, Faro, and Malaga have seen increased capacity, while airBaltic will resume its Riga service in summer 2026, opening connections across Eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

Passenger experience remains a priority, with modern aircraft such as the Airbus A220-300 offering spacious seating and high-speed internet.

Beyond aviation, Aberdeen International Airport has raised over £250,000 for local charities since 2022. The Midnight Runway Run, held in partnership with CHC Helicopter, raised £65,000 this year alone, and a new charity partner will be announced for 2026/2027.

Granite Heart

We previously highlighted the new charity shop in the Westhill shopping centre which has been incredibly successful since opening earlier in the year. We are delighted to note that Granite Heart have now distributed grants from their work, with groups in Westhill being beneficiaries.

It is a well organised, quality shop and seems to still be generating a lot of footfall and we would encourage any and all of you to drop in and visit if you have not already done so as it is our community that is benefitting. See their article on page 26

If you are part of a charity or volunteer group, you are encouraged to apply to Granite Hearts for grants. This can be done at www.granitehearts.org

Pavement parking enforcement

The Scottish Government introduced a ban on pavement parking in 2023. Since that time Aberdeenshire Council has operated a policy of education with regard to enforcement of this ban and more than 1,800 warning notices have been issued since this became law. Council officers have recognised that the majority of residents have reacted positively to these warning notices and have viewed them as part of an educational process, as intended.

However, effective November 3rd, the warning notices were replaced with Penalty Charge Notices. These will be payable at a rate of £100 per offence, reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days. The offence covers pavement parking, double parking, and parking at dropped kerbs. Do not get caught out – follow the rules to avoid any unwanted fines going forward!

Household Recycling Centre Update

We would like to provide an update on the Westhill Household Recycling Centre. We were advised that three new employees joined the team in late July and have now successfully completed their training to support operations at the site on Saturdays and Sundays.

We recognise that the recent limits placed on weekend access and booking cancellations caused inconvenience for residents, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while these issues were being addressed. The matter has now been resolved, and normal service has resumed.

Cluny War Memorial Rededication

On 19th October, the 4 Westhill councillors attended a service for the rededication of the war memorial at Cluny, following its relocation.

This was a well organised and well attended event and the service was very moving, with wreaths laid by the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, elected members and many other local dignitaries. The service was jointly presided over by Rev Euan Glen, (Cluny), and Rev Neil Meyer, (Kintore).

We would like to recognise the efforts of Scott Langlands in co-ordinating this process from start to finish as well as the volunteers who undertook much of the work, and to those who provided refreshments at the close of the event on a cold autumnal day.



Surgeries

Cllr Iris Walker holds her surgeries on the first Saturday of each month at Westhill Library from 10.00-11.00. The next surgeries are scheduled for Saturday 6 December and Saturday 3 January, 2026

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 surgeries are scheduled for Saturday 13 December and Saturday 10 January, 2026.

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 Joji is available to meet residents and can be contacted through the channels indicated below

CONTACT DETAILS

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 955311,
email cllr.f.joji@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Cllr. Craig Miller / Tel. 07788 187521,
email Cllr.c.miller@aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
Facebook: *Craig4Westhill*

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glentamarbrasserie.co.uk



1st Westhill

Between the summer and October school holidays our sections aimed to maximise the lighter evenings before the change of the clocks for winter.

Our young people enjoyed cycling, shelter building, nature walks, campfires, pioneering, games, gardening, wood working skills which have all contributed to a number of badges.

A major event for all was attending the Gordon District camp 'Gordon Gathering' at BA Stores by Dunecht in September. The weekend was a great opportunity for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to enjoy a wide range of activities and mix with young people from other scout groups. With around 1,000 young people and adult volunteers on site on the Saturday it is one of the biggest scout camps held in Scotland.



Young people enjoyed inflatables, mountain biking, water activities including raft building, paddleboarding and canoeing, archery, crate climbing, backwoods cooking, laser tag, segways, climbing wall, craft activities, plus a large ceilidh. It made for a great weekend.

After Gordon Gathering our older scouts and Explorers had two further camps on consecutive weekends in September as part of the selection processes for the Blair Atholl International Jamborette in 2026 and the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

We are delighted that several of our young people were successful in these selection camps and have had their places confirmed to attend these fantastic scouting events. We will share more details on this soon.



In November representatives from our Cub, Scout and Explorer sections attended the Remembrance Day service at Skene Kirk, laying a wreath at the war memorial and carrying flags into the service. It is always an honour to be part of the service and play our part in remembering those who fought for the freedom we enjoy today.

Opportunities for young people are made possible by our group of dedicated volunteers. We are in critical need of additional volunteers to enable us to offer more young people places in scouting. Our youth sections are currently at capacity and to be able to provide additional spaces we need more volunteers. Priority spaces are made available for young people where a parent/carer regularly volunteers.

To find out more about how you can help email volunteer@1stwesthillscouts.co.uk.

To add your child's details added to our waiting list complete the online waiting list form available on our website (www.1stwesthillscouts.co.uk).

THE SECRET IS OUT

SANTA IS COMING BACK TO WESTHILL!

FROM SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
BROUGHT TO YOU BY



HO HO HO!



**FOLLOW SCOUTHALL PLAYGROUP
FACEBOOK PAGE TO TRACK MY SLEIGH**

Organised by The Scouthall Playgroup, this festive event helps raise vital funds for our playgroup. We're also proud to be supporting CRY in memory of Jude MacDonald
www.c-r-y.org.uk/jude-macdonald/

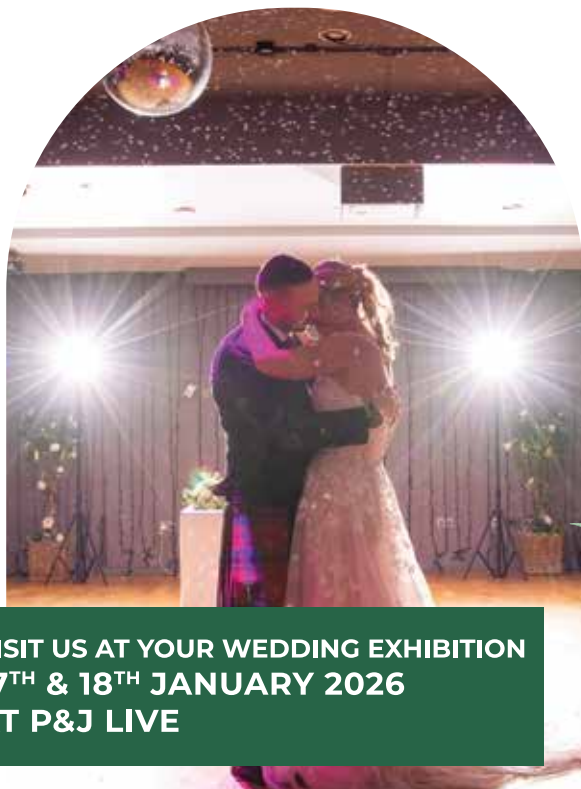


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WEDDINGS

AT HOLIDAY INN ABERDEEN WEST



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AT P&J LIVE**



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www.hiaberdeenwest.co.uk

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: Further evenings with music artists are planned.

"Allison Lupton Trio" on 22nd November. For more up to date details see the posters on local community information boards and our Facebook Page for these and all other events.

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 60
- 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 Qigong, Tuesday 7pm till 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.



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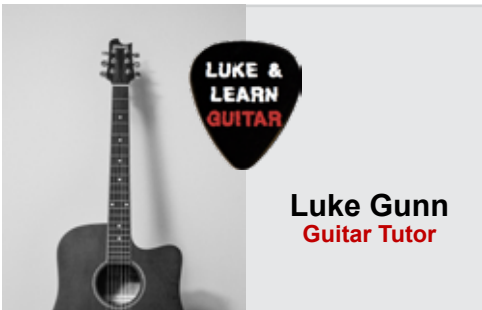
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As the weather cools off, I am reminded of the lack of shelter from winds when leaving various exercise and sports venues. The trade-off is definitely worth the return of winter sports seasons.

With this cooler weather, our own post-workout cool down routines become that much more important. A common question for physiotherapy patients at SPEAR, is 'what does your warm up/warm down routine look like?' As your physio we get every response, from a sheepish 'I don't really...' to an itemised excel spreadsheet illustrating not only what the routines are, but how rigidly they are adhered to.

Anyone who doesn't currently have a cool down routine, and wants a starting point to begin with, this is my usual advice: do it slowly. Very slowly. When finished your workout or training session, pull on a dry, fresh jumper, pair of joggers, and a warm pair of socks, possibly a scarf and beanie for the really cold days. Participate in the pitchside cool down, alongside your team or gym mates, but leave the bulk of it for later.

With jumper, joggers, and warm socks on, go home, shower (warm comfies back on after), eat, hydrate, walk the dog, attend to the kids' evening routine etc, and then get into your stretching and mobility routine.

The mobility sequence should be individual to you - your body, that day's workout, any previous injuries that affect you, even just how stressful that day was as a whole. Slowing down the physical cool down and delaying the mobility exercises can help improve their effects. As a bonus: a gentle stretching routine before bed can help improve sleep quality as well!

So, as the temperatures cool down and we head home from these various windy and exposed locations, keep physically warm and save your stretches for later on, when you've slowly and physically cooled down.

Happy winter everyone, and remember, if your own stretches aren't settling soreness the way they usually do, we're always here to help. To make an appointment contact us on 01224 900102 or book online at www.spearphysiotherapy.co.uk



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Westhill Green Spaces Team Update

From August to October, the team of volunteers has been busy on a number of fronts, trying to keep paths clear of overhanging vegetation and improve the presentation of some of our green spaces using a range of skills and tools. Now that we have two each of battery operated trimmers, brush cutters and hedge trimmers, most tasks are manageable for aging bodies and productivity is much improved. This means too that we can cope with the aftermath of the likes of Storm Amy that caused a fair amount of destruction in the first weekend of October, although we needed the help of chainsaws after that one. One major blockage at Carnie Woods will need the help of the City Council's arboriculture team to remove it.

Most of our regular activity is still focused on maintenance of the Westhill Orbital Trail, but we have been spending an increasing amount of time in Denman Park and will continue to do so, so long as the Council's Landscape Services team is under resourced. Lately, for example, we helped their team create the double line of cherry trees and wildflowers on the edge of Denman Park, visible from Westhill Drive. We also planted around 400 spring bulbs there amongst the young trees, before moving on to plant another 800 bulbs in the community orchards at Wellgrove Road and Hillside Road.

Thanks go to all Green Spaces volunteers for giving their time and some tools, mostly on Wednesday mornings, but at other times too. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

A quick thanks also goes to Subsea 7 for upgrading the path round the south side of their offices between Prospect Road and Silvertrees Drive.

Bedding Plants

This year's display on the corner of Old Skene Road and Westhill Drive has been magnificent, thanks to the design, the volunteer planters back in May, the automatic watering system that feeds the hanging baskets and Rachid's commitment to manual watering of the barrel planters over the exceptionally dry summer.

By the time you read this, the summer plants are due to be swapped out for winter pansies in the barrel planters to maintain a colourful entrance to the centre over the winter.

Upcoming Projects

Wellgrove Road Community Orchard:

With the help of neighbouring residents, we will shortly be planting 16 native fruit trees [apples and plums] in a small plot in the open ground between Westdyke Avenue, The Courtyard and Wellgrove Road.

Carnie Woods Boardwalk Removal:

Thanks to a recent donation from an anonymous donor, and support from the City Council's Ranger service, we may now be able to lift the remaining boardwalk and substructure, replacing it with quarry material to leave a more sustainable path which should be usable for most of the year.

Litter Picks

Community Litter picks organised by WECC have continued on the second and fourth Saturday mornings over the last few months. Thanks must go to all those who attend these scheduled events, and to those individuals who head out on their own on a regular basis in between, all to help the look and feel of our community. If you've thought about community litter picking, but can't manage Saturdays and don't have kit, then please get in touch and we'll be happy to sort you out with a grabber and bag hoop.

More generally, if you are thinking about outdoor volunteering, but not sure exactly what's involved, or if you would like to let us know about a green space that you think could be improved, please email Mervyn or Gordon. Thank you





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The venue for the course is where we rehearse on Tuesday evenings – Fountainhall Church at the Stocket, Harcourt Road, Aberdeen, AB15 5NZ. granitecitychorus.co.uk



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Granite Heart Charity Shop

Since opening our flagship charity shop at the Westhill Shopping Centre in June, Granite Heart has been overwhelmed by the welcome and support received by the Westhill community. As a result, in just a few months we have already been able to donate almost £5000 to local charities and organisations.



Founded in early 2024, Granite Heart was born out of a desire to build something different, a community-driven charity that provided real, local impact. Drawing on years of experience running successful charity shops, the founders Christopher and Ben gathered together a group of passionate trustees and volunteers to bring the vision to life - to foster a culture of giving and community empowerment in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Through our first charity shop - and with more planned in the near future - we raise funds for grants that support local charities and initiatives working to improve lives. The Westhill shop now stands as a beacon of what can happen when people come together with a shared purpose.



Through applications via our website or by collecting a form from the Westhill shop, local charities and groups can apply for funding for projects and costs that fall under Granite Heart's charitable purpose. This covers areas such as education, supporting mental health, promoting the arts and protecting the environment - all with a strong local community focus. We currently offer grants of up to £500 with a plan to increase this as Granite Heart grows. To date, grants have been made to organisations such as the

Belhelvie Community Trust, Bairness Baby Club, Cycling Without Age and SensationALL. The Board of Trustees meet each month to consider the latest applications.

Granite Heart has been overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community when receiving donations and would like to make a special request for paperback fiction. Books in good condition can be dropped off at the shop - found between Greggs and M&S in the Shopping Centre - from 9am until 5pm 7 days a week.

In addition, we can offer the people of Westhill a fantastic opportunity to make friends, connect with the local community and gain valuable skills that will enhance their CV. The Westhill shop is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people to join our existing team of wonderful volunteers. We offer flexible shifts to fit around you and tasks include helping customers to sorting donations. Tea, coffee and a fine piece are always provided! Apply via our website or pick up an application form in the shop.

The team at Granite Heart would like to take this opportunity to thank the Westhill community for their support and custom and we look forward to working with you for many more years to come. To find out more visit <https://graniteheart.org/>

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

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Westhill Senior Citizens Group

The Seniors Group is a lovely way to meet your friends, make new ones and get yourself out of the house.

We meet in Trinity Church on Westhill Drive from 2pm to 3.30pm. We have an hour of entertainment followed by refreshments (please bring your own cup).

We re-started on Thursday 4th September and have enjoyed a variety of entertainment from Singers (Tara Leiper, Amanda Penny; Ice Cool Katz and Musical medicine), Guitarists and a Ukelele group.



Programme to March 2026:

Thurs 27th Nov – Musical Medicine

Thu 8th Jan – Lucy Beth – Singer and story teller

Thu 5th Feb – Dan Greavy – Singer

Thu 5th March – Right Here Productions - 4 singers with backing Music

Thu 11th Dec – Our Christmas Lunch at the Broadstrait Inn

Thu 22nd Jan – Dennis Morrison – Accordionist/singer

Thu 19th Feb – The Dram Wifies

The cost will be £10 (to November 2026).

While dial a bus is still able to bring the seniors to the meetings, we have managed to hire the Westhill Community Minibus to take people home.

If you would like any further information please contact: Heather Cook on 01224 741194 or heathercook@tiscali.co.uk, Or Mika Mackenzie on 01224 742004. Charity No. – SCO14265



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Inverurie and District u3a goes live on 13 January 2026



If you are no longer in full-time work and still want to make the most of life in your 'third age', u3a is meant for you. It brings together people who want to learn new skills and share their knowledge and interests with others. Members can join in a range of activities and share new experiences in the company of like-minded people.

What is u3a?

Founded by the Third Age Trust, it has branches all over the country, with links through a Scottish network to share information and ideas. Each branch is managed locally by its own members to organise groups and events.

Meetings are held each month with a guest speaker, to which all members are invited. More importantly, members meet in special interest groups, with topics decided by, and led by, the members themselves. The number and range of subjects is limited only by their imagination and the choices they make.

What happens now

If you are interested in anything from photography to philosophy, crosswords to cooking, archaeology to arts and crafts, walking to talking, or just want to meet with new people to share ideas, we would like to invite you to our first meeting to find out more.

Our first meeting will take place on
13th January at 10.30am in St Andrews Church Hall, Inverurie

More information can be found on the **Inverurie and District u3a** Facebook page and on our website which will be starting soon.



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HALL NEWS

Blood Transfusion Services is here on December 23rd. Book with Blood Transfusion Services.

We wish everyone a happy festive season.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning more fundraising this year including a Kids Xmas Disco on December 19th and we're already planning for 2026 events.

But we really need people to join the fundraising committee and help come and organize events

CRAFT FAIR

There will be a Christmas Craft Fair with a wide range of crafts and foodstuff on Sunday 30th November 10am-4pm with a raffle and free entry.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The current Management Committee have been in control of the Hall for 8 years and due to the retirement from the Committee of one of the Trustees we are looking for new members and Trustees as we are now on the minimum number of Trustees to keep the Charity running and the future of the Hall could be at risk.

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 class booking or for Pickleball and Badminton or playdates. We also book for parties/ events. Contact ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk

WESTHILL MARKET (9am-1pm, 1st Saturday of every month apart from January)

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, jams, fudge, eggs, ethnic foods, crafts, jewelry 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 goods on offer and help the environment.

HALL CLASSES AND EVENTS

We offer a wide program of classes, for full details please see the next page and our online timetable: These are also displayed on the Hall noticeboards.

ENQUIRIES

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

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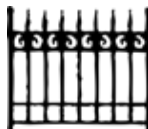
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DECEMBER – JANUARY TIMETABLE

Main Hall or meeting room bookable 8am-10pm Mon-Thur and 8am-4pm Fri for groups

Monday

0930 to 1015 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall - Block booking required**
 1030 to 1115 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall - Block booking required**
 1130 to 1225 – Zumba Gold – Main Hall – 07891000836 or 07703012273
 1300 to 1500 - Abricabeats – Main Hall - 07960443299
 1630 to 1730 – Cartel Flamenco Dancing – Main Hall - flamencoinaberdeen@gmail.com
 1745 to 1830 - Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
 1845 to 1930 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
 1945 to 2045 – Badminton (private term time) - Main Hall

Tuesday

0800 to 0930 – **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 1000 to 1200 – Pickleball (private) – Main Hall
 1230 to 1530 – **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 1545 to 1745 – Baby Ballet – Main Hall
 1815 to 1915 - Choi Kwang Do - Main Hall – hello@westhillckd.org
 1930 to 2045 – Badminton (private) – Main Hall

Wednesday

0915 to 1000 – Zumba Gold– 07703012273 or 07891000836 – Main Hall
 1015 to 1300 - **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 1330 to 1430 – Badminton – Main Hall – New Ladies welcome
 1515 to 1715 - Champs Kids Club – MR1
 1600 to 1700 – Pam Dignan Dancers - Main Hall
 1730 to 1845 - Kuk Sool Won – Main Hall - 07983981172
 1915 to 2045 – Line Dancing – Main Hall – (term time)

Thursday

0800 to 1000 - **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 1000 to 1045 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
 1100 to 1745 – **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 1600 to 1700 – Spanish Lessons – MR1 – claudia@spanishstarescocioa.com
 1800 to 1900 - Choi Kwang Do - Main Hall – hello@westhillckd.org
 1915 to 2115 – Badminton – Main Hall – Spaces available for players

Friday

0830 to 0915 - Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall - block booking required**
 0930 to 1015– Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall - block booking required**
 1030 to 1115 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall - block booking required**
 1600 to 1700 – Spanish Lessons – MR1 – claudia@spanishstarescocioa.com
 1130 to 1600 - **Free to book classes or Badminton/Pickleball. Events 11.30 to midnight**

Saturday

0900 to 1200 - Rugby tots – Main Hall - 07970690204

Free to book from 12.30-4.00pm for classes or 12.30pm-12.00am for parties & events.

Sunday

1000 to 1300 – Higher Ground Assembly – Main Hall

Free to book between 2pm to 11pm for parties and events.

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

Hall Facilities Manager tel. 01224 740137 or e-mail ashdalehall@hotmail.co.uk



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Tax on Rental Properties

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

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

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Skene Fundraising Committee -Macmillan Cancer Support

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

If you hold an event or take part in an event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support you can pass the the proceeds you raise to the Skene Fundraising Committee and this will ensure the funding will remain in the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen area. Please contact us for further information on email : macmillanskenefundraising@gmail.com

- All money raised through Skene Fundraising Committee and will remain in this area for Macmillan Cancer Support. In 2026 as we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary, please keep a look out on our facebook page for information on an important fundraising event..

Our other events since the last bulletin in August :-

- On Saturday 27th September we held our Coffee Morning at Lyne of Skene and are pleased to have raised £1948.40 .
- On Thursday 9th October we held a Bingo Evening at the Ashvale Chip Shop in Inverurie and raised £827.
- On Wednesday 15th October we assisted at the Garlogie Hall Community Coffee Morning and were pleased to have raised £952.15
- We also received donations from other Coffee Mornings within the area and collected £1556.99.

Our next events will be:-

- The Burns Supper will be held on Friday 23rd January 2026. Please check our Facebook page for ordering tickets.
- The next event will be the Quiz at Dunecht Hall on Friday 27th February 2026.
- Other events for 2026 will be posted on our Facebook Page.
- Please follow us on facebook: Macmillan Cancer Support-Skene Fundraising Committee to read about these events and future events. In addition we place posters around Westhill with the next up coming event/s.

Fundraising for
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

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

The funds raised by the committee remains within this area.If you would like to be a volunteer for events or join our committee please contact [Alison Troup -07974790765](mailto:Alison.Troup-07974790765) or macmillanskenefundraising@gmail.com
Charity No SCO039907



WESTHILL A2B

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.

The services operates on:

Monday and Friday from 10am to 11:20am and 12:40pm to 2:30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 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.

WESTHILL BOWLING CLUB



With the 2025 outdoor season now complete and the green put to rest for winter, congratulations go to all members who triumphed in the WBC internal competitions - in particular to Gary Forbes and Lorna Bradley, winners of the Gents and Ladies Singles Championships respectively.

The 2025 season was action packed.

Highlights include:

- Major green edge levelling, bank replacement, and wider facility upgrades
- Our Top 10 team competing in the national knockout competition
- Hosting a range of external events, including the Bowls Scotland District 3 Finals for the first time
- Representation at the Bowls Scotland Youth National Triples Finals
- Our annual invitational tournament
- Victory in the inaugural BA Fours League KO competition, as well as the BA Top 5

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be just as exciting, with David Cobban-Shaw serving as Bon Accord President, a role that will see the Club host several prestigious external events.

As we approach Christmas many of you will have the perennial question of "what will I get (you add the name) for Christmas". I know that in my family we have this same stress every year.

So here is a suggestion for you. Get them a membership of Westhill Bowling Club. It's good for any age from about 10 upwards, male or female. It will be gift that never stops giving for many, many years. The lucky recipients will enjoy gentle outdoor exercise, great camaraderie, friendly sporting activity and the chance to meet a much larger circle of friends. We have friendly matches as well as competitive matches against other clubs in the Aberdeen area and the wider Aberdeenshire area which gives even more opportunity to expand horizons visiting different locations.

All this and you will have enough change out of £50 to buy a gift card. (Change out of £10 for juniors). What's not to like.

If you or anyone you know would like to come and join us and be part of our ongoing story of bowling in the Westhill area please do not hesitate to get in touch by e mail robert.mutch@btinternet.com or telephone 07562 696193 and I'll send you the necessary details.



Westhill Bowling Club wishes

you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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WESTHILL AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

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

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

Wednesday 10th December is our annual Christmas floral art night and raffle. Please note this is the second Wednesday in December.

Wednesday 21st January 2026 AGM

On Wednesday 18th February we welcome speaker Fiona Musk from the NHS.

If you would like any further information regarding the Gardening Club, please contact:-
Events secretary – Ann Westwood
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North Point Opening – A great success!

Local charity, Camphill Wellbeing Trust (CWT) officially opened the multi-purpose North Point building at its flagship Compass Project site on Craigton Road, Cults on 6th September following a £750,000 restoration project. Over 200 people enjoyed family-friendly activities and refreshments at the event and saw the charity participate in the Aberdeen City Doors Open Days initiative for the first time.

As well as exploring the North Point building - an accessible and welcoming space for sports, physical activity and connection - visitors to Compass enjoyed the extensive outdoor areas, including the no-dig organic garden, woodland areas, orchard and bee-keeping corner.

Iain Duguid – a Compass volunteer who has clocked up an incredible 610 volunteer hours cut a specially made nature ribbon, held by Dr. Stefan Geider, GP and clinical lead of CWT and Dr Aileen Primrose, CWT CEO, to mark the occasion.



Dr Primrose said “This moment marks an important step in our journey *navigating healthy, sustainable living* — a journey to bring the ethos & practices of Camphill to the wider public through hands on experiences. Today we see what is possible when people come together with purpose. This building is more than just bricks and mortar- imbued with the care and vision of those have worked to bring it to this stage –it provides a nurturing space where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to grow stronger in body, mind and spirit. None of this would have been possible without our incredible volunteers, who have given their time, skills, and passion to help bring this vision to life. You are the beating heart of Compass and make our work all worthwhile.”

Emma King, Primary Care Lead at Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership, also participated in the opening ceremony saying -

“What Camphill Wellbeing Trust has nurtured and built at Compass is truly inspiring - a progressive, inclusive community model that not only uplifts individuals but also brings people together through meaningful and healthy activities. It's clear that Compass is not just a place - but a living, growing community with purpose at its heart. We are proud to be working alongside Camphill Wellbeing Trust and look forward to continuing our collaboration - supporting them as they sustain and expand their vital services which make such a positive difference in people's lives.”

The North Point opening is not the end of the story — but a chapter in an unfolding one. The next phase at Compass will focus on the sustainable refurbishment of two further buildings: the former science block and kindergarten. These will create an Enterprise & Health Hub with:

- a zero-waste training kitchen using organic, seasonal produce from the garden to supply a welcoming café,
- a play area for families,
- a dedicated therapeutic space
- an upcycle and recycle charity shop.

Meanwhile the Compass site is open to all. Its garden shop, open Monday-Friday, sells seasonal fruit and vegetables grown organically onsite, as well as Compass honey and crafts. And the North Point building hosts drop-in play sessions for under 5s with parents/carers on Friday mornings.

We are looking for more volunteers to help us expand our services - please get in touch to find out more!

www.compassaberdeen.org.uk or email compass@cwt.scot

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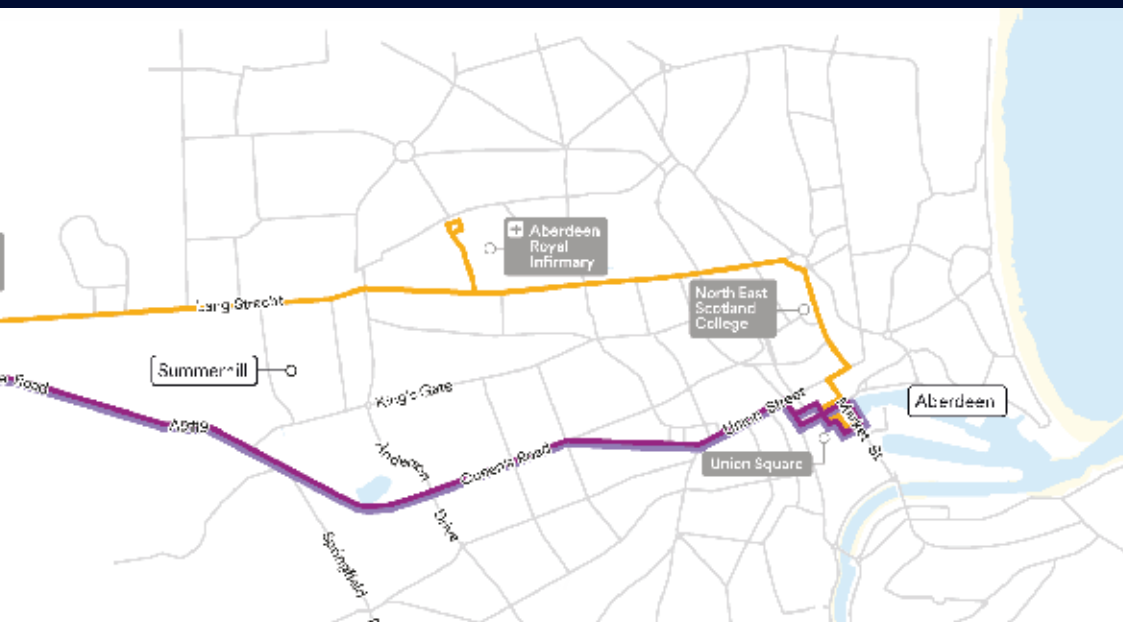
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Hogmanay Celebrations

Join us for our Hogmanay Disco starting at 8pm, it's a night full of fun, fizz and sparkles! Ring in the New Year in style and enjoy a special appearance from the Bucksburn & District Pipe Band. Food will be served as normal from 12pm until last food orders at 5pm. Thereafter, you are welcome to dance the night away until 1am. Entry is free of charge. Over 18's only.

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Westhill & District Men's Shed

Make friends, share interests and help our community

The Men's Shed has continued to be busy over the autumn and attracts thirty or more people to most sessions. Many members are engaged in their own workshop projects or in repair work for the local community.

Away from the workshop the Shed Band rehearses on a Wednesday lunchtime and has increased in number recently. The bridge section meets on Friday mornings and would welcome newcomers of any level of ability. It is not about the score or winning, but a socially enjoyable game.

Some members come in for a cuppa and a natter to catch up with other members – that is what the Shed is here for.

Nine shedders used the Westhill community minibus to visit the Morayvia Air Museum in Kinloss, but not until they had enjoyed a welcome brunch in Elgin. The museum is well worth visiting – most exhibits are accessible so if you fancy sitting in the cockpit of a modern fighter plane, this is the place for you. They are open weekends from Easter to October and Thursdays during school holidays.

We had an interesting visit from a group of pupils from Westhill Academy in September who were making a short film. Chairman Jim was filmed showing them our facilities and Treasurer Graham was interviewed in the car park. Great performances but unlikely to be on screen with Tom Cruise.



The Shed held another tool sale in September. These are a great opportunity to pick up useful kit for the home and garden without breaking the bank. And we made nearly £2,000 for Shed funds, so everyone is a winner.

Thanks to all those who helped and of course the people of Westhill for supporting us.

Opening Times: Monday 10am - 4pm, Wednesday 2pm – 8pm, Friday 10am - 4pm

Why not come along to the Shed and join us - it is free, and you will be helping the community.

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

contact@westhillmensshed.co.uk

You can buy equipment at any time directly from the shed (see our opening times above). To find out what we have phone and ask 01224 917345.

www.westhillmensshed.co.uk Charity SCIO No. SC042663.



Westhill Photography Club has been running in the area for a number of years. We are a friendly Club and within our membership most types of photography subjects are taken – from landscapes to nature photography, travel, wildlife, macro and sport etc.

The Club welcomes members of any level of skill and through a varied programme does its best to support photographers of all standards from beginners to enthusiastic amateurs.

We meet on a Thursday evening from 7 – 9 pm from August to May at the Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene. Our new programme offers indoor workshops, outdoor meets and talks designed to inspire our members. We currently have a “Winter” themed display at Westhill Library. Feel free to pop in past and have a look at our images. Add pic

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. You’ll be made most welcome!

If this sounds like something you would like to try please email Westhill.Photography@outlook.com



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Well I never thought I would ever have done it but after talking to my wife we came to the conclusion that it was getting too much for us. So we had a look around and after talking to others we decided to get in a gardener for the heavy work. After he came for a look round he agreed to come and do the heavy stuff. I was happy with that, so now I can get on with the lighter jobs in the garden and green house.

So if you feel it's getting too much for you, get in a gardener and have a bit more time to enjoy the hard work you have done in the past years. I reckon you will take this time to look around and enjoy what you have done all the past years

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Jog Scotland Westhill (JSW)

For those of you who don't know us (or have seen us running round Westhill in our yellow t-shirts and wondered who we are), we are a friendly and inclusive local jogging group that caters to all abilities.

We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 6.30 pm in the Westhill Academy car park (at the main entrance to the Academy) and run for approx 1 hour with groups completing various distances from 5K – 10K. We have 5 different pace groups ensuring there really is something for everyone. If you're a beginner, all we ask is that you can walk briskly for 30 minutes, and if you're already a regular runner, you'll find plenty of running buddies in our different pace groups.

During the Summer months of lighter nights, as well as running round Westhill on Mondays and Thursdays, we also had a few runs out at Dunecht Estate for a change of scene.

The first running night of each month, is "Bun Run" night and is always popular with runners being rewarded with a fine array of homebakes (or shop-bought goodies – we're not fussy!)

During the year so far, club members have continued to

take part in lots of events, covering all sorts of distances from 5K races, weekly ParkRuns, 10K races, half-marathons, full marathons and Ultras!

Throughout the year, JSW has also supported some local charities by way of donations from club funds.

We are also planning a 10-week Learn to Run programme, lovingly called "Couch to 5K (C25K)", and it's anticipated that this will kick-off in January 2026 with the intention of those who complete the programme taking part in the Balmoral 5K run which is taking place on 4 April 2026. Further details will be shared via Facebook and other means once the programme has been finalised, however, please feel free to register your interest using the email address below and details will be sent to you in due course.

At JSW, we're always keen to welcome new members, so if you're looking to join a friendly social running group to help keep you motivated and would like to come along, or find out more information about us please contact jogscotlandwesthill@gmail.com.

For anyone looking for further information on JogScotland, please visit their website: <https://jogscotland.org.uk/>

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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***

Office hours 8:30am to 2:30 pm Tel: 07565 912522



Classes/ Activities available:

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- Vinyasa Yoga
- Mindfulness with Qigong
- Rehab and Physical Activity Class
- Slimming World
- Pilates
- Westdyke Community Club (FC)
- Westhill Table Tennis Club.



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Skene Medical Group Update

Important Updates: Text Messages, Our New Phone System, and Winter Illness Advice

Welcome to our latest practice bulletin. We have some updates to share about how we'll be communicating with you, as well as helpful advice for staying well this winter.

Text Message Consent

A More Convenient Way to Reach You. To make communication more convenient and efficient, we're introducing a new text message service for our patients. You may soon receive a text asking for your consent to receive SMS messages from us. These might include brief updates such as test results or other non-clinical information. This system is not a substitute for GP consultations - it simply replaces certain phone calls from our admin team, helping us work more efficiently while respecting your time.

How It Works

The initial text message will ask whether you'd like to opt in or decline this service. You can respond easily, and you're welcome to change your preference at any time in future.

Keep Your Mobile Number Updated

To ensure you receive messages, please make sure your mobile phone number is up to date at the practice. If you registered as a child, your parent or guardian's number may still be on file. Please take a moment to check and update your contact details so messages reach you directly.

Changes to Our Phone System

Our phone system will soon be updated to include menu options when you call. You'll hear a brief message asking you to select an option (for example, "Press 1 for appointments, Press 2 for test results"). This will help direct your call to the right team more quickly.

Winter Illness: Managing Viral Infections

As we're now into winter, we're seeing an increase in viral infections such as colds, flu, and other seasonal bugs. It's important to remember that viral infections cannot be treated with antibiotics - antibiotics only work against bacterial infections. Overuse of antibiotics contributes to antibiotic resistance, making these important medicines less effective when they're truly needed.

Most viral infections will get better on their own with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter remedies. For guidance on self-management and advice on when you should seek medical help, please visit NHS Inform at www.nhsinform.scot



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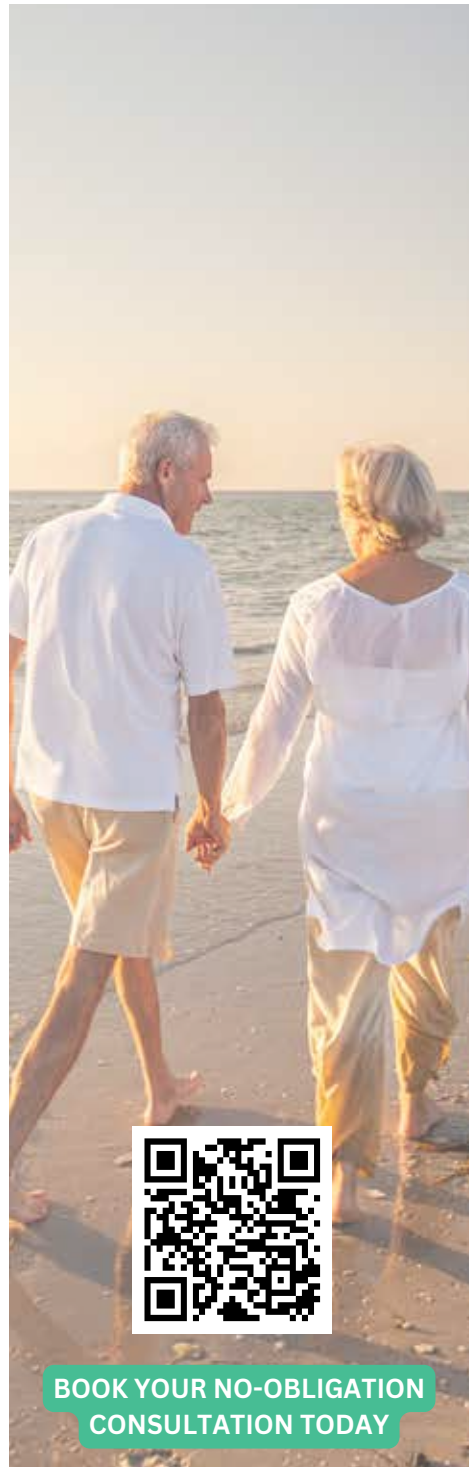
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Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our services and meetings. Sunday morning worship is at 10.30 am, followed by refreshments. If you are unable to attend in person, please feel free to join us online, or follow the service later via our YouTube channel. Full details and links can be found at www.westhillcommunitychurch.org



Our Minister

Our minister, Dave McCarthy, has a passion to serve the local community, but above all to share the love of Jesus Christ and to let everyone know that they are loved by God. The door of his office at the church is often open, so please feel free to drop in!

Dave can also 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

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

No prior booking required

THE SCOTTON CAFE JANUARY 2022 THE SCOTTON CAFE JANUARY 2022

Christmas at Westhill Community Church

21 December 10.30am - Nativity
24 December 4pm - Christingle
11.30pm - Watchnight Holy Communion
25 December 10.30am - All-Age Worship
31 December 11.00pm - 12.30am - Crossover Worship

oasis "It shared safe space where it's not to put the oil"

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thebereavementjourney@wcc.org

A Quote To Think About

"For me, my identity isn't a golf score. Like Meredith (his wife) told me this morning, 'If you win this golf tournament today, if you lose this golf tournament by 10 shots, if you never win another golf tournament again,' she goes, 'I'm still going to love you, you're still going to be the same person, Jesus loves you and nothing changes.' All I'm trying to do is glorify God and that's why I'm here and that's why I'm in this position."

Scottie Sheffler

To you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

Christingle Service

24th December 4 pm

Join us as we celebrate together the coming of Jesus into this dark world

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Kingshill Parish Church



t's that time of year again! Though, to be fair, if you're one to hang around Dobbies or Home Bargains, you'll know Christmas really began this year at the end of September.

Kingshill Parish Church would be delighted to welcome all and sundry to our Christmas services this year. Join us as we remember what this time of year is really about: the arrival of the creator in his creation, the author written into his own book—Immanuel, God with us, in the flesh, forevermore.

First Sunday of Advent:

30 November, 10:30am - Trinity Church

Second Sunday of Advent:

7 December, 10:30am - Skene Kirk

Third Sunday of Advent:

14 December, 10:30am - Skene Kirk

Family Nativity (Advent 4):

21 December, 10:30am - Trinity Church

Carols by Candlelight:

14 December, 7pm - Skene Kirk

Christmas Eve

Family Christmas Eve Service, 4pm - Trinity Church

Family Christingle Service, 6pm - Kingswells Village Hall

Watchnight Service, 11.15pm - Skene Kirk

Christmas Day

10am - Skene Kirk

With warmest regards,
Rev. Dr. Daniel H. Spencer
Kingshill Parish Church
DSpencer@churchofscotland.org.uk.
Tel 07554 392895



The Scribbling Scribes

We are the Scribbling Scribes, a new Journalism group at Crombie Primary School. We meet every Monday lunchtime to discuss the latest news at Crombie, write articles and to add our voice to the Crombie Catch Up Newsletter!

So far this term a lot has happened at Crombie, our news headlines at a glance are:

- The Playground had new playground game designs painted on it. Huge shout out to Mike Wallace and the air cadets!
- The P7s now have one to one ChromeBook devices.
- The P7s have buddies, helping the P1s settle into school and learn routines.
- We have a visiting Therapet Dog, Harvey, the amazing reading dog!
- The P4s had a Harp Workshop from Scottish Opera.

We are looking forward to developing our journalism skills, and we plan to:

- Interview members of the staff and visiting specialists.
- Cover the latest news at Crombie.
- Ask the classes what they like about Crombie.
- Meet a real-life journalist and ask them about their work.

We hope to continue to share news from our fantastic school to make everyone who reads it have a Crombie smile!





WESTHILL GOLF CLUB

Another very successful season draws to a close but golf doesn't stop just because the season is over. Throughout the winter the stalwarts will get wrapped up and go out even on the coldest days. The Senior Gents section is particularly active over the winter months with a range of weekly competitions. Our very dedicated lady members carry on playing with their "Magic 8" and "Affa Cauld" competitions. There is also our Gents section winter series of Stablefords, scrambles and team competitions. Of course it is good exercise, but for many the chance to meet friends and perhaps come in to the Clubhouse afterwards for a hot bowl of soup and a good chat is just as important. The continued play may explain why our winter membership offers have been so popular, giving people the opportunity to try out the course before they decide whether to commit to membership.

As well as successful Club golf, our Opens have attracted visitors from across the country (quite literally). We added a new Mixed Open event this year as well as our usual selection of Stableford and Strokeplay Opens and all have been very well attended. It is great to be able to showcase our Club to a wider audience and thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to comment on the great condition of the course this year.

Social events continue throughout the year with the Ladies Christmas Fair coming up soon. That one is always popular and sells out every year. Our annual prizegiving will also be happening soon, giving a chance for the members to recognise each other's achievements. Thank you to everyone who comes along and makes these events so successful. We will be having a "Night Golf" evening again as well. For those who don't know, that involves playing after dark with illuminated golf balls. Not the most serious game of the year perhaps, but everybody who played last time seemed to enjoy it.

And on the subject of thanks, particular thanks also to MB Air Systems, George McBain and Co and Chalmers Electrical Services Ltd, who together made it possible for us to install a great new cleaning station for trolleys and shoes. That is such an improvement on what we had before and very much welcomed by all our members.

So with everything that is happening at the Club, if you happen to be looking out and thinking it is a beautiful day over the winter, why not come along for a few holes. You will be very welcome.

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 £46,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups over these last 14 years.

In October donations were made to the local branch of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young, see page XX) and to the Table Tennis Club to enable them to run table tennis sessions at the Westdyke Leisure Centre for some asylum seekers.

The next round of donations will be considered in February 2026. Closing date for applications is 6th February. See <https://westhillelrick.org/people-make-a-place/donations/> for Guidance Notes and the Application form or contact treasurerwecc@gmail.com





VARAPUNYA Meditation Centre

The Varapunya Meditation Centre, a Buddhist centre, on the eastern edge of Westhill, is now well established in the community. With the completion of our new meditation hall, giving us both light and spaciousness (even in the dark winter months), we are able to share the

practices of both guided sitting and walking meditation on a regular basis in addition to our daily routines of morning and evening chanting and meditation practice.

One of the principles of our teaching is deep reflection on the idea that all things in life are impermanent. There is nothing 'permanent' in anything. This is a basic truth that people are usually hesitant to consider or discuss. Moment by moment all things in life are changing, including our bodies, thoughts and experiences. Understanding & accepting deeply this ultimate truth leads us to a sort of 'liberation in itself, as we no longer push against our more natural way of being. Indeed, at this time of the year, the changes from summer to autumn to winter are a vivid 'show' of this impermanence of all things. Instead of resisting change & fighting against it, we learn to 'surf' the waves of change in life rather than being engulfed by them. This is where developing mindfulness in daily life comes in.



For this reason, as we have said before, our main focus has been - and will continue to be - sharing the practice of mindfulness meditation as a means of nurturing the development of mindful living for daily life. Slowly but surely, as we become more skilled in our mindfulness meditation practice, our inner nature becomes more calm, more accepting & more peaceful. The ups and downs of life become less severe, as we learn to accept change, see it for what it is, and develop the strength and skills, to view change as an opportunity rather than fight against it.

The highlight of the autumn period has been our Kathina Robe Offering ceremony at the end of October. This marks the end of the 'rains retreat' when monks would traditionally stay in one place to teach and practice. At the end, a new robe would be offered for the year ahead as a gesture of gratitude. The robe carries the blessings of the whole community by passing it over the heads of the people before it is offered to the monks. On this day, we also enjoy meditation practice, a traditional food offering, a teaching and a lovely community lunch. The weather did its worst a few days before, damaging one of the marquees that was to give cover outside but, with great efforts by our community and other supporters, all went well in the end.

Our work in the Aberdeen/shire community continues with regular chanting, meditation & teaching most Wednesday evenings at the centre & Mindfulness Mondays at the Aberdeen Health Village on the last Monday of each month at 12 noon and 1.00pm.



We continued our contribution in schools such as a two-hour Q&A at Bucksburn Academy with older pupils. The pupils had prepared most skilfully questions! We came away most impressed.

A new development has been a successful 'taster' event in collaboration with Parkinsons Aberdeen & South Aberdeenshire, sharing how the principles of mindfulness meditation for mindful living can provide effective support for the mental and physical health issues, along with some helpful practices. It is planned to repeat this again with a view to something more regular if there is the demand.

As we do not charge for any of our teaching and practice, we rely on individual donations and some occasional small grants.

More information can be found on our website at <https://www.varapunyacentre.com/> and also on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/varapunya.centre>

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CYCLING WITHOUT AGE SCOTLAND



Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS) is an intergenerational project that helps people who are isolated or have mobility issues to enjoy the freedom of being outdoors.

Our team of volunteers at Westhill have had a busy summer & autumn offering free trips to members of our community enabling them to enjoy the benefits of the outdoor environment, and to combat loneliness and isolation. These rides provide social interaction, enable new friendships, improve health and well-being and integrate communities.

Our regular services users are increasing in numbers and now include:

- Westhill Senior Citizens
- Pitcairn Lodge Nursing Home
- Blackhills Court Sheltered Housing
- Woodlands Care Home
- Birch House Care Home

We also offer this service to anyone living in Westhill & Elrick or nearby communities, who are not part of an official care service but may have restricted mobility. If you have a family member who falls into this category please do get in touch with us.



A few of our Westhill volunteers attended the *"Plenty? Festival, Family Friendly Day"* at The Barn in Banchory. Our mission was to display our trishaws to the Banchory community and to meet with the team that are setting up a new CWAS "Chapter" in the town.

If you enjoy helping people and like being outdoors in your local community, then why don't you consider becoming a volunteer pilot for the Westhill Chapter.

You can change many lives and even take your own loved ones out for rides too!

YOU can get involved in this amazing form of cycling and make a real difference. 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.

If you are part of a group who looks after people with mobility issues or want more information, we'd love to hear from you.

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What we've done lately...

Between August and October we held:

- **22** 1 to 1's for school pupils
- **77** play and activity sessions in the October school holidays
- **18** adult support groups
- **17** support groups and advisory sessions for parents and carers



October holiday
activity session

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Come to our 2026 fundraising events:

Firewalk

Quiz night

Traitors party



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We need new and unused tombola items, raffle prizes, selection boxes etc.

Please drop off at The Old Schoolhouse on Westhill Road, Mon - Thur, 9.30-5pm
no later than 4th Dec.

Various **volunteer** shifts available on 6th & 7th Dec; email us!

events@sensationall.org.uk
www.sensationall.org.uk

Registered charity SC043156

LYNE OF SKENE VILLAGE HALL

Are you looking for a venue for your next party, quiz night, coffee morning or fayre? Or perhaps for somewhere to run a series of classes? If you are, please add Lyne of Skene Village Hall to your list of possibilities. Located all on one floor, it comprises one large hall and one smaller hall, along with accessible toilet facilities. The small hall incorporates kitchen facilities and a coal fire for the cooler times of the year. In addition, both halls are fitted with wall-mounted heaters, whilst trestle tables and seating are plentiful. On-site car parking is also available for about 20 vehicles..

Our competitively priced rates currently are:

- Main Hall - £20 p/hr (private hire rate) or £30 p/hr (business hire rate)
- Small Hall - £10 p/hr (private hire rate) or £20 p/hr (business hire rate)
- Both Halls - £30 p/hr (private hire rate) or £50 p/hr (business hire rate)



Our monthly "Bide A While" coffee and home-bake mornings have proved extremely popular. Lyne of Skene committee members together with a team of local/willing helpers host these events between 10.30am and 2.30pm on the last Saturday of each month. These will continue through the cooler months, albeit with more appropriate offerings of soup and a sandwich.

In September, we hosted a Ladies Pop-Up Shop & Fun Fashion Show, which produced a sell-out audience and raised an impressive £1760 for Hall funds. Sincere thanks to all those who organised and/or supported the evening, and to our local sponsors for their raffle contributions – special mentions to Nick at The Garlogie Inn and Angus at Forest Farms Dairy for their extremely kind donations. Such was the demand for tickets we are more than likely to host another similar event next year.

The Hall was also the venue for the annual local MacMillan Coffee Morning in September and last month, for the Friends of Anchor Craft Fair. A fundraiser was also held in November featuring local musician Pete MacCallum, when those in attendance were thoroughly entertained by an evening of "Bothy Jazz" and contemporary Scottish folk songs – sincere thanks to Pete for volunteering his services and for waiving his performance fee.

Our next fundraiser will be a Christmas wreath-making evening at the Hall running from 7pm on Monday 1st December. Tickets are priced at £40 per person, which will cover the cost of all materials - places can be booked by contacting Kerry on 07842-411515.

The new Committee aim to run as a non-profit organisation, with all monies raised going towards the continued upkeep, licensing and insuring of the Hall for public benefit.

Future fundraising events and a list of current classes/activities can be found on our Facebook page - Lyne of Skene Village Hall. Booking enquiries can be made via lyneofskenehall@gmail.com.



1st Skene Girls' Brigade

We are well into our new Session now with 25 girls meeting on a Monday night in Trinity Church from 6-7.30pm. They have started on their badgework and are already practising for the Divisional competitions. We attended the first of the competitions on 1st November where all girls joined in with various Potted Sports.



We attended the Remembrance service in Skene Church and laid our Poppy Wreath at the Memorial.

We will be going along to the Inverurie Panto once again this year and the girls and Leaders are looking forward to the evening where we all get into the Festive spirit.

Come along and find out what we do on a Monday night and join in the fun and make new friends. All girls will be made welcome from P1 – S6, we have no waiting list.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself: FIONA CUMMING (CAPTAIN) on 07792 471199 or email fionacumming26@icloud.com

WESTHILL - BIKE CLUB -



Westhill Bike Club has gone from strength to strength over the summer & autumn with good attendance for mid-week and weekend rides. We have welcomed a number of new members to the club boosting the ride numbers and have thoroughly enjoyed around 80 rides together. As a club we have also taken part in a number of events including Ride the North and Etape Loch Ness.

Now that the darker nights are here and the cold is settling in, the mid-week rides have been suspended until spring. There will still however be weekend rides over the winter - weather permitting.

Club rides start at either Westhill Community Church on Old Skene Road or outside Greggs, Westhill Shopping Centre. We have an active Facebook page where we share pictures of our adventures and social rides and information about social events, but ride details are shared with members via the Spond app. If you would like to join us on one of the rides, please feel free to contact us on info@westhillbikeclub.com. Nobody gets left behind; rides are no-drop with regroups and plenty of encouragement. Why not come along for a taster session, complete beginners and experienced cyclists are welcome.

After a thorough selection process, we are delighted to welcome Kalas as the new club kit supplier. Kalas are an established custom kit supplier for bike clubs, teams and organisations such as Cycling UK. The new kit can be ordered online - link found on our website www.westhillbikeclub.com.

For those of us cycling on through the winter, here are some tips from British Cycling on how to stay safe and keep our bikes running smoothly.

Brighten Up!

Winter days are shorter, and visibility is often reduced. Make sure you're seen by other road users, whether it's dawn, dusk, or midday in gloomy weather.

Lights are essential - invest in good-quality front and rear lights, even if you only ride during daylight hours.

Reflective gear - reflective clothing or accessories are an easy way to boost visibility.



Cleanliness is key!

Winter riding often means wet, muddy, or salty roads. Left unchecked, grime can damage your bike over time.

Quick tip - after every ride, give your bike a rinse to remove dirt and grit. Use warm water and a soft brush or sponge for stubborn spots. Avoid high-pressure sprays, which can force water into bearings and other sensitive parts.

Even quicker tip - if you're short on time, focus on cleaning your chain, drivetrain, and brakes – these parts are most affected by winter muck.

Lubricate and protect!

Wet and cold conditions can wreak havoc on moving parts, especially the chain. Keep things running smoothly with regular lubrication.

Choose the right lube - use a wet-weather lubricant, it's designed to stick better in damp conditions.

Keep it light - wipe off any excess lube after applying; too much can attract dirt.

Extra layer of care - Consider applying a protective spray to exposed metal parts to fend off rust.

As your local cycling club, we will continue to represent the interests of cyclists to increase and improve cycling infrastructure in this area.

If you would like any more information about the club, you can find us at www.westhillbikeclub.com, on Facebook or email us info@westhillbikeclub.com



Jude MacDonald Memorial Fund

We would like to share the story behind Jude MacDonald Memorial Fund, created in loving memory of Jude, a kind, gentle 16 year old boy who tragically passed away in January 2023 from a sudden cardiac arrest caused by an undiagnosed heart condition.

Before that heartbreaking day, we were a typical family navigating the ups and downs of teenage life, school runs, homework, football matches and PlayStation marathons. At the heart of it all was Jude, thoughtful, kind and a gentle giant with a heart full of love.

Born on 19th October 2006, Jude brought joy from the very beginning. He attended Scouthall Playgroup, Elrick School and Westhill Academy,

where he was known for his warm nature and quiet determination. He loved spending time with friends, gaming online, playing football with Cove Youth Boys or enjoying family trips to the Isle of Lewis.

Jude's death shattered our world. There are no words that can truly capture the depth of our pain and heartache. His sisters, Lois and Maya, lost their beloved brother and we, as his parents, lost a part of ourselves. The grief is overwhelming, a constant presence in our lives. Jude's death changed everything. For everyone who knew and loved him, life will never be the same.

In the wake of this tragedy, we found support through Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), a UK charity dedicated to preventing sudden cardiac deaths in young people through free heart screenings, research, and bereavement support. CRY was launched in 1995 and is now internationally recognised for its work in preventing young sudden cardiac death (YSCD).

Each week in the UK, around 12 apparently fit young people (aged 35 and under) die suddenly from hidden heart conditions. 80% of these deaths occur with no prior symptoms, which is why CRY believes screening is vital. CRY now tests around 30,000 young people annually (aged 14–35) using a simple, non-invasive ECG test. The programme is overseen by world-leading sports cardiologist Professor Sanjay Sharma and supported by CRY's research team at St George's, University of London.

One in every 300 young people tested is found to have a potentially life-threatening (if untreated or left unmonitored) condition. CRY hopes to raise awareness so families can better understand their heart history and seek prompt assessment if a young person dies suddenly and without explanation.

Each screening day costs £7,000 and tests 100 young people. Thanks to the incredible generosity of family, friends and the Westhill community, over £75,000 has been raised so far. This has already funded four screening days, testing 411 young people. Of those, 20 were referred for follow-up with their GP due to symptoms, family history or further testing needs. Six more screening days are booked for 2026 and we are committed to doing even more.

Every penny raised through Jude's Memorial Fund is ring-fenced to fund local cardiac screenings, ensuring every penny goes directly toward protecting young lives in our community. This mission is entirely volunteer led, powered by love, grief and a shared commitment to saving lives.

You can support Jude's legacy by donating, sponsoring a screening, organising a fundraiser, sharing Jude's story or partnering through your business or workplace. As a smaller, less established charity, we rely on local businesses and corporate partners to help expand our reach.

Jude was and always will be incredibly special. His life changed in an instant and so did ours. We never got to say goodbye but through this fund, his memory lives on and his legacy is saving lives.

Life is precious, tomorrow is not promised. Please treasure every moment.

To learn more, get involved, or find upcoming screening dates, please email ruthljm@hotmail.com. To donate, visit www.c-y.org.uk/jude-macdonald or <https://www.justgiving.com/page/in-memory-of-jude-macdonald-4>



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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 & 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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HOLIDAY TRENDS FOR 2026



As another busy year starts to draw to a close and we start thinking about planning trips for 2025, I thought I would give you a bit of an insight into what is trending for 2026.

Rail Travel – Increasingly, I'm seeing a trend for exploring a destination or two by rail. It is a fabulous way to see a country, as you sit back and enjoy the views as they pass by. France, Italy and Switzerland are proving popular. Especially the scenic routes in the Alps and exploring Italy's coastline.

For breathtaking scenery consider the Glacier Express and the Bernina Express in Switzerland. Norway's Flam railway and Germany's Rhine Valley Railway.

Morocco – growing in popularity, due to its rich culture, stunning landscapes and unforgettable flavours.

Explore the vibrant souks of Marrakech. The blue streets of Chefchaouen are a photographer's dream. Take a camel trek exploring the Sahara Desert or go hiking in the Atlas Mountains. Along the coast Essaouira blends surf vibes with historic charm, while Fes and Meknes transport you straight into Morocco's imperial past.



There is something for everyone from adventure to luxury.

Vietnam – Quickly becoming one of Asia's must-visit destinations and it's easy to see why. With its mix of natural beauty, rich history and vibrant cities and the food is incredible. There is something for every kind of traveller. Also fantastic for families.

From the towering limestone cliffs of Ha Long Bay to the lantern filled streets of Hoi An, there is so much to explore at every turn. Hanoi buzzes with culture, Ho Chi Minh City pulses with energy and street food, while the rice terraces of Sapa and the sandy beaches of Phu Quoc offer peaceful escapes.

Warm hospitality and authentic experiences that are affordable makes it a perfect destination for culture seekers, foodies and adventure travellers alike. Take a street food tour, cruise on the Mekong Delta or learn to cook a local dish.

Expedition Cruising – Looking to tick off a once-in-a-lifetime destination – Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands or the Arctic?

Rather than a typical cruise of big ships and scheduled stops, expedition cruises take you into remote, lesser-visited destinations. These voyages use smaller ships which are more casual, with onboard teams of naturalists or marine biologists etc. who lead the excursions and provide lectures. The emphasis is very much on education and learning.

These types of trip are all about exploration, whether it's penguin colonies in Antarctica or snorkelling among the rich ecosystems in the Galapagos. If you are looking for something that connects you deeper with nature or culture an expedition cruise offers that. The journey is the destination.

If you're ready to pack your bags and need some help. Contact me via the ad on page 59 - or follow me on Facebook/Instagram for updates.



Westhill Library



Open: Tuesday 10am-7pm, Wednesday 10am-7pm, Thursday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9am-1pm

Hello!

With the darker nights drawing in, it's the perfect time to pop into the library and pick up some books to cosy up with during the cold winter months.

In the run-up to Christmas, have you considered borrowing rather than buying? Take a look at our large selection of cookbooks for menu-planning as well as knitting, crochet and crafting books for home-made gift ideas. Select a few seasonal stories to get you in the spirit!

If you're looking for the perfect present, pick up a bargain at our book sale. We sell excellent quality, second-hand books throughout the year. Prices are 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks. You'll find a great selection of books for both adults and children including many recent releases.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025

A fantastic number of adults, children and family groups signed up at Westhill Library for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the lucky winners of prizes in the grand draw.

Our Top Picks

Looking for inspiration for what to read next?

Here One Moment - Lianne Moriarty

- the latest novel from the author of Big Little Lies

The Killing Stones - Ann Cleeves

- although departed from the TV series, Jimmy Perez continues to solve crimes in the latest Shetland novel

Heartbeats: a memoir - Björn Borg

- the incomparable Björn shares his story

Spotlight on: Book Groups!

Ever thought of setting up a book group? It's easier than you think with the help of our Reading Group collections. Book groups are a great way to get together, exchange views and try out new genres.

With a vast selection of titles to choose from, sets of books for reading groups can be ordered online and collected from the library. Check out the Virtual Reading Room on our website for a full list of available titles, instructions on how to order and tips on starting your group.

What's On?

Scrabble Club for adults

Wednesdays 10.30am – 12pm

Drop in, no booking required

Bookbug for pre-schoolers

Thursdays 10.30am – 11am (term-time)

Booking essential

Lego Drop-in for 5 to 12 year olds

Last Saturday of each month, 9.30-12.00

Drop in, no booking required

We run events and activities for all ages throughout the year. Check out our Facebook page or visit our webpage www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/local-libraries/westhill-library/whats-on-in-westhill-library/ to see what's on.

'In the winter she curls up around a good book and dreams away the cold.' Ben Aaronovitch

Contact us

T: 01224 472871

E: westhill.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

W: www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/



Community

Our regular litter picks are still going strong around Westhill, helping to clear away the surprising amount of rubbish and keep our town looking its best. We're in preparation for our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Ashdale Hall — always a great afternoon filled with laughter, good company, and festive cheer! Plus, our Rotarians run a monthly Bric-a-Brac stall at the Ashdale Hall Market, where we sell lovely pre-loved items to raise funds for local youth projects.



Youth activities

The Youth Committee at Westhill Rotary Club is looking forward to receiving entries for this year's Young Artist and Young Photographer competitions in December. These events always showcase the incredible creativity and talent of our local young people, and we can't wait to see what they produce this year!

Looking ahead, information about the Young Environmentalist competition will be released in January, offering another fantastic opportunity for students to express their passion for protecting our planet.

January will also see the return of our ever-popular Rotary Quizzes for P4/5 and P6/7 pupils—a highlight in the school calendar that brings fun, teamwork, and friendly competition to the forefront.

We're also delighted to invite enthusiastic young people to put their names forward for RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)—a life-changing experience that builds confidence, leadership, and teamwork.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported and participated in this year's Rotary Shoebox Appeal. Your generosity has made a real difference in bringing joy to families in need.

International work

Our international Committee continues to support new

and ongoing projects around the world. We partner with charities like Sand Dams Worldwide to fund and build sand dams in dryland areas. Sand dams are reinforced concrete walls built across seasonal rivers that trap water behind the sand, which acts as a natural filter to provide communities with a clean, reliable, year-round water supply. The projects empower communities, improve health and education, and boost the local economy by saving time previously spent fetching water. We also continue to support the "End Polio Now" campaign and our fundraising helps to continue our work in these areas.



Social & Sports

Our members regularly enjoy fellowship events such as theatre visits, whisky or wine tastings and inter-club competitions including the recent pétanque competition where we emerged winners in the final against Fraserburgh!

Are you interested in what we do?

We are always on the lookout for new members to help organise and support local events like fundraising for international projects and local charities; school quizzes; other youth competitions such as Public Speaking, Photography, Young Environmentalist; the Westhill Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and our 'Lazy Sunday Afternoon'; and our sponsorship of participants in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. A number of these annual events are now cemented into the Westhill calendar and firmly established as part of 'life in Westhill'. Could you help?

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



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy

The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal's visits to Aberdeenshire

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy was delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Aberdeenshire -recently. The Princess Royal visited three Aberdeenshire venues- Sinclair Agricultural and Recycling Services Ltd (SARS), Udny, Mackies of Scotland, Daviot and Bennachie Parish Church. I was honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness to Mackies of Scotland where Her Royal Highness met members of the Mackies' team, explored Mackies' sky to scoop journey, and learned more about the passion and care that goes into making their ice cream and chocolate.



Her Royal Highness visited Kemnay Church and Kemnay Church Centre as part of her visit to Bennachie Parish Church. She was welcomed by Mrs. Lorna Smith DL. The visit was hosted by parish minister, Rev. Neil Meyer. The enlarged parish was formed in September 2023 by the union of what were originally eight congregations: Blairdaff, Chapel of Garioch, Cluny, Echt, Midmar, Kemnay, Kintore and Monymusk. Worship is sustained by technology, including live streaming, pre-recorded and joint services. The Princess Royal was given the opportunity to witness Bennachie Church's innovative approach to worship first-hand when she watched the other four places of worship in the parish go live on screen and heard



greetings from Monymusk, Kintore, Echt and Chapel of Garioch. Following her visit to Kemnay Parish Church Her Royal Highness toured the Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery before moving on to Kemnay Church Centre where she met volunteers who support the church community in cafes (including the Hope Café held weekly in Echt Church), children's activities and charities. Michael and Ruth Williams shared the success of The Hope Café and explained how funds raised have been used to support education in Zimbabwe, Water Aid and the North Aberdeenshire Food Bank.



Anniversaries, Birthdays and Honours

Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations. Please do look at our web site for further information:

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition.

Please do look at our web site for further information:

www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk or contact us on

info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – 'Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire'

Very best wishes to you all, Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Aberdeenshire Council

All Enquiries 0345 6081208

Air Training Corps..... 01224 749151

Ashdale Hall 01224 740137

Boys' Brigade 01224 742262

Childcare

Schools Out Club
(Old School House 01224 465202

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

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 Preschool..... 07565 912522

Pharmacy

Pharmacy, Porter – Shops..... 01224 742742

Pharmacy, Porter – Surgery 01224 279489

Police

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

Religion

Trinity Church 01224 742512

Westhill Community Church 01224 737380

Secondary School

Academy 01224 087850

Scouts..... 01224 746773

Water Authority 0845 6018 855

Westhill Men's Shed 01224 917345

Sports

Swimming Pool..... 01224 472872

Tennis Club..... 07929 191816

Westdyke Leisure Centre 07565 912522

Westhill Bowling Club 07562 696193

Vets

Ardene House Vets..... 01224 740700

Veterinary, Town & Country 01224 741685

SCAFFOLD TOWER FOR HIRE

The Community Council has a scaffold tower which was bought to help with erecting the Christmas street lights. The tower is available for hire to Westhill residents. The platform working height is 2.73m.

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

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

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