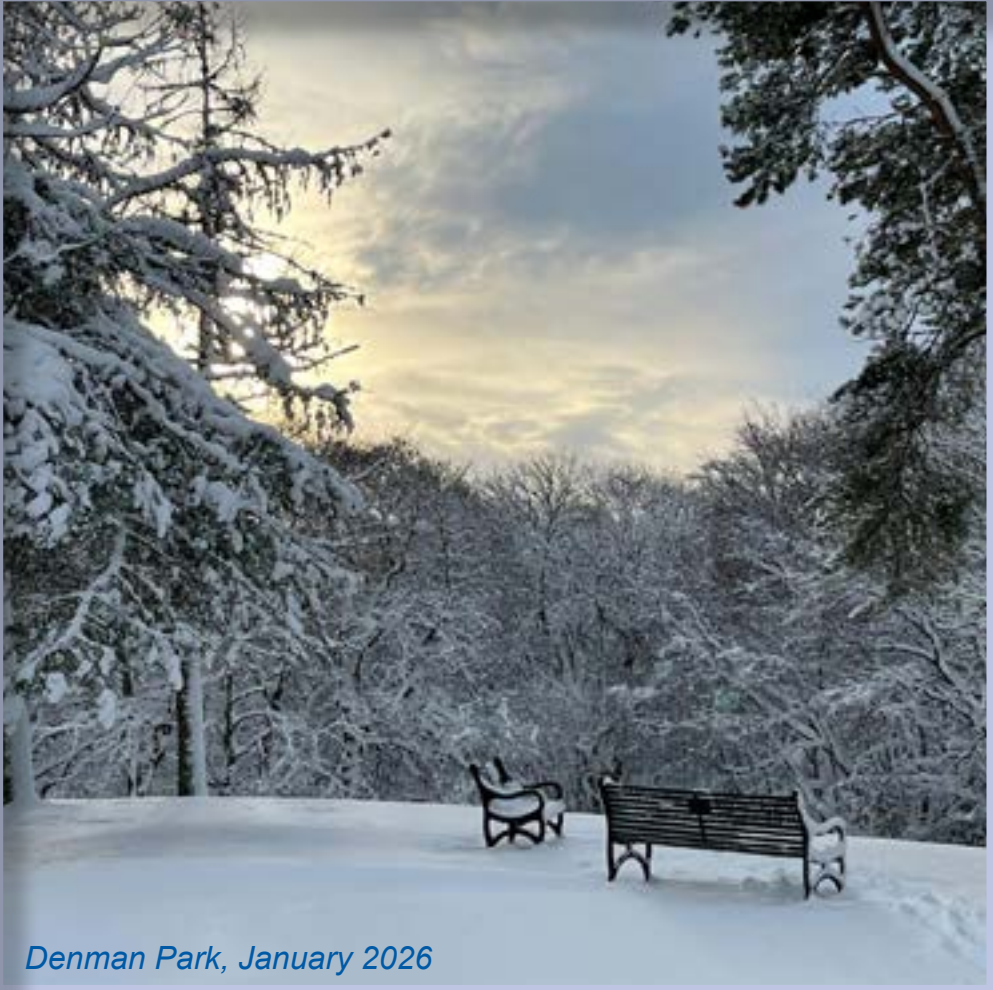


Westhill Bulletin

Spring 2026
Issue 185



Westhill & Elrick
Community Council



Denman Park, January 2026



facebook

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



website



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

SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN

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

Adverts and articles for the Summer issue should be sent in by Thursday 7th May. The Bulletin will be distributed from 20th May. All contributions or enquiries should be emailed to: westhill.bulletin@gmail.com

Telephone enquiries re adverts or articles to Bulletin Editor David Ritchie on 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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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
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 Spring Bulletin. We won't forget winter in a hurry- a week of horrendous amounts of snow in early January, followed by 3+ weeks of high rainfall and no sun.



Charlie Flint

We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of WECC member Charlie Flint on 11th January. Charlie was a valued member of our community and had been involved in a number of projects over the years, always with great enthusiasm and passion.

76 Grit Bins retained by WECC

Your Community Council is pleased to confirm that following 3 months of detailed groundwork and negotiations, we have agreed to take over ownership of 76 grit bins in Westhill & Elrick from Aberdeenshire Council. These bins and their contents would have been lost to 76 neighbourhoods, but for our intervention and the commitment of local volunteers. The work involved auditing the condition of all bins and their contents, recruiting 76 volunteer monitor/coordinators, identifying and negotiating with suppliers, and assessing the ongoing financial risk to our organisation of refilling and replacing them.

Our view was that Westhill & Elrick has more severe winters than many other parts of Aberdeenshire, partly due to altitude. Given the winter we've just endured, members of the Community Council came to the unanimous conclusion that retention of grit bins was a vital component to the cohesion and safety of the community. However, the commitment to refill the bins will be reviewed on an annual basis, because it may not always be affordable for us to do so.

Aberdeenshire Council will continue to own and have responsibility for refilling the remaining 50 - 60 grit bins. Thanks again to all volunteer monitor/coordinators for coming forward on behalf of your respective neighbourhoods.

Christmas Lights & Event

We invested in a new set of lights for the green wall at the shopping centre and it was a great display. You may recall seeing in 2024 that we put lights on the large fir tree in the raised bed beside Westhill Drive again, 6 years since it was last lit, but we were only able to put lights half-way up the tree. In November 2025 we got lights up to top of the tree, thanks to the assistance of Red Watch from Anderson Drive Fire Station.

The switch-on event at the shopping centre on 6th December was blessed with dry weather and there was a large turnout of residents who enjoyed singing along with the brass band and sampling the hot chocolate and goodies



Local Development Plan (LDP) 2029-2039

As part of the LDP process, residents are invited to make "Call for Ideas" submissions by the extended deadline of 16th March. Go to URL: <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/call-for-ideas-2>.

In addition, we would like to bring your attention to the Garioch Call for Sites issued by Aberdeenshire Council, which identifies 14 Developer Bids proposing to develop over 5000 new homes in Westhill and Elrick. This would more than double the number of homes we currently have and it is of great concern to WECC, as we do not believe that we have the local infrastructure to support this size of expansion.

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: 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May

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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and organisations

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**Contact David Ritchie on
07989 637461**



Email: westhill.minibus@gmail.com

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

1st Skene Boys' Brigade



Many thanks to all who used the BB Christmas card delivery service. We delivered 429 cards around Westhill and Kirkton of Skene, raising £312. This will go towards supporting BB activities in the coming year.

We look forward to the better weather and upcoming activities.

On Saturday 14th March we will have our Annual Spring Fayre in Trinity Church. Please come along and join us for a coffee morning with the usual stalls; 10am until 12 noon.

Anchors and Juniors recently celebrated Burns night with Haggis, neeps, tatties and Irn Bru. Some of the boys recited poems they had learned. Upcoming themes include pancake day and a visit to the Mens' Shed/She Shed to make bee houses.

Juniors and some Company section boys are looking forward to a trip to the Abernethy outdoor centre over the May Day weekend.

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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1st Skene Boys' Brigade

SPRING FAYRE

Saturday 14th March

Trinity Church Westhill

10am to 12 noon

Admission by Ticket: Adults £5, Child/Concession £2
Ticket includes refreshments

**Spring Raffle: 1st Prize of £100 cash
and many other prizes**
Usual Stalls and Games



Are you struggling to pay Council Tax?

You could be entitled to a reduction in your Council Tax bill based on your income or household circumstances through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Other discounts or exemptions on your bill could be available e.g. if you are a student, apprentice, or living on your own.

A discount or a reduction means you get money off your bill.

An exemption means you do not have to pay Council Tax.

Visit www.cas.org.uk/counciltaxhelp or scan the QR code to get:

- > Information on eligibility & applying for reductions, discounts and exemptions
- > Advice and support from your local Citizens Advice Bureau

WARD 13 COUNCILLORS



Cllr. Iris Walker



Cllr. Ron McKail



Cllr. Fatima Joji



Cllr. Craig Miller

Why Scotland Needs a National Portal to Report Dangerous Driving.

At a recent meeting of Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Group discussion focused on the need for a national web-cam portal to report dangerous driving.

Members highlighted concerns that Scotland is falling behind the rest of the UK when it comes to making it easy for the public to submit video evidence of unsafe behaviour on the roads.

In England and Wales, members of the public can upload dash-cam, helmet-cam or CCTV footage directly to a national police portal. Officers can review incidents quickly and, where appropriate proceed with enforcement.

For us in Scotland the process is far less straightforward. Those who capture dangerous driving must first phone, email or visit a police station before discovering how – or even whether – their footage can be submitted. For many, that additional step is enough to discourage them.

A national portal, managed by Roads Policing Scotland, would provide a clear and consistent route for responsible road users to flag unsafe behaviour. It would also bring Scotland into line with systems already operating elsewhere in the UK.

Across Aberdeenshire, fast rural roads and busy town streets present daily risks. High-speed overtakes, excessive speed through villages and close passes involving cyclists leave communities concerned.

The group believes a national web cam portal would help police focus on genuinely dangerous behaviour, support appropriate enforcement and deter careless driving — ultimately making Scotland's roads safer for everyone.

Costco Fuel Station Set to Open in Westhill This Spring

Planning permission for the development was granted by councillors of the Garioch Area Committee, clearing the way for the new facility.

The forecourt on Endeavour Drive, beside Jumping Jacks, is already taking shape. It will feature 24 fuel pumps in three rows of eight, plus 12 electric vehicle charging bays—catering to both petrol and EV drivers.

Access is exclusive to Costco members, who must present a valid membership card. The station will offer petrol, diesel and EV charging. While there's no retail kiosk, a staff member will be on hand during opening hours from 6.00am to 9.30pm.

Costco management says the station will make refuelling more convenient for members and is also expected to boost footfall for neighbouring businesses, including fast-food outlets, Tesco, and Westhill Shopping Centre, giving the local economy a springtime lift.

Press Release from Aberdeen Airport - In case you missed it.

“£20,000 Up for Grabs: ABZ Propeller Fund 2026 Opens!”

Aberdeen International Airport has launched the 2026 **ABZ Propeller Fund**, offering **£20,000** to support community projects across the North-East. Last year, City and Shire groups benefited, including **Home-Start Kincardine** with *Because Childhood Can't Wait*, **Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust's Sailing**

for All, **Gordon Rural Action's Community Support Hub**, **Dyce Bowling Club's** facility upgrades, **Stonehaven Town Partnership's** new tables and chairs, **Garioch Community Kitchen's Cooking with the Community**, **Bucksburn Academy's Girls in Tech**, and the **Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside Trust**, which added benches along the Deeside railway.

How to Apply: All applications must be submitted using the standard ABZ Propeller Fund application, which can be viewed at **ABZ Propeller Fund | Aberdeen Airport**. The ABZ Propeller Fund committee meets every quarter to consider funding applications, so applicants are encouraged to submit early.

Supporting Families and Tackling Poverty Across Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Council continues to work alongside local communities to reduce poverty and ensure everyone can thrive.

By offering early advice and practical support, the council aims to prevent small challenges from becoming long-term difficulties for families.

Over the past year:

- **11,900 residents** – including **5,457 households** and **2,314 families** – received advice and guidance, helping to unlock **£12 million in financial gains**.
- **9,159 households** reduced their living costs, with **1,158 households** cutting fuel bills.
- **3,319 households**, including **1,280 low-income families**, were supported through the **Cash First Project**, helping ease food insecurity.
- **967 people** gained skills or moved into meaningful employment, including **293 young people** and **257 parents**.
- **671 community representatives** and **448 children and young people** helped shape local events, workshops and services, ensuring support reflects local needs.

This work forms part of a long-term strategy, co-created with communities and funded through to 2030, to ensure help reaches every part of Aberdeenshire.

Case Study: Making a Difference Through Advice and Support

One local family, facing ongoing health challenges, had struggled for years to navigate the benefits system. With support from the council's **Tackling Poverty & Inequalities (TP&I) Money Advice and Welfare Rights Team**, they were guided through the process and successfully secured £6,000 in backdated payments.

The impact has been significant. With heating and electricity costs now manageable, the family can focus on their children and future. Their health has improved and they have recently taken the positive step of starting a new business.

One parent said: *"It's very hard to ask for help. We would have just struggled along. Thank you so much – it means we can focus on food and gifts now that the electric and heating is sorted."*

Aberdeenshire Council Budget 2026/27

By the time of publication, the budget for the upcoming financial year will have been published together with the council tax raise. This is likely to be a significant raise to cover the shortfall in funding we receive from the Scottish Government – Aberdeenshire Council is the 4th lowest funded council of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland.

The budget will therefore see cuts in services which is not ideal. One area that should see some investment is roads, particularly after the winter weather conditions in January. More details on this will be forthcoming.

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 7th March and Saturday 4th April.

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 14th March and Saturday 11th April

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](https://www.facebook.com/Craig4Westhill)



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If you can help, please get in touch!

Remed - Blue Door Manager 01224 861830
or email blue@doorwell.co.uk

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

For more information, please contact the manager or email
or visit our website: www.blue-doorwell.co.uk

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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1st Westhill

This year is to be big year for scouting as we celebrate 40 years of Beavers and 110 years of cubs. We are looking forward to various events over the year to mark these national scouting milestones.

Congratulations to five of our young people who found out at the end of last year that they have been selected for forthcoming international camps.

Well done to Jamie, Ethan, Bridie and Zoey (pictured) who have been chosen to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027. Westhill has had participants selected for Jamborees in the past, but this is the largest ever contingent from Westhill. They will attend the global gathering with 32 other young people from the North East, Highlands and Islands. They attended their first Unit camp in Inverness in February where they got to know fellow participants and decide on a Unit name – The Highland Bravehearts.

Also congratulations to Connor (pictured) who has been selected to attend the Blair Atholl International Jamborette, which will be held in July in Perthshire. The Jamborette sees scouts from across the world unite in Scotland for 12 days of fun and activities. Connor will be part of a unit from Gordon District and also also has training camps to attend in advance of the event.



We are looking forward to another great term of activities. Our scout groups will be visiting the NESCOL planetarium, RGU climbing wall and trying their hand at curling. They will also be designing electric cars. Our cub packs will be enjoying pancakes, making looms and covering road safety. Our Beaver colonies will be learning about Lunar New Year and working on their emergency aid badges.



We are also looking forward to a whole group outing to watch the Aberdeen Scout Gang show in March. We have 19 young people and adults involved in the show, making up 25% of the cast. We are looking forward to everyone performing on the Aberdeen Arts Centre stage.

Westhill is one of the biggest scout groups in the area however we are in critical need of additional adult volunteers. If you enjoy the outdoors and want to give young people memorable experiences and SkillsForLife, please email volunteer@1stwesthillscouts.co.uk to find out how you can help.

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).



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WEDDINGS



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CONTACT EVENTS@HIBERDEENWEST.CO.UK
OR 01224 270300 (OPTION 2)

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.

This includes an evening showing the Film " The ballad of Wallis Island" followed by live music on 14th March. The " Sorries". Live music. May 9th. 8pm. 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.
- Pranisha Yoga Wednesday 8pm. Tel 07585 520938

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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Westhill Green Spaces Team Update

As of early February, it's still cold and wet. Like most people who enjoy being outdoors, the last few weeks have been extremely frustrating as we've been unable to get to work.

Most of the paths seem to be holding up reasonably well due to past investment in drainage channels and reinforcing surfaces with quarry material, but some, especially at Lawsondale are in line for further reinforcement. More later.

Review of 2025

Our team of volunteers got together 57 times over the course of 2025, accumulating 840 hours of outdoor activity, complementing the work of Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services team. Thanks go to all who gave their time, tools and energy to keep our green spaces looking neat and tidy.

Projects ranged from tidying up Denman Park [pruning and trimming], to strimming, repairing and resurfacing the Westhill Orbital Trail, clearing broom and gorse from Westhill Heights, clearing the Brodiach Burn, removing boardwalk at Carnie Woods, repairing sections of the collapsed dry stane dyke between the golf course and Souterhill Farm, establishing a shrubbery at Blackhills court, clearing storm damage in Denman Park and at Lawsondale, planting hanging baskets and barrels, bulb planting at three locations, plus planting a new community orchard at Elrick Green.

Walking Scotland Community Consultations

Walking Scotland hosted two consultation events in the library at the end of January asking for feedback on the path network in and around town. If you didn't get a chance to contribute or would like to see development of additional paths or routes, or would just like to see existing routes better maintained, please get in touch and we'll pass on your thoughts or add them to our list of things to do!

Planned Activity for 2026

Denman Park:

We hope to be spending most Wednesdays here in the first quarter, cutting back overhanging vegetation and tidying up the planted areas to give them more room to breathe and blossom.

Carnie Woods:

In conjunction with the City Council [landowner], we hope to appoint a contractor 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. Funds allowing, we're also hoping to improve signage and patch up two other wet spots.

Other than that, we have some wet patches to reinforce with quarry material, followed by routine maintenance of the Westhill Orbital Trail over the summer months

Community Litter Picks

Community litter picks organised by WECC are scheduled to take place on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month, subject to reasonable weather.

Thanks to the Holiday Inn, and starting this year, volunteers will be offered a complimentary tea or coffee after our scheduled activities as a thank you for contributing to their "Green Tourism" initiative. If you would like to join us on a Saturday morning at 10am for an hour, please get in touch.

More generally, if you are thinking about outdoor volunteering, but not sure exactly what's involved, please send an email to Mervyn or Gordon. Thank you

Mervyn Barr: mervynbarr@yahoo.co.uk or Gordon Prentice: prenticeg.wecc@gmail.com



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We walk on alternate Sundays throughout the year – and the next 3 walks are listed below.

New members are always very welcome to join our friendly informal group, whether you stay in Westhill or further afield, so why not get in touch to find out more!

Website : www.westhillwalkers.org

Or Email : westhillwalkers@gmail.com

<i>Great Countryside with good company</i>	
1 March	Auchtaven Clachan from Inver (circuit) 11.5km (7 miles)
15 March	Cairn William and Pitfichie Forest 16km (10 miles)
29 March	Scordie Ness & Elephant Rock from Ferryden, Montrose 11.5km (7 miles)



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See article on page 45

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

Currently, we are especially in need of **men's jackets, sweatshirts / hoodies / fleeces, jeans, boxers, socks, trainers and backpacks. We also urgently need suitcases, rucksacks and holdalls for the guys to use when they are moving to other accommodation**

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

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT:

**WESTHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH: - Tuesdays through to Saturdays
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**TRINITY CHURCH, WESTHILL DRIVE: - Mondays, Wednesdays and
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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). On the 11th December 2025, 70 seniors enjoyed a lovely Christmas party lunch at the Broadstraik Inn. The service, venue, staff and food were very good. Thank you to Karen and Angela for making the day run so smoothly. Entertainment was provided by Nova Quartet which are a firm favourite with our Seniors!



We had to cancel our 8th January meeting on account of the snow but we are (hopefully) raring to go!! We've enjoyed entertainment from Lewis, Music4U, singing to swing Music from the 50's and 60's; Singer Dan Greavey and the Drama Wives.

Programme to April 2026:

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

Th 19th March – possible Garioch Fiddlers (tbc)

Th 16th April – TBC

Th 2nd April – Ponies and pygmy goats

Th 30th April – Lucy Beth with Scottish stories and songs

The cost will be £10 (to June 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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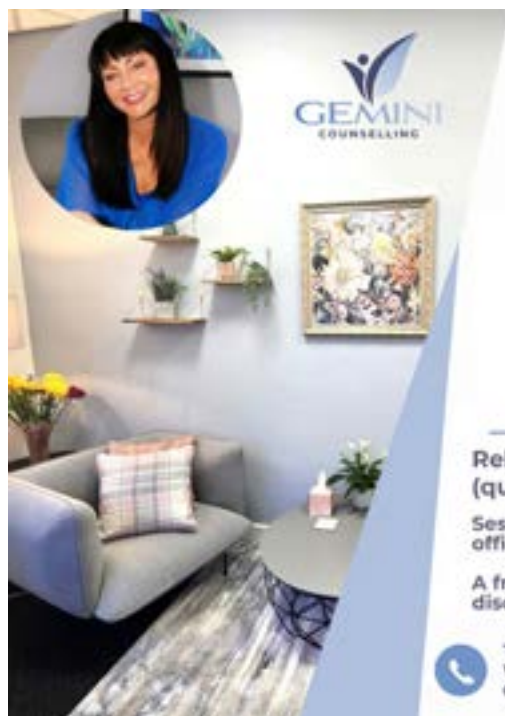
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HALL NEWS

Blood Transfusion Services will be here on June 4th, November 5th and December 17th. Book appointments online with them

There will be Scottish Government elections on May 7th and we'll be a Polling Station.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning more fundraising this year including Bingo on September 11th. Kids Discos on March 20th, June 26th, October 30th and December 18th. 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 foodstuffs on Sunday 29th 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, jams, fudge, eggs, ethnic foods, crafts, jewelry and more. We are looking for a new fruit and vegetable supplier.

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.

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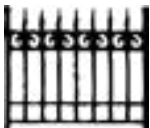
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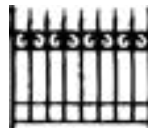
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Monday

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
 1530 to 1730 – **Free to book for classes or Badminton/Pickleball**
 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
 1030 to 1130 – Singing Debonaires – Ainslee Gill – Main Hall
 1015 to 1315 - **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

0900 to 0945 – Mat-work Pilates – Main Hall – Block booking required**
 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 – Kids Spanish Lessons – MR1 – claudia@spanishstarescocia.com
 1800 to 1900 - Choi Kwang Do - Main Hall – hello@westhillckd.org
 1915 to 2115 – Badminton – Main Hall – Spaces available for players
 1915 to 2045 – Soul Sisters Women Circle – MR1 – westhillsoulsisters@gmail.com

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 – Kids Spanish Lessons – MR1 – claudia@spanishstarescocia.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.

** annette.macpherson@ymail.com or 07817 736525, or website www.westhill.physiotherapy.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 : macmillanskene-fundraising@gmail.com

- All money raised through Skene Fundraising Committee will remain in this area for Macmillan Cancer Support.
- **Saturday 24th October 2026** we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary, please keep a look out on our facebook page for an announcement about tickets (May 9th) for a fundraising event at Thainstone Exchange.

Our other events since the last Bulletin:-

- The Burns Supper was held at Echt Hall, on Friday 23rd January. On the evening we raised a fantastic £2710.75.
- Next Events:-
- There will be a Quiz at Dunecht Hall on Friday 27th February .
- Fizzy Flycup , Skene Hall Saturday 9th May
- 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 do place Posters around Westhill with the next up coming event/s.

To donate to Macmillan Skene Fundraising Committee go to :-www.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 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



I'm writing this in mid-February and, at last, the rain has stopped and we can hopefully look forward to the flowers appearing and better weather ahead.

At the moment the Winter Olympics are occupying the airwaves and filling our TVs with icy competition. I'm fascinated by the Curling. Partly because it's Scottish players that make up the teams and partly because the basis of the game is similar to bowling in that a team of four work together to get their stones closer to the target than the opposition. Bowling is similar in many respects but hopefully we will be playing on grass with the sun on our backs rather than all wrapped up against a wintery chill.

Despite all the recent rains our green is in remarkable condition. Perhaps of because of all the work that was put in during the past year. All the edges were lifted to give a level playing surface. New equipment was acquired to help with the weekly maintenance of the surface and a lot of hard work put in by our members who look after the green.

The bowling season opens on Saturday 12th April when we hope to see the benefit of all these efforts.

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

We are expecting to see a lot of play on our green this year. As we hold the presidency of the Bon Accord Bowling Association for 2026 we will be hosting many of the final stages of their knockout competitions. Throughout the season we are anticipating, at least, one thousand different players to play on our green. These players will be from all over the Northeast of Scotland. Additionally, as our club has qualified to represent the Bon Accord in the National TOP FIVE (where five of our members take on five players from another club) we could be welcoming teams from all over Scotland.

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

If you want to try bowls, just come along and have a go yourself at no charge. We will provide everything you need including bowls, coaching as well as tea and coffee. If you don't know where to find us we are located beside the tennis courts, directly across the Old Skene Road from the shopping centre.

If you want to join us for the coming season we offer an introductory membership fee for 2026 of £45 for adults. That works out less than the cost of a cup coffee per week. You will also probably get a cup of tea or coffee thrown in for free. That seems like a very good deal.

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

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



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WESTHILL AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The Westhill & 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 18th March - Our speaker will be Carol Will, author of Aberdeen History and Stories from the past.

Wednesday 15th April - An evening with Georgiev Stiliyah, who is a local Bee Keeper.

Wednesday 20th May - We are joined by Ells McHaffie, who will be chatting about her assistance dogs.

Our condolences go to the wife and family of our Treasurer Berwyn Williams.

If you would like any further information regarding the Garden Club, please contact:-
Events Organiser - Ann Westwood - ann1.westwood@btinternet.com



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Compass Project Thrives as Community Hub Following North Point Opening

The recent opening of the North Point multi-purpose building has marked a major milestone for Camphill Wellbeing Trust's Compass Project, which is already buzzing with activity. The new facilities have attracted a wide range of users, from football, badminton and basketball groups to craft clubs and children's birthday parties.

Compass now offers an expanding programme of weekly sessions, including activities for pre-school children and their parent carers, drop-in soft play, and popular Outdoor Adventures. A new session specifically for disabled adults over 18 and their carers is set to launch soon, further widening the project's inclusive reach. Enquiries can be made by calling 01224 678830 or emailing compass@cwtscot.

The project is also appealing for volunteers to support its continued growth. Opportunities range from helping in the café, garden and driving, to assisting with crafts, catering and administration—roles made possible thanks to the newly established indoor spaces.

Looking ahead, Compass is preparing for the next phase of its sustainable refurbishment. A planning application is being submitted to transform the former Kindergarten and Science block buildings into a community-focused healthy living hub. The proposed development includes a café and play café, a zero-waste kitchen for processing onsite produce, and dedicated spaces for craft, training and education. Additional rooms for meetings and workshops, an expanded charity shop, and a volunteer hub are also planned.

Meanwhile, the onsite garden shop continues to offer freshly harvested organic produce, along with firewood, kindling and wood chippings. Customers can visit in person or sign up for weekly produce updates.

To learn more or arrange a visit, contact Compass on 01224 678830, email compass@cwtscot, or visit us on site.



St Nicholas Ladies Probus Club

When retirement looms our thoughts stray to how we are going to fill our valuable time which for many of us has been consumed by work. Many new Retirees seek new interests and from this PROBUS was formed. A Club for Professional and Business people who may have already retired or are about to do so. There are Clubs for men and ladies.

We had our 25 th Anniversary last year and some founder members still participate. We have a membership of about 70 and we meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Aberdeenshire Cricket Club in Mannofield, Aberdeen, from September until May. We have interesting speakers who are both informative and entertaining. The meeting generally lasts about two hours. After the Speaker we enjoy a refreshing cup of tea/coffee followed by a short business meeting.

We do not fund raise. Our "raison d'être" is to provide stimulating speakers and fellowship. Friendships are formed and interest groups are formed, such as a Book Club and a Luncheon Club. We also arrange some interesting outings.

We welcome new members. For further information please contact:

Club Secretary: marguerite87henderson@gmail.com

Website : www.stnicholasprobus.org



Is your Gut a happy one?

Why is it important to include fibre in your diet?
How many plants do you eat each week?

Which foods boost the good bacteria in your gut?

Are you looking for inspiration on how to ensure your plate is really 'nourished'?



Government statistics show that a staggering 96% of us do not eat enough fibre and research published in the BMJ concludes that over 50% of the average adult daily calories in the UK come from ultra processed foods (UPF), which rises to almost 80% for children and adolescents. It is widely accepted that the impact of these statistics on our health is really significant as they contribute to the current levels of obesity, cancers, cardio vascular disease, diabetes, mental health issues and other problems.

However, in recent years the wonderful world of the gut microbiome has come into focus with scientists now discovering that the microbes within our gut, the colony of good bacteria we all have, can play an important role in driving towards more positive health outcomes within the body.

It's time to give your microbiome some love!

Tim Yeomans, Nutritious Food Educator and Wholefood Chef from The Nourished Plate, has teamed up with Rachel Gambro from The Mixing Bowl Aberdeen, a local community group dedicated to building community through good food. Tim and Rachel live in Westhill and Elrick and together they have devised a four week course to help raise awareness of the simple changes that can be made to recipes to support good gut health. The sessions will include knowledge sharing, hands on cooking, eating together, guest speakers and plenty of time for questions. The course is intended to be an informal, fun activity for anyone who is interested to learn a little more and meet like-minded people.

Fridays 24th April, 15th May, 29th May and 12th June

Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Booking is essential.

Please use the QR code or follow this link to the Mixing Bowl website for more details: www.mixingbowlaberdeen.co.uk/booking-now



Think you can't sing? Think again!

Sarah Estill, Musical Director, Albacappella

Everyone loves to sing. Singing is known to be of great benefit to our health – enhancing mood, reducing pain, and boosting your immune system. What's more, singing in a group can help reduce anxiety and boost confidence, and you can make a whole new group of friends.

But have you ever wondered about how to sing properly, in tune, with resonance?

When we sing, it's about more than just having a nice voice. We need to know how to use our body, breath and feelings to create a beautiful, effortless sound. Whether you are just starting off or are an experienced vocalist, learning singing techniques helps build confidence and consistency which will result in a beautiful sound that people want to listen to.

Breath

To sing well, we need breath control – that is singing from the diaphragm. Taking the air into the belly and controlling it as we sing is the foundation for better pitch control and power.

Posture

Getting the body in the right position helps singing – with the head tall, shoulders back, spine neutral, knees soft and feet grounded. We want to be strong and confident without feeling tense.

Warming up

It's important to get our vocal chords and body ready before we sing, to avoid strain or injury. There are many fun and warm up techniques

- Blowing raspberries: Perfect for waking up the voice and locking into your breath support
- Sirens: Sliding from low to high notes without strain is an excellent way to expand your range.
- Humming: A gentle way to warm up the voice to get ready for singing

Performance

When we sing, we tell a story, and connecting emotionally with the music helps to do that. Experiment with singing quietly and louder, watch yourself in a mirror and tell the story of the lyrics.

Practice

As with everything, practice makes perfect! Join a chorus for regular vocal advice and experience the safety and joy of singing in a group. With patience, awareness, and passion, everyone can develop a strong, beautiful, and expressive singing voice.

Ladies' singing chorus Albacappella, which rehearses at the Westhill Community Church every Wednesday evening, is coached by Sarah Estill, a renowned world-class singer and tutor, who has a host of tips for getting the most out of your voice.



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Westhill & District Men's Shed

Make friends, share interests and help our community

The Shed has been quieter over the winter months as the cold and wet weather continues to prevail, but the hardy core continues to come along most days and work on their projects or requests from the local community.

Last year we invested in a computer-controlled laser router, and members are using it so much that we have built a separate room in the shed to house the equipment. It can now be used without risk of interruption. The pictures show the new layout and an example of a simple sign created using the router. Please drop into the shed for a chat if you think this might be useful.



In December we held a Christmas lunch for members and their partners. 36 folk enjoyed a traditional home-cooked festive meal cooked and served in the shed but also using the kitchen at the nearby church – our thanks to Trinity Church for sharing their facility with us.

Our email system is old and sometimes unreliable so we are in the process of moving to a more modern system that will keep us going in the future years. In the meantime, please have patience if you don't receive an immediate reply, or drop in and chat to one of the Shedders to make sure we get your message.

If your New Year Resolution was to come along to the Shed and find out what is going on – what's stopping you? The kettle is on all the time!

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.



The next tool sale will be held on Saturday 28th March from 10am until 1pm at the Shed

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.



It was quite a challenge at the start of the year to get outdoors for photography due to the snow and constant rain but we have lots to look forward to in the coming months. Our programme is full of interesting indoor workshops and speakers. Our outdoor locations are planned for the Bon Accord Baths, Dunnottar Castle and Aberdeen train station. Some of our members met at Spectra in February and were rewarded with some lovely shots of the light installations.

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



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Jog Scotland Westhill (JSW)

AGM

On Thursday 12th February we held our AGM in the Trinity Church, where we heard from our existing Office Bearers who reported on their roles over the previous year.

The office bearers for 2026 were then elected as follows:

Chairperson	Angela Kazmierczak
Vice Chair	Emma Huntingto
Secretary	Trevor Kitching
Treasurer	Sheila Gauld
Assistant Treasurer	Gayle Kerr
Membership Secretary	Emma Huntington
IT Co-ordinator	Angela Kazmierczak
Jog Leader Co-ordinator	Mike Craigmile
Events Organiser	Joanne Bennett
Ordinary Member	Adele Ferries
Ordinary Member	Steve Cole
Ordinary Member	Philip Stephen

Following the election of office bearers, the team from Westhill & District Defib Group gave a very interesting and informed talk on the work that they do and gave a brief demonstration on how to use a defibrillator.

We hope to have them back in the near future to provide training on CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

C25K

Our latest "Couch to 5K (C25K)" programme commenced on 12th January and we look forward to them "graduating" in April 2026 at the Balmoral 5K.

Interested in Joining Us?

Even during the worst of the winter weather, the club continued to run – only hampered by the snow & ice during the first week of January, which even JSW couldn't overcome!

However, as the nights start to get lighter, you don't need to wait until the next C25K cohort to join us running round the streets of Westhill.

We meet on Mondays and Thursdays in the Westhill Academy car park (at the back of the school) at 1830 hrs and run for approx 1 hour.

We have 5 different pace groups completing various distances from 5K – 10K, 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.

We love to welcome new members so if you would like to come along or find out more information about us please contact:

jogscotlandwesthill@gmail.com.

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



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- Mindfulness with Qigong
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- Westhill Table Tennis Club. Play
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Skene Medical Group Update

Practice Update:

Fear of Flying Medication & SMS Messaging System

As we look forward to the first hints of spring and (hopefully!) some brighter, less rainy days, we wanted to share two important updates from Skene Medical Group.

Diazepam and fear of flying

As a practice, we have decided that we will no longer prescribe benzodiazepines (including diazepam) for fear of flying. We understand that fear of flying can be genuinely distressing. Many patients ask about diazepam (Valium) in the hope that it will reduce anxiety and make flying feel more manageable.

Benzodiazepines can cause a range of short- and long-term side effects. In most areas of medicine we carefully weigh potential benefits against risks for the individual, but when it comes to flying we also have to consider the safety of other passengers and flight crew. National prescribing guidance, which we use to inform our decisions, advises against benzodiazepines for the treatment of phobias, including the fear of flying..

Flying is a high-consequence environment. Sedative medication can slow reaction times and impair judgement, which may be important in an emergency situation. In a small number of people, benzodiazepines can cause unexpected agitation, disinhibition or aggression. They can also increase sleepiness and reduce breathing drive, which may be more problematic in the lower-oxygen cabin environment, particularly for people with unrecognised breathing problems. Alcohol use is common during flights, and when combined with diazepam this can significantly increase the risk of adverse effects. Deep sedation and reduced movement may also increase the risk of blood clots on longer flights.

Beyond these immediate safety concerns, diazepam can interfere with the natural coping mechanisms that help people overcome phobias over time. Rather than treating the underlying problem, it can unintentionally reinforce it. As doctors, we aim to support people in ways that are effective in the long term, while minimising the risk of harm.

There are also practical considerations. Diazepam

is a controlled drug, and some countries have strict regulations around carrying it, which can lead to difficulties or delays when travelling.

The most effective treatments for fear of flying are non-drug approaches. These include cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), graded exposure techniques that build confidence gradually, airline-run fear of flying courses, and practical coping strategies such as breathing exercises and grounding techniques. These approaches are safer and have been shown to be more effective over time.

If anxiety affects other areas of your life as well as flying, we are very happy to discuss this with you. Generalised anxiety is usually best managed with psychological approaches and other longer-term strategies rather than benzodiazepines.

We hope that explaining our reasoning is helpful, and will reassure you that this decision is focused on safety, effectiveness, and long-term wellbeing.

FollowUp: Thank You for Responding to Our SMS Consent Texts

Thank you to everyone who has already replied to the recent text message asking whether you would like to receive SMS updates from the practice. Your responses have helped us begin rolling out this system smoothly.

Reassurance About Text Message Authenticity

We understand that many patients are cautious about replying to unexpected texts — and rightly so. It's sensible to be wary of potential spam or hoax messages. We want to reassure you that these texts are genuinely from Skene Medical Group. We've had a high number of phone calls to the admin team asking whether the texts are legitimate. While we appreciate your vigilance, please be reassured that there is no need to phone the practice to confirm — if you receive a text about SMS consent, it is from us. This will help keep our phone lines free for urgent clinical matters and appointment booking.

If You Haven't Replied Yet, Please Consider Doing So

If you have not yet responded to the text, we would be grateful if you could reply when convenient. A simple YES or NO is all that's required, and you can change your preference at any time.

Why We Are Introducing SMS Messaging

As mentioned in the winter Bulletin, the new SMS system is designed to make certain parts of our

administration quicker, easier, and more convenient for everyone. It may be used for nonclinical updates, such as confirming test results or sharing simple information. It will not replace GP or nurse appointments or any clinical consultations. It simply helps reduce unnecessary phone calls so our admin team can work efficiently and respond more quickly to patients who need assistance.

You can read more about the rationale and how the system works on our website:
<https://skenemedicalgroup.co.uk/index.aspx>

How the System Works

You receive a text asking you to opt in or decline. If you opt in, you may occasionally receive nonurgent administrative messages

If you opt out, nothing changes — we will continue contacting you in the usual ways.
You can amend your preference at any time.

Please Keep Your Mobile Number Updated

To ensure messages reach you, please check that the number we have on record is correct. In particular, patients who registered as children may still have a parent or guardian's number listed.

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Contact the office for more details of social and full memberships.

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Please contact us for more information: esolwesthill@gmail.com



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 welcomed by God. He can often be found in his office at the church with the door 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

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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

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Thurs 23rd Apr 7.30 pm
Westhill Community Church



Loving on Purpose – Relationships Course

Thurs 7-9 pm
30th April to 4th June
Register at church office

Westhill Churches Together Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday Worship
18th Feb 7 pm
Skene Kirk (Kingshill)

Maundy Thurs HC
2nd Apr 7 pm
Westhill Community Church

Good Friday Service
3rd Apr 12.30 pm
Trinity Church (Kingshill)

Lenten Lunch Fridays @ 12.30 pm
A short reflection + soup lunch

20 th Feb	Westhill Community Church
27 th Feb	Trinity Church (Kingshill)
6 th Mar	Holy Trinity Catholic Church
13 th Mar	Westhill Community Church
20 th Mar	Trinity Church (Kingshill)
27 th Mar	Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Easter Day Services

You are welcome to join us on Easter Sunday at 8.00 am for our early morning open-air worship and at 10.30 am for our Easter All-Age service.

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*Cala will obtain two independent valuations based on achieving a sale in a 4-6 week period. Part Exchange considered subject to our purchasing criteria. Part Exchange available on selected plots and not in conjunction with any other offer unless agreed by us at time of reservation. Full terms and conditions and purchasing criteria can be found on our website.
^Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) contribution available on select plots at Burnland Meadows and may be time limited. If the home purchased is not your only home, you will have to cover any additional LBTT incurred for second homes. This package is available at full asking price and not in conjunction with any other service or incentive unless agreed by us at time of reservation.



Kingshill Parish Church

The congregation of Kingshill Church would be delighted to welcome you, come along and see what we're all about! Sunday service times may be found on our website and on Facebook.

Have a look, too, at what's on throughout the week!

kingshillparish.com | @kingshillparish

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Join us for Bubble Church, a new service geared towards families with young children! The official launch will be on Easter Sunday, 5th April, 10.15am.

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



The Scribbling Scribes are a journalist group at Crombie Primary School; we have been running a Podcast and Newsletter every week to share the news and interview people. We are a group of enthusiastic journalists and have enjoyed developing our skills. One of our favourite things about the club has been interviewing people, learning about things such as sound bites and how to ask questions which will give us more detailed answers than just yes or no.

Some of the recent topics we have covered are:

-The school representatives did a great job at the Rotary quiz and everyone enjoyed taking part.

-The new exciting things that have started at school, such as a new chess club, a visiting TheraPet dog to read with children at the school and the Chromebooks for the Primary 7s.

-The Reading Rockets won an award of £500 to decorate the library and buy new books. We are in hot anticipation to see what we can read next!!!

-A new initiative at the school to encourage quiet moving around the school, which has been really successful.

Some of the highlights have been:

-Getting our journalist lanyards and reporter's notebooks as it made us feel like proper journalists!

-Discovering what everyone's favourite things about Crombie were, it was surprising how different everyone's ideas were.

-Finding out what it is really like to be a head teacher at a Primary School, when we interviewed Mrs Pond.





WESTHILL GOLF CLUB

Hopefully it is time to turn our attention to the new golfing season. Since Christmas the weather has not been the best for winter golf, however with the snowfall at the start of January there was plenty of sledging.

The greens team have been working hard over the winter to prepare the course for the coming season. The drainage that was installed last winter has certainly been tested with all the persistent rain we have experienced and have all performed as expected. The winter programme has been going well which has ranged from reshaping the 5th tee, tree felling, deep spiking of the greens and preparing the machinery for the season.

On 4th March we welcome our new caterer Mackenzies of Westhill. Please look out for posts on social media for the new menu, Fresh Fish Fridays, carveries and theme nights. If interested in the clubhouse for private functions and events, contact the club office for more details.

Following our recent AGM meeting, our membership fees have been agreed for the 2026 season. So regardless of whether you are new to the area, a novice golfer or a past member, now is a great time to get in touch – please see our website (westhillgolf.co.uk), social media (facebook: Westhill Golf Club) or get in touch via our email (office@westhillgolfclub.co.uk) for more details.

As always, it is worth reminding everyone that a social membership (£10 this year) allows you to enjoy the clubhouse and also to come and try out the new catering offer. The social membership also gives you access to a number of other social events planned for the year – themed nights, quiz evenings, fayres, suppers and tribute nights to name a few. Look out on social media for what is coming up.

The clubhouse is dog friendly, if you are out an about up near the clubhouse you can take your dog in for a coffee or a drink! Dogs get a free bowl of water!

We look forward to welcoming you all to Westhill Golf Club in 2026!

John Mitchell - Club Captain

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 £47,000 has been donated to a wide range of groups over these last 14 years.

In February donations were made to the Tennis Club towards court cleaning costs and to Lyne of Skene Village Hall towards hall refurbishment (see page 82).

The next round of donations will be considered in May 2026. Closing date for applications is 8th May.. See <https://westhillelrick.org/people-make-a-place/donations/> for Guidance Notes and the Application form or contact treasurerwecc@gmail.com.



VARAPUNYA
Meditation Centre

Varapunya Meditation Centre Marks a Decade in Westhill and Prepares for Historic Hall Consecration

After a winter marked by heavy snow followed by days of strong winds and rain in early 2026, the Centre temporarily closed to the public for one week. While challenging, this pause brought an unexpected gift: allowed the resident monks time for reflection and contemplation on their spiritual cultivation.

This year also marks an important milestone for the Centre—ten years in Westhill. Nestled in a secluded and peaceful setting, the Centre has gradually grown and settled into the local landscape. The journey has not always been

easy; progress was not “laid on roses.” Rather, it has been made possible through collaboration, goodwill, and generous support from many sectors of society. Over the years, we have walked alongside its members while also becoming an active part of the wider local communities—breaking down boundaries and challenging misunderstandings through openness and shared human values. The Centre warmly welcomes all who seek a place to learn, to meditate, to offer help, and to take part in building peace—both within oneself and outward into society.



As part of the tenth-year celebration in Westhill, the Centre will host a landmark event: the Consecration of the Uposatha Meditation Hall, on Sunday 17th May. It is one of the first purpose-built halls in Scotland, created specifically as a sacred space known as “Upasatha” for practice, learning, and community gathering. Over 20 senior monks from various countries are expected to attend, along with members of the public from across the UK. The Construction of the Hall began in late 2024 and was completed in early summer 2025, made possible through generous donations from supporters around the world. In June 2025, the hall welcomed the enshrinement of its main Buddha statue, specially cast for centre and generously donated by Wat Paknam temple Thailand. Remarkably, the cost of shipping the statue exceeded triple the cost of casting it. Since then, the hall has been in daily use for chanting, meditation, and Dhamma teaching.

The consecration ceremony marks a historic milestone in the continuing establishment of Buddhism in Scotland, which began in the early 1900s. It celebrates not only a building, but a living tradition and rich culture dedicated to supporting wellbeing, ethical living, and inner peace. Members of the public are warmly invited to join and support this historic occasion. The Centre also invites you to learn practical skills for cultivating mindfulness and discovering happiness in life. You are welcome to join regular chantings at 7am or 7pm which also includes reflection and meditation practice. There is a regular Wednesday teaching at 7pm. No prior appointment required just join before the time.

All courses offered at and beyond the Centre are free of charge; however, donations are gratefully received and help sustain the sharing of these age-old, scientifically supported meditation teachings. Volunteers are also very welcome—whether assisting with housekeeping, gardening, flower planting, caring for monks, or helping to share meditation practices. Every contribution matters, and together we grow on this shared path toward real happiness.

A Taste of Burns in Italy

During January, a small group of Pam Dignan's Highland dancers were fortunate to be invited to dance at the annual NATO Burns Supper in Naples, Italy.

Pam accompanied dancers Jacqueline MacLennan, Tracey Campbell, Corinne Docherty, Erin Cruickshank, Mairi MacLennan and Sophie Johnston on the trip.

They performed a series of dances throughout the evening, for high ranking members of the NATO and American military which included the Navy, Army and Airforce.



During their trip they also visited the local military primary school to give a demonstration and teach the children a few traditional steps!



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Westhill Tennis Club – Looking Ahead to the 2026 Season

After the wettest start to a year on record and the longest spell without sunshine, it may be hard to imagine brighter days ahead. However, as spring and summer approach, we look forward to seeing Denman Park courts busy once again with members enjoying regular tennis.

After lower attendance over the past couple of years, we hope to restart the social tennis at the club more frequently, particularly on the traditional Monday evening and Saturday afternoon sessions. There is a WhatsApp group set up for members of the club to communicate and arrange sessions. Please email the club if you want to be included.

Following our Annual General Meeting in January, a new committee has been elected. For a small, two-court club, we are fortunate to have a strong and committed team. That said, we are always keen to welcome fresh faces and new ideas to help support and develop the club.

Membership Fees 2026–27

The committee is pleased to confirm that membership fees will once again be frozen for the 2026–27 season. Membership will run from 1 April 2026, although applications are welcome at any time.

Membership will open on 1 March, when existing members will receive an email invitation to renew.

We continue to offer two payment options:

- **Early Bird Rate** – Payment by 31 March
- **Standard Rate** – Payment from 1 April

The fees for the coming season are as follows:

- **Adult:** £80 Early Bird / £85 Standard **Couple:** £140 / £150
- **Family:** £160 / £170 **Student:** £40 / £45
- **Junior (11–17 years):** £30 / £32
- **Mini (10 and under on 31 March 2026):** £16 / £17



Benefits of Membership

Membership at Westhill Tennis Club offers excellent value and includes:

- Free court time with access to our online booking system
- Social tennis sessions for adults on Mondays from 7pm, and Saturdays from 2pm
- Competitive tennis in the North District Leagues for both men's and ladies' teams
- Opportunities to play in local social leagues
- Coaching opportunities for all members, including organised sessions for minis and juniors with a qualified coach
- Entry into the Wimbledon ticket ballot
- A full programme of social events throughout the season

Stay in Touch

If you would like more information about joining or getting involved, please contact us:

Email: westhilltennisclub@outlook.com

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/westhilltennisclub

We look forward to welcoming both returning and new members for another enjoyable season at Westhill Tennis Club



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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.

I do hope at the time of drafting this article (12th Feb) our long dreich winter and lack of sunlight is truly behind us. Our team of volunteers at Westhill are gearing up to get our trishaws "Elle" and "Rick" out of winter hibernation and ready to offer more 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 now include:

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

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 contact us.



We had the privilege of taking pupils from Crombie School on Christmas trishaw rides in December. Feedback given by pupils, parents and teachers confirmed this was a magical and memorable experience and made their Christmas dreams come true. We hope to make some more plans this year to repeat this positive experience.

Our volunteers have taken possession of their new CWAS branded red jackets – look out for us on the roads and pathways in and around Westhill, wave and say hello as we pass you.

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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- Santa's Grotto for over **110 children**
- **56** children's play and activity sessions
- **59** teen/young adult social groups
- **33** adult groups
- **21** support, advisory and training sessions for parents and carers

We need your support!

As a charity, we are wholly reliant on donations and grants to cover the cost of running these vital sessions so people with additional needs don't have to pay an expensive entry fee to access the emotional and practical support they deserve.



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Co-op members can help us get a share of the £5m Local Community Fund! Visit our Facebook or Instagram pages for more info.

Come to our 2026 fundraising events:

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Scan for details



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

Registered charity SC043596

After a brief hiatus during the winter months, our regular "Bide A While" coffee mornings have resumed. The usual offerings of soup, sandwiches and home bakes will be available for purchase, and these popular opportunities for a chinwag take place between 10.30am and 2.30pm on the last Saturday of each month.

On Saturday 14 March 2026, we will be hosting a FUNdraising quiz night from 7.30pm. Prizes and raffles will be on offer, though nothing to compete with the kudos of proving yourselves the "local" quiz champions – for one night at least. Further information is available on our Facebook page but should prove great fun for those who don't take quizzing (or themselves) too seriously.



On Friday 27 March 2026, from 7.30pm, accomplished local band Poteen will be performing an evening of Scots/Irish folk and ceillidh music with a blend of more contemporary songs to cater for all musical tastes. Ticketing and event details can be found on our Facebook page.

The new Committee have been busy giving the hall interior a makeover, and with our AGM set for 7.30pm on 26 March 2026, why not come along and see for yourselves. You will also hear about our future plans, and you might even feel the urge to sign up to one of our committees – new blood equates to new ideas, so everyone is welcome.

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 so, 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 redecorated 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 Hall hire rates remain highly competitive and attractive:

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).

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 have been attending divisional competitions and are working towards our Annual Divisional Beach Ballroom Display which is on 8th March.



We are also practising hard for our own Annual Open Night which is in Trinity Church on Monday 23rd March at 6.30pm, everybody is welcome.

You will see all the physical items the girls have been taking part in during this session and the girls will be receiving their badges and awards too.

We will be finishing up after the Open Night until the new school year in August where all girls can come along and find out what we do on a Monday night and join in the fun and make new friends, they 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



Well, what a start to the year!

Normally the club organise some rides for the bright, but cold, winter days, with a nice tea shop stop to warm up and refuel on cake. Unfortunately the incessant rain has not been conducive to cycling! As I write this (early February) a few

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



members have been cycle commuting through the winter and a few have ventured out on a weekend ride, and a few fled to sunnier climes for their cycle fix.

We are looking forward to the better weather, getting out on some decent club rides and building fitness for the summer whilst enjoying good company and of course, cake.

The first pre-orders of club kit were delivered in January and we are optimistic to be out showing it off soon. The new kit can be ordered online –the link can be found on our website www.westhillbikeclub.com

Club rides depart from 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

not come along for a taster session, complete beginners and experienced cyclists are welcome.

In preparation for the better weather, you should be looking at giving your bike a 'fitness check'. Don't wait until the first sunny day before checking your tyres, brakes and oiling the chain. Tyres can deteriorate if they stand underinflated for an extended period and that can lead to catastrophic failure on the road. Pump them up to the recommended pressure, check for perishing and cracking (both sidewalls and tread) and replace if necessary. This could save a long walk home.

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



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'We offer Cone Beam CT scans and OPG X-rays and our iTero system means we can offer 3D scans for dentures, crowns, bridges and orthodontic treatment rather than taking impressions. We also have our own dental technician and lab on site, providing a fast turnaround on private dentures and denture repairs. We even offer dental plans and patient finance and are currently accepting new private and NHS patients.'

Dr. Narra continued, "We know that some people feel a bit nervous about coming back to a dentist and may not have been for a couple of years given the pandemic. We are lucky to have a great & 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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From Golden Temples To Emerald Jungles



Thailand:

From Golden Temples To Emerald Jungles Thailand has a way of getting under your skin. On my recent trip through Bangkok, Khao Lak, Elephant Hills and Phuket, I fell in love with the country. We travelled as a couple, but at every stage I kept thinking: this would be fantastic for families too.

Bangkok:

Street Food, Temples and River Views We began in lively Bangkok. Busy, bright and full of character, it gives a lovely first taste of Thai culture. By day, we visited temples to hear Buddhist monks chanting and explored colourful floating markets, a gentle and fascinating introduction to Thai culture.

We enjoyed an evening on a guided street food. With a local leading the way, we tried spicy curries and the best mango sticky rice.

Khao Lak:

Easy Beach Days And Island Hopping Next we flew south to Khao Lak for five nights on the beach: long stretches of golden sand, warm sea and a slower pace of life.

Our days were simple: beach walks, swims and soothing Thai massages. It felt wonderfully relaxed. For families, Khao Lak works really well, with wide, less crowded beaches and a friendly, laid-back feel.

The big adventure here was a boat trip to the Similan Islands. Pure white sand, turquoise water and jungle-backed bays. We snorkelled over coral, spotted bright fish and met huge monitor lizards sunbathing on the beach.

Elephant Hills:

Jungle Magic And Gentle Giants The absolute highlight was Elephant Hills in Khao Sok National Park. Surrounded by rainforest and dramatic limestone cliffs, it feels like stepping into a jungle film set, but with comfy tented rooms and great food.

The focus is on ethical elephant experiences: no riding or shows, just the chance to watch, feed and learn about these beautiful animals. For families, it is pure magic: children can help prepare food for the elephants, learn about nature and enjoy the thrill of sleeping in the jungle.

Phuket:

Colourful Streets And Thai Boxing Nights We finished with four nights in Phuket. Beyond the beaches, Phuket Town really surprised me: pastel-coloured buildings, cool cafés and plenty of local snacks to try. It is a great place for a relaxed wander.

A boat trip to "James Bond Island" in Phang Nga Bay showed off Thailand's dramatic side, with towering rock formations rising out of emerald water. It is incredibly scenic.

One evening we went to a Muay Thai boxing event. The cheering crowd and the energy in the stadium made it a night to remember.

This trip covered everything - culture and food, relaxed beach time, wildlife and jungle fun with Phuket for a lively, easy going finale. It was a fantastic couples trip, but with a few tweaks it would be just as special for families.

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: Tuesdays 10am–7pm, Wednesdays 10am–7pm, Thursdays 10am–6pm, Saturdays 9am–1pm

We were delighted to welcome award-winning author Deborah Masson to the library in February. She took us on a fascinating delve into the secrets of a local crime writer whose storylines feature well-known locations across Aberdeen. Deborah's books are perfect for fans of suspense thrillers and Scottish Noir.

December marked the 250th anniversary of the birth of ever-popular Jane Austen. Throughout the month, our borrowers voted for their favourite Austen novel with the winner emerging as *Pride and Prejudice*. This prompted fierce debate amongst library staff as to the best on-screen Darcy! Team Matthew MacFadyen fought their corner but clearly, 'it is a truth universally acknowledged', that Colin Firth is the only man for the job! We'd love to know your thoughts...

Try something new at the Mindfulness and Wellbeing group which meets at the library on Wednesdays from 12.30–1.30pm. This is an informal, sit-down class which promotes a naturally healthy lifestyle through breathing, diet, meditation and simple exercise. No booking needed, just come along.

For more information please email pushpavid@gmail.com

You can find details of all our activities on the Live Life Aberdeenshire website.



Most borrowed in 2025

Looking for inspiration? Check out the top four books borrowed by adults at Westhill library in 2025!



Hire a Library Space

The library has two rooms available for hire by individuals or groups for one-off events or on a regular basis. Our smaller room has capacity for four people while our larger room can seat up to 14 people. Both rooms have access to WiFi and mains power. For details of prices and availability, please email or phone us.

New Bookbug Sessions!

First Wednesday of the month
2.30 to 3.00pm
Songs, rhymes and a story for ages
0–5 years

Contact Info

E: westhill.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
T: 01224 472871
W: livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/

Youth

We have a really lively and busy youth programme working closely with Westhill and District schools. Recently, we wrapped up our Young Photographer and Young Artist competitions, with gift vouchers awarded to both the winners and their schools — well done to everyone who took part! We're also currently interviewing candidates for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), which is always inspiring.

Our Primary School quizzes took place on 26 and 27 January, and a huge thank you goes to all the Rotarians and partners who helped make both evenings such a success. We had a fantastic turnout, with 21 teams from P4/5 and 17 teams from P6/7. The winning teams chose to support CRY (Jude McDonald Memorial) and the RNLI. Over the two nights, £205.40 was raised, which Rotary will match — meaning each charity will receive £205.40. A great result all round!



International

We continue to support a range of international projects, including ShelterBox and Sand Dams. Over £7,000 has recently been sent to our Rotary District to be allocated to the Multi-District Sand Dams scheme — a fantastic contribution to life-changing work overseas.

Community

Our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was held in December at a packed Ashdale Hall — a wonderful afternoon filled with great entertainment, and plenty of food and drink to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a special event. More photos can be found on our Facebook page.

Please save the date: this year's Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 6 December at the Ashdale Hall.



Looking ahead, our popular Lazy Sunday event will be returning to the Ashdale Hall and Field on Sunday 7th June. Keep an eye out for posters around Westhill nearer the time, and for more details in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Friends of Rotary

Friends of Rotary are people who support Rotary clubs and their activities without the commitment of full membership. Friends can get involved in events, volunteer their time, and support Rotary projects in lots of different ways. If you'd like to find out more about Rotary, give something back to the community, or simply lend a hand with one of our projects — whether as a member or a Friend of Rotary — we'd love to hear from you.

Email: member.westhill.rotary@outlook.com

or take a look at our Facebook page
facebook.com/westhillrotary



Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy

The Lord-Lieutenant's Update



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Aberdeenshire residents who were recognised for the outstanding contributions they have made across the county and beyond in the King's New Year Honours List. From highland dancing to historic building preservation, apprenticeships / catering, charitable work, tourism, cadets, medicine we are grateful to them and proud of their achievements. Peter Bruce (CBE) for catering/charity, Prof. Zosia Miedzybrodzka (OBE) for genetics, Claire Bruce (MBE) for tourism, James Buchan (MBE) for seafood, Paul Higson (MBE) for heritage, David Reid (MBE) for disability support, Adele Steel (MBE) for Girlguiding, Alison Milne (BEM) for highland dancing and Squadron Leader, Commanding 875 (Westhill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets Stewart Norris (BEM) for services to young people in Aberdeenshire.

Commemorative Sycamore Tree Planting at Balmoral Castle

A very moving and special tree planting ceremony was held within the grounds of Balmoral Castle on Armistice Day in recognition of the 28 estate workers who fought in the First World War, of whom seven made the ultimate sacrifice.



Rev Kenneth MacKenzie LVO DL, Minister of the Parish of Braemar and Crathie, led the short commemorative service which was attended by Balmoral estate staff, Gordon Highlander veterans and volunteers from The Gordon Highlanders Museum. The Lady Saltoun DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and Kirsty Wilson, Head of Gardens for Balmoral and Birkhall, planted a sycamore tree in commemoration of all the estate workers who served. The new Resident Factor, Major Rob Whitson, welcomed everyone and made a commemorative speech which included a special message from His Majesty The King.

Anniversaries, Birthdays

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, details below, for further information.

Honours

I had the great pleasure of presenting Keith Jensen with his British Empire Medal for his remarkable work over 30 years saving lives as a paramedic in the North-East of Scotland. Keith has also played a key role in supporting the impactful work of life saving charities such as Aberdeen Mountain Rescue, The Sandpiper Trust and BASICS Scotland. A truly exceptional contribution to our communities and so many families.

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. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website.



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

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

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Ashdale Hall 01224 740137

Boys' Brigade 07706 632586

Childcare

Schools Out Club
(Old School House 01224 465202

Citizens Advice Bureau..... 01224 747714

Community Centre..... 01224 472874

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Old Skene Road 01224 741339

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Gardening Club 01224 748045

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Girls' Brigade, 1st Skene 07792 471199

Girl Guiding..... 07974 963717

Health & Social Care Office..... 01467 537745

Lawsondale Pavilion..... 01224 742836

Library..... 01224 472871

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Scouts..... 01224 746773

Water Authority 0845 6018 855

Westhill Men's Shed 01224 917345

Sports

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Tennis Club..... 07929 191816

Westdyke Leisure Centre 07565 912522

Westhill Bowling Club 07562 696193

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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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EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS



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www.rgc.aberdeen.sch.uk/rgccamps



ROBERT GORDON'S
COLLEGE

CAMPS



LIVE MUSIC

Saturday 28th February VANITY Open to Close	Saturday 28th March JD MUSIC Open to Close
Saturday 18th April JET STREAM Open to Close	Sunday 2nd May RAY MOORE Open to Close
Saturday 26th May JET STREAM Open to Close	Saturday 27th June JOYFUL Open to Close

Free admission!



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

LIVE SPORTS

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



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



Quiz Nights

AT THE BROADSTRAIK INN

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

(January to October 2016)

Starting at 7.30pm | £1 per person entry



Gather up your team mates (minimum team of 4), pick a name and get your thinking caps on! Our Quiz Nights are a great opportunity to test your knowledge in a fun atmosphere!

The Broadstraik Inn
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Elrick,
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Aberdeenshire,
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