



BLACKRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 76



A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY

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[www.blackridge.cc](http://www.blackridge.cc)



# BLACKRIDGE

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Stuart Borrowman

It is with profound sadness we share in the grief and devastation at the sudden passing on Friday 24th May of Councillor, friend, and long-time resident of Blackridge, Stuart Borrowman.

This was a real shock to everyone who knew him and our deepest sympathies are with the Borrowman family at this very sad time. His passing was marked by a minute's silence by members of West Lothian Council's Executive committee.



While he will be fondly remembered by many people in our village and beyond, and there have been many tributes paid already, here are just a few people who knew Stuart and would like to say a few words in remembrance of his passing.

Debbie Kincaid-Hamilton, on behalf of the Galaday committee would like to say *"Stuart was more than a Councillor and committee member to us. He was also a good friend; he was the heart of the Galaday committee and was always the voice of reason. Stuart put his all into Blackridge and was a big part of the village. He will be sadly missed by all. The parade will never be the same without Stuart proudly leading it down the village."*

Local resident John Ramsay, friend and neighbour of Stuart, goes on to mention...*"I've known Stuart all of his life and always found him to be a hardworking councillor on behalf of the people of Blackridge and Armadale. He always hand-delivered leaflets to every home in his constituency himself letting the people know what was going on regarding council business in his area. He will be sorely missed for all his hard work."*

Blackridge Primary School headteacher Claire McGoldrick shares *"Councillor Borrowman will be remembered as a huge supporter of Blackridge Primary and a champion of our young people. He always ensured that the children of Blackridge primary were proud of their roots and aware of the important heritage of the village. His dedication to the community will leave a lasting legacy."*

Many others who knew Stuart were equally saddened to hear of his passing such as John Thomson (who delivered fresh fish to Stuart every week) mentioning *"Stuart was a great customer and friend, he also loved my wee bit of banter every Wednesday. It will take an enormous pair of feet to fill his shoes"* and local Community Police officer Sean Henderson says *"Stuart had a great impact on the community and gave a lot of his time, and will be missed."*

[www.blackridge.cc](http://www.blackridge.cc)

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

Finally, fellow ward Councillors Andrew McGuire and Lynda Kenna offer their perspective...

*"Although a political opponent Stuart was a great friend and support to both of us in our time together as ward councillors. A Councillor for over 20 years and council employee before this, Stuart had a fantastic knowledge of how the council operated and held a deep affection and devotion for the area he was so proud to represent and call home. Our thoughts go out to Stuart's wife Aileen and his children, and we will both miss his warm wit and enthusiasm."*

This only offers a snapshot of the outpouring of appreciation had for the impact Stuart made as a councillor, friend, husband and father.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Aileen and their family.  
Rest in peace Stuart.

## Walter Robertson

The village were also saddened to see the passing of someone who was so very well known to most around the village, Walter 'Wattie' Robertson, who died in March. A 'well kent face' around the village Wattie would never pass you on the street without a smile or a wave if you passed in your car. He had a fitting funeral and send off with a horse and carriage throughout the village, allowing those who knew him to mark their respects, as was his final wish.

It was fitting that both men were respectfully recognised with a minute's applause in the park, on the Galaday.



## ADOPT A STATION

Since 2005, ScotRail has established an initiative that encourages volunteers to adopt and enhance their local railway stations. There are 360 stations on the ScotRail network, and so far, 209 of these have been adopted and are supported by 1040 volunteers. This initiative has benefits for both ScotRail and the local community.

**The breaking news is that Blackridge Station has now been adopted by the Blackridge Community Council.**

Safety is the number one priority, and ScotRail's mantra is **"Everyone home safe every day."**

We welcome additional volunteers; if you would like to join our team, then please make contact with the Community Council. A short induction is a Scot Rail requirement before undertaking any activity at the station to ensure safety is never compromised.

Best wishes Keith Baylis, Lead Blackridge ScotRail volunteer.



# BLACKRIDGE PARISH CHURCH



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
9.45am

...

**Communion Services**  
7th September & 7th December

...

**Remembrance Sunday**  
10th November

...

*A warm welcome is extended to all*

Dear Community of Blackridge

This year, we aim to adorn the Blackridge Parish Church War Memorial with handcrafted poppies, a symbol of gratitude and remembrance. To achieve this, we are reaching out to our talented community members, seeking your expertise in knitting or crocheting poppies.

Your contribution, no matter how small, will help us create a beautiful display that pays tribute to the fallen heroes of our past. Each poppy will serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women.

If you are able and willing to assist in this endeavour, we kindly ask that you consider knitting or crocheting poppies to be displayed at our church war memorial. Your efforts will be deeply appreciated by our entire community. Please hand your poppies into the Post Office, where they will be collected and carefully arranged within the Church War Memorial.

*"As we embark on this endeavour, may we be guided by the spirit of compassion and gratitude, and may our collective efforts serve as a testament to the enduring legacy of those who gave their all for our nation."*

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Jean Mowitt,  
Session Clerk

**Can you  
knit or  
crochet?**

# GALA DAY

## SATURDAY 25TH MAY 2024



The Galaday Committee would like to thank every person that came along and made it a great day; thankfully, the weather was also kind to us!

We would also like to offer sincere thanks for the support offered on the day, including members of Armadale Galaday Committee who helped out in the park and Harthill Galaday Committee who spent their morning doing the judging.

A special thanks to all the bands, the school, and all those who made an effort to dress up and put floats on, and to everyone else who played a part; without you, the Galaday wouldn't be what it was.

On the other hand, our village Galaday wasn't the same without Stuart Borrowman proudly leading the parade or Walter Robertson in the park enjoying the day and running his race. Both were proudly remembered by a minute of applause in the park after the procession.

We hope you liked the change of date this year, and the committee will look to secure the last Saturday in May again for next year.

A big thank you once again to everyone who made our village Galaday and Civic Week happen.



The first meeting will be in September to begin planning for next year.

If you would like to join the Galaday committee and help make next year's event even better, please keep an eye on the Facebook group page for Blackridge, Westrigg, and Westcraigs Children's Gala Day as well as Facebook and Community Council websites for updates.



# BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

**LEARN TOGETHER, ACHIEVE TOGETHER, CELEBRATE TOGETHER**

**Session 2023-24 has been action packed for all at Blackridge Primary & ELC. There are so many successes to share; however, here are just a few!**

## **Family Learning**

Our family learning this year has been a huge success, with a wide range of experiences and events offered to families across our school & ELC. Our families have been welcomed to participate in Stay & Plays, Sharing Our Learning events, Family Club, Cooking Club, and more. It has been lovely to have our families more actively engaged with the life of our school, which has helped bring our school value of community to life.

## **Extra-Curricular Learning**

Our learners from P1-7 have had lots of opportunities this session to take part in a wide range of clubs and activities, including Coding Club, Art Club and a whole range of sport clubs including Badminton, Football and Basketball. Our children get so many successes from their participation in these clubs, and huge thanks must go to our dedicated staff team and parents for facilitating them. Recently, our basketball teams had a huge success at the West Lothian School's Silver Playoffs, which was lovely to celebrate. All of our sporting achievements have supported our recent application to maintain our Gold Sports School status.

## **Community Engagement**

This year, we have continued to be well supported by the Blackridge community. Our youngest learners in our ELC have enjoyed regular visits to the library at the Craig Inn Centre and walks exploring their local area. Our Primary 5-7 learners really enjoyed taking part in the community initiative around electrical safety, and the new Hot Wires kits, funded through the Electrical Safety First grant, have been a great success. More recently, our school community was full of excitement and creative energy in the build-up to the Gala Day. The Roald Dahl theme was a huge success, and the wonderful art work made the Gala Day Floats look fantastic.

We would like to wish all of our families and the wider community a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone again when schools return in August.

**Mrs Claire McGoldrick**  
Headteacher

# BLACKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Our Primary 1 children have been busy making posters to encourage pet owners to pick up after their animals. These will be displayed in the Craig Inn Centre and Community Centre, where villagers can see what this means to the children.

This coincides with a Community Council project that we will work alongside to highlight this issue in the village and encourage pet owners to take their responsibility seriously.



The Community Council will be seeking funding to purchase dog bag dispensers and place them near all existing dog waste bins at entry points to public parks and other walkways.

**CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG!!!**



## Tutti Tots

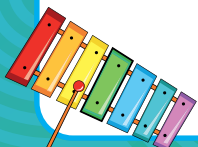
## Tutti Music

## Toots & Taps

**Tutti Tots** pre-school music classes meet weekly in the Craig Inn on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10.30am. Our numbers continue to remain healthy, with the addition of some new brothers and sisters along the way! Mums, dads, and grandparents all come along to the classes and enjoy tea, coffee and a chat after our music session. The children get to take part in supervised free play, where we remain encouraged to see the way in which they continue to build friendships with other children in the class, as well as develop their musical awareness and abilities. We have now experienced the progression of children moving from our nursery class on to join our primary school age class.

The primary school-age music class, **Toots & Taps**, meets in the library at Craig Inn fortnightly. The children who attend the class continue to learn to play the tin whistle, drums, and piano. During the year, we've learned to play tunes specifically written for seasonal events such as Halloween and New Year. We've learned to play these tunes on each instrument, which has helped the children understand the link between rhythm and pitch. We were delighted to perform again this year at the Management Committee AGM on Monday 20th May and had another fantastic Tutti Music Turtle Derby on Friday 31st May at the Craig Inn Centre.

For further information and to keep up-to-date with all news and events, please visit [www.tuttimusic.uk](http://www.tuttimusic.uk) or scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter







# CRAIG INN COMMUNITY CENTRE - AGM



The Management Committee of Craig Inn Community Centre hosted their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 20th May. The Community Awards are given out at this occasion, which also honours all of the clubs that meet at the centre.

Some of the groups had a display table showcasing what they do, including, the Children's Club, Monday Club, Art Class, Knit Wits, Camera Club, Model Railway Club, and Papercraft Class, to name a few.

The election of office bearers and the introduction of new members to the management committee took place. This was followed by the Community Awards, where the winners in the three categories were announced.

The hall looked fantastic and tea and cakes were served to all who attended. Entertainment on the night was provided by Toots and Taps as well as a magician.



## CHILDREN

**Valentino Haig**  
for his  
football achievements,  
including a trip to  
Barcelona to play in a  
tournament, winning  
their group, and getting  
to the semi-finals.



## ADULT(S)

**Alan Montgomery**  
for his contribution to  
the Community Council,  
other groups, and  
successfully receiving  
a grant to bring an  
Electrical Safety  
awareness campaign  
to the village.



## ADULT(S) OVER 50'S

**Andrea Miller**  
and  
**Janie Beresford**  
for walking the  
West Highland Way  
and raising almost  
£900 for the  
Old Folks Committee.



# ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR GROUP

The Blackridge Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) group meets every 4 weeks and has formulated an action plan that the group will work through. This action plan looks at the following, with all partner agencies working together with the community:

- **Improve partnership working to address ASB in the area**
- **Improve communication with the community through specific campaigns/awareness-raising sessions.**
- **Increase the number of reported incidents.**
- **Community engagement sessions**
- **Possible projects to be identified with groups in the community.**



Engagement will be carried out using a range of tools, including face-to-face chats with local residents of all ages and an online survey. The findings from the engagement will be used to evidence the need or lack of need for additional activities for young people; this, in turn, can be used to apply for funding for specific projects in the village, including a potential arts project with the primary school.

Please complete this short survey to help the Blackridge Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Group gain information on ASB issues in the community and what your thoughts are on available activities for young people in the area.

Log on to: <https://www.surveyhero.com/c/BlackridgeASB> or scan QR



## What is the Monday Club?

The Monday Club provides an opportunity for women and men over 60 to get together informally to:

- **meet up with old friends or make new ones.**
- **have a chat and enjoy a cuppa.**
- **play scrabble or dominoes.**
- **listening to exciting guest speakers or tapping your feet to one of our amazing singers**
- **We pride ourselves on providing a relaxed atmosphere with no pressure. It's just a lot of fun.**

If this wasn't enough to tempt you along, we also enjoy fantastic days out exploring our beautiful countryside thanks to the generous funding we receive from Foundation Scotland. Recently, we all thoroughly enjoyed a day out at Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, followed by some retail therapy at Mackinnon Mills. We finished the day with a delicious fish tea at the Alhambra Cafe, Bellshill before heading home.

For more information, find us on Facebook or pop in and see us; there is no need to book. **You can be sure you'll receive a warm and friendly welcome.**

**MONDAYS**  
1.00pm  
to 3.00pm

**only  
£1.00  
per week**



**Craig Inn Community  
Education Centre**  
Main Street, Blackridge  
Bathgate, EH48 3SP



# Beechbrae

**Beechbrae News** - Ally Graham

Beechbrae is full of life in this season. The swallows have returned and can be seen gliding over the surface of the pond. The sounds of cuckoo birds echo from across the moss, and the woods are filled with the sounds of woodpeckers. We have crows who have returned to nest for the second year near the pond, and we are enjoying watching and listening to their development. We are enjoying the sun, warmth, and all the shades of green and flowers as everything is reaching fullness.



We have a few activities planned this summer, which you are warmly invited to join. More details and eventbrite links for tickets are on our website, [www.beechbrae.com/events](http://www.beechbrae.com/events)



## Beechbrae Family Woodland Activities Summer 2024

We are excited to offer family woodland activities again this summer at Beechbrae. The sessions are open to young people of any age who are accompanied by an adult. These sessions are £5 per family; please see above for ticket links. [www.beechbrae.com/events](http://www.beechbrae.com/events)

**SATURDAY 13TH JULY**

1.00pm - 3.00pm

**£5 per family**



**FRIDAY 26TH JULY**

11.00am - 1.00pm

**£5 per family**

## Other summer outdoor activities at Beechbrae

We are planning summer activities at Beechbrae for young people from Primary 5 and up.

For dates and more information, please visit our website at [www.beechbrae.com/events](http://www.beechbrae.com/events) or scan QR code



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

 @beechbrae

[www.beechbrae.com](http://www.beechbrae.com)

beechbrae 

# NATURESCOT SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024



## FLANDERS BIG SUMMER DAY OUT

Saturday 15th June (9am – 2pm)  
Flanders Moss NNR

Thinking of ideas for a summer day out with the family? Why not spend a day at Flanders Moss? See what our staff uncovers in our moth traps, discover the bog's abundance of aquatic creatures with pond dipping, join a tour of the reserve, and have fun with some nature crafts.

*Suitable for all ages.  
All pond dipping kits etc. provided.*



## JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER FOR A DAY

Saturday 3rd August (10am – 2pm)  
Flanders Moss NNR

Do you know any young people who are curious about nature and conservation? Why not bring them along to be a 'junior reserve officer' for a day? Learn what our staff get up to when managing a reserve, building wildlife habitats, and practicing field survey skills.

*Best suited for ages 8 - 13,  
(all children must be accompanied by an adult).*



## BLAWHORN'S BIG SUMMER DAY OUT

Sunday 7th July (9.30am – 2pm)  
Blawhorn Moss NNR

Parks and beaches are fun in the summer, but why not a bog? Spend one of your summer days on Blawhorn Moss and discover what moths live there, do some pond dipping, do some do some nature crafts, or join a tour to try and spot some dragonflies.

*Suitable for all ages.  
All pond dipping kits etc. provided.*



## A DIP IN THE POND - DRAGONFLY SPOTLIGHT

Saturday 17th August  
(10am – 2pm)  
Flanders Moss NNR

A favourite activity at Flanders Moss. Join us for some pond dipping and dragonfly spotting on the boardwalk.

*Suitable for all ages.  
All pond dipping kits etc. provided.*



## FLANDERS BOG WALK

Sunday 28th July  
(Tours at 11am & 1pm)  
Flanders Moss NNR

Celebrate International Bog Day with us by learning all about what makes these habitats so special. Join a tour and experience the moss under your feet as our staff lead you on a walk to discover Flanders in a way you might never have before.

*Suitable for all ages.  
Wellies must be worn, walk off the  
boardwalk weather dependent*



All events are free of charge and are run on a no-booking-required, drop-in basis unless stated otherwise in the programme and promotional materials.

Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Please check social media platforms and website for final dates and times and event updates:

[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)



# 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
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

Andrew McGuire <a href="mailto:andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk">andrew.mcguire@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281717
Lynda Kenna <a href="mailto:lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk">lynda.kenna@westlothian.gov.uk</a>	01506 281724

CUT OUT AND STICK TO FRIDGE