



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 72

BLACKRIDGE GALA DAY SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 2022

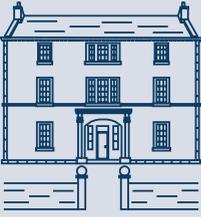


*Blackridge Community Council proudly supports
Blackridge, Westrigg & Westcraigs Gala Day.*

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

Welcome to the summer gala day edition of the Blackridge Community Council newsletter.

I am sure, like me, you will be glad that things are slowly returning to normal post covid and you'll be excited that after a very long two years brilliant events that bring the community together such as the gala day can take place again.

Community events such as the gala day, or indeed the production of this newsletter, don't happen by accident but involve weeks and months of planning by community volunteers and I'm sure we would all like to pay tribute to the work of the gala day committee and community council on their hard work and effort.

I hope you get the chance to enjoy some of the events that are on around the gala day and that you and your family have a brilliant summer.

Cllr Andrew McGuire

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Following our local government elections, the Community Council would like to welcome for **Ward 9 - Armadale & Blackridge**

Stuart Borrowman

stuart.borrowman@westlothian.gov.uk • 01506 281740

Lynda Kenna

lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk • 01506 281724

Andrew McGuire

andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk • 01506 281717

and wish them all the success in the future.

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 have been enjoying the coming of spring as much as we have, it feels like every day more leaves appear and the world becomes greener. It has been a busy and beautiful season for us at Beechbrae and it is so nice to feel encircled by vibrant shades of green and the warm bright nights.

Beechbrae Woodland Centre

At long last the Woodland Centre is complete, and we are delighted. Thanks to all who came to the open evening on the 28th April. We loved seeing familiar faces and meeting some new ones. We really hoped you felt welcomed and enjoyed seeing the new spaces in the building as well as getting a good taste of what we get up to at Beechbrae. Thank you for your questions and ideas of things you'd like to see more of at Beechbrae, we'll keep you updated on upcoming opportunities (like the one below) on facebook.

Plant Walk with Matthew Rooney

Come join us for an afternoon walk to explore plant life around Blackridge. We'll spend the first hour on a walk picking a variety of plants and the second half will be inside identifying and learning about plants found.

Location: Beechbrae Woodland Centre, Heights Rd Blackridge EH48 3SW

- Sunday 12 June** 1pm - 3pm (Spring Salads)
- Sunday 3 July** 1pm - 3pm Grasses & Orchids
- Sunday 28 August** 1pm - 3pm (Fruits & Mushrooms)

Matthew Rooney is an ecological consultant with a specialism in fungi

who lives in the local area. This workshop is FREE and spaces are limited.

Please RSVP to: sammy@beechbrae.com or call 07494 449 483



BLAWHORN NNR NEW BOARDWALK EXTENSION



EXTENDED BOARDWALK NOW OPEN



The new boardwalk provides more seating areas and the added space will allow for more educational visits from local schools.

Blawhorn Moss is tucked away in the hills behind Blackridge, an oasis of open windswept moors hidden in the lowlands. The wilderness is a rare survivor of the raised and blanket bogs that once covered much of central Scotland, with over 8,000 years of history locked into the peat layers of this raised bog.

Visitors can search for carnivorous sun dews, spot dragonflies and damselflies, heath spotted orchids and curlews, and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this hidden jewel of a nature reserve.

Read the full article at: nature.scot/blawhorn-nnr-new-boardwalk-extension



HELP US CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF COFFEE MORNINGS IN BLACKRIDGE

2022 will mark 25 years since the village began fundraising for Macmillan with their Coffee Mornings.

It is hoped the village will help celebrate the occasion in the Craig Inn this year.

To mark the 25th year we are producing a recipe book which is hoped to raise even more funds.

Dates and times will be posted in various outlets around the village soon.



WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

**PULL
OUT**

GALA DAY

26th JUNE 2022

Everything you need to know

BLACKRIDGE, WESTRIGG AND WESTCRAIGS CHILDREN'S GALA DAY

The Gala committee is delighted that after a Covid absence since 2019, the celebration will go ahead on Sunday 26 June.

Twelve volunteers stepped forward at the AGM: a mix of youth and experience, long-standing locals as well as incomers.

The committee has had plenty of support from Blackridge school whose pupils are, of course, central to the event. Disney and Superhero characters are their theme and the more talented committee members have been busy creating the illustrations for the float.

As with committees elsewhere, we've found bands harder to come by this year. Some have folded and there are competing band events.

But locals have been as helpful and generous as ever, pleased the Gala is back.

Overall, a civic week programme has been assembled with familiar events, climaxing in the parade from the school to Westrigg Park via the Clachan then the sports and entertainment in the park on the Sunday afternoon.

The committee is grateful to Blackridge Community Council for including the Gala programme with the village newsletter and making sure everyone knows what's happening.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this year's Gala happen.

Success to the Bairns and Hip Hip!



CIVIC WEEK

sunday 19th june
superhero party

monday 20th june
treasure hunt

tuesday 21st june
it's a knockout

wednesday 22nd june
pub quiz

thursday 23rd june
prize bingo

friday 24th june
gala day football

friday 24th june
karaoke night

sunday 26th june
the main event...

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

SUN
19

SUPERHERO PARTY

Craig Inn Centre - 1pm - 3pm
Nursery - P7 • Tickets £2 each

Fun & Games, Bouncy Castle, Candy Floss, Popcorn, Party Games.
Prizes to be won!



MON
20

TREASURE HUNT

Beechbrae - Nursery - P7
Meet at carpark for 6pm

Held at Beechbrae from various starting points, come along and join the fun



TUE
21

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Primary School Kick Pitch - 6pm
Primary 1 - 7

Come along and join in the fun and games.



WED
22

PUB QUIZ

Coopers Bar - 7pm
£5 per team to enter

Cash prize for winning team



THU
23

PRIZE BINGO

Coopers Bar
Eyes down 7pm

All welcome.
Lots of great prizes to be won!



FRI
24

GALA DAY FOOTBALL

Westrigg Park - From 4pm
Young Team Kick-off 4.30pm
Older Team - Kick-off 6.00pm

Come and show your support
All welcome!



FRI
24

KARAOKE NIGHT

Coopers Bar
From 8pm

FREE ENTRY



GALA DAY

SUNDAY 26th 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
3.00m approx	Gala day races	WESTRIGG PARK
5.00m approx	Gala day ends	WESTRIGG PARK

 Premises can only be judged if an entry has been recieved by 5.00pm on Wednesday 22nd. 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 Superhero's**, 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



THANK YOU

A big thank you to the following people:

Betty Spalding - The Eastern Star

Zahid Anwar - Riggsrolls

Janet McLean - Hair by Janet

A & D Campbell - Westrigg Electrical Services

Elaine McGreskin - Sugar Mice

Amanda MacLeod - Mindys Makes

Kelly Sinnet - Hair by Kelly

Leeanne Aitchison - Drumtassie Fishery

Andrea Smith - Katz Kandy

Also to Chris at Coopers Bar for hospitality and donation.

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

BLACKRIDGE BODYBUILDING CLUB

Jacks Gym was founded by Jack Kefferty and opened on 25th March 1983.

The club started long before that in various locations including the Primary School and the Auld Hoose before we opened our own doors as Jacks Gym.

We have a member's capacity of 25 split as 20 night training and 5 day training, at the moment the membership is full with a few people on the waiting list.

Over the last few years we have been fortunate enough to be awarded grants from Foundation Scotland to which we have renewed a lot of the equipment with more modern machines and a new floor.

"We are very grateful to foundation Scotland without these grants our wee Gym would have been close to closing".



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



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**



MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Would you be interested in forming a Model Railway Club in Blackridge? If formed, the club would meet at the Craig Inn Community Centre.

If interested please contact Gary at gazstewart4@gmail.com or
T: 01501 751 544
M: 07974 717 515





CRAIG INN COMMUNITY CENTRE

TIMETABLE

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

TUESDAY

Library (Centre Staff)	5.00pm - 9.00pm
Art Class	5.45pm - 9.00pm
L.L.O.L (1st of the Month)	7.15pm - 8.15pm
Community Council (3rd of the month)	7.00pm - 9.45pm

WEDNESDAY

Tutti Music	10.15am - 11.30am
Camera Club	7.00pm - 9.45pm

THURSDAY

OAP Bowls	1.30pm - 4.00pm
Steps Dance Class	4.00pm - 9.30pm
Knit Wits (Knitting Group)	6.30pm - 9.00pm
L.O.L (3rd of the month)	7.30pm - 9.45pm

FRIDAY

Tutti Music	10.15am - 11.15am
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SATURDAY

Pinky's Percys (Fortnightly)	11.30am - 12.15pm
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SUNDAY

Flutes 4 Fun (Fortnightly)	6.00pm - 8.00pm
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The Craig Inn Centre offers you the chance to participate in a wide range of activities as shown. We also have a Computer Suite, PC's are available for use free of charge to members of the centre. Booking 24 hours in advance is required. For internet access you must register through library services to obtain a password. Photocopying facilities are also available.



STAY LOCAL FOR THAT SPECIAL EVENT!

Rooms can be hired on request for
MEETINGS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • FUNCTIONS • WEDDINGS

GENERAL USE - LETTING CHARGES

Main Hall £12.00 per hour • **Commercial** £15.00 per hour
Meeting Room (One) £8.00 per hour • **Meeting Room (Three)** £4.00 per hour
Crèche £8.00 per hour

Information regarding any changes in our programme shall be advertised in the local press and shops.

CRAIG INN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Main Street • Blackridge • EH48 3SP • Telephone: 01501 753227

MONDAY CLUB

Since the beginning of the year the Monday Club have enjoyed music by one of their members, a Burns Lunch and various speakers. The club have also visited the museum to see the new Miners Memorial.

At the beginning of April the group travelled to Kirkintilloch where they boarded barges to take them along the Clyde Canal to Cader Warf and back. Before setting off, fish suppers were delivered and greatly enjoyed by all. This outing was partly funded by Foundation Scotland.



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

UTILITIES EMERGENCIES

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

TRAVEL

Rail Service Enquiries	0845 7484950
West Lothian Traveline	01506 775288

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

01506 280000

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Stuart Borrowman stuart.borrowman@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 281740
Andrew McGuire andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 281717
Lynda Kenna lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 281724