

Cutting Edge

February 2010 edition

A briefing note produced by West Lothian Council For councillors and their communities

This publication has been designed to keep you up to date with events and activities in West Lothian, and at ward level, over the coming months. We hope that you find the information in this issue interesting. Remember to check the council's website for news and information.

We compile and distribute Cutting Edge monthly. Please email communications@westlothian.gov.uk Cutting Edge is also available online from www.westlothian.gov.uk

Community news on www.westlothian.gov.uk - This dynamic section is updated with local community news and pictures on a daily basis. If you have good news, initiatives and achievements which you would like to share, let us know. Please include a name and contact number. Email: communitynews@westlothian.gov.uk Please encourage your friends and family to visit the website.

Cutting Edge is produced by West Lothian Council's Corporate Communications team. Email: media@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 282001.

Ward one: Linlithgow, **Ward two:** Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh, **Ward three:** Livingston North, **Ward four:** Livingston South, **Ward five:** Livingston East and East Calder, **Ward six:** Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley, **Ward seven:** Whitburn and Blackburn, **Ward eight:** Bathgate, **Ward nine:** Armadale and Blackridge.

Information relevant to all wards and members:

Councillors' surgeries – the dates, times and venues of Councillors' surgeries are available online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/surgeries as well as Council Information Service (CIS) centres and libraries.

CUTTING EDGE February and March 2010

Tough choices for West Lothian Council

The debate has been opened on contingency plans the council has for delivering services while managing what could be a funding gap of £45 million during the three-year period 2011 to 2014.

Members of West Lothian Council's Executive were briefed on the potential actions, which have been proposed to reduce spending, this week and agreed the arrangements for consultation and future development of the contingency strategy. A special Bulletin supplement, outlining the proposals, will be distributed from 1 March. The supplement gives details of the consultation process. Information is also available on the council's website www.westlothian.gov.uk where you can complete an online survey.

SPOTLIGHT – Adult Learning

- Seven individuals have given up their free time to train to become adult literacy and numeracy volunteer tutors. The training includes the opportunity to gain a PDA:ITALL qualification, which is the baseline qualification in literacy and numeracy practice. The seven volunteers will shortly be placed in groups, which meet at a variety of locations, days and times across the council area. This resource means that literacy and numeracy students gain the benefit of having one-to-one support within a group setting.
- The next DOSH course, which is a four-week financial literacies course, will start at the end of February in Inverlmond Community High School. A free creche will be offered to aid participation.

- In partnership with Sibbalds Training, one of the Get Ready For Work providers, young people will be offered the opportunity to undertake a short intensive course to improve their literacy and numeracy skills to enable them to better understand the language of application forms, interviews and aptitude tests.
- The Christmas Savings campaign is a short taster session being run in conjunction with the Office of Fair Trading and aims to help individuals make informed choices about how and why to save. These sessions will be offered in Bathgate, Livingston and Whitburn throughout March.

Economic Development

- **Help to find a job** - Access2employment provides help and guidance to people looking for work or training. Over the last year, the team has worked with over 1,300 people, which has resulted in 650 West Lothian residents finding a new job or embarking on a training course to improve their employment prospects. In addition to the A2E offices in Whitburn, Craigshill and Broxburn, employment advisers can be contacted in most local communities. For more information on help available to find a job: Call free on 0800 032 9768 or Text: jobs to 60777 or Email access2employment@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Future Jobs Fund (FJF)** - the new national initiative to create job opportunities for young people is well and truly up and running in West Lothian. To date, the council has approval from the Department of Work and Pensions to create 120 jobs and a further bid will be submitted in March which will increase the number of jobs created to 210. The success of this initiative is largely due to the excellent partnerships that West Lothian Council has developed with external organisations. Currently, there are 18 local employers who have employed a young person or have agreed to recruit someone in the very near future using FJF support. A requirement of Future Jobs Funding is that all of the newly created posts should benefit the community in some way and they should be additional to what already exists. Young people aged 18 to 24 are a priority group and created posts attract a financial contribution from DWP of £6500 per job. We would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in becoming involved in creating one or more jobs – for more details please contact: Sandra Darling
Access2employment Coordinator Tel: 01506 777944 Email: sandra.darling@westlothian.gov.uk
- **Get Ready for Work** – A DVD has been made to encourage council services to offer young people work placements through the Get Ready for Work placement scheme. The DVD will be launched at a celebration event at the Civic Centre on 8 March, when the council's Chief Executive will present the 10 young people currently working in the council on GRfW placements with certificates of achievement.
- **Town Centre Regeneration Fund** – work is currently underway generating designs and sorting out contracting arrangements for the various elements of the Town Centre Regeneration Fund package. All contracts must be awarded by mid March.
- **Consultation with local businesswomen** - Ann McKechin, MP, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, will be at the Enterprise Centre in Livingston on Thursday 18 February between 2.30pm and 3.30 pm. Ann is coming to meet with local businesswomen to hear their views and to listen to any issues or concerns they may have.

Waste Services

- **Changes to Brown Bin collections** - New brown bin Calendars are being delivered for collections commencing in March. For households on kerbside recycling, brown bin collections will recommence from 1 March. There is a change this year as a new brown bin calendar has been designed, which is separate from the blue and grey bin calendar. This has allowed Waste Services to develop more efficient collection routes, allowing more collections per vehicle and providing a better value service. For some (but not all) households, this will mean a change to their brown bin collection day. Grey and blue bin collection days are not affected. Delivery of the new calendars will take place through to the end of February.
- **Free compost** - Three free bags of compost will be available to householders at Blackburn, Oakbank and Whitburn Community Recycling Centres. There will be a voucher in the new brown bin calendar. West Lothian householders recycled more than 9,000 tonnes of garden waste in 2008/9 in their brown bins, the equivalent of 450,000 bags of compost.

Food Co-ops in West Lothian

- **Monday** - 9am – 1pm Daisy Drop In, The Mall, Craigshill; 9am – 1pm St Pauls Church, Ladywell (will be moving to Forestbank Community Centre summer 2010)
- **Tuesday** – 11am – 1pm Answer Project, Reveston Lane, Whitburn; 10am – 11.30am The Dale Food Group, Armadale Parish Church, Academy Street, Armadale.
- **Wednesday** – 11am – 12.30pm Inveralmond Early Years Centre, Ladywell; 9am – 11am The Pit Stop, Main Street, Addiewell; 8.30am – 4pm St Johns Hospital, Howden.
- **Thursday** - 9am – 2pm Strathbrock Partnership Centre, 189a West Main Street, Broxburn; 9:30am – 1pm Carmondean Library, Carmondean, Livingston; 9:30am – 12pm The Dale Food Group, Community House, Mayfield Drive, Armadale; 10am – 12pm Boghall Food Group, Boghall Health Centre, Elizabeth Drive, Boghall; 10:30am – 11:30am Knightsridge Early Years Centre, Ferguson Way, Knightsridge
- **Friday** 11am – 1pm Deans Primary, Deans South, Livingston; 11am – 12.45pm Peel Primary, Garden Place, Eliburn; 11.30am – 12.45pm East Calder, 9 Langton Road, East Calder

Bogus caller meetings – as part of Operation Focus, a number of meetings are being held to alert the over 60s to the dangers of bogus doorstep callers. Each event will have a market place of partners (multi-agency) offering support and advice for this group and there will be a 30-minute 'play' highlighting the highlighting the issues and dangers. Refreshments will also be available. Meetings dates and venues are as follows:

- **11 March** - Lanthorn Community Centre, Dedridge; 11am to 1pm
- **17 March** - Craigsfarm Community Campus, Craigshill; 11am to 1pm
- **24 March** - The Regal Community Theatre, Bathgate; 11 am - 1pm

Students' Council Convention - Community Learning and Development are planning to support a students' council convention some time before the school summer holidays. The aim is to bring together pupil councillors across the high schools of West Lothian to share ideas, exchange good practice and also identify, discuss and debate issues of concern. Another outcome would be to establish an improvement and development plan for pupil council involvement in decision making processes across West Lothian.

Livingston Art Association - will hold a special 40th Anniversary Exhibition at Howden Park Centre from Friday 28 May to Saturday 19 June. A variety of new works and a selection of pottery and ceramics by members will be on sale. For further details, visit the website www.livingston-art-assoc.org.uk or telephone on 01506 440449.

Twinning - West Lothian's link with Hochsauerland, now in its 35th year, continues. This year, 14 youths will visit their German counterparts from 19 to 29 July. A programme of cultural, social, political and outdoor pursuits has been arranged, as well as a four-day visit to Berlin. The Lowport residential facilities remain a popular venue with visiting groups, so much so, the Exchange Project is booked for August 2011.

West Lothian Run – the second annual West Lothian half marathon is due to take place on Sunday May 24. Before then, on Sunday 4 April, the committee are holding an Easter fun run at Beechraigs Country Park. There will be 5k and 10k events, as well as an Easter egg hunt for younger family members. Fuller information can be obtained from the website www.westlothianrun.co.uk

MORE NEWS

New build council houses - 79 houses and flats are now let on sites at Peel House, Livingston, Dixon Terrace Whitburn, Wester Inch, Bathgate, and Boghall. Further new council housing is proposed in Livingston, Bathgate, Whitburn, Armadale and Blackburn. It is hoped to be on site by the end of the year. The successful scheme giving 3rd and 4th year trade apprentices from Building Services the opportunity to work on all aspects of new build construction and operation of sites has been shortlisted for a national Cosla award.

Police Inspectors: The following are the ward inspectors in West Lothian: Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh - PI Colin Gagen: Livingston South - PI Kevin Kerr: Whitburn and Blackburn - PI Michaela Kerr: Bathgate - PI Graham Conner: Armadale and Blackridge - PI Robert Paris: Linlithgow - PI Audrey Fry: Livingston North - PI Heather McDonald: Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Sector - PI Pauline McIntyre: East Livingston and East Calder - PI Les McBride.

Countryside section - For fuller information on the country parks in West Lothian, contact the following numbers or email addresses: Almondell and Calderwood 01506 882254 almondell&calderwood@westlothian.gov.uk / Beecraigs 01506 844516 mail@beecraigs.com / Polkemmet 01501 743905 polkemmet@westlothian.gov.uk

Country parks

- Almondell and Calderwood, Beecraigs and Polkemmet Country Parks are open throughout the year. Visitor centres are currently open on winter hours.

Ranger Service events and activities

- The events and activities programme for 2010 is currently under production and will be available soon for programme starting at Easter.

Outdoor pursuits

- The Easter programme for 2010 is currently being printed. Weekend activity programme is on-going with archery on a Saturday, as is after-schools archery with Linlithgow primary schools. For further information and bookings please contact Beecraigs or e-mail: beecraigsoutdoors@westlothian.gov.uk

Go Ape at Beecraigs

- Installation of 'Go Ape' is going according to plan and is due to open on 27 March.

Polkemmet golf

- 37 par, 9-hole golf course with demanding picturesque last green reached by shot over the river valley. Golf Course - open 8.45am – 4.15pm seven days. Prices start from £5.85 for nine holes for adults. Season tickets start from £100 for the year. Driving Range - Open 10am – 8.30pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 5pm weekends. Prices from £1.35 for 25 balls. Loyalty cards are also available. Please contact 01501 743905 for fuller information.

Beecraigs venison

- Venison is available to buy and order from Park Centre at Beecraigs .

Beecraigs Loch fishing

- Repairs to the dam wall at Beecraigs Loch have been completed and fishing is due to commence on 15 March, or as soon as ice recedes.

Beecraigs sawmill

- Suppliers of pressure treated fencing materials and other timbers from locally grown stock for the general public, commercial sales and local authorities at competitive prices.

Park improvements

- At Beecraigs, the upgrade to the campsite toilet block is underway and initial ground works for the new Visitor Centre are also underway. Drainage works at Beecraigs Caravan are being carried out.
- At Polkemmet, the forestry section is working to clear windblown and damaged trees from Winter storms.
- At Almondell, the heating system has been repaired.

Livingston Youth Trust - provides financial assistance to individual young people from Livingston as a contribution towards their advancement in the specific fields of the Arts, Sport and Music. The Trust also considers general applications from individuals, groups of young people and from organisations working with young people and based in Livingston. Grants are open to all young people under the age of 21 or organisations working with young people under the age of 21 with an active interest in a chosen field, but where the individuals or organisations are not in a position to develop that interest from their own resources. An application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the Community News section of the council website.

Voluntary and Childcare Organisations Training Calendar – The new programme of training is now available for Voluntary Organisations across West Lothian. Applications are being accepted now for training, which will run from February to June. Courses are developed to enable organisations to become more effective by increasing the skills and knowledge of those involved. The training calendar is produced twice each year and offers organisations opportunities to participate in informal and certificated courses. Examples of courses included in this terms calendar are as follows:

- **Recruiting Staff** - Saturday 12 June 10am -1pm Strathbrock Community Centre: The session will cover all aspects of recruitment from identifying a vacancy, compiling a job description and advertising the post. Time will be spent considering the selection process, including contracts

and induction. A must for all voluntary and childcare organisations looking to ensure their recruitment and selection practices comply with the law.

- **Creative Movement and Play** - Monday 22 March and Thursday 13 May at Howden Park Centre. A creative and fun movement session for parents, carers and play workers. Learn how to play and have fun together with children through movement and dance.

Over 40 free courses to help organisations work more effectively and fulfil their legal obligations are available. To obtain a copy of the programme contact Margaret Carson, Training Administrator, Community Learning and Development, Strathbrock Community Centre on 01506 771733.

Events Calendar - Arts Services is establishing a new electronic events calendar, listing all the annual art events that take place across West Lothian. This first edition is expected to run to July 2010. If you would like your event included in the first events calendar, please email information to anne-marie.vance@westlothian.gov.uk. The types of things that would be included are annual exhibitions, annual concerts, performances, festivals etc. Normal committee meetings and AGMs will not be included in the calendar. The information that you need to send is the name of the organisation, the name of the event, date, time and the website address of your group.

The nine locality planning officers and their wards are listed below:

- **Ward 1 – Linlithgow – Dougie Grierson**
- **Ward 2 – Broxburn/Uphall/Winchburgh – Laura Machnik**
- **Ward 3 – Livingston North – Benny Lynch**
- **Ward 4 – Livingston South – Rachel Johnson**
- **Ward 5 – East Livingston and East Calder – Pete Moir**
- **Ward 6 – Fauldhouse and Breich Valley – Clare Summers**
- **Ward 7 – Whitburn and Blackburn - Scott McKillop**
- **Ward 8 – Bathgate – Jim Saunders**
- **Ward 9 – Armadale and Blackridge – Willie Carruthers**

Free computer access - Free access to computers and the internet is available at all libraries and most community centres in West Lothian.



Ward 1 – Linlithgow

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 8am on Tuesday 16 March. Venue: County Buildings, Linlithgow. Members: Councillor Tom Conn, Councillor Tom Kerr and Councillor Martyn Day.

Linlithgow library

- **Chatterbooks.** Free children's reading group, which usually meets from 4pm – 5pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Refreshments are provided. Dates may vary due to school holidays and places are limited. Please check with library staff for availability, telephone number 01506 775490. The next session is on 2 March.
- **Storytime.** Free storytime sessions for children under five years old are held in the library every Tuesday afternoon from 2 – 2.30pm, except during school holidays. As places are limited please check availability with library staff on 01506 775490.
- **Rhyme Time.** Free fun for babies at this monthly rhyme time, which has songs, games and stories. Sessions are usually held on Monday mornings from 10.30 – 11am. The next session is scheduled for 29 March.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. During the first week, Linlithgow Academy are holding a healthy Fairtrade tuck-shop for pupils. On Friday, 26 February, the school are helping with a fashion show in the town. There will also be a Fairtrade display in the school over the fortnight.

Round table - The Linlithgow Round Table 50th Anniversary Charter Dinner will be held on Friday 12 March at the Hilcroft Hotel, Whitburn.

Night of song - Linlithgow Folk Festival Association's annual 'Keep Matt McGinn Singing' night takes place in Linlithgow Academy on Saturday 6 March. Tickets, priced £8, can be obtained from Blast-off Books, 105 High Street, Linlithgow, the Black Bitch Tavern and from Linlithgow Folk Festival Association on 01506 510132.

Linlithgow Climate Change Challenge - is urging all residents and businesses in West Lothian to turn off lights for an hour in the evening of 27 March, which has been designated as 'Earth day'.

Paris Saint-Germain - One of Europe's top football teams is to send its best young players to Linlithgow to hone their skills. Paris Saint-Germain is currently ranked in the top ten clubs of the French Ligue 1 and has stayed in the top league since its first game at the Parc des Princes in June 1974. Now its budding young stars are heading to Linlithgow in 2010, for both the Easter and summer holidays.

Linlithgow Cross - The northern section of Linlithgow Cross will be closed to traffic for 18 months to allow refurbishment work to be carried out to the Burgh Halls. The section of road, in front of the Burgh Halls, is due to reopen on Wednesday 31 March, 2010.

The Linlithgow Heritage Trail - is an easy-to-follow walk round the main places of architectural and historical interest in Linlithgow. It sets off from The Cross Well and visits more than forty fascinating places before returning to County Buildings across the road. Full details of all the stopping-off points, as well as a handy map, are available on <http://www.linlithgow.com/heritage.htm>

Website appeal - Local voluntary groups and other organisations are asked to check that their website addresses are correctly highlighted within the community website www.linlithgow.com



Ward 2 – Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 9am on Thursday 22 April. Venue: To be confirmed. Members: Councillor Janet Campbell, Councillor Alex Davidson, Councillor Ellen Glass and Councillor Graeme Morrice.

Broxburn Library - is currently closed for modernisation work. The library is expected to be closed for approximately three months.

- **Mobile Library Service** - will be providing a service three times a week during the closure period. It will be parked in the Somerfield car park (weather permitting), on the following days and times: Wednesday; 1pm - 5pm. Friday; 1pm – 5pm. Saturday; 9am – 12noon. You can also use any of West Lothian's other libraries to borrow and return books.
- **B-Teens (Broxburn Teen Reading Group)** – will be held in Broxburn Primary School on the third Monday of the month at 6.30 pm. The next meeting is on 15 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - held in Strathbrock Community Centre. All babies and preschool children are welcome. Please bring an adult along who can help you enjoy the rhymes, songs and stories. The next sessions are from 10.30am – 11am on 9 and 23 March.
- **Computer Drop-in Sessions** - held in Strathbrock Community Centre. Some computer drop-in sessions will be held in the Strathbrock Community Centre during Broxburn Library's period of closure. Sessions will be held on some Mondays and Fridays between 1.30pm and 4pm.
- **Book Club** – is currently meeting in Broxburn Primary School at 6.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on 30 March.

Police surgeries - Community Police Officers from Broxburn Police Station will be continuing to hold police surgeries for members of the community who wish to speak with officers in a more informal forum. Contact Broxburn Police Station on 01506 852121 for further information.

Water safety trips - The Bridge 19-40 Canal Society is carrying out a week of water safety boat trips on the Union Canal for primary 5-6 children from 22 to 26 March

Spring walks - The Health Walks in Winchburgh Spring Programme is now underway. While the Community Centre is being renovated, each walk will start and finish at the Tally Ho car park. All walks set off at 10.30am and last for about an hour. March walks are as follows:

- 4 March - Coal Road: A little longer walk, very varied, Millgate wood, Canal towpath, between fields, back by Beatly Road
- 11 March - Humber View: Kirkliston road again, this time we walk further for the first signs of spring in the "Doctor's wood" and glimpse of Humber reservoir.
- 18 March - Swan Pond: Level walk along the Linlithgow road, then much more peaceful farm road, ending with lots of bird life to admire on the pond
- 25 March - Niddry Castle: Another longer walk along the canal towpath, and down the track for a closer view of this historic building. You'll be pleased at how well you tackle the uphill stretches on return!

Strathbrock Community Centre Management Committee – continue to develop their programme of activities for adults and children. This term's programme includes: Holiday Spanish; Using the Internet for shopping, banking, emails; Play for the over 60s; Coffee and Crafts; Cooking for kids.



Ward 3 - Livingston North

Local Area Committees (LAC) –10am on Thursday 8 April. Venue: To be confirmed. Members: Councillor John Cochrane, Councillor Robert De Bold, Councillor Bruce Ferrie and Councillor Andrew Miller.

Fashion Show - A fashion show will take place on Wednesday 26 May from 7pm - 9pm at Mosswood community education centre. Youth groups across the Community Learning and Development service of West Lothian are invited to take part in this fashion extravaganza. Young people will get the chance to be creative and strut their stuff down their own 'Parisian' catwalk. Confidence and self-esteem issues will also be addressed throughout the process. Young people will also learn the skills needed to plan a themed community event. All proceeds will be donated to a children's charity of the youngsters choice.

Community officers – for the three beats within the ward are: PC Alan McMahon (Deans and Carmondean), PC John Gray (Knightsridge) and PC Ryan McCartney (Elburn and Livingston Village). Pedal cycle patrols are being carried out throughout the ward. A number of community surgeries have also been organised and have been well attended.

Elburn Park - an informal public meeting to discuss how to make the recently opened Elburn Park a success for the community will take place in the park pavilion from 7pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday 9 March. Roley Walton and Wilma Shearer, from the Dedridge Environmental Ecology Project, will talk about their success in raising money, improving their local woodland/pond and involving local people in the process. For fuller details, email becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 776542.

Carmondean Connected

- **World Book Day** - To celebrate World Book Day, Carmondean Connected will hold a story-telling session from 2.30 - 3.30pm on Thursday 4 March.
- **Local History Exhibition** – 'Going the Messages: Shops and Shopping in West Lothian' The exhibition runs from 8 March to 16 April and can be viewed during library hours. Admission is free.
- **Food co-op** - is held at Carmondean Connected every Thursday morning from 9.30am – 1pm. The food co-op is non-profit making and helps to promote local produce. Items on offer include preserves, free range eggs, fruit, vegetables and a wide selection of healthy options.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next sessions are from 1.30pm – 2pm on 25 February and 11 and 25 March.

Deans Community High School

- **Community classes** - Fuller details and timetables are available from reception. For bookings or more information, telephone 01506 282155.
- **Fox Friday** – the alcohol diversion project at Deans Community High School has made contact with more than 129 young people since its opening at the end of September. The project is open to young people in Livingston aged between 11 and 18. Although based in Deans Community High School, young people at other schools in the area are welcome to attend. The range of activities include dance, drama, music, sports and fitness.



Ward 4 - Livingston South

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 9am on Friday 5 March. Venue: To be confirmed. Members: Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Councillor Peter Johnston, Councillor Danny Logue and Councillor John Muir.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. Toronto Primary School are going for their Rights Respecting School Award, therefore the pupils are being made aware of Fairtrade issues on an ongoing basis. In the next couple of weeks they will be visiting Braid House to share their thoughts and developments on the subject and 'adopting a granny' from Braid House.

Improvement work - is now underway in a bid to make nesting safer for the swans who have frequented the Lanthorn Pond for a number of years. Improvements include making the iris bed where the swans nest less accessible to children and foxes.

Lanthorn Community Centre

- **Local history group** - Scott Anderson will lead a 10-week local history course on the Livingston area of Dedridge and Murieston, taking in Bellsquarry and Mid Calder. The course will run on Thursdays from 12.45pm - 2.45pm in room GP2.

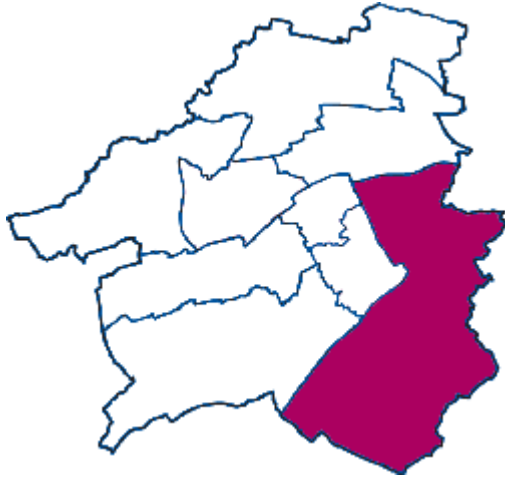
Community Learning and Development

- **James Young Monday Club** - runs throughout the year during school term time. The club is attended by over 100 young people aged between 10 and 13 years old. The primary purpose of this club is to address the many issues that young people encounter during the transition from primary to secondary education.

Lanthorn Library

- **Local History Exhibition** – 'Hame and Awa: leaving West Lothian'. West Lothian had one of the highest rates of emigration in Scotland. West Lothian Local History Library has prepared an exhibition to explore the subject. This exhibition is open during library opening hours.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next session is from 1.30pm – 2pm on 1 April.
- **Mother's Day Activities** - Make a card and a present for your mum, from 10am on 13 March.
- **Easter Activities** - Come along and join in the Easter fun at Lanthorn Library from 3.30pm on 31 March.
- **Dig In** - Sow a seed at Lanthorn Library during the Easter school holidays, from 2.30pm on 14 April.

Crofthead Art Group – meets from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesdays. Adults of all ages and abilities are catered for. The cost is £2.50 per session. Refreshments are available. Regular demonstrations are given. For fuller details, email crofthead-art@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01506 460199 or 419809.



Ward 5 – East Livingston and East Calder

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 2pm on Thursday 25 March. Venue: Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Frank Anderson, Councillor Willie Dunn, Councillor Carl John, and Councillor Dave King.

Almondbank Library:

- **Reading Group** - This free reading group for adults meets from 6.30pm–7.45pm on the last Thursday of the month. The next meetings are on 25 February and 25 March. Refreshments are provided.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs from 1.45 pm–2.15 pm on 23 February and 23 March.

East Calder Library

- **Thursday Book Group** - This free reading group for adults meets on the last Thursday of the month. Refreshments are provided. The next sessions are from 6.45 pm – 7.45 pm on 25 February and 25 March.
- **Tuesday Book Group** - This free new reading group for adults meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 6.45 pm – 7.45 pm. Lively discussions are likely and refreshments are provided. The next session is on 2 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children are welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next sessions are on 26 February and 12 March, from 10.30am – 11am.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. Mid Calder Primary School held a presentation for parents and the local community, handed out posters to the local community and sent letters to all parents from nursery to P7 inviting parents to take part in the BIG SWAP on 3 March. P7 pupils have created a presentation on Fairtrade and the big swap. The presentation focuses on Ugandan coffee and how Fairtrade work in this part of the world. It is hoped to have a guest speaker, Mr Kalenzi Murbarak, Head Teacher of Lukalu Umea Primary School, Uganda, visiting as part of a reciprocal visit.

Put Your West Foot Forward Craigshill - meet on Tuesday mornings at 10am. New walkers are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to register. Walkers are advised to wear weather appropriate clothing and comfortable footwear. The March walks are:

- 2 March - Craigsfarm to Civic Centre circuit
- 9 March - Craigsfarm to river walk
- 16 March - Craigsfarm to Howden riverside
- 23 March - Livingston Rugby Club to Almondell visitor centre
- 30 March - Craigsfarm to Dedridge Pond.)

The Booze U Looze club - at East Calder sports centre has now started back following the festive break. The popular club is aimed at providing an alternative to street drinking on Friday afternoons.

Daisy Drop In – has started a number of new activities, including keep fit and cooking. For full details of activities, contact Arlene Fisher on 01506 439643. The centre, based at The Mall, Craigshill, provides activities and support for parents and carers of young children from birth to three years.



Ward 6 - Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 8.30am on Tuesday 4 May. Venue: Conference room 3, Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Neil Findlay, Councillor Greg McCarra, and Councillor Cathy Muldoon.

Put Your West Foot Forward - Fauldhouse walking group meets every Thursday at 2pm at St Andrew's Church Hall. New walkers are asked to arrive 10 minutes early to register. March walks are:

- 4 March - golf course
- 11 March - Fauldhouse Forest
- 18 March - Railway line west
- 25 March - Walkers' choice.

Longridge youth - A Youth Club now meets on Monday afternoons in Longridge Primary School. Different age groups - P5, 6 and 7 or P7 and S1 + will attend on alternate weeks. A £1 per person membership fee will be paid to the newly formed Management Committee

Road closure -The B7015 Sheephousehill Road, Fauldhouse, will be closed between Eastfield Road and the A706 from 9am on Monday 22 March to 4pm on Friday 26 March. This is to allow for the installation of speed tables. Parking will also be suspended on the same section of road. An alternative route is available via Eastfield Road, Lanrigg Road, B7010, Fauldhouse Road, Longridge, Main Street, Longridge and the A706. Pedestrians are not affected by the closure.

Fauldhouse Library – is currently operating from St Andrews Church Hall

- **Computer Taster Sessions.** Free computer lessons for beginners are on offer on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 – 7.30pm. To arrange, please contact library staff on 01501 770358.
- **Fauldhouse Reading Group** - The Reading Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm, so come along and join in the lively discussion.
- **Friday Club** - meets every Friday from 2pm – 3pm except during school holidays and is aimed at children in Primary 1 - 3. Places are limited to 10 children, so please check availability with library staff.

Community Learning and Development (CLD)

- **Stoneyburn Youths** - Cashback For Communities, CLD and the management group of Stoneyburn Community Centre are working with local youths who wish to develop a voice of their own and organise further activities for their age group.

West Calder Library

- **Reading Group** - This reading group for adults meets on the first Tuesday and last Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm in the library. Everyone is welcome and tea and biscuits will be provided. Come along for a lively discussion. The next sessions are on 2 and 25 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next session is from 10.30am – 11am on 25 March.



Ward 7 - Whitburn and Blackburn

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Monday 12 April. Venue: Blackburn Community Centre.
Members: Councillor Gordon Beurskens, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor George Paul and Councillor Jim Swan.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. Whitburn Academy held Fairtrade assemblies and are also organising a Fairtrade coffee morning during the fortnight. Croftmalloch Primary School is holding a Fairtrade day on Thursday 25 February.

Whitburn Academy

- **Twilight classes** – The school is encouraging all S3-S6 pupils to attend twilight classes for additional exam practice to help improve their knowledge and skills as well as help build confidence in the run up to prelim and SQA examinations

Whitburn Library

- **Museum** – The museum's latest exhibition 'Recent Donations' runs until 18 March and is open during library opening hours.
- **Adult Book Group** - This monthly book group for adults meets once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.30 pm. The next meetings is on 29 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle** - All babies and pre-school children welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs from 10.30am – 11am on 11 March.
- **Chatterbooks** - reading group for children meets in Whitburn Library on Friday afternoons at 2.15pm. The next session is on 5 March.

Community Learning and Development

- **Cooking By Numbers Blackburn** – runs over six weeks and looks at how numbers can be involved in cooking and healthy eating. Each session includes practical cooking tasks and also looks at weights and measures, reading food labels and finding out about a well balanced diet. Within the course there is a chance to work towards an SQA Numeracy qualification.

Blackburn Connected

- **Computer Taster Sessions** - Free computer taster sessions are offered at Blackburn Connected. If you are interested, contact the library on 01506 776500.
- **Friday Club** - Storytime and craft activities are on offer at this free weekly children's club, which meets from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. The next sessions are on 5, 12, 19 and 26 March.
- **World Book Day** - takes place this year on 4 March. Blackburn Connected are holding a special Friday Club on 5 March to celebrate this event. After a reading of Michael Rosen's poem "My Friend Elsie" the Friday Club children will be asked to illustrate sections of the poem for use in a display in the children's area of the library.
- **Reading Group** - This free and informal reading group for adults meets from 1.30pm – 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in reading, meeting people and having a chat over tea/coffee, come along and join in. The next meeting is on 3 March.



Ward 8 - Bathgate

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Monday 1 March . Venue: Council Chambers, Civic Centre. Members: Councillor Willie Boyle, Councillor John McGinty and Councillor Jim Walker.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. Bathgate Academy is holding a Fairtrade Fashion Show on Thursday 4 March. The event will include Fairtrade refreshments and there will be an opportunity to buy Fairtrade products.

Wester Inch Community Association - a local Community Beat Officer will be attending future Wester Inch Community meetings at Simpson Primary and listen to and deal with any issues raised.

Body check ups - are now available on a monthly basis at Boghall clinic. Anyone can pop into the clinic for a free body MOT.

Put Your West Foot Forward Bathgate - walking group meets every Monday morning at 10am. New walkers are asked to arrive 10 minutes early to register. March walks are:

- 1 March, Peace Park to Peace Park
- 8 March, Tesco to Boghall
- 15 March, Lindsay House to town walk
- 22 March, Tesco to Kirkton Park
- 29 March, Peace Park to Belvedere.

Boghall Food Co-op - is now open at the Boghall clinic from 10am to 12pm every Thursday. The food co-op will have a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables for sale.

Police surgeries – Community police officers from Bathgate police station are now holding fortnightly surgeries at Bathgate Health Centre.

Bathgate Library

- **Bathgate Library Reading Group** - is a new reading group aimed at people in the West Lothian area with an interest in reading, talking and meeting people. It is hoped to meet once a month on a Tuesday evening. The next meeting is from 6.15pm on 9 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle.** All babies and pre-school children are welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next sessions are on 5 and 16 March, from 10.30am – 11am.

Community Learning and Development

- **Hip Friday** - This project is a joint operation between Locality Planning, CLD, Balbardie Sports Centre and WLYAP providing transport to the centre on Friday afternoons to enjoy using the various facilities such as dance mats, nail and hair care, golf, soccer, table tennis and short tennis. Those taking part are also provided with fruit and Health drinks as an incentive.
- **Boghall Young Women's Health Group** - As an agreed priority, CLD will lead a pilot project until April in Boghall that will work with local young women to address their Health Issues and enhance their self esteem and confidence.



Ward 9 - Armadale and Blackridge

Local Area Committees (LAC) – 10am on Friday 12 March. Venue: To be confirmed. Please check the website: www.westlothian.gov.uk for details. Members: Councillor Stuart Borrowman, Councillor Jim Dixon Councillor and Councillor Isabel Hutton.

Fairtrade Fortnight - ends on 7 March. Armadale Academy are raising awareness throughout the fortnight in S1 through an interdisciplinary approach using PSD, History, Geography, Maths and HE. They are also selling Fairtrade chocolate and having a coffee morning. It is Hoped to have a speaker to finish off the fortnight for S1.

Gala sponsorship - Armadale Station Development is to be the principal sponsor for the 100th Armadale Gala Day, in June 2010. The sponsorship will help towards the additional costs of the gala committee's ambitious plans for the centenary event.

Blackridge Library - Museum Exhibition: Girlguiding 100 years young. Celebrating 100 years of guiding in West Lothian from pioneer days to the present. Find out how much fun Guiding is for its many local members. The exhibition runs until 18 March and admission is during library hours.

Put Your West Foot Forward Armadale - meet on Tuesday mornings at 10am. New walkers are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to register. Walkers are advised to wear weather appropriate clothing and comfortable footwear. March walks are:

- 2 March, Community Centre to The Glen
- 9 March, St Anthony's Primary School to East Fells
- 16 March, dog track to dog track
- 23 March, St Anthony's Primary School to Blackmoss

Armadale Library

- **Museum Exhibition** - 'Call to Arms' How the First World War affected West Lothian and its people then and now. Open during library hours until 10 March.
- **Easter Egg Colouring Competition** - Armadale Library is holding an Easter egg colouring competition for primary school aged children. Colouring-in sheets can be picked up from the library from 1 March. The competition closes on 29 March.
- **Bounce and Tickle**. All babies and pre-school children are welcome in this free session of rhymes, stories and songs. The next session is on 16 March, from 10.30am – 11am.

Community Learning and Development

- **Blackridge youth and children's club** - have applied for a 'cashback for communities' grant to refurbish the community wing and hopefully attract older young people. Young people are fully involved in planning and decision making of making over the space.
- **Youth space** - The development of a unique youth space in Armadale is underway. Young people are currently forming an action group which will involve decision making and capacity building training. Young people will also name and launch the new project.