

Bulletin



West Lothian
Council

westlothian.gov.uk

Issue no.81 | Summer 2017



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SUMMER MEANS

FUN

IN WEST LoTHIAN

There's a huge amount to do in West Lothian this summer

West Lothian boasts fantastic open spaces at our three country and many local parks, all offering the chance to get active or in touch with nature.

You can also enjoy fun activities like free swimming or sports, or exercise your imagination at your local library. There's also the chance to treat yourself with our superb Bulletin vouchers in conjunction with local businesses and Visit West Lothian.

For more information turn to pages 9 to 12

To get the latest West Lothian Council updates sent straight to your inbox visit
www.westlothian.gov.uk/email to sign up to our weekly E-Bulletin.





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Library staff celebrate the re-opening of Broxburn Library

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.



New home for Broxburn Library

Broxburn Library and Community Museum has re-opened in its new home at Strathbrock Partnership Centre.

A £400,000 refurbishment has delivered a bright and new library and museum for local residents, further enhancing the wide range of council and health services available at Strathbrock.

The improvements have delivered changes to the main entrance of Strathbrock, with a shared Library

and Customer Information Service (CIS) area welcoming customers when they arrive.

The works have also created a corridor connection to the adjoining Strathbrock Community Education Centre, further boosting the services available to the community which also includes a medical practice,

pharmacy, café and council services such as Housing and Social Policy. A special opening event was held recently with local children, council officers and community groups.

The project has been managed by West Lothian Council's Construction Services team and delivered by Maxi Construction.



Councillor Dave King, the council's Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services Alistair Shaw and Eddy Goodfellow and Marlene Burford from East Calder Partnership Centre Consultation Committee.

New partnership centres on the way

Over £20 million is being invested to create new hubs for council, partners and community services in towns and villages across West Lothian.

Executive councillor for Culture and Leisure, Dave King, said: "The development of a Partnership Centre in Linlithgow has been a key aim for West Lothian Council for a long time. "The council has a strong track record of creating centres that deliver positive benefits for the communities in which they are based. Our partnership model has already proved extremely successful in Bathgate, Fauldhouse and Broxburn."

Armadale

The partnership centre will be developed by expanding the site at

the Community Centre. Planning consent has been approved and officers are working with community groups and users of the centre to agree how the work will progress and what services will be located in the building. Work is likely to start on site after the summer.

Blackburn

Work on the new building in Blackburn is progressing well and on track to be completed by autumn 2017. Council and NHS officials are working with the management committee and community consultation group

to choose furniture and colours for the centre as well as establish how the new community spaces will be used. An artist has been engaged to work with the community to create a unique piece of art that will feature at the centre.

East Calder (pictured above)

The main structure of the building is complete and work is beginning on the internal spaces. The community, particularly the school pupils, have worked with an artist to create and commission a spectacular piece of artwork that will be sited at the entrance to the new centre. The centre will be open in the autumn of 2017.

Linlithgow

Work is nearing completion on the Partnership Centre in Linlithgow. Following a long period of demolition and rebuilding, the new centre is almost ready to receive its new inhabitants. A mix of council, police and community organisations will be based in this historical setting and will be open to the public late summer 2017.

Whitburn

Whitburn will be the last in the current partnership centres to be developed. The layout of the building has been agreed with the community and work will begin after the summer on the demolition of the rear part of the Burgh Halls. The original façade and clock tower will be retained on the main street. Whilst this work is going on, services will be relocated to the library in Whitburn.



School kitchen staff served up a Balmoral opportunity

West Lothian Council have teamed up with the world-renowned Balmoral Hotel to provide school kitchen staff with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from some of Scotland's top chefs.

Three trainee school kitchen staff - Yvonne Clark from Riverside Primary, Debbie Van Hussen from Deans Community High School, both Livingston, and Pamela Neill from Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Blackburn - have each spent time working at The Balmoral, to give them an opportunity to learn from some of the country's finest culinary talent and gain insight into a completely different aspect of the catering industry.

All three currently attend catering college in West Lothian, as well as work in the kitchens at local schools.

The catering partnership was formed following a discussion between West Lothian Council's Catering Manager, Derek O'Neill

and Gary Quinn, restaurant director at Number One (the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant) and The Balmoral's Executive Chef, Jeff Bland.

Chef Bland said: "At The Balmoral we're passionate about championing Scottish food and drink and serving it in new and innovative ways, so we were delighted with the chance to open our kitchen and share our knowledge with Yvonne, Debbie and Pamela.

"We're also passionate about fostering local talent so our chefs were keen to spend time sharing best practice and technique with them on a one-to-one basis in the hope that they can take some new ideas back to their own kitchens."



Debbie Van Hussen from Deans Community High School with the Balmoral's Jeff Bland

The council's Catering Manager Derek O'Neill added: "This will be a fantastic opportunity for our catering staff who have never experienced an environment such as The Balmoral.

"We think this is a first for both the council and The Balmoral and

our team are very excited to have this opportunity to learn from and experience working in one of the best hotels in the country. We are grateful to Chef Bland and his team for their support.

"Our school kitchen staff deliver over 13,500 school meals each day

and we are very proud of our work, but this opportunity is a unique learning experience for us.

"We will be looking to build the partnership where all interested parties will have the chance to attend in future."

Apprentice award success for Lauren, Alan and Jamie

Three talented apprentices were recognised at the Scottish Building & Housing Apprentice of the Year Awards. All three apprentices work for West Lothian Council.



Council apprentices Jamie Edwards, Lauren Agnew and Alan Webster

Lauren Agnew, a Business Administrator apprentice, and Alan Webster, a 2nd year apprentice Electrician, won their respective categories.

Jamie Edwards, a 4th year apprentice Plumber, was a finalist but missed out on first place. The council's Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, Alistair Shaw said: "There were only five categories in total and for the council to win two categories is a brilliant result. I'd like to congratulate Lauren, Alan, and Jamie on their achievements. They are a credit to the

council and we are all very proud of them.

"The council has a first class apprenticeship programme and year-after-year our young and talented apprentices ensure that the programme's reputation is enhanced further.

"I'd also like to mention our staff who not only help train apprentices but also act as mentors. Many came through the same apprenticeship programme and have gone on to work for the council for a number of years."

Looking for a trader you can trust?



West Lothian Council's Trading Standards have launched a new scheme to help consumers find reliable companies.

If you are looking for a firm you can have confidence in, or if you have a business and wish to join the Trusted Trader scheme, please visit...

www.westlothian.gov.uk/trustedtrader

Call 01506 280000 or email tradingstandards@westlothian.gov.uk

Spotlight on pupils at Stellar Awards



The fantastic achievements of West Lothian school pupils and students were recognised at the annual Stellar Awards.

The Stellar Awards celebrate educational excellence in West Lothian, with awards handed out in categories including academic attainment, citizenship, equality and diversity, achievement, enterprise and teamwork.

Pupils and students were joined by teachers, council staff, carers and parents for an afternoon of entertainment and achievement at Howden Park Centre in Livingston on Friday 3 March. The event coincided with the news that attainment in West Lothian has improved significantly across the board during the five-year period 2011/12 to 2015/16, according to the latest report from the Improvement Service.

The event was compered by James Cameron, West Lothian Council's Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources), and sponsored by

Kajima Partnerships Ltd, with a dance performance from the winners of the West Lothian Secondary Schools Dance competition, the Senior Dance Team from Deans Community High School.

Depute Chief Executive Elaine Cook said: "The Stellar Awards are a highlight of the education calendar and allow us to turn the spotlight on the excellent work taking place in schools across West Lothian. It is fantastic we are able to celebrate it."

"Many congratulations to all the pupils and students who won trophies at this year's Stellar Awards, they are a credit to their families and school communities. We would also like to thank our sponsors, Kajima Partnerships Ltd., for their support in helping make the Stellar Awards a very special afternoon for our pupils and students."



West Lothian pupils attended the Stellar Awards

Roll of honour:

Attainment Award - Murray Findlay, Bathgate Academy and Ciara Higgins, St Margaret's Academy

Achievement Award - Jack Dodds, Armadale Academy

The John Tease Mathematics Award - Ben Smith, West Calder High School

Confident Individuals Award (Primary) - Brothers John, Robert and James Kean, Windyknowe Primary School and Armadale Academy

Confident Individuals Award (Secondary) - James Melville,

St Margaret's Academy

Responsible Citizens Award (Primary) - Magical Mediators Mid Calder Primary School

Responsible Citizens Award (Secondary) - The P6 Transition Team Inveralmund Community High School

Effective Contributors Award (Primary) - Primary 7 Fundraisers, Blackridge Primary School

Effective Contributors Award (Secondary) - Team Kinetikos, Inveralmund Community High School

Successful Learners Award (Primary) - Mock Court Case, St Joseph's Primary School, Linlithgow

Successful Learner Award (Secondary) - Rachel Hailstones, Inveralmund Community High School

A special mention was also made and certificates presented to children from Bathgate Early Years Centre, to mark that it is the first nursery in the country to gain the National Digital Schools Award.



West Calder High School pupils

Inspired Learning spaces at West Calder

A special project that re-imagines learning and the learning environment has been launched at West Calder High School.

The Inspired Learning Space (ILS) project has brought together partners from the public and private sector to design and deliver an innovative learning environment, that provides flexibility for learners and prepares them for learning and work in the 21st century.

Inspired Learning will help decide how teaching spaces are organised in the new £32 million West Calder High School when it opens in August 2018. It aims to knock

down the walls of the traditional classroom and opens up spaces that will enhance the opportunities for research, collaboration and curiosity, especially through the use of technology.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "The new £32 million West Calder High School is our largest single ever investment in education, and we want to make it the most modern, imaginative school in Scotland. The Inspired Learning Space project will help

shape the classrooms and learning that takes place in the new school as we look to engage pupils and teachers to help create the best possible environment for learning."

Inspired Learning has been funded thanks to a £250,000 grant from the SFT's Innovations fund, with Hub South East, Morrison Construction, Esh Border Construction, Deanestor furniture, Norr Architects, Wardell Armstrong and WGM Engineering all supporting the project.

Low Port Primary School wins local Euroquiz Challenge

Pupils from Low Port Primary School, Linlithgow, are celebrating after becoming West Lothian's Euroquiz Challenge champions.

Ted, Alasdair, Freya and Kate will represent West Lothian at the Scottish Euroquiz Final in May.

The team picked up the trophy at the West Lothian heat of the Euroquiz Challenge 2017 which was held at Howden Park Centre, beating Carmondean Primary School, Livingston, in an exciting final.

Euroquiz is organised by the Scottish European Educational Trust. Primary 6 pupils work to broaden their knowledge of Europe in the lead-up to the Challenge.

Subjects covered on the day include history, geography, sport, culture, languages and the European Union.



Low Port Primary's winning Euroquiz team



New Head Teacher at Whitburn Academy

Tracey Loudon has been appointed as the new Head Teacher at Whitburn Academy.



Before taking up the post at Whitburn Academy, Tracey was Depute Head Teacher at Rosshall Academy in Glasgow for six years and Faculty Head of Science for three years. Prior to this she was a chemistry teacher and then principal teacher in Greenock Academy in the Inverclyde Council area for 14 years.

Tracey said: "I am delighted to have been appointed as Head Teacher of Whitburn Academy. It is already apparent that I have joined a very focused and dedicated team of staff whose aims are to ensure that our

learners not only attain and achieve as highly as possible, but also develop the skills and attributes which will take them beyond school and on to a destination comparable with their aspiration.

"My aim is to ensure the school continues to go from strength-to-strength. I am looking forward to building strong, supportive relationships with pupils and their families to ensure we can address their often different needs, and support them to achieve their potential."



Torphichen Primary pupils with Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Headteacher Rita Angus and Hadden Construction chairman Scott Hadden, along with council and Hadden staff involved in the project.

Torphichen Primary improvement work starts

Work has started on a new £1 million improvement programme.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick joined with Torphichen pupils and staff to mark the start of the works, along with staff from West Lothian Council's Construction Services team and contractor Hadden Construction.

Councillor Fitzpatrick said: "I'm delighted to join with Torphichen Primary pupils to mark the start of the £1 million improvement work programme at the school.

"The contemporary extension will complement the existing historic school building, and the improved facilities such as the new kitchen will help ensure the best possible facilities for education at the school.

"With school rolls set to grow in the village, it's vital we invest now to ensure the school facilities are up to a high standard.

"West Lothian has one of the best

school estates in the country, and this is thanks to continuing investment in our schools like here at Torphichen."

The works consist of a new two classroom extension, a new integrated kitchen and dining facilities and new pupil toilets, which are key parts of the plan to help the school manage the expected rise in pupil numbers and support the Curriculum for Excellence.

Torphichen Head Teacher Rita Angus added: "The whole Torphichen Primary School community is delighted to receive this £1 million investment, which will deliver real benefits for our pupils.

"Everyone is looking forward to the work being completed so we are able to use the fantastic new facilities. I'd like to thank our parents and carers for the support for the project so far, and their understanding while the work is ongoing at the school."

Top UNICEF honour for Bathgate schools

Two Bathgate schools have achieved UNICEF awards for putting the rights of children at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos.



Windyknowe Primary pupils celebrate their award

Both Boghall and Windyknowe primaries have received UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Level 2 Award (RRSA), the organisation's highest possible accolade for schools. It is the second time Boghall Primary have received the prestigious award.

To celebrate the occasion Scotland Children's Commissioner Tam Baillie visited both schools to present the awards, which are only given to schools which have fully embedded children's rights throughout the school in its policies, practice and ethos.

Boghall Head Teacher Ann Duncan said: "We are all thrilled to have been awarded our second RRSA Level 2. This is recognition

of the high level of commitment of school staff, our pupils, parents and carers, and the wider school community. It is important to us that all our pupils are respected, included and valued and that they can fulfill their potential within a positive and happy environment."

Windyknowe Head Teacher Rita Angus added: "We are delighted to have been recognised with a Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Level 2 Award.

"Everyone has worked so hard to achieve this fantastic accolade which recognises the high level of commitment of school staff, our pupils, parents and carers, and the wider school community."

Is your child eligible?



School Clothing Grants



FREE School Meals



600 hours of early learning and childcare and more

Parents/carers in receipt of benefits, child tax credit or working tax credits could be eligible for help with school-related expenses.

If you receive any of the above, your children may qualify for **free school meals** and a **clothing grant**. Older children can get **Education Maintenance Allowance** money paid to them directly if they are past school leaving age.

For more information, pick up a form from schools, council offices or online at www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts ➡

New West Lothian Council formed

A total of 33 councillors were elected to represent West Lothian in May's election. Twelve new councillors were voted in, with 21 previous councillors re-elected. Please see your ward for the names of the councillors who serve your local area.



» Council Leader - Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick



» Depute Leader - Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan



» Provost - Councillor Tom Kerr



» Depute Provost - Councillor Dave King

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick has been named as Leader of the Council with Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan appointed as Depute Leader.
Councillor Tom Kerr was re-appointed as Provost, with Councillor Dave King

re-appointed as Depute Provost. Nine councillors have been appointed with responsibility for Executive posts.
» Policy and resources - Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick

- » Culture and leisure - Councillor Dave King
- » Development and transport - Councillor Cathy Muldoon
- » Education - Councillor David Dodds
- » Environment - Councillor Tom Conn
- » Health and care - Councillor John McGinty
- » Services for the community - Councillor George Paul
- » Social policy - Councillor Angela Doran
- » Voluntary organisations - Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

More information on your local councillors, including contact information and surgeries, can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/councillors

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE



» Councillor Stuart Borrowman, Independent



» Councillor Sarah King, SNP



» Councillor Andrew McGuire, Labour

BATHGATE



» Councillor Willie Boyle, SNP



» Councillor Harry Cartmill, Labour



» Councillor Charles Kennedy, Conservative



» Councillor John McGinty, Labour

WHITBURN AND BLACKBURN



» Councillor Jim Dickson, SNP



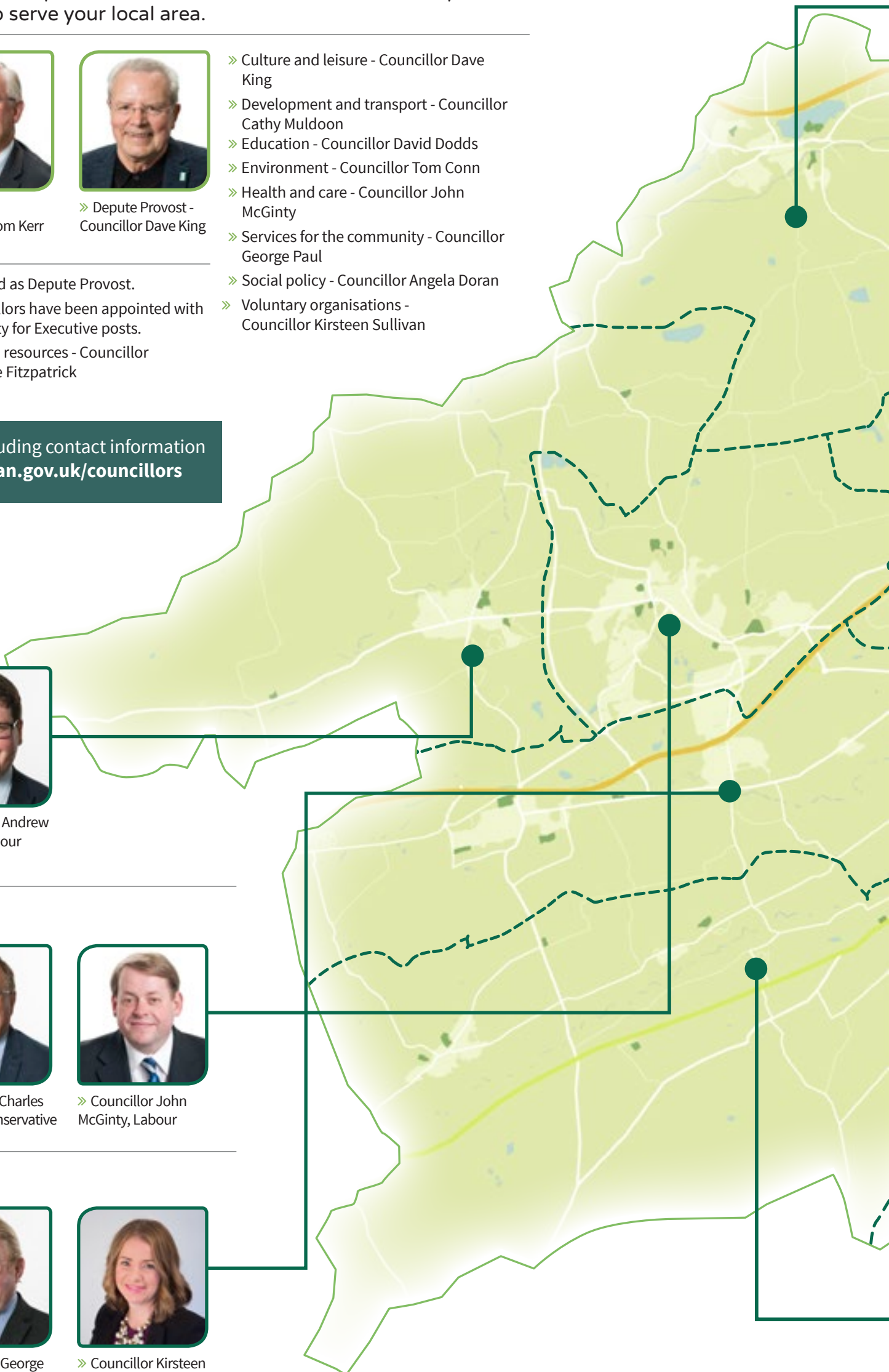
» Councillor Bruce Fairbairn, Conservative



» Councillor George Paul, Labour



» Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan, Labour



LINLITHGOW



» Councillor Tom Conn, Labour



» Councillor Tom Kerr, Conservative



» Councillor David Tait, SNP

BROXBURN, UPHALL AND WINCHBURGH



» Councillor Diane Calder, SNP



» Councillor Janet Campbell, SNP



» Councillor Angela Doran, Labour



» Councillor Chris Horne, Conservative

LIVINGSTON NORTH



» Councillor Alison Adamson, Conservative



» Councillor Robert De Bold, SNP



» Councillor Dom McGuire, Labour



» Councillor Andrew Miller, SNP

LIVINGSTON SOUTH



» Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Labour



» Councillor Peter Heggie, Conservative



» Councillor Peter Johnston, SNP



» Councillor Moira Shemilt, SNP

EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER



» Councillor Frank Anderson, SNP



» Councillor Carl John, SNP



» Councillor Dave King, Labour



» Councillor Damian Timson, Conservative

FAULDHOUSE AND BREICH VALLEY



» Councillor Pauline Clark, SNP



» Councillor David Dodds, Labour



» Councillor Cathy Muldoon, Labour



Dechmont Park is West Lothian's Centenary Field

A special plaque has been unveiled at Dechmont Park marking its designation as a Centenary Field. This has been legally agreed between West Lothian Council, Fields in Trust and Poppyscotland.

The Centenary Fields programme was launched in 2014 by Fields in Trust President HRH The Duke of Cambridge as part of a national initiative, which aims to protect green space and honours the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in the First World War.

Every local authority in the UK was encouraged to nominate at least one recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate the anniversary of the First World War. Centenary Parks aim to create a tangible, local legacy which will be valued by local communities for generations to come.

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "I was delighted to have been invited to unveil the plaque which designates Dechmont Park as West Lothian's Centenary Field. Dechmont Park is an ideal location to be recognised as a Centenary Field as it is situated so close to the site of Bangour Hospital which treated and supported injured soldiers during World War One.

"The designation of the park as a Centenary Field provides a green space legacy for future generations to commemorate the sacrifice made by so many."

Fields in Trust will work to raise charitable funds to provide occasional improvement grants to sites protected as part of the Centenary Fields Programme.

Sophie O'Mullan wins Schuh Design Challenge

Sophie O'Mullan (S3) from St Kentigern's RC Academy picked up the top Award for her shoe design at the Schuh Design Challenge 2017.

The runner-up was Jade Walker, from Bathgate Academy, with Peter Currie from Whitburn Academy taking third place.

The competition was sponsored by the Livingston-based footwear company and organised by West Lothian Council's Community Learning & Development Youth Services.

West Lothian Council's Head of Education Services, Donna McMaster commented:

"The creativity and innovation of the young people was exceptional this year. Congratulations to Sophie O'Mullan on winning the top Award for her design. We would like to thank Schuh for once again sponsoring this fantastic competition which showcases the creative talents of so many young people in West

Lothian, we are grateful for their continued support."

Neil Blackburn, Schuh's Brand Manager, added: "This was twenty years since the Schuh Design Challenge started in 1997 and a lot of the schools marked that milestone by creating shoes around the last 20 years. The quality on show was incredible, a real testament to the energy, creativity and enthusiasm that went into the entries."

Sophie O'Mullan with the winning shoe design.



New visitor centre for Beecraigs

A new visitor centre and café has been officially opened at Beecraigs Country Park, with some of the best views in Central Scotland.



The new facility, which is located in the former restaurant, also has a visitor reception for the Park, managing facility bookings and the Caravan and Camping Site.

A new interpretation and information area, which boasts some of the best views in central Scotland, has also been created along with a new café.

There is also a picnic area outside the centre and newly refurbished public toilet facilities,

with public access Wi-Fi and PCs to be installed in the near future.

Eirwen Hopwood, the council's Parks and Woodlands Manager said: "We are delighted with the improvements and look forward to another busy spring and summer period.

"We have many attractions at Beecraigs and our new centre and café will be hugely beneficial to visitors and provides a spacious area for groups to meet and socialise."

WEST Lothian IS A FAIRTRADE ZONE

Fairtrade ensures 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



SUMMER SAFE WEST LoTHIAN



STAY SAFE DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The 'Summer Safe 2017' Campaign aims to ensure that West Lothian children and young people stay safe while having fun during the holiday period.

WITH FRIENDS

Children love to go and play with their friends. Make sure a family member knows where the children are going and when they will be back.



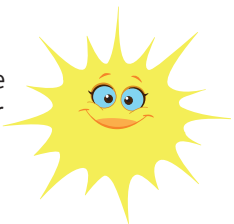
AROUND CARS

Drivers should watch out for children playing. Be aware that you may have blind spots, where small children can be hidden from view. Young children and pets should never be left alone inside a vehicle, even when the engine is turned off.



IN THE SUN

Everyone needs some sun to help keep their bodies healthy, but overexposure to UV can lead to sunburn, premature ageing and skin cancer. Protect your eyes and skin by spending time in the shade when the sun is at its strongest (11am to 3pm in the UK), use sunglasses, a hat and apply sunscreen to exposed skin.



IN YOUR GARDEN

Around your barbecue (BBQ) keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area. Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies. Avoid injury to children from sharp garden tools by keeping them in good repair and safely tidied away after use.



AROUND WATER

Swimming in open water such as lochs, reservoirs, rivers and burns can hold hidden dangers such as extremely cold water, debris, and fast currents. Garden ponds can also hold dangers for very young children.

If you want to go swimming choose one of West Lothian's many pools. The good news is that West Lothian children aged 15 and under can swim free during the school holidays.



**VISIT WESTLOTHIAN.GOV.UK/
SUMMERSAFE FOR SAFETY
INFORMATION TO HELP
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
STAY SAFE DURING THE
HOLIDAY PERIOD.**

BULLETIN SPECIAL OFFERS

Valid until 30 Sept 2017



Truly Scrumptious
DESIGNER CAKES LTD.

25% OFF BOX OF 6 MIXED CUPCAKES

SAMPLE SIX SUPERB CUPCAKES FROM THE AWARD-WINNING BAKERY FOR JUST £10 INSTEAD OF £13.50. FANTASTIC FLAVOURS INCLUDE SPONGE, CHOCOLATE, TOFFEE, LEMON, RED VELVET AND CARROT.

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Subject to Stock Availability
1 The Cross, High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7EY
Tel: 01506 671133 | www.trulydesignercakes.co.uk

Visit West Lothian
Bulletin

Valid until 30 Sept 2017



The Bus Stop Cafe

**AFTERNOON TEA FOR 2 WITH THIS VOUCHER FOR £9.95
ONLY FOR SIT IN OR HOME DELIVERY**

THE BUS STOP CAFÉ CAN BE FOUND IN THE HEART OF BATHGATE. SERVING BEAUTIFUL HOT AND COLD DRINKS, HOT FOOD, CAKES, WINE & BEER AS WELL AS THEIR FABULOUS AFTERNOON TEA - A GREAT PLACE TO STOP OFF FOR A TREAT!

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. No photocopies accepted.
24 South Bridge Street, Bathgate, EH48 1TL
Tel: 01506 238560

Visit West Lothian
Bulletin

Valid until 30 Sept 2017



PARADISE ISLAND
ADVENTURE GOLF

**KIDS GO FREE! ONE U16 PLAYS 1 ROUND
(18 HOLES) FREE WITH A FULL PAYING ADULT**

WE'VE GOT TWO 18 HOLE INDOOR ADVENTURE GOLF COURSES FULL OF TWISTS, TURNS, HUMPS AND BUMPS - SET AMIDST A TROPICAL PARADISE!

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. No photocopies accepted. Not valid during bank holidays. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer, subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Only available at Livingston Designer Outlet, Almondvale Avenue, Livingston.
Tel: 01506 415546 | www.paradiseislandgolf.com

Visit West Lothian
Bulletin

Valid until 24 Sept 2017



**FOR EVERY 3 FULL PAYING PASSENGERS, THE 4th GOES FREE
ON AVON AQUEDUCT CRUISE AND TOWN TRIPS
(EXCLUDES FALKIRK WHEEL TRIPS)**



BOAT TRIPS FROM THE LINLITHGOW CANAL CENTRE EVERY WEEKEND FROM 15 APRIL TO 24 SEPT, AND WEEKDAYS FROM 3 JULY TO 18 AUG. (EXCLUDES FUN DAY ON 20 AUG). AQUEDUCT CRUISE LEAVES AT 2 PM (SAT & SUN ONLY). TOWN TRIPS DEPART EVERY HALF HOUR BETWEEN 2 PM AND 4.30 PM. (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

Please present this voucher at Basin when purchasing tickets. Photocopies will not be accepted. No advance booking.
Manse Road Basin, Linlithgow EH49 6AJ
Tel: 01506 671215 | www.lucs.org.uk

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Valid until 30 Sept 2017



ONE FREE SLUSH AND ONE FREE HOT DRINK PER VOUCHER

THE HIVE
PLAY.PARTY.FAMILY.FUN

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. No photocopies accepted.
The Hive Soft Play Ltd, Unit 4 Standhill Industrial Estate, Whitburn Road, Bathgate, EH48 2HR | 01506 656989 | www.thehivesoftplay.com

Visit West Lothian
Bulletin

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

Visit West Lothian's Country Parks this summer

West Lothian is fortunate to have three amazing country parks, all of which offer natural open spaces, shaded woodland walks, barbecue hire and adventure playgrounds for youngsters.

They're **FREE** to visit and are great places for all kinds of summer activities. From a daily dog walk to picnics and a family day out, there is something for everyone. Maps of the country parks can be picked up from the visitor centres or are available online.



Welcome to our Country Parks

Almondell & Calderwood



Hidden away on the edges of Livingston, Broxburn and Mid Calder, this is the place to come if you like being by the water on a hot day.

The River Almond flows through the park and is crossed by many historic bridges and viaducts, including the beautiful 19th Century Nasmyth Bridge. Along the riverbanks you will find information about local wildlife, so keep an eye out for herons, ducks and the bright blue flash of a kingfisher.

Almondell houses a friendly visitor centre, a small aquarium and a quiet garden where you can watch birds visit the feeders. It's traffic-free and perfect for exploring on bicycle, with National Cycle Route 75 passing through the park.

Calderwood is West Lothian's largest remaining ancient woodland. It is an important refuge for wildlife and you have a good chance of spotting roe deer.

The Ranger Service are celebrating National Bat Week this summer with an after-dark walk at Almondell on 25 August, looking and listening for bats and other creatures of the night. You can book a place by calling 01506 882254.

Polkemmet



Located just south of the M8 motorway between Whitburn and Harthill, former grand estate Polkemmet is home to a small visitor centre, and the independently-run Courtyard Café and Scottish Owl Centre. The country park also has a nine-hole golf course and driving range.

The popular kids' play area includes a miniature fort and sandpit as well as the cab of the Dardanelles steam engine, a genuine piece of history from West Lothian's coal mining days.

Picturesque woodland walks follow the Almond as it tumbles over large boulders and eventually lead you towards The Horn, a 79ft high stainless steel trumpet artwork visible from the M8 motorway, as well as remains from the old estate such as boating and carp pond, the remains of old mills and the Baillie family mausoleum.

The Ranger Service is running a free monthly nature club for toddlers & parents throughout the summer on 29 June, 20 July and 31 August. Each session of the Caterpillar Club has a different nature theme to explore through crafts, stories, songs and outdoor fun. To book a place, call 01501 743905.

Beecraigs



High up in the Bathgate Hills between Linlithgow and Livingston, Beecraigs is the largest of the three country parks.

The new visitor centre, with its friendly café, has the best view in West Lothian including the Firth of Forth and three Forth bridges,

Edinburgh and even as far as the Isle of May and Bass Rock.

If you like animals and forests then Beecraigs is the park for you, with two different breeds of cattle on show including the ever popular highland cows and their new bull – Jock the 11th of Woodneuk. Red deer have been a feature of the farm for 40 years now and can be seen grazing the fields in summer, as can a growing flock of native Scottish breeds of sheep. The Ranger Service is running badger watches over the summer for adults and children over 12 yrs old on 1 July and 5 August, with a family-friendly watch for younger kids on 14 July. To book a place, call 01506 284516.

Beecraigs Forest offers visitors a beautiful mix of towering trees, babbling burns and wooded avenues. Beecraigs Loch, with its independently-run trout fishery is surrounded by some of the park's tallest and oldest trees and is a popular place to watch the geese and ducks.

The park is criss-crossed by more than 30km of paths and trails for all abilities. It has become a popular centre for mountain biking in recent years, with three clearly sign-posted trails to suit different ability levels and a new Skills Area.

Wild Wednesdays

Keep your kids entertained this summer with the Ranger Service's Wild Wednesdays.

Now in their fifth year, Wild Wednesdays pop up at different locations around West Lothian and offer nature-inspired activities and crafts from the Ranger Service and other organisations they have invited along.

All activities are free, so just drop by any time between 11am and 3pm at the following locations:

- Polkemmet Country Park – 12 July
- East Calder Park – 19 July
- Winchburgh's Craigton Park – 2 August
- Armadale's Watson Park – 9 August

Caravan and Camping

Beecraigs is a great destination for a holiday and welcomes caravans, motorhomes, trailer tents and glamping alternative accommodation. The site is an ideal countryside retreat, with modern toilet facilities and is a perfect base from which to explore Central Scotland, Trossachs, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The Beecraigs Caravan & Camping Site provides a countryside setting with much to offer within the Country Park and the local area.

Enjoy the Country Parks responsibly

Please remember that West Lothian's country parks are public spaces, which shared by all kinds of visitors, from families with small children to dog walkers, horse riders and cyclists. They all have a right to use the parks so please be considerate of other users during your visit and heed any notices or instructions displayed by the ranger service. Please keep dogs under close control and pick up after them, placing your used dog poo bags in any of the park's litter bins.



Enjoy West Lothian's fantastic parks this summer

Looking for things to do this summer? Visit your free local park! Parks are great places to get some exercise, play, meet people, have picnics, or take time out and relax.

West Lothian Council continues to improve public parks and playparks throughout the area for the benefit of local residents through our Open Space and Play Capital Programme. This year, we're upgrading ten parks in the summer/autumn. To see the plans for these parks go to www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo

Get active in the park

We all know that being active is good for us, and you can be active in so many different ways in West Lothian's many excellent parks.

From walking, running, cycling, skating, scooting and playing sports, to playing tig, rolling down hills and climbing, swinging and sliding in playparks, there are so many ways to be active and have fun. Some of our parks now have gym equipment too, so you can get a good work-out on a nice day.

For the more adventurous, there are orienteering courses to try in Almond and Eliburn Parks, Dechmont Law, and Polkemmet and Almondell & Calderwood Country Parks. Look for the posts marked with a red

and white square. Maps of the courses are available at the Country Park visitor centres.

The Interlopers Orienteering Club also hold family-friendly events for both new and seasoned participants. Visit www.interlopers.org.uk for updates on local events planned in July and September.

Our new destination park and adventure playpark, Almondvale Park, in the centre of Livingston will be completed shortly, with an official opening planned for later in the year.



Parks and the community

The council also works together with local communities to develop parks.

For example, Dedridge Environment Ecology Project recently upgraded Lanthorn Park with assistance from Central Scotland Green Network Trust and funding from the Big Lottery, while the Friends of Kirkton Park in Bathgate hold their 'Party in the Park' music festival every September.

For more information on forming a group to use or improve your local park or green space, see our web page www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo



Photo courtesy of Friends of Kirkton Park

Go wild!

West Lothian's parks are also home to some interesting wildlife.

Explore the wild spaces in our parks and you could discover more about the natural world with information boards and nature trails along the way.



Remember, wherever you go, make sure you look after your surroundings – respect other park users, pick up after your dog and put your litter in bins provided.



For more information on West Lothian parks, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo

summer arts

Creative activities and performances for children
10 July - 6 August 2017

- **Drawing Machines** - Experiment with mark making and machines.
- **Comic Art** - Bring ideas, characters and stories to life!
- **Pop World** - Learn basic dance and singing techniques.
- **Paper, Pencil, Palette** - Fun arts and crafts.
- **Ultimate Pop Party** - Ft. tributes to Little Mix, Justin Bieber and Rihanna.
- **FUNBOX: Underwater Adventure** - Sing-along family show.



Kids swim for FREE during the school summer holidays



Youngsters who are aged 15 and under in West Lothian can swim free during the Summer school holidays which start on Friday 30 June.

The free swimming programme, which is funded by West Lothian Council, allows all youngsters aged under 15 to swim for free, Monday to Friday, from 10am-4pm at participating Xcite pools across West Lothian, until Friday 18 August.

The West Lothian Council funded programme aims to encourage young people to keep active and healthy during the school holiday periods.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Free swimming session is only available for one session per day (max 1 hour).

Please check the council or West Lothian Leisure websites or social media channels for more details in late June.

Love your local library this summer

No matter what your age or ability, West Lothian's libraries have something for you.

West Lothian Council has 14 libraries across the area, with services and activities for everyone. This can range from enjoying a Bookbug session with your baby or toddler, taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge with your children, or an evening out with friends to enjoy a book club.

You can also use the library to access the internet, a computer or just to enjoy some quiet time to read your favourite book or newspaper. For more details, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries



Catch the Bookbug!

Bookbug sessions are fun, free and friendly events open to babies, toddlers, their families and carers to enjoy together. Help develop a lifelong love of books through Bookbug, which encourages all parents and carers to enjoy books with their children from a young age.

Each session lasts around 30 minutes, and sessions are available in most libraries and include interactive songs, stories and rhymes. Sharing songs and rhymes with your child has many benefits including giving you time to cuddle, helping you bond with your child and developing language skills.

For more information about sessions visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/bookbug



Free holiday reading on your mobile devices

Pack smartly and free up space in your suitcase by downloading your holiday reading onto your electronic device.

There's an excellent selection available in our eLibrary covering subjects such as Hobbies, Homes, Photography, Food, Celebrity, Women's Interest, History, Computers, Health and Fitness, Comedy, Manga and more.

For more information and to access these services visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/eLibrary

Library in your home

For customers who cannot visit a library, we can ensure that the library comes to you. Delivered by our partners, the Food Train, a Homebound Library Service is available.

To access this service contact Jenny White on **01506 413013** or email jenny@thefoodtrain.co.uk



Take the Summer Reading Challenge

The Tesco Bank Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, and then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, and it's free to take part!

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate and medal for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The theme for this year is Animal Agents by the UK's best-selling children's illustrator, Tony Ross.



Dates for your diary

Look out for forthcoming events happening in your local library:

October 2017 - National Libraries Week
November 2017 - Scottish Book Fortnight

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



Active Fun, Active Feet!

The West Lothian 'Active Fun Active Feet' Holiday Programme is taking place over the coming summer holidays from 9am to 3pm at various venues across West Lothian for all current P1 to P7 pupils.

For a full list of our Summer AFAF camps and booking information please visit:

activeschools.eventbrite.co.uk

Children will take part in a wide range of activities including Athletics, Basketball, Club Golf, Football, MultiSport activities, Parachute Games, Playground Games, Tag Rugby and much more!





Help with your special day

Weddings, civil partnerships, baby naming and vow renewal ceremonies tailored especially for you.

West Lothian Council Registrars are ready to make sure your special day goes without a hitch.

Registrars can perform a wide range of ceremonies at the location of your choice, each tailored to your specific needs. Wedding or civil partnership ceremonies can now be held anywhere you wish, from traditional venues such as the Marriage Rooms at West Lothian Civic Centre or Bathgate Partnership Centre and local hotels, to more unusual venues such as country parks, scenic locations or even in your own home.

Vows, music and readings can all be unique to your ceremony, with options such as hand-fasting, quaich, blending of the sand and rose ceremonies all available.

West Lothian Council's Chief Registrar Wendy Thomas said: "We would encourage anyone looking to carry out a special ceremony in West Lothian to have a look at the services we can offer.

"Our Registrars can help you tailor your special event to suit your needs, as well as offering invaluable advice on any legal paperwork required.

"If you are planning a wedding, civil partnership, naming ceremony or renewal of vows, please contact us to see what we can do to make sure your big day is extra-special."



For more information, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/registration-services, email registration@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 281897 / 28291

At the heart of your community

Support your local area by helping out at the community centre or village hall.

Community-spirited people from across West Lothian are making a difference in their town or village.

There are 40 community centres and villages halls across West Lothian, which are facilities to meet, stay active, learn new skills, celebrate and volunteer.

All are owned by West Lothian Council, but run in partnership by independent management committees, who ensure that there is a good variety of quality activities in each centre suitable for a range of age groups and interests to meet the needs of the local community.

More volunteers are wanted to join the current group of dedicated volunteers on these management committees to make sure they continue to deliver for their communities.

The management committees generate revenue from letting their centre, which is then re-invested into their community. Each committee can decide what the priority is for their community for spending the money, such as trips for children and older people, a free fireworks displays, ora helping local clubs with equipment.

Gain a lot through volunteering



Carla Brown first visited her local community centre at Forestbank in Ladywell, Livingston, when her son

joined the playgroup there. Then she started attending events at Christmas and Hallowe'en, and 17 years

later is chair of the centre's management committee. Carla said: "A lot of centres couldn't run without volunteers. As well as helping with your local community, you can gain a lot from it as a person. "Being on the management committee at Forestbank has also inspired me to do some community learning, as I wanted to help people, and I now have an HNC in Working with the

Community.

"We would love to have more families and young people involved. Even if they can only dip in and out, that's absolutely fine. It's still volunteering."

One of Carla's many achievements was setting up the Forestbank Homework Club, which she has now been involved with for six years.

Exciting times for East Calder



Eddy Goodfellow first got involved with East Calder and District Gala Day 37 years ago.

That led to him later joining the management committee at East Calder Community Centre as the gala

representative, and he's been chair for the last 20 years. It's an exciting time to be involved as the move to the new partnership centre currently under construction next door will create opportunities for more groups to get involved.

Eddy said: "If anyone has a good idea for a group, for example pilates or first aid, but not got the funding to get

started, the management committee can help.

"We hope we can get even more people involved, I get great enjoyment from it and would encourage anyone to get involved in their community centre.

"I love the village and wouldn't have it any other way."

For more information, please visit your local community centre or see www.westlothian.gov.uk/community-facilities for more details.



97%
OF GRADUATES
PROGRESS ONTO
FURTHER STUDY OR
EMPLOYMENT



**ACHIEVE
YOUR
POTENTIAL**

OPENING DOORS TO CAREERS

STILL TIME TO APPLY FOR A RANGE OF FULL-TIME COURSES AT WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE STARTING IN AUGUST 2017.

BUSINESS AND CREATIVE

- NC BUSINESS MANAGEMENT LEVEL 4
- NC ACCOUNTING

CHILDHOOD PRACTICE, SPORT AND FITNESS

- HNC ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS: SUPPORTING THE INDIVIDUAL
- SPORT AND UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES LEVEL 5

COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

- HNC ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- HNC ENGINEERING SYSTEMS
- HND COMPUTING: NETWORKING

HND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

- HND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- HND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

CONSTRUCTION AND MOTOR VEHICLE

- NC BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- HNC BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- NC CIVIL ENGINEERING

HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY THERAPY

- HNC BEAUTY THERAPY
- HND BEAUTY THERAPY
- SVQ LEVEL 3 HAIRDRESSING
- NC LEVEL 5 HAIRDRESSING
- NC LEVEL 6 BEAUTY THERAPY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

- NC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT WORKER (SCQF 6)

HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL AND TOURISM

- NC TRAVEL AND TOURISM LEVEL 5
- NC TRAVEL AND TOURISM LEVEL 6
- HNC HOSPITALITY
- HNC PROFESSIONAL COOKERY
- NC LEVEL 5 PROFESSIONAL COOKERY



**APPLY NOW BY VISITING
WWW.WEST-LOTHIAN.AC.UK**

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

CHANGING THE WAY SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN

Foundation Apprenticeship programmes are undertaken by students in their 5th and 6th year at school, and are studied alongside their other school subjects. These programmes aim to bridge the gap between education and work by giving students access to the world of work whilst gaining a qualification.

Participation in the programme enhances the career and employment prospects of young people; whether opting to progress on to employment, work-based learning (such as apprenticeships) or higher education.

In addition to learning more about their chosen subject area, learners will develop the skills, experience and knowledge required by employers to give them a head start in their career after leaving school.



west lothian
college

Foundation Apprenticeship courses delivered at West Lothian College are:

- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Business Skills**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Financial Services**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: NC Civil Engineering**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Engineering**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Software Development**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Social Services and Healthcare**
- **Foundation Apprenticeship: Social Services (Children and Young People)**

To apply you should speak to your Guidance or Careers teacher, or visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk/pages/foundationapprenticeships for further information.

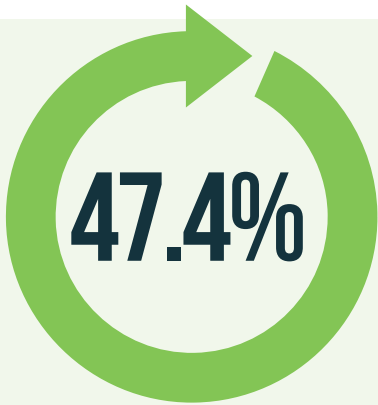
West Lothian College, Almondvale Crescent, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 7EP
Tel: 01506 418181 Fax: 01506 409980 Email: enquiries@west-lothian.ac.uk

www.west-lothian.ac.uk

Find us on:

What to do with your waste this summer


With the summer upon us, here are some helpful tips on how to dispose of your summer waste and increase recycling.





WEST LoTHIAN’S RECYCLING RATE IS 47.4%
HELP US IMPROVE - READ THE TIPS BELOW


BLUE BINS


13,081 tonnes of blue bin material was collected from households and commercial properties last year.


All Clean Empty Plastic Pots

Paper


All Clean Empty steel and aluminium tins and cans, aluminium foil, trays and empty aerosol cans


Clean Empty Plastic Bags


Clean empty Cardboard Cartons





TOP TIPS FOR RECYCLING


Everything must be clean and dry - wet and dirty materials such as food and drinks wastes, nappies and pet wastes spread through the whole load and mean it can be rejected and landfilled

Please rinse cans, plastic bottles, trays, containers, packaging and cartons to remove food and drinks residues

Please do not place any material inside plastic bags. This prevents the material from being separated for recycling at the Materials Recycling Facility.

You don't need to look at the recycling symbol on plastic containers, they can still be recycled

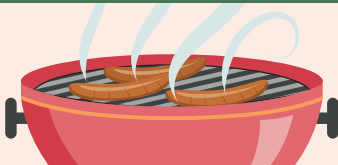
You can recycle clear and coloured plastics

If your blue bin contains items in black bin bags or bin liners it will not be collected.

FOOD WASTE

4,130 tonnes of food waste was collected from the green kerbside food waste caddies and commercial properties last year.

All cooked and uncooked food waste - including eggshells, bones and tea bags. Perfect for all the BBQ leftovers.



ADDITIONAL RECYCLING BINS


Households that require an additional brown bin, blue bin or food waste caddy can request one, free of charge.


Please call 01506 280000 or request one online at:
www.westlothian.gov.uk/requestabin


For further information on what can go in your brown bin or food caddy please visit
www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste


BROWN BIN

9,496 tonnes of garden waste was collected from the kerbside brown bins last year.


Flowers and plants


Small branches and twigs, leaves and real Christmas trees


Garden weeds


Grass and Hedge Cuttings

Do not put these items into your brown bin

Soil, turf, rubble, stones, bricks and plant pots

Wood, plastic or glass

Bagged waste and textiles



GLASS

West Lothian Council has increased the number of glass recycling bins from 36 to 200. You can also recycle your glass at any Community Recycling Centre.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES

If you are tidying the house, the garden or the garage you might be paying a visit to one of our Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) this summer.

To make things quicker and easier when you get there, please try to separate everything beforehand. For example, keep your wood, glass bottles, textiles and metals all separate from each other. Your general rubbish should also be kept separately.

That way you can put all your things in the correct skip as you go past. Skips for rubbish are one of the last things you'll pass on your route through the CRC so you can recycle everything else as you pass by.

The CRCs are located at:

Blackburn

Broxburn

Linlithgow

Livingston (Deans)

Livingston (Oakbank)

Whitburn

For further information on what you can take to our sites please visit:
www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste

Please note that from June to September our sites are open from 9am - 7pm Monday - Sunday. Last entry is at 6.45pm



West Lothian Council is investing over **£100 million** to build **1,000** new homes across all nine council wards.

“ Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul, said: “West Lothian Council is one of Scotland’s top councils in terms of building new council homes which aims to help tackle the high demand for affordable housing in West Lothian. “There are a number of strands to the new build project including community benefits such as training and employment opportunities

for apprentices, local people and businesses. “This continuing investment allows us to provide excellent value for money and meet the needs of existing and future tenants. The council is committed to providing new, affordable, high quality council homes in West Lothian and we are already starting to see the positive impact of our new build programme on communities across West Lothian.” **”**



Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services Alistair Shaw, Councillor George Paul, Housing Strategy and Development Manager Colin Miller at Deans South.

Next stage in **Deans South** masterplan

Enabling works have begun to facilitate the development of 54 new council homes at Deans South, Livingston.

West Lothian Council is investing in the area and hopes to have the 54 new homes completed by Autumn 2018.

The new homes are being constructed by McTaggart Construction on behalf of the council. In total, 117 new council homes are planned for the area and work is being completed in phases. West Lothian Council is building 1,000 new council homes across all ward areas - making the local authority one of Scotland’s largest providers of new build,

council properties.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul said: “The council is committed to developing Deans South

“ The start of these works marks a significant step forward in the regeneration of Deans South. **”**

and improving the local community. “A huge amount of progress has been made to redevelop the estate in recent years, and the start of these works marks a significant step forward in the regeneration of Deans South.”

Winchburgh homes get underway

Work has commenced on a development of 41 new council homes in Winchburgh by McTaggart Construction.

West Lothian Council hopes to have the new homes completed by Summer 2018. The project is being undertaken as part of the new Winchburgh Core Development Area (CDA).

The site is being built in tandem with Registered Social Landlord (RSL) affordable housing provider the Wheatley Group. Between the two developments, there will be 96

new rented homes delivered through land that was supplied by the lead developer, Winchburgh Developments Ltd, via the Council’s affordable housing policy.

Alistair Shaw, the council’s Head of Housing, Customer and Building

Services said: “Winchburgh is one of West Lothian’s core development areas and a mix of housing tenures are planned. A key part of the area’s expansion is affordable housing and this development will provide much needed council housing.”



Work underway on new council homes in Winchburgh

UK Housing Awards

For the second consecutive year West Lothian Council was shortlisted in the ‘Outstanding Strategic Local Authority of the Year’ category at the UK Housing Awards.



The awards, which recognise outstanding work by housing organisations to improve the lives of people in their communities, are organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and Inside Housing magazine.

West Lothian Council was the only Scottish Authority to be shortlisted for this award and was named in the top seven local authorities in the UK.

The UK Housing Awards has been designed to pinpoint excellence and reward innovation – shining a light on the ingenuity, creativity and passion demonstrated by social landlords across the UK.

West Lothian Council was recognised for housing strategies to build new social housing, housing for older people, our open market acquisition scheme, and our methods to tackle house condition and fuel poverty.

Wester Inch, Bathgate

Wester Inch in Bathgate has seen a huge amount of development over recent years.

The council plans to build a further 86 homes at Wester Inch including 32 cottage flats and 54 houses (18 of which are wheelchair accessible).
The properties range from 1 to 5 - bedroom homes.
The new development will be located to the east of Wester Inch

with the homes expected to be complete by late autumn 2018 and will be built on behalf of the council by Lovell Partnerships.
The site is one of the West Lothian Council's largest sites, included as part of our 1,000 new build programme.



Almond Link, Livingston

Twenty properties (mixture of 1 and 2-bedroom four-in-a-block type) have been unveiled in Livingston – the new street is called Ontario Avenue. The properties were handed over in April 2017 and are fully occupied.

The site at Almond Link Road is located on the banks of the River Almond and close to local amenities. Tenants also benefit from the landscape improvement works at Almondvale Park, including a new cycle path.

Livingston has high demand for council housing and the site at Almond Link provides much needed 1 and 2-bedroom properties in the town.

West Main Street, Broxburn

18 new council properties at School Road were completed recently

The development consists of a mixture of 1 and 2-bedroom properties designed to meet the needs of older people. The properties will be allocated to tenants with medical needs.
The development involved the refurbishment of the former Broxburn Primary School to provide 10 units with eight units being new build.

The old stone work from the former school is still in place, adding to the aesthetic look of the building. The location of the site on the main street close to the centre of the town makes it ideal due to the proximity to local amenities and public transport.
West Lothian Council was keen to preserve the heritage of the old school building by retaining and

re-using the original stonework and features of the building as far as possible, including a stone shield reclaimed from the old headmasters building at the West Main street entrance.

Here's a summary of the features included in the new homes:

- Enhanced fabric insulation in excess of minimum standards, with sufficient thermal mass to contribute to internal comfort temperatures.
- Triple glazed composite windows designed to admit and distribute daylight effectively, without admitting unwanted solar heat during the summer
- High efficiency gas fired system boilers serving individual dwellings,
- Roof integrated solar thermal panels to reduce the visual impact.
- The use of state-of-the-art features such as whole house heat recovery ventilation systems to provide user environmental control.



Drumshoreland, Pumpherston

West Lothian Council completed work on a new £2.3million road at Drumshoreland, Pumpherston in 2016.

The new road has opened up the Drumshoreland site for housing development with the first phase of construction for 86 council houses now underway.
Work started late last year and the site is beginning to take shape. It is expected that the site will be completed in the autumn of 2018.
The site is being developed by McTaggart Construction who are building the homes on behalf of West Lothian Council.
The homes range from 1 to 5-bedroom properties and include 30 cottage flats and 56 houses including 12 wheelchair accessible bungalows.



First in Scotland for vehicle emissions scheme

The first scheme in Scotland to use NASA technology to monitor vehicle emissions has been launched.

The East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership, which is made up of West Lothian, East Lothian, Midlothian and Falkirk councils, aims to reduce harmful vehicle emissions by educating drivers about the impact their cars have on air pollution.

They have undertaken a pilot scheme using state-of-the-art

remote detection Emissions Detecting and Reporting (EDAR) technology in sites in Edinburgh, Broxburn in West Lothian and are assisting with set-up in Coatbridge in North Lanarkshire.

EDAR uses satellite and laser technology to give a true picture of vehicle emissions, as well as recording license plate, speed,

acceleration and temperature of the exhaust.

Information recorded during the pilot will be shared between the local authorities involved, and Scottish Government agencies such as Transport Scotland and SEPA. Funding for the pilot project has been provided by the Scottish Government.

Tom Burr from the Vehicle Emissions Partnership said: "We hope this EDAR pilot scheme will assess the benefits of the technology to help demonstrate to drivers the emissions emitted by their vehicles, and make them consider the impact of their actions on the environment.

"Vehicle emissions data will be collected for every car which passes under the EDAR equipment during the trial in Edinburgh, West Lothian and North Lanarkshire.

"This will provide a huge amount of raw data to help councils and agencies looking at areas such as fleet analysis, modelling and public awareness, helping inform plans to tackle the issues associated with vehicle emissions in the future."

The EDAR system has been developed by ex-NASA scientist and EDAR inventor, Dr. Stewart Hager. His firm Hager Environmental and Atmospheric Technologies (HEAT) have already successfully used EDAR in America and England.

EDAR contains a multi-patented system of hardware and software, which allows for a multi spectral 3D image of the entire exhaust plume of a moving vehicle. The unmanned system collects data on various gases such as CO, CO₂, NO_x, HC and PM.

Specialist temporary installation of the EDAR equipment has been carried out by Lochwynd.

News in brief



Ban for sky lanterns and helium balloons

West Lothian Council has moved to ban the release of helium filled balloons and Chinese-style lanterns from council land and property.

The council has joined local authorities and organisations such as Keep Scotland Beautiful and the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in its serious concern about the release of 'Sky' or 'Chinese' lanterns and helium filled balloons.

Self-help guide for people attending court for rent or mortgage arrears

West Lothian Council has launched a self-help guide for people who are at risk of repossession or facing eviction from their home.

Pick up a free copy of the guide from West Lothian Advice Shop and West Lothian Civic Centre, or download from www.westlothian.gov.uk/adviceShop

Anyone at risk of eviction from your tenancy because of rent arrears or at risk of losing your home because of mortgage arrears should contact the Advice Shop on **01506 283000**.

West Lothian Advice Shop's team extends cancer support

West Lothian Council has extended the Macmillan Benefits Advice service for people who are attending the Western General Hospital.

The service, which is a partnership between West Lothian Council and Macmillan Cancer Support, is available for anyone affected by cancer, including the person with a cancer diagnosis, family, friends and carers.

The service can be accessed at any point in the cancer journey, no appointment is necessary and visitors can drop in to use the service in the Macmillan Information and Support Centre (South Corridor) on a Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm.

For more information call: **01506 283000** option 2, or **07775 025830**, alternatively email: Macmillan@westlothian.gov.uk

New advice service for disabled people

Capability Scotland's Advice and Support Services are now based at the Ability Centre in Carmondean, Livingston. They are available from 9am to 4.30pm Monday – Friday to respond to emails, phone calls or face to face enquiries.

They can assist with a range of issues such as information, signposting enquiries, issuing and completing various claim forms and assisting people with disabilities to manage their budgets.

To contact the free service, freephone **0800 820 3820** or call **01506 674 955**, email adviceWestLothian@capability-scotland.org.uk or drop into West Lothian Ability Centre, Carmondean Centre, Livingston EH54 8PT.

New sports hall for Carmondean

Carmondean Primary School in Livingston has been extended.

The popular Livingston school has been extended to include a new hall and changing rooms, as well as a new office area and entrance to the primary and nursery schools.

The extension is part of a £2.1 million multi-school extension and refurbishment programme, which has also seen Peel and Broxburn primaries extended.

A special ceremony was held in the new sports hall, featuring excellent performances by Carmondean's school choir and a mini-band from West Lothian Schools Pipe Band, some of which were former

Carmondean pupils.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "It's a great honour to officially open the new extension to Carmondean Primary School.

"The new extension looks great, and the new sports hall will help ensure Carmondean pupils stay active and healthy.

"This project is part of a shared scheme to improve three schools in West Lothian as we invest in education infrastructure to give our children the best possible environment for learning.

"West Lothian already has one of the best school estates in the country, with over £100 million of investment between 2012 and 2018 for the benefit of our children."

Carmondean Primary Head Teacher Gillian Millar added: "Everyone at Carmondean Primary is delighted with our new extension. I'd like to thank parents, staff, pupils and the whole school community for their understanding while the works were taking place. "The gym hall and changing areas will help us develop the physical



Carmondean pupils in the new sports hall with left to right Head of Education James Cameron, Head Teacher Gillian Millar, Councillor David Dodds and Depute Head Teacher Matt Shanks.

activities we can offer our pupils, whilst the new entrance way will improve access to the school."

The project was managed by the council's Finance & Property Services, Construction & Design team working in partnership with

other services including Education, Property Management and Roads, in conjunction with contractor Esh Border Construction, Haliday Fraser Munro, Morgan Sindall electrical consultants and Currie & Brown.



Rosemount Court and Gardens residents and staff with Councillor John McGinty, right.

Bathgate's new £7m assisted living complex

West Lothian Council has invested £7 million to create a fantastic new assisted living community for Bathgate.

Work on Rosemount Gardens is now complete, with state-of-the-art facilities for older people as well as shared resources with the local community such as café, restaurant, hairdressers and multi-purpose rooms for hire.

The project included building a brand new 30 flat Rosemount Gardens block, with work to refurbish the existing adjacent Rosemount Court sheltered housing development into 16 one-bedroom flats ongoing.

Executive councillor for health and care John McGinty said: "The £7 million investment in Rosemount Gardens and Court has delivered a fantastic facility for our older people in the heart of Bathgate.

"West Lothian has a rising population of older people, and assisted living facilities like this will ensure we can deliver the right level of support for those who need it, when they need it.

"I'm delighted to see the shared facilities with the

community already being used, as the Rosemount complex is designed to bring the residents and community closer together.

"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."

Homeless Assessment Centre opens

A new £2.3million Homeless Assessment Centre has officially opened in Blackburn.

The centre provides 24/7 temporary supported accommodation for customers who are assessed as homeless.

The Assessment Centre is a significant addition to West Lothian Council's portfolio of homeless accommodation and can accommodate up to 58 people, including couples, families and single people.

West Lothian has one of the fastest growing populations in Scotland which places huge demand on the council to provide accommodation. Demand for affordable accommodation, including council housing, is high in West Lothian which is reflected in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness.

West Lothian Council is building more council homes than any other council in Scotland to help combat the demand for affordable housing

and have increased temporary accommodation, which has enabled the council to accommodate more households than before.

If you are homeless or threatened with homelessness, then you should to speak to a specialist Housing Options Officer as quickly as possible.

West Lothian Council's Housing Options Team work with people who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness to resolve their housing need, as well as assisting at times of crisis.

If you require assistance or advice, you should contact them on 01506 280000. Alternatively visit any Customer Information Service office and you will be able to seek emergency Homeless Assistance or a planned Housing Options Appointment based on your circumstances.



Public Protection in West Lothian - an insight

Protecting people of all ages from harm is a key task for partner agencies in West Lothian

Public protection work is carried out in partnership between West Lothian Council, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian and the voluntary and independent sectors.

The West Lothian Public Protection Committee (WLPPC) oversees the work of public protection in West Lothian, ensuring that systems and processes are fit for purpose and that staff are trained and have the necessary skills to carry out their duties in each of the areas of public protection; child protection, adult support and protection, offender management and violence against women and girls.

The Committee is chaired by an independent chairperson. Through the work of the WLPPC the aim is to build capacity and resilience in our communities to reinforce the key message that harm is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, and that we will strive to continually improve our efforts to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

The main areas of public protection:

Child Protection

All children have the right to live free from fear or abuse and it is

everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are safe and well cared for. In West Lothian agencies work and train together to ensure there is a shared understanding of risk and making plans to reduce risk. Wherever possible, professionals work in partnership with parents or carers to improve outcomes for children.

Adult Support and Protection

West Lothian Council as the lead agency for Adult Protection has developed local Adult Support and Protection procedures for staff responsible for fulfilling the council's duties in this area of practice.

The emphasis within these procedures is as much about support as well as protection to the 'adult at risk', whilst ensuring that any intervention is proportionate, the least restrictive option and of benefit to the person.

Offender Management (MAPPA)

The protection of individuals within our communities is paramount. Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements or MAPPA are the means by which local agencies

work together to best protect the community from the serious harm that some offenders may still present after being convicted, bringing together professionals from a range of council services, Police, Health and the Scottish Prison Service.

Through the MAPPA Operational Group and the Public Protection Committee West Lothian Council will continue to work with partners, both local and national, to sustain and further improve our effective management of offenders in the community.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

West Lothian Public Protection Committee is committed to including and promoting the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda and acknowledge that Gender-based Violence features in all areas of their work. Reporting to the Public Protection Committee the Violence Against Women and Girls Sub-Committee has ownership of identifying priority areas, outcomes and actions for agencies to ensure a committed multi-agency approach to addressing all forms of VAWG.

West Lothian
**Public Protection
Committee**



The PPC is committed to keeping people safe. If anyone has any concerns about a person's safety or wellbeing they should contact their local social work services or Police Scotland on 101 or if they suspect immediate danger should call 999.

Bulletinsports

in association with
XCITE

www.westlothianleisure.com

www.facebook.com/xcitewestlothianleisure



XCITE your summer!

Summer is a great time to switch up your routine and try something new! Why not visit the Xcite Team and see what's on to keep fit this summer!



QUEENAX

The world's largest QUEENAX is now available at Xcite Livingston, featuring new functional training kit from punch bags, plyo platforms, abs bench, monkey bars, UFO boards and lots more! With direct access from the gym floor at daily Open Sessions there is an enormous scope to push your workout! Why not come along to a NEW QUEENAX class, from Aerial Yoga, Functional Training, Core to Box - it's a fab way to switch up your training! Smaller Queenax frames are also available at Xcite Bathgate, Craigswood and Linlithgow for all round functional training.



SWIM & RELAX

Want to take some time out and relax? Take a dip in one of Xcite's six swimming pools across West Lothian. All swim venues have sauna and steam rooms so that you can unwind and take in the full benefits they offer.

Whether casually doing laps, or taking your training to the water, Xcite pools are a great place to keep active.

PLAY A SPORT

Let your competitive side out and gather some friends and family to play a round of sports this summer! Xcite has a great range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities from badminton, tennis, squash, an athletics track to a nine hole golf course, there is something for all sports fans no matter the Scottish summer weather!

GRAB A BITE

Xcite's Cafes are available at Xcite Bathgate, Livingston and Linlithgow, offering a fantastic range of hot and cold foods, as well as daily specials and a kiddies menu. All serve Costa Coffee so why not pop in for a tasty healthy bite or an iced coffee with friends while your kids are entertained in the soft play.

XCITE IT UP AT 60!

Xcite has a number of fun activities for 60yrs+ to enjoy and keep active. From sporting activities to fitness and dance classes there is something for everyone!

DANCE

Get your dancing shoes on with a fantastic range of dance classes to try, from Line Dancing, Fit Steps, Tea Dances and Ballroom & Latin dance classes. A great fun way to keep active and meet people, and you do not need a partner to attend.

BE SOCIAL

A wide range of social activities to participate in are on offer, from Arts and Crafts group, Knit and Natter, Men's Activity Group to Singing for Health. An excellent opportunity for you to meet new people, socialise and enjoy an informal singing session.

GET OUTDOORS

Join in with one of the free walking groups that set off from an Xcite venue. The walks are taken by a trained leader and are a safe way to go out walking and enjoy the summer weather. Or why not try one of the outdoor sports available like the nine hole golf course within Balbardie Park of Peace in Bathgate.

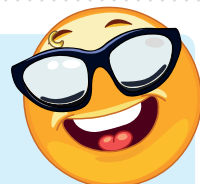
INDOOR BOWLING

Bowling is a lifetime fitness sport that can be enjoyed at any age. It has a great social aspect to it, whether practicing, playing in a competitive league or just playing with friends. Enjoy a game with friends at indoor bowling at Xcite Bathgate.

GET SWIMMING

As well as public swimming sessions at Xcite's six pool venues, Xcite Ageing Well offers Buddy Swimming. These sessions are led by a trained volunteer who will provide you with support during the session and help increase your confidence in swimming.

KIDS SUMMER FUN FOR AS LITTLE AS 50P PER DAY**!



With seven weeks of kids' summer holidays to fill, come down to Xcite to a fun programme of planned activities! From Sports, Swimming to Soft Play and lots more, Xcite has everything to keep your kids happy and active this summer.

Kids can attend on a pay-per-activity basis or why not take out a Junior Membership for only £20 per month, or £15 per month when added to an Adult Membership!

****That's activities for as a little as 50p per day!**

Activities include Swimming, Swimming Lessons, Splash sessions, Beach Parties, Rookie

Lifeguard, Soft Play, Bouncy Castle, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Teen Gym Sessions and lots more!

For full details and to download a copy of Xcite's Summer Programme 2017 visit www.westlothianleisure.com

All activities are subject to availability. Some activities may be required to be pre-paid and booked. Book now online @ westlothianleisure.com or at an Xcite reception.

****Based on a Junior Plus Membership over 30 days. Some activities may not be included in Junior membership.**



EXCLUSIVE
XCITE

MEMBERSHIP OFFER

No joining fee on ALL adult members until end June 2017

Visit www.westlothianleisure.com for more details. Memberships from only £20 per month*

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Premier Gold Silver Student

Young Adult 16-24yrs POL 60yrs+

Junior Membership is also available but may not be included in this offer.

Not ready to join? Why not come along as a pay-per-visit user!

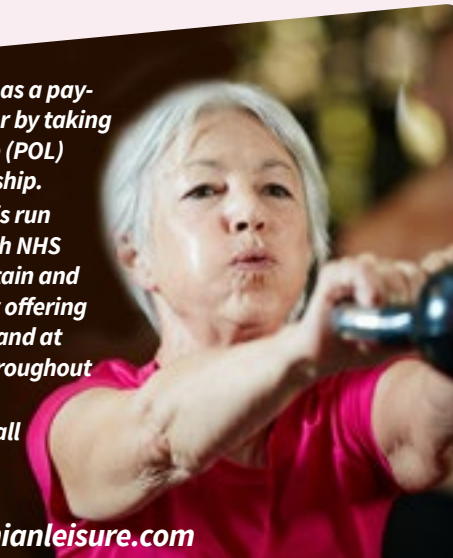
*Based on a Young Adult Membership (available when joined to a 25yrs+ Adult Membership). Please note an Xcite Welcome gym induction must be completed before attending the gym (included in membership).

You can visit Xcite as a pay-per-activity user or by taking out a Prime of Life (POL) monthly membership.

Xcite Ageing Well is run in partnership with NHS and aims to maintain and improve health by offering activities at Xcite and at various venues throughout the community.

To find out about all the activities that are offered visit:

www.westlothianleisure.com



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 (in Livingston)	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

For more information on Xcite visit:
www.westlothianleisure.com

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