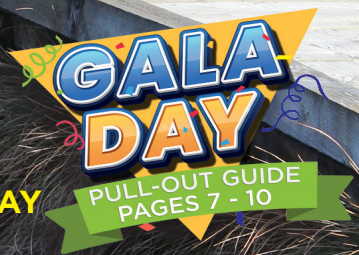




BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

ISSUE 74



BLACKRIDGE GALA DAY
SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 2023

*Blackridge Community Council proudly supports Blackridge, Westrigg & Westcraigs Gala Day.
Cover image: Blawhorn Moss boardwalk - photograph by Billy Craig.*

A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY

Please see centre pages for our pull-out guide with all the information you will need about the event including Civic Week and Procession times, etc.

www.blackridge.cc



BLACKRIDGE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Our Mission

We focus on making the maximum positive impact for our community. Our members and volunteers provide the momentum that helps us affect change to make a lasting difference to our great village.

Welcome to the summer 2023 Gala Day edition of the Blackridge Community Council newsletter.

We hope you are all looking forward to the Gala day this year and able to take part in the various activities organised throughout Civic Week, please see our pull-out guide in centre pages.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Lynda Kenna to our community. Lynda was elected in May 22 as the West Lothian Councillor for Blackridge, Armadale, Torphichen and Westfield.

She lives locally in the village of Bents to the South East of Blackridge with her husband and has a grown-up family and four grandchildren.

"I am very thankful for the way I have been welcomed into the ward by its other councillors and I am enjoying working with them for the overall good of the community. This also applies to the many other local organisations that I am now engaged with - including, of course, the Community Council itself.

There have been many challenges over the last year, not least the cost of living and recent bus crisis. However, I have been able to draw on my previous 17 years' experience as a councillor for Falkirk, where I was never afraid to challenge authority to protect the people I represent" said Lynda.

Lynda holds monthly surgeries in each of the areas she represent, the Blackridge surgeries being held in the Craig Inn Centre. You can contact her by phone: 01506 281724 or by email: lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk.

www.blackridge.cc

If you would like to feature an article in our Newsletter, please email mail@blackridge.cc and put the word "Newsletter" in the subject line.



Beechbrae

Beechbrae News - Ally Graham

We hope you are looking forward to the increased sunshine and warm weather as much as we are at Beechbrae. We have a few activities planned for summer and autumn 2023 which you are warmly invited to join.

Summer Outdoor Activities at Beechbrae & Blawhorn Moss

Beechbrae and Nature Scot are teaming up to run 4 summer outdoor activity sessions the first 4 Tuesdays in July. These will be held at both Beechbrae and Blawhorn Moss (always starting at Beechbrae) and are open to young people from primary 5 and up. Activities will include Bushcraft, woodland games, art & craft and outdoor cooking.

***TUESDAY 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th JULY**
10.00am - 2.00pm (FREE - ticketed)

Please bring a packed lunch and outdoor clothing. Visit web to book and for more details.

Beechbrae Family Woodland Afternoons 2023

We are excited to offer family sessions again this summer at Beechbrae. The sessions are open to young people of any age that are accompanied by an adult.

***SATURDAY 8th & MONDAY 17th JULY**
1.00pm - 3.00pm (FREE - ticketed)

Visit web to book and for more details.



Why REWILDING is Important

A talk by Nick Benge of Watergems at Beechbrae

Beechbrae are delighted to welcome Nick Benge an ecologist who began a rewilding project in two fields in rural North Devon in 2020. This talk will cover what they did and show the astounding impact in just 3 years. "Build it and they will come."

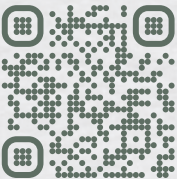
***SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER**
3.00pm - 5.00pm
(FREE - ticketed)



Make your own dream-catcher workshop at Beechbrae

Beechbrae are teaming up with local artist Natalie Ritchie to run a dream-catcher making workshop. All materials are provided and you get to take your creation home.

***SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER**
1.00pm - 4.00pm
(FREE - ticketed)



*All our events are free of charge, but ticketed. Please visit our eventbrite link on website (scan QR code opposite). For more information or to answer any questions please ring or text Sammy on 07494 449483



For regular updates and information, follow our social pages or website

f @beechbrae

www.beechbrae.com

beechbrae

BLAWHORN MOSS NEW ROAD & BOARDWALK EXTENSION



NatureScot are very pleased the road has been resurfaced! It looks fantastic and makes such a difference to the entrance of the reserve and makes it more accessible to vehicles and pedestrians.



PHASE 2 - BOARDWALK EXTENSION

Phase 2 of the boardwalk extension at Blawhorn moss was started in March and is now complete. Local wind farm funding contributed 50% towards the cost of the extension, making this project achievable for NatureScot to complete. It is being extended by 250m, further information can be found on page 5.

We are investing a lot of time and resources into Blawhorn Moss, and plan to attend a Community Council meeting in the future to discuss our plans.

NATURE POSITIVE PROJECTS

Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped to plant just over 400 native trees in and around Blackridge. The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust and Foundation Scotland and this year we had help from the local police, Beechbrae, Community Council members and the Explorer Scouts. More tree and bulb planting is likely in the autumn.

Rubbish has been cleared from near the footbridge over the Barblauchlaw Burn and two historic posts have been re-painted. Native trees and some weeping willows have been planted.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of rubbish in the burn and we need more volunteers for a **Burn Clean-up** in June. Prospective dates are **Saturday 10th June** or **Sunday 18th June**.

If you would like to help, please phone Rebecca Rylott on 0785 097 5545

LOCAL WINDFARM OPERATORS GREENPOWER AND THRIVE RENEWABLES

GreenPower and Thrive Renewables, the owners and operators of the three-turbine Drumduff Wind Farm, are pleased to announce their continued support for the ongoing pathway development work in the local Blackridge community. Working together with NatureScot, GreenPower and Thrive have committed to funding for the extension of the community boardwalk at Blawhorn Moss Nature Reserve, with building work having been completed recently. This adds around 250m of additional environmentally friendly walkways to the Moss, providing further opportunities for Blackridge residents and visitors to enjoy and explore more of the National Nature Reserve on their doorstep. Visitors from further afield will also be able to explore more of the Reserve and experience the special wildlife and plants associated with it, including dragonflies, heath spotted orchids and curlews.

This new phase of work builds on the previous extension to the boardwalk completed in 2022, which was also funded by the Drumduff Wind Farm owners and NatureScot. This work is the outcome of a previous feasibility study jointly commissioned by GreenPower, NatureScot and BeechBrae, to explore how access to the countryside around Blackridge could be improved by the provision of new and upgraded local pathways and cycle routes. We are keen to hear suggestions from the Blackridge community about new options to develop local pathways and cycle routes as we take this programme forward in its next stages.

In addition, GreenPower and Thrive would like to thank the local community for their feedback on the proposed Drumduff Wind Farm Extension. Drop-in sessions were held in the Craig Inn Centre in February and April this year and feedback received from both events has shaped the project design which will be submitted into planning later this summer. We are keen to hear how community benefits from the proposed extension can be used to further enhance the local area along with any future projects.



Get in touch via enquiries@greenpowerinternational.com or visiting our website at www.greenpowerinternational.com, where project information on the proposed Drumduff Wind Farm Extension can also be found.



BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

LEARN TOGETHER, ACHIEVE TOGETHER, CELEBRATE TOGETHER

I joined Blackridge Primary in February of this year as Acting Headteacher and I am very grateful for the warm welcome and support I have had since joining the community. It has been a very busy term so far, with transition into Primary 1 underway for our preschool learners and our Primary 7 learners are beginning their transition to Armadale Academy too. We look forward to sharing their final terms in nursery and school with them.

In March, some of our learners went on school camp to Gowanbank and had a great time learning new skills and taking part in exciting activities such as Archery and Crate Climbing. Lots of our learners have been engaging in outdoor learning through the Forest Schools Programme and utilising the marvellous surroundings that we have here in Blackridge.

Also this year, our Parent Council held a really successful Easter Fun Day and everyone enjoyed the arts and crafts and inflatables. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our Parent Council.

As we begin to think about next session, we are reviewing the successes of session 2022/23 and considering what our plans will be for next year. We have also started to review our curriculum and our learners across the school have been consulted on what they think are important features that the Blackridge Primary School curriculum should have. In our ELC, learners have been developing their outdoor spaces and have been busy creating a mud kitchen area which has been a great addition to our garden area.

Moving towards the summer months, we are excited to take part in the annual Blackridge Gala Day and consultation with the pupils around the theme of this year's Gala Day is taking place. We look forward to being part of this exciting event.

Claire McGoldrick
Head Teacher (Acting)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES (2023-24) & CURRICULUM DRIVERS AT BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY

We really value the views of all of our wider stakeholders and would appreciate any feedback from the Community Council as we are keen to strengthen our partnership. You can access the survey by scanning the QR code or



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage>

Please respond to this short questionnaire which will help inform our plans for next session and also shape our curriculum offer. Thank you in advance,





GALA DAY

PULL OUT



Everything you need to know!

BLACKRIDGE, WESTRIGG AND WESTCRAIGS CHILDREN'S GALA DAY

This year's Gala Day will go ahead on **Sunday 25th June** with the Civic week starting on Sunday 18th June, there is an event every day of the week finishing off on Friday 23rd with an exciting new event!

This year's theme for school and nursery kids is Disney and Marvel Superheroes giving kids lots of choice for dress up.

The Gala day Committee made up of eight volunteers have been working hard to make this Gala Day and Civic week a great one for the village. They would also love to see some new faces joining for next year's Gala Day.

The parade will leave the school at 12 noon to Westrigg Park via the Clachan then the entertainment and races in the park on Sunday afternoon.

The Committee is grateful to Blackridge Community Council for including the Gala day programme with the Village Newsletter and making sure everyone knows what's happening.

We do hope all of the Village joins us to either dress up or come along and enjoy the day!

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this Gala day happen and for all donations.

Hip Hip!



CIVIC WEEK

SUNDAY 18TH

treasure hunt
tea, cakes & tombola

MONDAY 19TH

prize bingo

TUESDAY 20TH

it's a knockout

WEDNESDAY 21ST

pub quiz

THURSDAY 22ND

gala day football

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

family fun day

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE

the main event...

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events - all welcome

SUN
18

TREASURE HUNT

Beechbrae - 2pm
Nursery to P7

Starting at Beechbrae carpark.
Good luck!



SUN
18

TEA, CAKES & TOMBOLA

Craig Inn Centre
5pm

All welcome
Come and show your support



MON
19

PRIZE BINGO

Craig Inn Centre
Eyes down 7pm

All welcome.
Lots of great prizes
to be won!



TUE
20

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Primary School Kick Pitch - 6pm
Primary 1 - 7

Come along and join in
the fun and games.



WED
21

PUB QUIZ

Coopers Lounge - 7pm
£5 per team to enter

Cash prize for
winning team



THU
22

GALA DAY FOOTBALL

Westrigg Park
From 4.30pm

All welcome
Come and show your support



FRI
23

FAMILY FUN DAY

Westrigg Park
from 3pm - 7pm


Fun & Games
for all the family




GALA DAY

SUNDAY 25th JUNE PROCESSION TIMETABLE

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10.15am	 Judging of decorated premises	VARIOUS
11.15am	 Judging of fancy dress and floats	BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
12.00 noon	Procession leaves Primary School	BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
1.30 - 3.00pm	Gala day bags can be collected	WESTRIGG PARK
1.00pm approx	Bands play in park	WESTRIGG PARK
3.00pm approx	Gala day races	WESTRIGG PARK
5.00pm approx	Gala day ends	WESTRIGG PARK

 Premises can only be judged if an entry has been recieved by 5.00pm on Wednesday 21st. Forms are available from committee members, the chemist or Post Office. Please hand forms to a committee member or via private message on our facebook page.

 Floats please assemble at the bottom of the brae.

PLEASE NOTE: The judges decision is final



FLOAT DECORATION

A group of parents from the Blackridge Primary School Parent Forum are organising the Float for the Blackridge Gala Day, on Sunday 26th June. This year the theme will be **Disney and Marvel Superheroes**, as chosen by the children. They want to make this event bigger & better than ever and want to invite all children from Nursery, P1, P2 & P3 to join them on their float for the parade this year.

Please follow the Blackridge Primary School Forum Facebook page for all updates and information on this event. They cannot wait to give the children in the school and the community an amazing day!!"

Parents are also asked to support the preparation of the float. Please contact bpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com



Disney
MARVEL SUPERHEROES



THANK YOU

A big Thank you to the following for their generous donations for the prize bingo!

Elaine McGreskin - Sugar Mice
Andrea Smith - Katz Kandy
Janet McLean - Hair By Janet
Samantha Macaulay - Choc & Cheese
Craig Burnett - Craig's Ices
Kelly Sinnet - Hair By Kelly
Adele Falconer - New Ink Tattoo & Piercing
Spice Cottage
Smartways
Chris Pollock - Coopers Bar for his hospitality.

**And to everyone else who gave their time, donations
and effort to make this possible**

FOUNDATION SCOTLAND BMET UPDATE

The Blackridge Community Fund has been busy within the last year – here is a quick recap...

New project story: (Remembering miners - interactive memorial commemorates miners in Blackridge | Foundation Scotland). Many of you will already have visited the new interactive Mining Memorial in the Community Museum at the Craig Inn Centre.



This item highlights how the Blackridge Fund helped make a difference.

What does Monday Club, Women's Institute, Signpost, Tutti Music, Blackridge Community Education Association, Village planters and borders, Fireworks, public car parking at the Church, Time Out Art Class, Flute Band, Model Railway Club and OAP Association all have in common?

Yes you've guessed it, they've all shared in the £59,000 awarded last year by the Fund. Congratulations and thanks to all the hard-working volunteers and staff who make all these activities happen.

Next Application deadline: there's still time to pop in an application, as usual there are four application Rounds in 2023; check out the Blackridge Community Fund website page for more information. See overleaf for further details.



**Foundation
Scotland**

BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY FUND

APPLY!

2023 Deadline dates

15th Jun – Decision late Aug
21st Sept – Decision late Nov
7th Dec – Decision Feb 2024

**For more information,
please contact Malcolm
on 07718 770319**

or via email:
Malcolm@foundationscotland.org.uk
tinyurl.com/BlackridgeCommunityFund





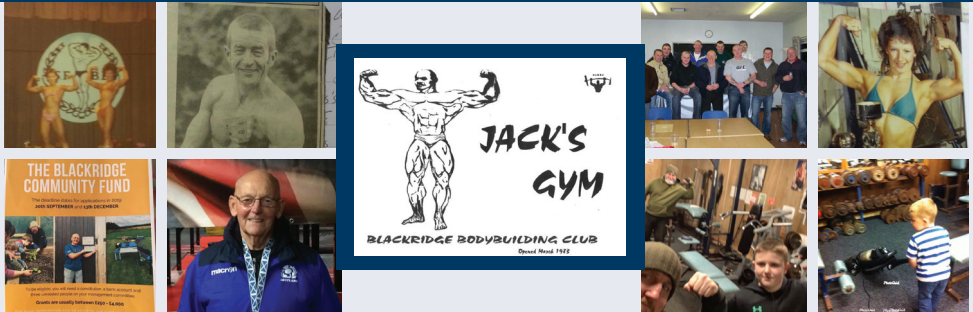
CRAIG'S ICES

Various locations around the village
MON • WED • FRI

**ICE CREAM • DRINKS
 CONFECTIONERY**

**WE WILL BE AT THE GALA DAY
 PARK AFTER THE PROCESSION**

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TO JACK'S GYM



On the 23rd March 1983 Jack Kefferty, founder member opened the doors to Blackridge Bodybuilding Club.

The club had many training places including the local pub and school gym hall before Jack purchased a big wooden garage and secured a plot from the council. Jack said *"We shed blood sweat and tears to put it all together, there were no fancy machines back then and lots of manual digging"*.

He continued *"Over the years it started to get a bit run down and we thought it might need to close, but thankfully we have been lucky to secure funding from Foundation Scotland to replace the floor and equipment to keep us running for many years to come"*.

There has been a few champions come out of Jack' Gym.

With 4 generations of the family training in the gym, they are looking forward to the next anniversary.

Thank to all the committee and gym members for their continued support.

**Jacks Gym • 16 A Drummond Place • Blackridge • West Lothian • EH48 3SF
 Contact: 07764 857 317**





CRAIG INN COMMUNITY CENTRE

TIMETABLE

Craig Inn centre is all about bringing the community together, so why not come along and participate in some of our classes. Here are just some of our classes:

MONDAY

Library	9.00am – 3.30pm
Craft Class	9.30am – 12.30pm
Gentle Exercise	11.00am – 11.45am
Monday Club	1.00pm – 3.30pm
Yoga	6.00pm – 7.00pm
Management Committee Meeting (3rd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.00pm
Women's Rural Institute (2nd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.45pm
L.L.O.L (1st of the Month)	7.15pm – 8.15pm

TUESDAY

Library (Centre Staff)	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Art Class	5.45pm – 9.00pm
Community Council (3rd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.45pm

WEDNESDAY

Tutti Music	10.15am – 11.30am
Railway Club	6.30pm – 9.30pm
Camera Club	7.00pm – 9.45pm

THURSDAY

OAP Bowls for the more mature adults	1.30pm – 4.00pm
Steps Dance Class kids try your dancing skills	4.00pm – 9.30pm
Knit Wits (Knitting Group)	6.30pm – 9.00pm

FRIDAY

Tutti Music	10.15am – 11.15am
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SUNDAY

Flutes 4 Fun (Fortnightly)	6.00pm – 8.00pm
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These are just some of the classes available to the community, if you want to start up a new group please contact the centre as we are always looking for new ventures.

Blackridge Children's Club

Age P3-P7

Friday 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Blackridge Community Wing
Main Street
EH48 3RJ

Games & Activities
Drama & Music
Sports
Gaming
Art & Design
Themed nights
STEM Activities



Blackridge Junior Youth Club

Thursday 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Blackridge Community Wing
Main Street
EH48 3RJ

Age P6-S2

safe spaces
mix with friends
try new activities

Engage with experienced youth workers and most importantly be yourself



For more information contact CLDYouthServices@westlothian.gov.uk or for a full list of our youth groups, SCAN HERE!

 West Lothian CLD Youth Services

 @CLDYouthWL  @cd_youth_services



MONDAY CLUB

In January, the Monday Club enjoyed a Burns Supper where Jock Close delighted the company in song. Several speakers also gave their time to share their experiences with the group, it was an enjoyable evening.

April saw the club take a visit Klondyke Garden Centre near Falkirk for a spot of afternoon tea and a browse around the centre.

At the time of print, a visit on the barges along the Clyde Canal to Cader Warf is planned along with a tasty fish supper, a day that is usually enjoyed by all.

These outings are part funded by Foundation Scotland for which the club is truly grateful.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE/FIRE

Police HQ Livingston	01506 431200
Police (Non-Emergency)	101
Fire (Emergency)	999

HOSPITALS

St. John's Hospital, Livingston	01506 523000
University Hospital Monklands, Airdrie	01236 748748
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	0131 536 1000
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh	0131 537 1000
University Hospital Wishaw	01698 361 100

HEALTH

Blackridge Health Centre	01501 751238
Harthill Health Centre	01501 751795
Armadale Health Centre	01501 730432
District Nurses / Midwife /Physio	01501 730339
Blackridge Pharmacy	01501 751175
NHS24 (Out of Hours Service)	111

SCHOOLS

Blackridge Primary	01501 751223
Armadale Academy	01506 282145
St. Anthony's Primary, Armadale	01501 731668
St. Kentigern's, Blackburn	01506 656404
Southdale Primary School, Armadale	01506 284300

UTILITIES EMERGENCIES

Scottish Gas	0800 111 999
SP Energy Networks (Electricity)	105
Scottish Water	0800 077 8778

TRAVEL

Rail Service Enquiries	0845 7484950
Traveline - Plan your Journey	

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

01506 280000

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Stuart Borrowman stuart.borrowman@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 281740
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