# Despite liquidation, Duncano's bar and bistro in Westhill pledges to stay open and diversify



The story of Duncano's, a burgeoning bar and bistro based in Westhill, Aberdeenshire, reflects both the challenges many businesses face in the hospitality sector and the indomitable spirit of its owner, Lynne Duncan. Despite the establishment entering liquidation proceedings in May 2024, Ms Duncan has resolved to keep Duncano's operational, insisting that the restaurant is “still trading” and embracing an optimistic outlook for its future.

Launched in December 2021 within the Westhill Shopping Centre, Duncano’s quickly became a local favourite, celebrated for its community-centric approach. By conducting surveys prior to opening, Duncan aimed to align her menu with the preferences of local residents, offering a selection that ranges from homemade breakfasts to sharing platters. As the venue comfortably accommodates 54 patrons with potential expansion for private events, it established itself not just as a dining spot but as a social hub for the area.

The need for restructuring arose after the business failed to submit its accounts on time, eliciting the intervention of Begbies Traynor to oversee the liquidation process—a standard procedure for companies facing insolvency. Ms Duncan has acknowledged the past few years as some of her most rewarding yet daunting times. She has expressed profound gratitude to the supportive community that has bolstered her vision, stating, “It’s been an incredibly challenging time to launch and run a business, especially in hospitality.”

In light of the challenges, including a rise in antisocial behaviour that has marred the dining experience for customers and staff, Ms Duncan has proposed a renewed focus on financial accountability and long-range planning. A notable incident in March 2024 saw Duncano's staff subjected to harassment from a group of youths, leading to heightened police presence in the area. Nonetheless, the experience has not deterred the venue's spirit; rather, it has galvanised efforts to ensure safety and satisfaction for patrons.

To adapt to changing circumstances and to "future-proof" the business, Duncan plans to pivot towards new opportunities within the catering and events sector—a move that aligns with the growing trend of diversified services in hospitality. Recent events have included catering for Aberdeen FC's new kit launch, emphasising the bistro's versatility and community engagement.

Increasingly popular, the venue extended its weekend hours in early 2023 and received planning approval for an outdoor decking area, enhancing its appeal and capacity for social gatherings. Community support was robust during the approval process, showcasing Duncano’s role in providing an essential outdoor space in Westhill amidst growing competition.

Despite the present challenges, Ms Duncan reassures loyal customers that “it’s very much business as usual.” The resilience and adaptability she demonstrates reflect a broader narrative in the hospitality sector, where many business owners are navigating the precarious balance of innovation and survival in a competitive market. With plans for renewal and community engagement, Duncano's remains a testament to the enduring spirit of local entrepreneurship in the face of adversity.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3: [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/local/6753113/duncanos-westhill-liquidation-staying-open/)
2. Paragraphs 4, 5: [[2]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/6411463/youth-target-westhill-restaurant/), [[3]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/food-and-drink/3744717/new-bar-and-bistro-duncanos-opens-in-aberdeenshire/)
3. Paragraphs 6, 7: [[4]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/6310851/duncanos-hours-extended/), [[5]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/4503232/duncanos-decking-approved/)
4. Paragraph 8: [[6]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/4260383/duncanos-westhill/), [[7]](https://duncanos.com/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/local/6753113/duncanos-westhill-liquidation-staying-open/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/6411463/youth-target-westhill-restaurant/> - In March 2024, staff at Duncano’s Bar Bistro in Westhill were intimidated by a group of around 30 youths. The group hurled abuse at staff and customers, climbed on the restaurant's roof, and entered the premises multiple times. Owner Lynne Duncan confronted the group and called the police, leading to the restaurant being locked with customers inside. The police attended the scene, and advice was given to two individuals nearby. No damage was reported to the property. The incident prompted increased police patrols in the area.
3. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/food-and-drink/3744717/new-bar-and-bistro-duncanos-opens-in-aberdeenshire/> - Duncano’s, a new bar and bistro, opened in Westhill Shopping Centre in December 2021. The venue underwent a significant renovation, transforming the former Key West premises into a stylish establishment with a capacity of 54, expandable for private functions. Owner Lynne Duncan emphasized community involvement by conducting a survey to determine local preferences for the menu, which includes homemade breakfasts, relaxed lunches, sharing platters, and small plates. The bar offers a fully stocked bar, cocktail menu, and wine list. The opening received positive feedback, with some praising it as a rival to city venues.
4. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/6310851/duncanos-hours-extended/> - In early 2023, Duncano’s Bar Bistro in Westhill extended its weekend opening hours following increased popularity. The venue, which had been open for two years, became a hit in the town, leading to the addition of extra outdoor seating. Licensing changes approved by Aberdeenshire Council allowed the venue to host activities like receptions, club meetings, and dances. The closing time on Saturdays was extended from 12:30 am to 1:00 am, and on Sundays from 11:45 pm to midnight. The venue's popularity was attributed to its unique offerings in the town.
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/4503232/duncanos-decking-approved/> - In May 2022, Duncano’s Bar Bistro in Westhill received planning permission for an outdoor decking area, allowing for additional seating. The proposal included six tables for two and eight four-seater tables. The application faced objections from a local resident concerned about pedestrian flow, but the venue's fans expressed strong support, highlighting the lack of outdoor dining options in Westhill. The approval was seen as a positive development for the local community, providing more socializing space and enhancing the area's appeal.
6. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/4260383/duncanos-westhill/> - In April 2022, Duncano’s Bar Bistro in Westhill applied for planning permission to build a new decking area outside its premises at Westhill Shopping Centre. The proposal aimed to add six tables for two and eight four-seater tables, enhancing the venue's outdoor dining capacity. The application received support from the local community, with fans expressing excitement over the addition. The approval was anticipated to bring more customers to the area and provide a much-needed outdoor socializing space in Westhill.
7. <https://duncanos.com/> - Duncano’s is a bar and bistro located in Westhill, Aberdeenshire, offering a welcoming atmosphere and a diverse menu. The venue is open Wednesday to Sunday, serving an all-day menu, afternoon tea, and Sunday roast. Duncano’s also provides a fully stocked bar, cocktail menu, and wine list. The stylish venue is suitable for various occasions, including private events. The establishment emphasizes a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, aiming to be a favorite place for locals and visitors alike.