



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

ISSUE 78



A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Gala Day Highlights • Our Blackridge, Our Future • Blackridge Funding Panel

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BLACKRIDGE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, we're excited to bring you the latest updates, stories, and highlights from our community. Whether you're soaking up the sun on vacation or enjoying a quiet moment at home, we hope this edition adds a little extra brightness to your day.

Here's to a season full of sunshine, smiles, and new adventures!

As summer brings warmth and energy to our neighbourhood, we're delighted to share the latest updates, events, and stories from across our community. This edition is packed with seasonal highlights, local initiatives, and ways you can get involved and make the most of the sunny months ahead.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, we hope this newsletter helps you feel more connected and informed. From community projects to summer events, there's something here for everyone.

Thank you for being an essential part of our vibrant community. Let's make this summer one to remember!

With warm wishes
Marion

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm
in the Craig Inn Centre

CRAIG INN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.00pm
in the Craig Inn Centre

There are no meetings on July and August for both of these Committees

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.

+ Blackridge

PHARMACY



Hi everyone...

My name is Michael Reilly, and I am the new owner and Pharmacist at Blackridge Pharmacy. I have been a qualified pharmacist for seven years and it has always been my ambition to own a pharmacy and truly make a difference to the population it serves. From being in the community daily I believe I'm perfectly placed to adapt and react to the healthcare needs of the village. My Independent Prescribing qualification allows me to treat a wide range of common clinical conditions and improves access to healthcare for the community. We have a strong focus on being able to fulfil your prescriptions in a timely manner and alleviate any stresses you have with respect to the management of your medication. **Please pop in and see if we can help you!**

your **local pharmacy**
for *all* your needs

- ✓ NHS & Private Prescriptions
- ✓ Medication Reviews
- ✓ Pharmacy First (*Minor Ailment Service*)
- ✓ Weekly Blister Pack for Medication
- ✓ Blood Pressure Monitoring
- ✓ Stop Smoking Service
- ✓ Morning After Pill
- ✓ Vaccination Service

*Support your local
pharmacy...*



MON-FRI 9AM-6PM • SAT 9AM-1PM • SUN CLOSED

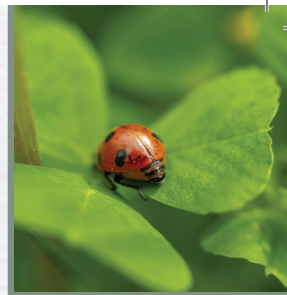


55 MAIN STREET, BLACKRIDGE EH48 3SA • T. 01501 751 175
info@blackridgepharmacy.co.uk • www.blackridgepharmacy.co.uk



Beechbrae

Beechbrae News - Ally Graham



Beechbrae is full of green and flowers are starting to pop out and show their colours. We've enjoying the sounds of birds echoing through the woods this spring. We really enjoyed the very sunny May, but our plants, trees and wildlife are grateful to have a little rain back after a month of cracked earth.

Tree Damage

Storm Éowyn brought down a large number of trees across Beechbrae in January. The 100+ that fell are overwhelmingly Pine, Larch & Spruce, ones that cling on to their neighbours as they fall to the ground.

It will take us a long time and a lot of work to tend to the fallen trees. Once the nesting season is over we'll begin the process of removing the windblown trees. We're starting with ones blocking paths and will work our way through the rest this year, maybe next.

Beechbrae Summer Activity Days 2025

Beechbrae and Nature Scot are teaming up to run 4 summer outdoor activity sessions this Summer. These will be held at both Beechbrae and Blawhorn Moss (always starting at Beechbrae) and are open to young people from P5 and up. The sessions will run from 10am - 2pm. We will be outside the whole time so please wear outdoor clothing & shoes (think nettles). We will meet in the car park at Beechbrae Woodland Centre.

THURSDAY

3 JULY

10am - 2pm

Bushcraft

FRIDAY

4 JULY

10am - 2pm

Bugs &
Butterflies

THURSDAY

24 JULY

10am - 2pm

Birds &
Den Building

FRIDAY

25 JULY

10am - 2pm

Blawhorn
Moss



These sessions are ticketed and are £1 each. See our website for ticket links www.beechbrae.com/events or scan qr code



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

 @beechbrae

www.beechbrae.com

beechbrae 



We have continued to grow since our last newsletter, and are pleased to say that we now have a significantly larger membership. Our weekly attendance has increased to between 23 and 25 people, and the same number continues to show up for our outings.

We have been able to share photos from our trips with the local community through our WhatsApp and Facebook groups. These have been useful for sharing photos from our outings and promptly sending messages to our members.

Through the kindness of Foundation Scotland, we were treated to a two-course meal at the Barony Castle Hotel in the Peebles area, a Burns lunch consisting of haggis, neeps and tatties, as well as a Tastebuds buffet with an Easter theme. During the Burns Lunch, Isla, one of our members' granddaughters, wowed us with her exceptional talent. She was granted special permission to take time from school to address our Haggis.

So far this year, our guest speakers have included Ally, who provided us with an update on Beechbrae's activities, Susan Hentges from the Food Train, advised our members on the advantages of joining Food Train. Zhenya Dove from Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS), showed some films and discussed their work with the families under their care. Every week we now gather spare change for the CHAS designated charity. Jane Anderson and Linda Berrie from Carers West Lothian discussed diabetes and eating a healthy diet.

We still play board games and enjoy tea and biscuits during our "spare time" and every week, the winner receives a wee Domino's trophy. We bought a few Jigsaw puzzles and a board to store them (for those who aren't big fans of Scrabble) at the Craig Inn's silent auction. Additionally, games like Snakes and Ladders have been donated to us.

Every Monday between 1.00pm - 3.00pm we get together and guarantee laughter, a warm welcome, and great company for anyone over 60 who wants to join our club. Once you have a Community Centre membership, you only pay £1 a week.



BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

LEARN TOGETHER, ACHIEVE TOGETHER, CELEBRATE TOGETHER



Summer is almost upon us at Blackridge Primary & ELC. It has been an incredibly busy term with so many exciting things happening.

Everyone loved the buzz across the school and ELC as we all got ready for Gala Day! This year, we were able to build on our learning on Scottish Myths and Legends by having this as the 2025 Gala Day theme. Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare for this year's big day, especially Drummond Distributions and D&J Sibbald for providing floats, as well as community members Del Campbell and Andrew McKail who helped decorate the school and ELC floats.

At the beginning of June, we enjoyed our whole school trip to Summerlee where the children in P1-7 got to learn more about life in the past and how mining families lived. Everyone enjoyed taking part in the workshops and playing with toys and games from times gone by!

In addition, our P2-4 children shared their learning with the wider school community and their families all about their community of Blackridge. We all got to learn so much about this special village.

As the holidays approach, it is time for us to say goodbye and good luck to our Primary 7 learners who leave us to go onto high school. We wish them the very best in this new and exciting chapter. We also look forward to welcoming our new Primary 1 children in August who have been amazing throughout all of their transition activities so I am sure they will be more than ready for starting school after the break.

On behalf of everyone at Blackridge Primary & ELC, we would like to wish you a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing our children and families back to school on Wednesday 13th August.

Mrs Claire McGoldrick
Headteacher

OUR BLACKRIDGE, OUR FUTURE

Blackridge Community Council launches '**3 Wishes for My Community**' Initiative in partnership with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Blackridge Community Council is pleased to announce an exciting new initiative in collaboration with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust - the "3 Wishes for My Community" campaign!

As part of our efforts to update and refresh our Community Action Plan, we're inviting every resident to share their hopes and ideas for the future of Blackridge. This is your chance to help shape a stronger, more vibrant village - one that reflects the hopes and needs and dreams of every resident.

By completing the '3 Wishes' form, you'll be helping us:

- **Gather valuable insights from across the community**
- **Identify shared priorities and opportunities for improvement**
- **Develop a clear, community-led action plan for the years ahead**

Drop off your completed form at local collection points, (Post office, Pharmacy or Health Centre) or scan the QR code overleaf to submit it online.

Every voice matters, and every wish brings us one step closer to a better Blackridge. Please spare a few moments to get behind '**Our Blackridge, Our Future**' and look out for further information and events in the coming months.

3 Wishes for My Community





Our **Tutti Tots** Pre-School music classes take place every Wednesday and Friday at 10.30am at the Craig Inn. Our enrolment has remained consistent, and we still welcome parents, grandparents, grans and childminders to the courses. Following our music session, they are welcome stay to share tea, coffee and conversation. The kids have the opportunity to engage in free play under supervision, and it's heartening to observe how they continue to form bonds with their classmates whilst learning to play music.

Toots & Taps, our primary school-aged music class, meets every two weeks in the Craig Inn library. The students in the class are learning how to play the piano, drums, and tin whistle. In the near future, we hope to take part in a rehearsal with the Bathgate Concert Orchestra, who currently rehearse at the Craig Inn on Friday nights.

The **Tutti Music** project have had a successful year fundraising with a Turtle Derby in May and by the time you read this article we will have had our annual Family Ceilidh.

For information on any of our classes please contact
Armadale Partnership Centre on 01506 282 278

www.tuttimusic.uk



Thank you for sharing your 3 wishes for a better community!

Look out for collection boxes in local shops or use the QR code / weblink to find your closest drop off point. We will gather all your wishes which will help shape a local place plan that will highlight concrete actions to promote positive change in your community.

Scan QR code



Name of my community:

Blackridge, West Lothian

YOU CAN DO IT ON-LINE AT

www.crtconnect.org.uk

crt.hub@coalfields-regen.org.uk | 01259 230910

To help us know a little about you please can you tell us (*please tick*)

Age: ☐ 5-11 ☐ 12-17 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-44 ☐ 45-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70+

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Non-Binary ☐ Prefer not to say

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust is a Charity registered in England and Wales (No. 1074930), a Charity registered in Scotland (No. SC039277) and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales (No.3738566). The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0BB.

Gala Day

The Galaday Committee would like to thank everyone who joined in with the Galaday whether you dressed up, walked with the parade or joined us in the park! Unfortunately the weather cut the day short , but nonetheless was still a fantastic day enjoyed by all, with the Craig inn Centre open let people enjoy the rest of their day out the rain!

We really **need new members to join our committee** as we are at minimum amount of members to form a committee. Unfortunately, if any more members leave, the Galaday would need to fold. The next meeting will be in October and there will be more info on the gala Facebook group nearer the time.

The Galaday next year will go ahead on **Saturday 30th May!**



BLACKRIDGE, WESTRIGG & WESTCRAIGS OLD FOLKS COMMITTEE

Our dedicated volunteer committee has been providing happiness to the amazing people of Blackridge who are 60 years of age and older for more than 75 years. Our goal is simple: to foster community spirit, provide enjoyable activities, and make lasting memories together.

We have two amazing fundraising events every year: one in the spring (April or early May) and another in the autumn (October). These events not only help us in our endeavours, but they also serve as a platform for friendship and enjoyment.

We also plan two special events that we treasure: our delightful June Day Trip, where we embark on an amazing adventure, and our delightful December Christmas Treat, which makes sure that everyone enjoys the festive season. On these, more information will be provided.

You are warmly more than welcome to join our community! A warm welcome and friendly smiles await you whether you join us for a fundraising event or one of our special adventures.

We look forward to seeing you soon

Visit our website <https://blackridge.cc/old-folks-committee>





BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY FUND
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN THORNTON?

JOIN THE PANEL

JOIN THE BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY FUND PANEL

The Blackridge Community Fund has vacancies for Panel members to help distribute grants to local groups, and to residents applying for Education & Training grants.

- **Attend 3-4 meetings a year**
- **Have a say in the use of local funds**
- **Make a difference in your area**
- **Develop your skills & change lives!**

APPLY TO JOIN



Or email: malcolm@foundationscotland.org.uk
tinyurl.com/BlackridgeCommunityFund

Foundation Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland no SC022910





CRAIG INN COMMUNITY CENTRE



Craig Inn centre is all about bringing the community together and is used for events, meetings and classes. Our current timetable is listed below, why not come along and join one of our classes:

MONDAY	
Library	9.30am – 3.30pm
Card Class	9.30am – 12.30pm
Xcite Exercise	10.30am – 11.15am
Monday Club	1.00pm – 3.30pm
Tutti Music - Toots and Taps (fortnightly)	5.30pm – 7.00pm
L.L.O.L (1st of the Month)	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Women's Rural Institute (2nd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.00pm
Management Committee Meeting (3rd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.00pm
TUESDAY	
Library (Centre Staff)	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Cllr Kenna (monthly, check poster)	5.15pm – 6.15pm
Cllr Manion (monthly, check poster)	6.00pm – 7.00pm
Time Out Art Class	6.00pm – 9.00pm
L.O.L (2nd of the Month)	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Community Council (3rd of the month)	7.00pm – 9.00pm
L.L.O.L (1st of the Month)	7.00pm – 9.45pm
WEDNESDAY	
Tutti Music - Tutti Tots	10.30am – 11.30am
Railway Club	6.30pm – 9.30pm
Camera Club	7.00pm – 9.45pm
THURSDAY	
Senior Ladies Indoor Bowling	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Knit Wits (Knitting Group)	6.30pm – 9.00pm
Tutti Music - Tutti Tots	10.30am – 11.30am
Bathgate Orchestra	7.00pm – 9.45pm
SUNDAY	
Little Crafty (fortnightly)	4.00pm – 8.00pm
Flutes 4 Fun (fortnightly)	6.00pm – 8.00pm

The centre is available to hire for any occasion - T: 0151 752 360

Keep up to date with forthcoming events by checking out
<https://blackridge.cc/craig-inn-centre>

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 361100

HEALTH

Blackridge Health Centre	01501 751238
Harthill Health Centre	01501 751795
Armada 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
Armada Academy	01506 282145
St. Anthony's Primary, Armada	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

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Susan Manion susan.manion@westlothian.gov.uk	01506 281702