

Bulletin



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Helping
1,000 young
people into work

West Lothian Council's
StepsN2work scheme
celebrates special milestone
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Councillor Cathy Muldoon, right, and staff from Orchard Timber.

West Lothian Council has been accredited as a Living Wage employer by The Living Wage Foundation, in partnership with Poverty Alliance. The Living Wage is significantly higher than the national minimum wage and employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis. Local businesses and organisations can find out more at: westlothian.gov.uk/livingwage



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Council recognised with three prestigious Excellence awards

West Lothian Council's commitment to delivering excellent services across the organisation and to its customers was recognised at the Quality Scotland 'Scottish Awards for Business Excellence' Awards recently

The council was named as the overall winner of the coveted 'Scottish Award for Business Excellence 2016', which is awarded to the organisation which demonstrates a continuing focus on business improvement and attaining even higher levels of excellence throughout its entire operation.

The council was also honoured with the 'Recognised for Excellence, 5 star' Award and the 'Leading with Vision, Inspiration & Integrity' Good Practice Award.

West Lothian Council is the only council in Scotland to have received the prestigious 'Recognised for Excellence, 5 star' Award. It is also the second time the council has received the accolade.

Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty commented: "It is a truly fantastic result for West Lothian Council to be recognised with three prestigious awards.

"West Lothian Council's aim is to improve the quality of life for local people by delivering excellent services. This public service needs commitment and dedication

and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who work across our area providing 24/7 services; caring and supporting local people of all ages; looking after the environment; nurturing; encouraging our young people; and promoting our local economy."

Chief Executive of West Lothian Council, Graham Hope added: "West Lothian Council is committed to providing excellent quality services which are designed to meet the needs of our local communities. The commitment flows throughout our organisation and is underpinned by our fantastic employees."

Claire Ford, Chief Executive Officer of Quality Scotland on achieving 5 star Recognised for Excellence and winning our coveted Scottish Award for Business Excellence 2016.

"The council has established a sustained improvement programme over many years which is well embedded in all activities."

Contact West Lothian Council

For general enquiries:

The council's Customer Information Services (CIS) centres offer face-to-face advice, information and assistance on council services, including: council tax and benefits; housing; concessionary travel; and waste and recycling.

CIS centres in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Carmondean Connected (self-service kiosk only), Livingston Arrochar House and Whitburn also offer payment facilities for rent, council tax and service accounts.

The council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) lines are open from Monday - Friday, 8am to 10.30pm. Thereafter a number of staff are on-site to deal with emergency calls. The CSC lines are also open from 10.30pm on Friday to 8am on Monday for emergency calls relating to noise, homelessness, repairs to council houses, roads, street lighting and environmental health.

Call the CSC on: **01506 280000**

Email: customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk

There are other direct numbers for specialised services as follows:

- Antisocial Behaviour **01506 282000** or contact the Police on **101**
- Gas servicing **01506 280000**
- NETS and Land Services **0800 616446**
- Pupil Placement **01506 280000**, select option 4
- Council Tax and Benefits **01506 280000**, select option 2
- Social Care Emergency Team (SCET) **01506 281028** or **281029**
- Crisis Care Team **01506 418784**
- Textphone for hard of hearing **01506 454427**
- Homelessness **0800 0323 450**

If you have an emergency, and need to contact the council outwith normal business hours (between 10.30pm and 8am) then please dial **01506 280000**.

Other useful contacts:

West Lothian Advice Shop, Bathgate Partnership Centre
Call: 01506 283000 Email: advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk
Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

Citizens Advice Bureau

Call: Advice Line 01506 432977, Appointment Line: 01506 435132,
Email: enquiries@cabwestlothian.org.uk
Visit: www.cabwestlothian.org.uk

West Lothian Credit Union

Call: 01506 436666
Email: info@westlothiancreditunion.co.uk
Visit: www.westlothiancreditunion.co.uk

Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages. Please contact the interpretation and translation service on 01506 280000.

Text phones offer the opportunity for people with a hearing impairment to access the council. The text phone number is 01506 591652. A loop system is also available in all offices.

Feedback:

We welcome feedback from readers. If you wish to comment on Bulletin please email: bulletin@westlothian.gov.uk or call **01506 282006**. Alternatively, write to Bulletin, Corporate Communications, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF.

Vision for West Lothian

A new local development plan to promote growth in West Lothian has been approved

Council Executive has voted to support the new West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out the development strategy for the area for the next ten years.

A local development plan is a legal requirement and sets out a vision for the future of how places should change and what they might be like in the future, providing for homes and jobs.

The new LDP focuses on creating a positive environment for economic growth in West Lothian, concentrating on the core development areas of Winchburgh, Armadale and the Calder and strategic sites such as Heartlands in Whitburn, as well as supporting sustainable levels of growth in smaller communities.

It was created in consultation with West Lothian communities and stakeholders, with over 700 submissions received from local residents and interested parties regarding the plan.

Council Leader John McGinty said: "I welcome the approval of the new Local Development Plan as a key part of ensuring West Lothian continues to grow and prosper going forward.

"Thanks to everyone who took the time to tell us their views, which will now be submitted to Scottish Government for consideration. It's vital we have a sound strategy for appropriate development going forward, as we look to continue inward investment in West Lothian.

"We are also mindful of the need for growth in some of West Lothian's smaller communities such as Breich and Fauldhouse, with the LDP providing the platform for this."

The West Lothian LDP will now be submitted to the Scottish Government Reporter for examination. The Reporter will then give a report of their findings to the council, with the adoption of the final plan expected to be completed by early 2017.

New £3 million hub for East Calder

Work has started on a new partnership centre for East Calder

Initial construction has started onsite to deliver a new modern, flexible building that will create a new community hub for the village.

The new East Calder Partnership Centre is located just off Main Street, adjacent to the health centre.

It will include a multi-function hall, meeting rooms, library, a council Customer Information Services (CIS) centre, changing rooms and offices, as well as accommodation to support groups involved in early years, play, out of school, youth work, and outdoor activities in the nearby park and pitches.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King joined representatives from the East Calder Partnership Centre Consultation Committee, East Calder Community Council and Hadden Construction to mark the start of work onsite.

Councillor King said: "I'm delighted to see work start on delivering the new £3 million East Calder Partnership Centre.

"The start onsite is the culmination of a lot of effort by council officers and the community who have worked tirelessly to get us to this point, so thank you to everyone involved.

"The centre will create a new focal point for the village, bringing together services and groups under one roof in a central location.

"East Calder is a growing community and it's vital we have the right facilities and services available to meet the needs of the local community."

Hadden Construction have been appointed to carry out the construction work, which is due to be completed by early Spring 2017.

Other improvement works taking place around the new partnership centre include a new parking area, improved access and planned improvements to the neighbouring park.

For more details, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/eastcalderpartnershipcentre



Craig Bridges from Graham Construction, Elaine Leslie and Carol Bebbington from NHS Lothian, Councillor Dave King and Karen Cawte from West Lothian Council and Tony Pope from Hub South East

Work starts on Blackburn's £8.2 million partnership centre

New centre for council, health and community services

Located next to the Mill Centre, Blackburn Partnership Centre is a partnership between West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian. Hub South East Scotland is delivering the project, with Graham Construction carrying out the building work.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King was joined by

representatives from NHS Lothian, West Lothian Council, Hub South East and Graham to mark the occasion.

Councillor King said: "This is a huge investment that will create a real focus for community and health services in the village, with many benefits of co-locating together. The Blackburn community have played a major role in shaping the centre to ensure it meets their needs.

"The partnership centre model has already proved very successful in nearby communities, with work currently ongoing to build new partnership centres in Linlithgow and East Calder, as well as in Blackburn."

Services based in the new Blackburn Partnership Centre will include;

- a new GP practice
- community health centre
- dentist

- community centre (including sports hall, IT training suite and multi-purpose, early years and young people's spaces)
- library
- Customer Information Service (CIS) centre
- employability service
- credit union.

Brian Houston, Chairman of NHS Lothian, said: "I'm delighted that work is now progressing on The Blackburn Partnership Centre.

"It is one of three new health and social care centres in Edinburgh and West Lothian, which are designed to provide a one-stop shop for health and council services in the heart of the communities."

Blackburn Partnership Centre will open to the public in late 2017.

For updates, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/blackburnpartnershipcentre



Chris Davidson and Michelle Heron from East Calder Community Council, Stuart Glenn and Michael Callaghan from Hadden Construction, Councillor Dave King, Eddy Goodfellow and Marlene Burford from East Calder Partnership Centre Consultation Committee

Police to join Linlithgow Partnership Centre

West Lothian Council Executive Committee has approved proposals for a 25-year lease of space to Police Scotland, subject to Scottish Police Authority approval.

Work started on the £3.9 million project to transform County Buildings in May 2016. When it is completed early next year the new partnership centre will provide first

class community facilities in the heart of Linlithgow town centre.

Council Leader John McGinty commented: "It has been anticipated that Police Scotland would take advantage of the benefits of co-locating at the new Linlithgow Partnership so it is an important step forward that a lease agreement has been approved

by West Lothian Council. The refurbishment and improvement works will ensure the building is multi-functional, modern and fit for purpose. By investing nearly £4 million in the new Linlithgow Partnership Centre, we are maximising the building's use, delivering value for money and improving services for customers.

"This significant project by West Lothian Council builds upon a larger programme of investment in Linlithgow, such as improved sports facilities with the town.

"Linlithgow Partnership Centre will enhance the town centre and act as a one-stop-shop and community hub for local residents and groups."



For more details, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/linlithgowpartnershipcentre



School Terms and Holidays 2016/2017

The new school term starts on **Tuesday 23 August** for pupils.
The new term dates for 2016/17 are shown below.



PLEASE CUT OUT AND KEEP THIS GUIDE AS A HANDY REMINDER

TERM 1

Term starts - **Tuesday, 23 August 2016**
September break - **Friday, 16 September 2016**
Pupils resume - **Wednesday, 21 September 2016**
October Holiday break - **Friday, 14 October 2016**
Pupils resume - **Tuesday, 25 October 2016**
Term ends - **Wednesday, 21 December 2016**

TERM 2

Term starts - **Wednesday, 4 January 2017**
February break - **Thursday, 9 February 2017**
Pupils resume - **Wednesday, 15 February 2017**
Term ends - **Friday, 31 March 2017**

TERM 3

Terms starts - **Tuesday, 18 April 2017**
Pupils will also be off for three days in May/June:
> **May Holiday - Monday 1 May 2017**
> **May In-Service - Thursday, 4 May 2017**
> **and one of:**
Victoria Day - Monday, 22 May 2017 (All schools except Bathgate and Linlithgow);
Newlands Day - Monday, 5 June 2017 (Bathgate schools only; or Linlithgow Marches - Tuesday, 13 June 2017 (Linlithgow schools only).
Term ends **Friday, 30 June 2017**



Councillors **John McGinty, third from right, and Lawrence Fitzpatrick, right, meet with Education staff and local families at Boghall Primary**

Four West Lothian schools share £1.3 million investment

Boghall Primary in Bathgate, Deans Primary in Livingston and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, and St Kentigern's Academy, both Blackburn, are all set to be improved

A new £700,000 extension is planned at Boghall Primary School to accommodate a nursery with capacity for 30 morning and 30 afternoon places and provision for two-year-olds. The plans also include alterations to existing accommodation which will improve general purpose accommodation.

Deans Primary School in Livingston will receive an additional £150,000 which will be used to complement the previous works undertaken at the school on windows and light

fittings, with £150,000 for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Blackburn, to create a link corridor.

A replacement 3G pitch will also be installed at St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn at cost of £340,000.

Leader of West Lothian Council, John McGinty said: "This is a significant additional investment in the council's capital investment programme.

"The council is committed to making best use of public money to benefit local communities.

Three primary schools will benefit from new investment, and there will be a replacement 3G pitch for pupils at St Kentigern's Academy."

Executive councillor for education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick added: "It is fantastic that four schools are set to benefit from this new capital funding. I'm sure that local parents/carers will welcome the news that new nursery provision will be available at Boghall Primary School with places for 60 children across the school day."

New Headteachers take up their posts

A number of West Lothian school welcomed new Headteachers recently

Armadale Academy, Inveralmond Community High School in Livingston, the new Southdale Primary in Armadale and Our Lady of Lourdes in Blackburn have appointed new Headteachers. Executive councillor for education Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "Congratulations to the all the new Headteachers on their appointment. They are all well-placed to take their respective schools forward."



Armadale Academy - Carol McDonald

New Armadale Headteacher Carol has a long standing affinity for the school, as she is a former Armadale Academy pupil and has spent the majority of her teacher career, so far, at the school.

Joining as an English teacher in 1996, Carol has also held a variety of student support roles at Armadale, before spending three years as Deputy Head Teacher.

Carol McDonald said: "I am very proud to be appointed as Headteacher and serve the community which shaped and inspired me. "I believe my role is to ensure the highest quality of learning experience for every student."



Inveralmond Community High School - Suzie Young

Former Depute Head Suzie Young has vast experience in a number of education settings including pupil support and curriculum and Physical Education.

Suzie was Acting Depute Headteacher in Abercorn School and Depute Headteacher in

Castlemilk previously.

Suzie Young said: "I am delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher of Inveralmond CHS. I am looking forward to working with a great team to continue to develop a culture of excellence and equity, building on the significant improvements in attainment."



Southdale Primary - Geraldine Armstrong

Geraldine Armstrong will become Southdale Primary's first Headteacher when it opens this month.

Geraldine is an experienced Headteacher who previously worked with West Dunbartonshire council as a Head Teacher for nine years.

Geraldine Armstrong said: "I am incredibly excited about my new appointment and I am looking forward to seeing the school finished in August. This is an exciting time for Armadale and I am very proud to be a part of it."



Our Lady of Lourdes Primary - Eileen Brennan

Former Acting Headteacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Eileen Brennan, has been confirmed as the new Headteacher.

She taught in Essex for six years before joining West Lothian Council, and recently completed the Scottish Qualification for Headship, graduating from Glasgow University with an MSc in Public Service Leadership.

Eileen Brennan said: "I am absolutely delighted and honoured to take on this important and special role of leading the school to ensure the best positive outcomes for all our children and to be continuing to work with the strong team of pupils, parents, staff and community here in Blackburn."



Bright start for **Simpson Primary** pavilions

A £2 million investment in two new learning pavilions aims to ensure that West Lothian young people have the best possible start in life

Council Leader John McGinty officially opened the new learning spaces at Simpson Primary School in Wester Inch, Bathgate, recently.

Pupils put on an opening ceremony called 'Watch this Space', using music, video and presentations to demonstrate the positive impact of the new pavilion's flexible spaces on their learning.

The single-storey pavilions, which are joined by a colourful rainbow canopy, will provide space for eight additional classrooms in the school.

Council Leader John McGinty said: "I am delighted to officially open the new learning pavilions at Simpson Primary School. This £2 million investment in additional and flexible spaces to promote learning

will clearly be of huge benefit to the school and its pupils.

"Simpson is a popular school in a growing area, and the additional space will help the school cope with the increasing demand for places from local families in the catchment area. West Lothian already has one of the best school estates in Scotland, and we aim to continue

investing in the infrastructure required to support pupils to achieve their full potential."

Simpson headteacher Arlene Black added: "It's important that children have the space they need for their learning.

"These fantastic pavilions will give us the room we need to give Simpson pupils the best possible

educational experience."

The school role at Simpson was just 70 pupils when it first opened in 2007, and is expected to rise to around 700 later this year.

West Lothian Council's development partner Hub South East delivered the project, with Morrison Construction as the main contractor.

Step forward for £32 million West Calder High School

Planning permission has been approved for the brand new 1,100 capacity secondary school



The new school is West Lothian Council's largest ever single investment in education. Located on the eastern side of the village near Parkhead Primary, the new school will include a swimming pool, floodlit 3G sports pitch, and sports facilities for school and community use.

Executive councillor for education Lawrence Fitzpatrick was joined by West Calder High School pupils and representatives from West Lothian Council, Hub South East and Morrison Construction to mark the occasion.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said: "The £32 million West Calder High School project is the council's largest ever investment in education and is progressing well.

"The modern, high-quality school will be a fantastic resource for local young people, providing an ideal learning environment for them to achieve their full potential. This investment will help ensure that West Lothian continues to have one of the best school estates in Scotland.

"The construction work phase will also provide valuable training and job opportunities for local residents. At its peak, 70-100 people will be employed on site, with up to an additional 10 full-time positions being created. The project is also targeting up to three new apprenticeships, with up to 30 apprentices expected to be involved in the delivery of the new school.

"A local liaison has been formed between the council, local community and the contractors to keep the West Calder community informed of any development, and address any issue that may arise from a project of this scale."

The new school will open in 2018, and has been designed with the pupil experience at the core, as well as providing facilities accessible to the local community. A new £5.5 million rail overbridge and access road is currently being built that will provide a direct link to the school from the A71.

It is being developed through Hub South East Scotland, with Morrison Construction appointed to build the new school.

Chief Executive of Hub South East Scotland, Paul McGirk, said: "The new West Calder High School will allow pupils and staff to enjoy modern, fit-for-purpose facilities and the community will benefit from investment in the local area."

Billy Gray, Framework Manager for Morrison Construction added: "This is a fantastic new development for West Calder and we're delighted to be an integral part of it."

For updates, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/new-wchs

Excitement builds at Southdale Primary School

West Lothian's newest primary school will open its doors this August with construction work progressing well at Southdale Primary School in Armadale

West Lothian Council is investing £7.5 million to build the new school.

External superstructure brickwork has already been completed and the roof works, fascia and flashings are progressing well. The mechanical and electrical works are well underway also. Work on the sports pitches has already started with external works and the formation of footpaths, kerbing and blocking the carpark bays ongoing.

The project will be constructed in phases, with the first phase including classrooms, GP rooms, nursery facilities, gym, dining and additional accommodation sized to suit more classes in order to futureproof the school.

The eco-friendly school has been designed to save energy with solar panels being put on the roof and greatly increased insulation to keep the heat in.

Executive councillor for education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "The building has been designed to ensure the school can continue to grow to suit local housing developments, allowing the school to extend in pairs of classrooms."

"We have no doubt that the school will provide many benefits to the community. The school is making excellent progress and I am looking forward to seeing the end result. I know that there are lots of excited pupils and parents looking forward to seeing the school when it is completed."

Parents are advised that information on the new school including nursery opening times, breakfast club information and uniform details are available on the council's website: www.westlothian.gov.uk/southdaleprimaryschool



FINAL ENROLMENT EVENING – 16 AUGUST 2016 FROM 4-7PM, WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE.

Find a Full-Time or Part-Time course to suit you and enrol on the evening (ILA number needed to enrol). Whether you are looking to build on a hobby or increase your qualifications, don't miss the chance to study at West Lothian College in 2016-2017

Are you an S4 or S5 school student in 2016-2017? Gain a Foundation Apprenticeship whilst studying at West Lothian College.

Come along to our Foundation Apprenticeship Information evening on 16 August from 4-7pm.

- > Foundation Apprenticeship Software Development,
- > Foundation Apprenticeship Civil Engineering,
- > NC Manufacturing Engineering

Got the exam results you wanted or didn't do as well as you hoped?



Now is the time to talk to us. Visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses, email enquiries@west-lothian.ac.uk or call 01506 427606 for Full-Time courses or 01506 427555 for Part-Time courses and find out how West Lothian College can help you.

Last chance to apply for a variety of Full- and Part-Time courses – apply online now and **create your own future!**

For further information visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk


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£2 million investment targets jobs, innovation and exporting

West Lothian's Enterprise Sub Group, which administers the West Lothian Economic Growth Plan, has agreed further innovative and ambitious proposals to support local companies to develop international markets and innovate

Executive councillor for development and transport and Chair of the Enterprise Sub Group, Cathy Muldoon commented: "I am delighted to report that £2 million will be used for investment in two new programmes which are complementary in seeking to strengthen West Lothian's firms, help build export sales, create more job opportunities and lever in more private investment.

"Both programmes are outcome-focused with specific measures around new jobs, sales growth, new export markets and Research and Development spend.

"We are encouraging companies to come forward if they would like more information."

The WEST Programme – winning exports, smart technology:

This programme will see an investment of £1 million, which will be used to help more than 40 local companies. Helping West Lothian firms to export can make them stronger and more sustainable.

Selling to overseas markets brings additional revenues, necessitates new skills and can highlight other selling opportunities. This all helps protect existing jobs and create the capacity for new employment.

Innovation – Beyond Oil and Gas:

The innovation programme will support local businesses which are part of the supply chain in the oil and gas sector to diversify to ensure their long-term sustainability. West Lothian firms in this sector are among our most capable and technically-advanced businesses. They are also some of the highest-paying employers.

Support for CB Technology

Livingston based CB Technology was awarded £27,000 from the West Lothian Growth fund to accelerate investment in its staff development plan, covering such areas as specialist equipment training and best practice techniques, in order to meet the needs of both existing and new customers.

A specialist electronics manufacturer, CB Technology is focused on the assembly and testing of complex electronics which have demanding performance characteristics.

Councillor Muldoon commented: "It is fantastic that CB Technology recognises that there is competitive advantage to be

gained by investing in training for its staff.

"The WLEGP is able to provide help to local companies who are looking to upskill their staff if it supports business stability or growth. On behalf of the Enterprise Sub Group I would like to wish everyone at CB Technology best wishes for their future success."

John Cameron, Managing Director, said: "Receiving an award from the West Lothian Economic Growth Plan is fantastic news. Our staff are one of our biggest assets and they are already highly skilled, however we recognize that in order to stay at the forefront in our market that we need to continually invest in the development of our

staff. This is very important as we work closely with our customers in the development of new and next generation products."

The WLEGP was set up as a response to the closure of VION in January 2013, to support business growth in West Lothian and to help attract investment in the area.

More information for companies interested in locating and growing in West Lothian is available online at www.westlothian.com, call Jim Henderson on 01506 283084 or email: jim.henderson@westlothian.gov.uk.



Alice Mitchell, John Cameron, Councillor Cathy Muldoon and Alex Harte

Jobs milestone for employment programme

Over 1,000 young people have been helped into the job market, thanks to West Lothian Council's employment programmes



West Lothian Council's ground-breaking StepsN2work programme has a range of schemes designed to help local young people aged from 18 to 24 get their foot on the job ladder.

These include Modern Apprenticeships and Graduate work experience within the council, as well as six month paid training opportunities and a Wage Subsidy scheme with local employers.

Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon was joined by Council Leader John McGinty and Chief Executive Graham Hope in visiting local employers who have supported the StepsN2work scheme including Livingston's Orchard Timber who feature on our front cover.

Councillor Muldoon said: "It's

fantastic that 1,000 West Lothian young people have been helped into work through the StepsN2work programme. Improving the employment position in West Lothian positively impacts on the quality of life and the overall wellbeing of our citizens.

"We know that young people in particular can have a tough time entering the job market. StepsN2Work gives West Lothian young people a foot on the employment ladder and the chance to show employers what they are capable of.

"We are delighted to visit local companies such as Orchard Timber, who currently have six employees who have come through the StepsN2work programme, and hear how the scheme is benefitting both local young people and the West

Lothian economy."

Bryan Thomson, Branch Director for Orchard Timber, said: "We are passionate about supporting young people providing them with the opportunity to contribute, learn and enjoy what they do.

"Each year we provide a range of apprenticeships to help young people gain skills, qualifications and onsite experience to access a rewarding career. It gives us great pleasure to see the young people grow and succeed in life and work, many of our young people have now been promoted within the company."

For more information on StepsN2Work call: 01506 281330, email: stepsn2work@westlothian.gov.uk, or visit: www.positive-destinations.co.uk

School transport: Important information

During the summer holidays a number of changes have been made to school transport

West Lothian Council is asking parents and carers to check school bus timetables and to make sure that their child knows where and when to catch the bus.

The changes follow a review of school transport which means that there will be changes to some routes and timetables from the start of term in August. West Lothian Council has protected school transport services for pupils in West Lothian and will continue to provide services which are sustainable and affordable to the council; and provide best value for council tax payers. The changes will not impact on the vast majority of pupils who are using the services.

Parents/carers are being asked to note the following:

Changes to routes and timetables School transport in West Lothian has been reviewed and a number of changes will be introduced for the return to school in August. Parents/carers are being asked to make sure that children and young people who use school transport check their travel arrangements as some routes and timetables may have changed.

Free school transport

All pupils need to apply/reapply for free school transport. Travel passes for those pupils entitled to free school transport will be posted to home addresses before the start of term with instructions on how to access the new timetable information on the council website. Pupils who have not applied should do so as a matter of urgency.

School transport fare-paying scheme

This scheme has been retained on school buses where it is currently available. Pupils wishing to travel on the selected fare-paying routes should familiarise themselves with the new timetable information which is available online. Travel is only permitted where a West Lothian Council issued travel pass is shown or, where a fare-paying option is available, the appropriate fare is paid, or a 10 journey ticket is shown.

For more information and to apply online visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/schooltransport or call: 01506 280000



Joy Koay is West Lothian's Young Writer of the Year

Carmondean Primary School pupil Joy Koay is West Lothian's Young Writer of the Year 2016



Joy Koay receives her prize from West Lothian Council's Reader in Residence, Harry Giles.

Joy Koay beat off almost 7,500 entries from 52 local primary schools to win the prestigious title with her detailed and richly imagined short story where the narrator wakes up on a desert island. She describes the first three days of being marooned on the island using wonderful imagery.

Almost 250 guests attended the Awards ceremony at Howden Park Centre recently, to see Joy and 25 other prize winners from local schools receive their awards.

Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty, said: "I would like to thank all the children who participated in the Young Writer Competition this year, who along with their parents/carers, teachers and library staff have been part of making 2016 one of the most successful competitions ever.

"Almost 7,500 entries is a great achievement. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the event for their support.

"It's clear that our schools are doing a wonderful job in teaching our children creative writing skills, and our libraries are supporting this by offering free access to a wide range of books for children to read and further develop their literacy skills. The standard and quality of the writing has always been high and the 2016 winners are continuing this great tradition".

Award winning author and illustrator Nick Sharratt entertained the audience with an interactive 'draw along', where he showed the audience exactly how he creates his characters, from coming up with the ideas to drawing the amazing illustrations.

The event which is organised by Customer and Community Services, aims to encourage creative writing, promote reading and reward effort. The judges were S6 students from James Young High School, who had the very difficult task in selecting just 26 prize winners.

The Awards ceremony provides an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the achievements of all West Lothian's Young Writers. The competition is sponsored by several local and national organisations, which enables the event to be staged and provides a reward for every pupil who enters the competition, as well as providing specially selected prizes for the award winners themselves.

The young writers' work is published in a special booklet and a copy is sent to each primary school and is also available from any library in West Lothian.

Local WW1 play goes to the Edinburgh Festival

A chance discovery of old wartime letters has led to a group of local volunteers appearing in a show at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe



The play is called "There was a Soldier..." and it is the story of young men from West Lothian who signed up for World War One – dubbed the war to end all wars. Young men flocked to sign up and their story is told in song, poetry and narration. The songs are a mixture of WW1 songs for all to sing, soldiers' songs and current folk songs.

The show itself is inspired by the discovery of letters from a young WW1 soldier to a local West Lothian woman by Dechmont resident Liz Reid. West Lothian has strong links with World War One, with Bangour Hospital used to treat wounded soldiers.

Originally called 'West Lothian Far from Ypres', the show has been performed locally in Broxburn and Bathgate to rave reviews.

The show is made up of West Lothian residents aged 15 to 70 with stunning performances by pupils from Broxburn Academy and St Margaret's Academy, with solos from Sam Malone, Lewis Carlyon, Charlotte Buckley, Megan Porter and ex-pupils Milly Ritchie and Lucas Rodger.

There Was A Soldier is showing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe between August 16 and 17 at 3pm and 7pm, Stockbridge Church. Tickets £12/£10 from Fringe Box Office and Dechmont Shop. To book online, please visit:

www.tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/there-was-a-soldier

All proceeds from the shows will go towards two West Lothian projects, with an engraved sign planned beside Broxburn's War Memorial listing the names of the war dead and a booklet to be produced by Broxburn Family History Group, detailing every local serviceman who died in the two World Wars.



Wounded soldiers at Bangour Hospital

Council welcomes 10 new electric vehicles to its fleet



West Lothian Council's fleet was given an environmental boost in May with the delivery of 10 new electric vehicles

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn accepted the keys from Nissan and Automotive Leasing at Deans Depot.

Seven electric Nissan Leaf cars and three Nissan electric vans which have a range of around 100 miles each will be used to supplement the council's pool vehicles at various locations throughout West Lothian.

The three vans will be used by

teams in Waste Services, Building Services and Community Transport. The vehicles are the first electric vans in the fleet.

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "We are delighted to accept the new electric vehicles to our fleet. The vehicles are a great addition, they are environmentally friendly with zero exhaust emissions. "The council is committed to looking after the environment

and reducing carbon emissions and the new vehicles complement the existing measures which are being taken to reduce mileage including car sharing and video conferencing."

The vehicles are being fully-funded by Transport Scotland for three years.

The council previously had six electric vehicles – the new vehicles are replacing four.

Slim bins reduce landfill

Landfill waste has reduced by over a third in parts of West Lothian with the new slim bins

Initial early analysis also shows that food waste collections have more than doubled in these areas, with the weight of blue bin recycling also increasing significantly.

Over 23,000 households in West Lothian have now received their 140 litre slim bins, including communities such as Bathgate, Armadale, Whitburn, Blackburn, Blackridge, East Whitburn, Torphichen, Greenrigg, Philpstoun and Bridgend.

The replacement slim bins will roll out across the rest of West Lothian over the course of 2016.

Waste Services Manager David Goodenough said: "A huge thank you to everyone who has helped reduce what we send to landfill.

"The early figures are very encouraging and show local residents who have received their

slim bins are recycling more than ever and sending less to landfill. Food waste in particular has increased significantly as more families start using the service.

"Every tonne sent to landfill reduces the money the council has to spend on essential services for local people. We estimate that the council could save over £2 million per year by recycling more.

"The introduction of slim bins is a big step forward as we aim to meet the Scottish target of 60% recycling by 2020."



Your slim bin questions answered

www.westlothian.gov.uk/slimbins

Q. Why are we changing to slim bins?

A. The changes are designed to encourage residents to put less waste into landfill (grey) bins and recycle more as landfill costs are rising. Last year West Lothian Council spent over £3.8million sending grey bin waste for disposal in landfill sites.

A number of Scottish councils have already made similar changes to either the size of bins or the frequency of collections. Edinburgh and Perth and Kinross councils have already introduced smaller bins, and others have three- or four- weekly collections.

Q. I won't be able to cope with a smaller bin. Can I get a larger one?

A. Most West Lothian families who have received the slim bins are finding they can manage if they use all the other recycling collections correctly.

If a household genuinely requires extra capacity then residents can make a request to the council. Waste Services will arrange a visit with one of our recycling advisors to provide advice on the options available. Where medical requirements necessitate additional grey bin capacity, a request can be made via St John's Hospital for assessment.

Q. Can I apply for a larger blue, brown or food waste caddy?

A. Yes. West Lothian Council can provide larger blue or brown bins, and/or food waste caddies, free of charge if you contact us (see below).

Q. Do I need to do anything to receive my slim bin?

A. Householders do not need to do anything other than present their bins for collection as normal.

The week after you receive your new bin, put out both your old grey bin and your new slim grey bin to be emptied on your collection day. Once this has happened, please return your new slim bin to your property but leave your old grey bin out so that we can remove it.

If your original grey bin is emptied but not removed, please leave it out as we will come back to collect it. Original bins will not be emptied as part of our regular collections after this time, so please do not refill it and contact us using the details below if it has not been collected within 48 hours of being emptied.

Q. How can I dispose of additional waste or recycling?

A. West Lothian Council provides six Community Recycling Centres at Blackburn, Broxburn, Whitburn, Linlithgow and both Deans and Oakbank in Livingston, where residents can take household items to be recycled or disposed of.

The council also offers a collection service for bulky household items, with up to three free uplifts a year.

Q. What about glass recycling?

A. We have increased the number of glass recycling facilities from 36 to 200.

Benefits of a smaller bin

Reducing the capacity of grey bins will bring a number of potential benefits, including:

- Household recycling rates will increase by up to 10%
- Money is spent supporting vital services and not landfill costs
- The current frequency of grey and blue collections will stay the same
- The current bins will be recycled and the funds used to support the change
- The introduction of the new bins will be supported by a recycling awareness information campaign.

Up to an extra 7,000 tonnes of grey bin (landfill) waste will be recycled each year in West Lothian



Jobs will be created to meet the expected increase in materials being recycled



Your blue bin is emptied every 2 weeks: All materials must be clean, empty and dry. **Include:** Card, cardboard, paper, empty plastic bags, aerosols, clean plastic bottles and lids, tins, plastic trays, tubs, and lids. **No thanks:** nappies, polystyrene, crisp and sweet packets, foil lined plastics, textiles, cling film, food waste or glass.



Your food waste caddy is emptied every week: You can line your caddy with any type of plastic bag (eg bread bags, frozen vegetable bags), any type of liner or newspapers. Cooked and uncooked food waste is welcome. Please do not place liquid or oils in the caddy. Apart from bags used to line the caddy, no other types of packaging should be included.

For more information visit www.westlothian.gov.uk or follow us on our social media channels for more information



Community Recycling Centres are open from 9am to 7pm, seven days a week from June to September and 10am to 5pm, seven days a week from October to May. Last entry is 15 minutes before closing. For more information, visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/slimbins, email: customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk or call: 01506 280000.

NEW COUNCIL HOMES COMPLETED



Tenants make the move to their new homes

West Lothian Council is investing approximately £100 million to build 1,000 new council homes across each of the nine council wards

PUMPHERSTON

Fourteen new council homes have been completed at Pumpherston

The site at Pumpherston marks an important milestone for West Lothian Council's 1,000 houses project, as the site is the first to be completed.

The Pumpherston site consists of a mix of one- and two-bedroom cottage flats and bungalows. The bungalows are suitable for people with disabilities to access.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, said: "West Lothian Council's building programme is creating much-needed high-quality affordable homes, as well as providing significant training and job opportunities in the area.

"Working with construction partners, the council is ensuring that providing new council housing also brings wider benefits to the community.

"It's tremendous that work is now

complete on this development which provides well-designed modern homes for residents in West Lothian."

Mr Thomas Scott and his daughter Nicole have recently moved into their new council house in Pumpherston.

Mr Scott, who works as a Blacksmith, said: "Our new house is beautiful; the builders have worked to an incredibly high standard here. I was particularly taken aback by the size of the rooms as the kitchen almost meets the size of the living room. The smart electricity meters are fantastic and there are plenty of plug and phone sockets for us to use."

"We stayed in Greendykes Road before so moving into this house means that I am only a 5-minute drive away from my workplace in Mid Calder."



Councillor Paul joined council officers, Mr Scott and his daughter Nicole on a recent visit to the new Pumpherston homes.



BRIDGEND, NEAR LINLITHGOW

Five new council homes have been built at Auldhill in Bridgend, near Linlithgow

Three new one-bedroom bungalows and two two-bedroom bungalows have been built by McTaggart Construction on behalf of West Lothian Council. The new homes are adjacent to the Community Centre in Bridgend.

Executive councillor for services for the community,

George Paul, said: "We are delighted that these new council homes are now completed and that tenants are moving in.

"The new homes are of a fantastic build quality and I'd like to thank McTaggart Construction for their work in constructing the new homes.

"Affordable housing is in short supply across the country and the only way to tackle that problem is to provide additional housing. We are committed to providing new council homes across West Lothian and these new homes in Bridgend will help to enhance the local environment."

NEW BUILD HOMES GET THE GREEN LIGHT IN LIVINGSTON

Planning permission has been granted to build 37 new affordable homes at two town centre sites in Livingston by the council's Development Management Committee

West Lothian Council has been granted planning permission to build 24 flats and 13 houses at land adjacent to Almondvale Stadium Road, Livingston.

The new homes will be built on scrub ground on the north side of the access road to Lidl and the Almondvale Stadium and south of the River Almond corridor.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, said: "We are pleased that planning permission has been granted for these sites and work to build the new council homes will now move forward.

"Demand for affordable housing is very high in Livingston and the council

wants to help provide more new homes for residents in West Lothian.

"These new council properties will help to alleviate some of the pressure on the council housing waiting list and provide people with new, high-quality affordable homes."



FIRST HANDOVERS AT BLACKBURN AND BROXBURN

The first phase of new homes will soon be ready for let at Redhouse, Blackburn and Kirkhill, Broxburn

The first phases of completions at Blackburn form part of an overall development of 100 new homes.

At Kirkhill, Broxburn, where 230 houses are currently under construction the first homes, a mix of cottage flats and semi-detached houses, will also be completed.

Further phased handovers will take place at both sites during 2016 and 2017.



VISION FOR DEANS SOUTH

The redevelopment of the Deans South estate with new-build council housing is progressing well with the demolition contract due to be completed soon

A brand new chapter for the estate is about to begin with the first new-build housing development due to start within the next few months. The site will be developed by McTaggart Construction who plan to build 54 houses for the council.

Lovell Partnerships is currently drawing up proposals for a further 63 new-build council houses on another part of the estate.

The council has also commissioned the preparation of a masterplan to assess the development capacity of the entire estate. Consultation on this masterplan will be undertaken later this year.

Council Leader John McGinty said: "We are delighted that the redevelopment of Deans South is ongoing. Massive progress has been made towards regenerating the estate over the past few years.

"Currently there are over 9,000 applicants on the waiting list for a council house in West Lothian. The 107 new properties at Deans South will deliver new council homes for rent for local families, and help create a new community in the area."

The project will also deliver community benefits for local businesses, who will work on the construction of the new homes.

NEW COUNCIL HOMES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

EASTFIELD, FAULDHOUSE

A mixture of forty new cottage flats, bungalows and two, three, four and five bedroom houses are being built at Fauldhouse. Lovell Partnerships began building on behalf of West Lothian Council in July this year and the homes are expected to be complete in the Autumn of 2017.

RAW HOLDINGS, EAST CALDER



Twelve cottage flats, one two-bedroom house and two bungalows are currently being constructed in the core development area at Raw Holdings. The new council properties are due to be completed by Spring 2017.



INSPIRING TENANTS

West Lothian Council has been awarded the TIS Tenants Information Service's National Excellence Award in the Most Inspiring Scrutiny Group category

The award was made for the council's work over the past twelve months on developing and implementing a better approach to enable tenants to be more involved in how the council prioritises and spends funding. It has been a joint piece of work between the council's Housing and Finance services.

Alistair Shaw, the council's Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services added: "A huge amount of effort goes into ensuring that our council tenants are at the heart of the decision making process when it comes to investment in our council housing.

"By getting tenants more involved in how the council prioritises and spends funding, we are able to provide a better service and ensure our tenants have their say in how their homes and communities are shaped."



Upgraded tennis courts served up for Bathgate

West Lothian's budding Andy Murrays should take advantage of the superb new facilities at the revamped Kirkton Park Tennis Courts in Bathgate

The courts have recently undergone a £170,000 upgrade to replace the old blaise surface courts with a brand new all-season tarmac surface, with new floodlighting and fencing also installed.

West Lothian Council Leader

John McGinty officially opened the new facility recently, with pupils from Boghall Primary.

The upgrade of the tennis courts was arranged through West Lothian Council's Sports Development and Facilities Team, with sportscotland,

Tennis Scotland and the Land Trust supplying the majority of the funding.

Councillor McGinty said: "I'm delighted to declare the excellent new tennis courts at Kirkton Park Tennis Courts officially open.

"They will help provide more opportunities for local people of all ages to take part in tennis throughout the year, encouraging them to keep healthy in a fun way."

The courts will provide a mix of public pay and play, a

range of organised activities through a tennis coach and club-led activities. You can book slots on the courts at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/KirktonParkCommunityTennisCourts or through the Clubspark app.

New £7 million supported housing complex coming soon

An ambitious project to create a £7 million assisted living complex in Bathgate is close to completion

The new 30 flat Rosemount Gardens complex in Mid Street, Bathgate is now completed.

As well as facilities solely for residents, the public are welcome to use the shared facilities in the complex including the atrium café, restaurant, garden, multi-purpose rooms and hairdressers.

Work has now started on

phase two of the project, which involves refurbishing the existing adjacent Rosemount Court sheltered housing development into 16 one-bedroom flats to meet the future expectations and needs of older people.

Council Leader John McGinty and Depute Leader Cathy Muldoon joined staff for a tour of the new Rosemount Gardens facility recently, to

see how the development will benefit older people in West Lothian.

The project is being delivered by the council's development partner, Hub South East Scotland, with GRAHAM Construction as the main contractor.

Council Leader John McGinty said: "I was very impressed with the new Rosemount Gardens complex, which will offer assisted living for older people close to the heart of Bathgate.

"West Lothian has a rising population of older people, and it's essential we take steps now to make sure we can cater for the growing demand. The new £7 million Rosemount Gardens and Court development will offer comfortable supported housing for local older people, and create a real sense of community through the welcoming communal areas."



Whitburn crowned Festival of Brass winners

Scotland's top six brass bands compete at the annual West Lothian Festival of Brass

The spectacular showcase of the best of Scottish brass took place at Livingston's Howden Park Centre recently.

A fantastic performance by the Whitburn Band saw them claim the title of West Lothian Festival of Brass Champions 2016.

Whitburn Band also clinched the Best Performance of an Alan Fernie composition and best group feature for their trombone section which included Dan Eddison, Gerard Hennan and Charlie Farren.

The event was organised by the council's Community Arts team in conjunction with The Scottish Brass Band Association (SBBA).

Executive councillor for education, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, handed out prizes on the night. He said: "The West Lothian Festival of Brass 2016 was a fantastic event showcasing the best brass bands in Scotland. Huge congratulations to local heroes Whitburn Band for clinching the West Lothian Festival of Brass Champions 2016, with superb performances from all the other bands."

SBBA's President Carrie Boax added: "This West Lothian Festival of Brass continues to thrive as Scotland's premiere brass band entertainment contest, and we are grateful to our partners West Lothian Council for their continued support."



Councillor Cathy Muldoon, Chief Executive Graham Hope and Councillor John McGinty

West Lothian Council marks 20 years

The first of 20 oak trees to represent each year since West Lothian Council was established has been planted

Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty and Depute Leader Cathy Muldoon planted the tree at West Lothian Civic Centre in Livingston.

The Local Government reorganisation in 1996 resulted in district councils and regional councils being replaced with unitary bodies to provide a more economic, cohesive, accountable and effective system.

Since being established in 1996 West Lothian Council the local authority has become highly regarded for excellent service and ranked as one of the top councils in Scotland.

Leader of West Lothian Council John McGinty said: "I am proud of the achievements of West Lothian Council since it came into being in 1996. Planting oak trees which will grow and flourish embodies our hopes for West Lothian going forward including strength, endurance, protection, success and stability.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank West Lothian Council staff who contribute every day in every way to West Lothian and our communities."

The tree is a Scottish-grown ten year old Quercus Roubur oak.

WEST LOTHIAN IS A FAIRTRADE ZONE

Fairtrade ensure that disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a fair deal for their products.

West Lothian has four Fairtrade Towns in Bathgate, Linlithgow, Livingston and Whitburn, a Fairtrade Village in Uphall and a mini Fairtrade Zone in Fauldhouse and Breich Valley.

To find out more about Fairtrade in West Lothian, visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/fairtrade



ALMOND VALLEY HERITAGE CENTRE

ONE FREE CHILD WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A FULL PAYING ADULT.

Enjoy a fun-filled day at Almond Valley Heritage Centre for all the family to enjoy. Meet the animals, take a ride along the railway or visit the fantastic Shale Museum.

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Valid until 31st December 2016. Almond Valley Heritage Centre, Millfield, Livingston, EH54 7AR / 01506 414957 / www.almondvalley.co.uk

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THE HIVE SOFT PLAY

ONE FREE SLUSH AND ONE FREE HOT DRINK PER VOUCHER.

The Hive Soft Play is the perfect place for children to play and be active whilst adults relax and enjoy a hot drink and some delicious homemade food.



Voucher must be presented upon arrival. The Hive Soft Play Ltd, Unit 4 Standhill Industrial Estate, Whitburn Road, Bathgate, EH48 2HR / 01506 656989 www.thehivesoftplay.com

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£15.95 PROSECCO WITH AFTERNOON TEA for 2



Visit the superb Star and Garter Hotel in the scenic town of Linlithgow. With a great atmosphere and fascinating history, the Star and Garter is the perfect location for a spot of afternoon tea.

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Star & Garter Hotel, 1 High Street, Linlithgow EH49 7AB 01506 845647 / www.starandgarterhotel.co.uk

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Truly Scrumptious DESIGNER CAKES LTD.

25% OFF BOX OF 6 MIXED CUPCAKES

Sample six superb cupcakes from the award-winning bakery for just £9 instead of £12. Fantastic flavours include sponge, chocolate, toffee, lemon, red velvet and carrot.

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Valid until 30th September 2016. 1 The Cross, High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7EY Tel: 01506 671133 | www.trulydesignercakes.co.uk

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BING BLAZER

£10 DISCOUNT FOR ANYONE SIGNING UP TO BING BLAZER PARK LIFE.

Are you ready to face any obstacle, whilst being challenged physically and mentally? Then Bing Blazer Park Life is the challenge for you. Sign up to the event online at www.bingblazer.co.uk and use the exclusive code VWL10 to get £10 off the entry fee.

Voucher code VWL10 to be used online only. Valid until 3rd September 2016. Bing Blazer Park Life, Beecraigs Country Park, Near Linlithgow, EH49 6PL | www.bingblazer.co.uk

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For the latest on all the great things to see and do in West Lothian please visit www.visitwestlothian.co.uk / [facebook.com: VisitWestLothian](https://www.facebook.com/VisitWestLothian) / [Twitter.com: @teamwestlothian](https://twitter.com/teamwestlothian)



Inveralmond in pole position for F1 win

A group of West Lothian school pupils are gearing up for success in an international Formula One competition

The Kinetikos team from Inveralmond Community High School, Livingston will represent Scotland at the World Finals of the F1 in Schools competition in Austin, Texas in the USA this October.

Kinetikos members Euan Clunie, Zak Brown, Michael Penman, Joshua Whitby, Kayleigh Speirs and Lewis Shaw competed in the Scottish finals in Fife College in March to achieve a place in the UK finals.

The team of S4 pupils then travelled down to the UK finals at the legendary Silverstone

racetrack, where they were the highest placed Scottish team to book their place in the global finals.

Inveralmond's Technological Studies faculty head David Dodds, who previously guided teams from Dean Community High School to the final of the competition, said: "The young people have put a huge amount of work into Kinetikos and thoroughly deserve their trip to America for the final. We're hoping to stay over there for the Grand Prix, which would be another amazing experience for the young people.

"Work is ongoing to redesign our race car to hit speeds of 20 metres per second, as well as fundraising the £25,000 needed to take the team to the finals. We've already had fantastic support from many local businesses as well as Heriot Watt University."

Follow the team on Facebook and Twitter by searching for **@kinetikosracing**.

To donate to the team's trip to the finals visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kinetikos-racing-f1-in-schools-world-finalists.



School pupils recognised at West Lothian College awards

Over 40 students from West Lothian secondary schools were honoured at West Lothian College's School Awards recently

A total of 19 students were among first in Scotland to receive their Foundation Apprenticeship certificates in NC Manufacturing Engineering Level 5 and SVQ Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations.

A further 24 students, who successfully completed their HNC in either Computing or Engineering Systems as part of their senior phase school curriculum, were also honoured.

West Lothian College Principal Mhairi Harrington said: "Congratulations to all the young people who have become the first in Scotland to complete their Foundation Apprenticeships.

"Each Foundation Apprenticeship has been designed in partnership with

industry to make sure that young people get the skills and knowledge they need, giving young people hands-on learning and practical experience of the world of work. I am also delighted to see our second year of HNC students graduating as we aim to provide a broad range of opportunities to ensure our young people achieve their full potential."

The Foundation Apprenticeship model saw S4 pupils guaranteed a Modern Apprenticeship or progression to further study through participating in an innovative partnership between West Lothian College, West Lothian Council and Skills Development Scotland. Now at the end of S5, the majority plan to continue their studies at school, college or university,

with others taking up apprenticeship positions.

Pupils from Armadale Academy, St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn, Livingston's James Young High School and Whitburn Academy have all been involved in the pilot programme.

West Lothian's Executive councillor for education Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "It's a huge step towards building a positive career for themselves, and their hard work and dedication is to be commended."

For more details of the courses or to apply, please visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk/courses and look for Foundation Apprenticeships under school courses.

News in brief



New Cemetery Management Rules Introduced

New management rules have been introduced for all West Lothian Council's cemeteries using section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. The aim of the policy is to ensure that the council's cemeteries are maintained to a safe level whilst ensuring that the amenity of each cemetery site is respected and protected. The new rules will prohibit the erection of railings, kerbing, fencing, corner stones, gravel and the planting of trees and shrubs. However the following items will still be permitted within the headstone area of the lair; memorial flowers, wreaths and other small artefacts of remembrance.

Any existing railings, kerbs or other structures on lairs will not be removed unless they are a safety issue, or cause an obstruction to an interment in an adjacent lair. In these circumstances the council will contact the lair holder to discuss their removal.

All headstones must be installed by a council-approved memorial mason contractor to an approved standard.

No items may be placed on the grass area of lairs, with the exception of Christmas wreaths during the approved timescale.

No exercising of dogs allowed, all dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times while within any cemetery or churchyard.

Members of the public must comply with any instructions given by any council representative on site.

For more information, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/funerals-and-cremations

Funds for flood prevention

West Lothian Council has allocated an additional £114,000 for flood prevention work. This will be used towards actions specified in the Local Flood Risk Management Plan and the adopted Surface Water Management Plan. These include flood prevention studies for Whitburn, Linlithgow, Bathgate and Blackridge, and a natural flood management study for Bathgate, Linlithgow Bridge, Whiteside and Slammanan.



Solution sought for Cappers Bridge

Plans for a sustainable traffic management solution for Cappers Bridge in Armadale have taken a step forward. West Lothian Council has agreed to develop a long-term solution to pedestrian safety on the bridge, which will be included in the council's 2017/18 Capital Programme.

Concern has been raised regarding pedestrians crossing the Network Rail-owned bridge, which is too narrow to accommodate both two-way traffic and a footway. A new pedestrian footbridge is estimated to cost over £1 million. The views of Armadale Community Council, Southdale Primary Parent Council, the wider school community and appropriate local residents will now be sought on the issue, with a further report back to Council Executive in October to agree the best way forward.



Plan to go online

Applications for building warrants are now going online following the success of ePlanning. West Lothian Council is part of the Scotland-wide eDevelopment.scot network, to help people complete such applications via the web. You will need to register once to use both services. Information on eBuildingstandards will be available from www.westlothian.gov.uk/ebuildingstandards when the system goes live in late August. From July 2016 all planning applications will be processed electronically. The public are therefore encouraged to apply or make comments online rather than by post. **Information on ePlanning can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/ePlanning**

Pamper me

A special event has been organised for people who have been homeless, are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. The Pamper Me event takes place at Bathgate Regal Theatre on Tuesday 20 September from 11am. There will be stalls offering support and assistance; therapies, crafts and woodwork along with other opportunities to sample an array of learning and fun activities as well as professionals on hand to help identify housing and health needs.

For more information call the Homeless Health Team on 01506 282808.





West Lothian drums up a new world record

Local school pupils have set a brand new world record for largest djembe drum ensemble

A total of 476 children from schools around West Lothian played djembe drums as part of the successful attempt to set the first ever Guinness World Record in this category.

There was an electric atmosphere at Livingston Football Club's stadium as over 700 pupils from 21 schools came together to perform a unique percussion piece to set the new world record. Pupils have been practising

hard for the last few months on learning to play the djembe, a type of drum that originates in West Africa.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King said: "Congratulations to all the pupils from across West Lothian who helped set this new Guinness World Record.

"It took a lot of hard work by the students to learn the piece up to a high standard for

public performance, and their dedication and enthusiasm shone through today.

"It's a fantastic achievement to be part of a successful world record attempt, and I'm sure they will remember this day for the rest of their lives."

Schools involved included Bankton, Bellsquarry, Carmondean, Dedridge, Knightsridge and Williamston primaries in Livingston,

Bathgate's Balbardie, Boghall and Windyknowe primaries, Linlithgow's Springfield and Lowport primaries, and Kirkhill and St Nicholas primaries in Broxburn.

Other primary schools taking part were Bridgend, Croftmalloch (Whitburn), Mid Calder, Our Lady of Lourdes (Blackburn), Parkhead (West Calder), St Mary's (Polbeth) and Uphall, as well as Pinewood School.

The project was organised by West Lothian Council's Arts Services team, and was offered free to West Lothian school pupils and is supported by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative.

Daniel Duggan from Infectious Grooves wrote the original percussion piece played by the young people in their record breaking performance, with his firm also co-ordinating the training workshops for schools.

West Lothian welcomes Matisse exhibition

Linlithgow Burgh Halls is set to welcome a free exhibition by one of the 20th century's most influential artists



Picture credit: Nu blue II (Blue nude II), Drawing with Scissors Henri Matisse, 1952 © Succession H. Matisse/DACS 2015

The Gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls will host the Matisse: Drawing with Scissors - Late Works 1950-1954 exhibition until Sunday 9 October.

The French painter, sculptor and designer, Henri Matisse (1869-1954) is celebrated for his vibrant works with extraordinary richness and luminosity of colour.

The Hayward Touring exhibition from Southbank Centre, London, features 35 posthumous prints of the famous cut-outs that he produced in the last four years of his life, including many of his iconic images such as The Snail and the Blue Nudes.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King said: "We are delighted to welcome the Matisse exhibition to the Gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls. It's a real coup for West Lothian to host the Hayward Touring exhibition by one of the 20th century's most influential artists. I'd encourage local residents to take the chance to catch the free exhibition on their doorstep from now until Sunday 9 October."

The Gallery is also hosting three special events to coincide with the exhibition: a free tour with Kerry Watson from the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on Thursday 8 September; a Creative Paper Cutting Workshop with tutor Alice Spicer on Sunday 14 August; and a Drawing Arabesques workshop with tutor Camille Archer on Sunday 25 September.

For more information on the exhibition and the special events, please visit www.linlithgowburghhalls.co.uk or call 01506 282720.

LINLITHGOW
BURGH
HALLS



HAVE YOUR SPECIAL DAY IN A
LANDMARK VENUE AT THE HEART
OF HISTORIC LINLITHGOW

The elegant Grade A-listed Burgh Halls is perfect for couples looking for a unique location steeped in history, combined with modern facilities.

Sitting at Linlithgow's picturesque Cross in the town centre, the iconic town house is next to Linlithgow Palace, St Michael's Church and Linlithgow Loch. It has undergone a £5 million refurbishment to create two stylish, contemporary function rooms and a stunning roof terrace ideal for weddings.

Linlithgow Burgh Halls, The Cross, Linlithgow, EH49 7AH
Tel: 01506 282720
email: burgh.halls@westlothian.gov.uk
www.linlithgowburghhalls.co.uk



West Lothian's Royal seal of approval

Get in touch to celebrate special anniversaries and birthdays for friends and family

Mrs Brydie has carried out the vital role of Lord-Lieutenant for the area since 2002, representing the Queen at services and special events such as the recent Somme Commemorations, as well as milestone anniversary and birthdays for local residents.

She also helps with Royal visits to the area, such as the Princess Royal's recent trip to West Lothian Riding for the Disabled AGM, and is involved in royal recognition schemes such as the Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service.

A former local councillor and board member for both Livingston Development Corporation and

West Lothian Healthcare Trust, Isobel was asked to take on the historic role in recognition of her distinguished service to public life in West Lothian.

East Calder resident Isobel Brydie said: "It's a huge honour to carry out the role of Lord-Lieutenant for West Lothian.

"My favourite part of the role is meeting West Lothian residents and conveying the good wishes of The Queen at special landmarks like 100th birthdays or Diamond wedding anniversaries. I'm born and bred in West Lothian, so I can usually find a local connection with the people I meet.

"If you have a 60th, 65th or 70th wedding anniversary or a 100 or 105th birthday and would like me to attend with best wishes from the Queen, please get in touch."

She added: "There have been many amazing memories during my time as Lord-Lieutenant, but attending William and Kate's wedding has to be one that stands out. The role of Lord-Lieutenant had a military connection in the past, and I've also enjoyed working closely with the armed services. I've had great involvement with a number of the local cadet groups, which has been fantastic."



Lord-Lieutenant Isobel Brydie

Royal way to make your big day special

The Lord-Lieutenant has traditionally visited any individuals or couples celebrating a landmark date to convey good wishes on behalf of The Queen.

Due to the Data Protection Act, Mrs Brydie no longer receives official notification of these dates, so now needs local families to come forward and let her know about their special anniversaries.

If you or family members are celebrating a 60th, 65th or 70th wedding anniversary or a 100 or 105th birthday and would like to

receive The Queen's congratulatory anniversary card, please get in touch.

To arrange for the Lord Lieutenant to personally visit, please contact morgan.callachan@westlothian.gov.uk or call: **01506 281080** at least one month prior to the anniversary.

To apply for a congratulatory message from The Queen, please send the full names of the individuals or couples, including maiden names if applicable, as well as their address to:

For wedding anniversaries, please email Telegrams@nrscotland.gov.uk, call **0131 314 4488** or at **The General Register Office for Scotland, Room 43, New Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT.**

For a 100th or 105th birthday, please email: anniversaries@royal.gsx.gov.uk

Please also include the date of birth or marriage as appropriate, as well as the name of the town or parish where the person was born or the couple's marriage took place.

Bulletin Survey Results

Thank you to everyone that took the time to provide feedback via the recent Bulletin survey. Feedback will be used to improve future editions of Bulletin

Suggestions given:

- **Bulletin should publish a No Cold Caller card for residents to cut out and use on their windows.**
- Thanks for the feedback. We will publish a cold caller poster each year. Please turn to page 17.
- **Bulletin should publish more activities and events for children.**
- This is something we will look at for future editions.
- **Bulletin should be moved online with an opt-in option for readers to receive a paper copy.**
- Bulletin is distributed to all addresses in West Lothian but if we were to have an "opt in" distribution it would actually cost the council

more to distribute the newspaper, as this form of distribution is more expensive. However Bulletin is also available online for those that want to read it on their phone, tablet or PC.

- **School term dates should be published in the Bulletin.**
- Happy to help. Please see page 4.
- **The paper of the Bulletin should be stapled or fixed.**
- The way in which Bulletin is printed does not allow us to staple the newspaper together. To do that would cost more money to print and more money to distribute, as the weight of the publication would increase.

Bulletin provides all residents and businesses with local news and West Lothian Council news. Bulletin aims to keep taxpayers informed about the council's priorities to improve West Lothian, and ensures that taxpayers are kept up-to-date on what services the council provides.

Bulletin is produced four-times per year and offers great value in terms of delivering residents and businesses with news from West Lothian. Bulletin costs 15p per household, per edition to produce – which is significantly less than the cost of a second class stamp (55p).

Bulletin is also available online at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/bulletin

Please email media@westlothian.gov.uk if you have any comments or questions about Bulletin.





Councillors Dave King and Tom Conn cut the ribbon

Grand opening for Whitburn pavilion and park

Over £1million has been invested to refurbish King George V Pavilion and Park in Whitburn

A total of £900,000 was originally assigned to refurbish the pavilion, however a further £174,000 was allocated via the council's Open Space Strategy Capital Programme to improve the overall look and feel of the park. With additional funding from the Climate Challenge

Fund, council officers were able to work alongside Greenspace Scotland and pupils from Whitburn Academy to help refurbish the park in a way which would benefit the entire community.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King, said: "The

community of Whitburn will benefit from this upgrade and the improvements will provide an enormous benefit for the local community and for generations to come. The upgrade to the existing facilities has been a long-standing issue for local clubs and I have no

doubt this will provide for extra sporting activities."

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn, added: "West Lothian Council is committed to improving parks and open spaces across West Lothian and this significant investment

at King George V Park will bring a huge amount of benefits to the park users.

"Consultation exercises provided us with the valuable feedback we needed to help shape what improvements were made to the park."

Give bogus callers the Red Card

Cut out and display the Red Card to show cold callers they are not welcome at your door.

Bogus callers often claim to be from a legitimate organisation, such as the council, gas and electricity suppliers, or a charity. In reality, they are criminals looking to obtain money from people or gain access to their home so they can steal cash and valuables

This type of crime can have a huge impact on a victim's confidence and quality of life and is distressing to the entire community.

West Lothian Council's Trading Standards and Police Scotland, along with other partners in the West Lothian Financial Harm Reduction Group, aim to tackle the issue by offering practical advice to ensure vulnerable people in particular can remain safe within their home.

Executive councillor for services for the community George Paul said: "Please display the Red Card to show any cold callers that you are vigilant of bogus callers, and will take action where required. If you have any vulnerable relatives, friends or neighbours, please consider if they should be displaying the Red Card to cold callers too."

Chief Inspector Stevie Dolan, West Lothian Commander, said: "As well as bogus callers, I'd urge the public to be wary of other types of doorstep criminals such as 'rogue

traders'. These people typically attend homes and offer to carry out some kind of maintenance work on the property.

"If you are ever unsure of a caller, or are made to feel intimidated or pressured, ask them to call another time and get in touch with a trusted friend, relative, neighbour or police.

"We are fully supportive of the Red Card initiative and will continue to collaborate with our partners to prevent residents from falling victim to all types of doorstep crime."

Neighbours can also play a part in helping protect the more vulnerable in their community. Residents should try to look out for one another and report all suspicious activity to the Police immediately:

- Call **999** if you are made to feel threatened or when a crime is in progress
- Report suspicious cold callers by calling **101**
- Information can also be passed anonymously to Crimestoppers, call **0800 555 111**

Advice for combating bogus callers

- Fit a door chain or bar, and use it
- Keep all doors and windows locked. Bogus callers have been known to distract a homeowner at the front door, while an accomplice attempts to gain entry to the property elsewhere
- Only deal with callers by appointment
- Always ask for identification and check it carefully. If unsure, look up the company's number yourself via the phone book or web search and call them to verify identification
- Don't keep large sums of money at home
- Never accept offers of work. If you have a job in your home or garden, contact a local tradesperson for a quote
- Use West Lothian Council's Trusted Trader Scheme to find a reputable trader - www.westlothian.gov.uk/trustedtrader



Doorstep callers are

NOT WELCOME

at this address

Police will be notified

you have called







West Lothian commemorates The Battle of the Somme

A special remembrance service was held at West Lothian Civic Centre on Friday 1 July 2016 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of The Battle of the Somme

The poignant service started at 7.15am, and a one minute silence was held at 7.28am the time that the whistles blew to signal the soldiers along the Battle Front to advance into one of the bloodiest Battles of World War One which lasted until 18 November 1916.

It is thought that more than a million soldiers were wounded or killed during the five-month long battle. The council in partnership with Legion Scotland Livingston Branch held a commemoration event and service in the evening for 200 guests, including community

leaders and members, past and present from the armed forces, at Bangour Village Church. appropriate that we remember it and know the sacrifice of all who took part.

“Thousands of soldiers from West Lothian were killed or injured in World War One and their sacrifice was felt by families in villages and towns around the county. We were very pleased to be joined at our public event by service men and women, past and present, and local people.

“The special commemoration event at Bangour Village Church was a lovely occasion to remember those who served and died at The Battle of the Somme and in The Great War.”

Bangour was requisitioned as a war hospital during both the First and Second World Wars and played an important role in the treatment and recovery of wounded soldiers.



From 9 to 90... bowled over by the benefits

Try bowls as a fun way to stay healthy and meet new people

Bowls is a vastly popular sport in West Lothian, with bowling clubs an important part of the community in most local towns and villages.

The basic aim of the game is simple – roll your weighted (biased) bowls as close to the smaller white jack as possible.

There are a good number of proven benefits from playing a low-impact sport like bowls, including for older people, such as improved fitness, better coordination and the chance to socialise with others.

Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King, who was previously the secretary of his local East Calder Bowling Club, said: “I’d encourage anyone

looking to improve their fitness in a relaxed atmosphere to give bowls a try.

“Get in touch with your local club to sample the sport for yourself, with bowling clubs in most communities in West Lothian.

“One of the great things about bowls is that you will find whatever level is right for you. You can bowl for fun, progress to bowl competitively, or just go along as a way of meeting new people.

“West Lothian can also boast a number of Scottish International bowlers over the years, the most recent being Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Gold medal winner Neil Speirs.”



Councillor Dave King throws a bowl at East Calder Bowling Club

Club together

Anyone looking to find their local bowling club won’t have far to look with 35 outdoor clubs spread throughout West Lothian.

All the clubs are members of the West Lothian Bowling Association, which has a long history stretching back to when it was founded in 1882 by clubs including Armadale, Bathgate and Linlithgow bowling clubs.

The association has grown since it was created and now includes clubs such as: Deans, Bankton Mains, Harrysmuir and Letham

in Livingston; Broxburn, Buchan Park and Middleton Hall in Broxburn and Uphall; Glenmavis and Spring Grove in Bathgate; East Calder and Oakbank in East Calder; Bellsburn in Linlithgow; Blackburn; Mid Calder; Philpstoun; Polbeth; Pumpherston; Seafield; Stoneyburn; Uphall Station; Watson Memorial in Armadale; West Calder; Whitburn; and Winchburgh.

West Lothian Bowling Association’s honorary president Stewart Meikle said: “Bowling is a fantastic four generation sport as it can be enjoyed by both genders aged from 9 to 90.

“Our network of friendly clubs across West Lothian welcome new members, so please go along to see if bowling and its social environment is for you.”

For those who prefer not to take chances with the weather, there’s also West Lothian Indoor Bowling Club in Livingston and Balbardie IBC in Bathgate while carpet bowls are played at many venues across West Lothian, such as community education centres.

For more information please visit www.westlothianbowlingassociation.co.uk

New 3G pitch for Linlithgow

A brand new, full-size 3rd Generation Synthetic Turf Pitch has been opened at Xcite Linlithgow

The state-of-the-art pitch will primarily support the activity of the two 'lead' clubs, Linlithgow Rose Community Football Club and Linlithgow Rugby Football Club, as well as other local user teams and recreational use.

The new pitch was officially opened recently by Chair of the West Lothian Leisure Board, Dr Cindy Brook and Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King, with representatives from sportscotland, West Lothian Council, the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Rugby and Linlithgow Rose in attendance.

The project was jointly funded by West Lothian Council and sportscotland via the Cashback for Communities fund, which

takes funds recovered from the proceeds of crime and invests them into free activities and programmes for young people across Scotland.

Councillor Dave King said: "I was delighted to officially open the pitch and be joined by a number of local youngsters who are one of the groups to benefit from the new pitch. We are committed to improving facilities for the people of West Lothian and the new facilities at Linlithgow are tremendous."

A number of 3G pitches have been unveiled across West Lothian recently giving West Lothian the second highest supply of full-size 3G pitches per head of population in

Scotland according to a recent Scottish FA benchmarking exercise.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive, sportscotland said: "This project is a great example of what can be achieved when clubs work together to pool their resources and share their expertise."

"I am sure that this new facility will be a welcome addition to the lives of the local community in Linlithgow and the surrounding area, and look forward to seeing it used for many years to come."

Chief Executive of Xcite, Robin



Councillor Dave King and West Lothian Leisure chair, Doctor Cindy Brook, cut the ribbon at the new 3G pitch

Strang, said: "3G pitches are very popular and the ones at Xcite Linlithgow are of a very high quality. Local sports clubs have been asking for this facility for some time."

The existing 5-a-side synthetic pitches at Xcite have also been resurfaced.



Kirkhill scores new games area

A brand new £50,000 multi-use games area has opened at Kirkhill Primary in Broxburn

The superb new resource can be used for a variety of sports such as football, basketball, tennis and much more, for both school pupils and the local community.

The multi-use games area (MUGA) and ongoing surrounding landscaping work has been funded by West Lothian Council and aims to encourage participation in a wide range of physical activity for local young people and community users.

David Dodds, vice chair of the Education Executive, officially opened the MUGA, along with pupils from Kirkhill Primary, Headteacher Lesley Henderson and Isobel Callaghan from Kirkhill Residents Association.

Councillor Dodds said: "It's a real pleasure to officially open the

superb new £50,000 MUGA at Kirkhill Primary School.

"It's vital that we do all we can to encourage healthy physical activity in our young people, and an excellent resource like this will help achieve this."

"The local community can make good use of the facility when it is not being used by the school, so it will also support local residents to lead a healthier lifestyle."

Kirkhill Headteacher Lesley Henderson added: "We are delighted to have the brand new MUGA at Kirkhill Primary."

"It's a fantastic asset for the school, and the children are already making good use of it to play sports like football and basketball."

CANalympics success for Craigmair Care Home

Craigmair Care Home in Craigshill picked up first place at the annual CANalympics event recently

Second place went to Pentland View Court, Livingston, with Linlithgow Day Care Centre achieving third out of the 14 teams competing in the West Lothian Care Activity Network (CAN) event, which is now in its sixth year.

One hundred and ninety people attended the event at Xcite Broxburn, which was followed by a Tea Dance. It aims to increase levels of physical activity within care settings (care homes, day care, sheltered housing, and care at home).

The event was organised by Xcite West Lothian Leisure Ageing Well project and supported by various services across West Lothian including Xcite's Health and Wellbeing Team, West Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, and Age Scotland along with voluntary and private sector organisations.

Chair of the West Lothian Integrated Joint Board, Councillor Frank Toner said: "The CANalympics is a fantastic inclusive event and a great example of how organisations can come together to stage a truly excellent fun experience for people

in West Lothian's care settings.

"The event demonstrates that creative activities can help people to increase their levels of physical activity, and can be developed and tailored to their needs."

Teams competed in a variety of activities including hook a duck, skittles, new age kurling, parachute and sock pairing. Braid House Day Care Centre in Livingston also picked up the prize in the best flag competition.

Avril Clerkson Xcite West Lothian Leisure Ageing Well co-ordinator commented: "This year's event was a huge success and it was a privilege to be involved. As in previous years the event ran smoothly and all participants and volunteers had a fantastic time."

Tesco Bathgate provided the catering for the day free of charge, with popular local entertainer Gary Copeland providing music throughout the event.





XCITE uses the best equipment!

Did you know that the gym equipment installed at Xcite is Technogym, who are the exclusive supplier of fitness equipment to athletic preparation centres in Rio at the 2016 Olympic Games?

Technogym is internationally recognised as setting the standard in the sector for athletic preparation, rehabilitation and wellness. This will be their sixth Olympic contract after Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Turin 2006, Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

You can get the Olympic experience at Xcite who have been working with Technogym since 1998, and have Technogym equipment installed in all of their gyms.

You can also track your progress using the My Xcite App and follow your personalised programme tailored for you by the Xcite Gym Team.

Developments in 2016 @ XCITE

Time your venue had a make-over? Xcite has been investing to keep your fitness equipment up to the highest standard so you continue to get the best workout at your local facilities.

At the beginning of the summer the gyms @ Xcite Fauldhouse, East Calder and Whitburn all underwent a refurb with new equipment and a freshen up on décor!

What's NEW?

Xcite Whitburn and Xcite East Calder

- ALL NEW Cardio Technogym Equipment
- NEW OMNIA³ - functional training system
- PLUS NEW SKILLMILLS - Xcite is the first in Scotland to have this piece of kit!

Xcite Fauldhouse

- Upgraded Cardio Technogym Equipment

Coming soon

The programme of gym refurbishments will also see new equipment and layout at **Xcite Craigswood's** gym in August 2016 and **Livingston** in December 2016.

The Squash courts @ **Xcite Craigswood** will be receiving wall repairs, floor sanding and new glass doors added, and **Xcite Broxburn** Swimming Pool's changing area and softplay will also be upgraded in August 2016.

Robin Strang, Chief Executive of Xcite said: "We continually invest in our facilities to ensure that customers are given the best possible equipment and service experience at their local facilities.

"Technogym is not only our provider but also the official provider of training kit to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. This highlights how good our equipment is and how well it is regarded.

"We know how important it is to also bring on our swim and sporting facilities, and are pleased to be able to make these upgrades throughout West Lothian."



New kit @ XCITE

SKILLMILL is the first non-motorised treadmill that combines power, speed, stamina and agility training. The kit is simple and fun to use with a mix of training options to try.

Operated by pushing with your feet you can use it for a simple run or power walk. High Intensity Interval Training on SKILLMILL is an effective way to achieve maximum fitness, burn fat and build endurance.

Enhance your abilities

Hones your ability to carry out complex movements requiring good neuromuscular coordination.

Ensure maximum safety

The ergonomic design concept promotes naturally correct posture.

Scientific Testing

All Technogym products undergo a series of rigorous scientific testing to evaluate their safety and effectiveness.

Currently available @ Xcite Whitburn and East Calder. Coming soon to other Xcite venues.

Versatile training kit OMNIA 3 offers effective and enjoyable training even in limited spaces. This version has multi-angle pull-up bar for greater exercise variation.

Brings active people together

Suitable for all user levels and abilities.

Improve everyday fitness levels

Exercises can be adapted to all ability levels, including better ageing programmes, physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Innovative accessories, endless potential

A wide range of tools and accessories are available to explore.

Currently available @ Xcite Broxburn Whitburn and East Calder. Coming soon to other Xcite venues. Larger version OMNIA 8 is now available @ Xcite Linlithgow.

XCITE VENUES

- XCITE Armadale - T: 01501 229200
- XCITE Bathgate - T: 01506 237910
- XCITE Broxburn Swimming Pool - T: 01506 237930
- XCITE Broxburn Sports Centre - T: 01506 237920
- XCITE Craigswood - T: 01506 237940
- XCITE East Calder - T: 01506 883340
- XCITE Fauldhouse - T: 01501 770345
- XCITE Linlithgow - T: 01506 237960
- XCITE Livingston - T: 01506 237970
- XCITE Whitburn - T: 01501 229210

You can come along to the gym as an Xcite Member or pay-as-per-visit customer. Not sure what to expect? Visit www.westlothianleisure.com to find out more about getting started, Xcite's activities, equipment and services. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

@XciteLeisure

