

Bulletin



Issue no.87 | Winter 2018

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Christmas in
West Lothian



READY FOR WINTER

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Tom Ward and Ross McDonald from West Lothian Council's Operational Services joined Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn at the council's Whitehill Service Centre Depot.

Special offers from



Visit West Lothian
visitwestlothian.co.uk



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Partnership Centre opens in Armadale

A new £1 million Partnership Centre has opened, bringing a range of services under one roof.

West Lothian Council has extended and refurbished the community centre in the town's North Street to create a new hub for local services.

The investment has resulted in building and service improvements, including: the refurbishment of the library space; a new set up and look to the entrance area, a purpose built early-years space to accommodate community playgroups, and a new office area for staff from a number of services. The move has allowed a number of council staff to co-locate into one building, improving services for customers.

It also includes a new payment kiosk and new private consulting rooms.

The Armadale Housing Office has relocated from East Main Street into the new Partnership Centre.

Ralph Bell, Customer and Community Services Manager, added: "The local community have been complimentary of the development and working with the Community Education Centre Management committee we have ensured that customers have faced minimal disruption throughout

the development. Staff have welcomed the opportunity to work closely together on one site to ensure our services are aligned to customers' needs. The new facility will continue to develop over the coming weeks but we are very much open for business.



Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King

"The new building better meets the needs of customers by hosting a wider variety of services under one roof. Our partnership centre model has worked extremely well in other towns and villages, and I am sure that the investment in this new facility in Armadale will prove extremely popular with local people"

West Lothian Pride 2018

Over 1,200 happy revellers came to celebrate and support West Lothian's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people at fourth annual West Lothian Pride event.



A fun-filled afternoon of live entertainment compered by James Smith AKA Mr Fabulous took place at Pride Village in West Lothian College including performances from X Factor's Ryan Lawrie, HayleeG - Devils in Skirts, Sian Cross, The Rabbit Hole and Beats of Brazil as well as a special Pride parade through Livingston town centre.

Guests heard inspiring speeches from Depute Leader of West Lothian Council Kirsteen Sullivan, Angela Constance MSP and Hannah Bardell MP.

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan said: "West Lothian Pride was a brilliant celebration of our LGBT community, and I was privileged to be asked to speak at the event, representing West Lothian Council.

"The event was simply fantastic and continues to get bigger and better every year. It was brilliant to see the amount of people who turned out on the day and all the people behind the scenes deserve huge credit for organising such a colourful and diverse event."

West Lothian Pride is organised by a dedicated team of volunteers and organisations from within and around West Lothian, with support from West Lothian Council, West Lothian Youth Action Project, West Lothian College, as well as many local businesses.

Organisers would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's event the biggest and best event yet, including all the speakers, guests and musical acts.

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.

➤ www.westlothian.gov.uk/contactus

☎ Call the CSC on: **01506 280000**

✉ customer.service@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

☎ **01506 283000**

✉ advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk

➤ www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

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
Council

New strategy aims to tackle poverty in West Lothian



Campaigns Development Officer, Marion Flannigan; Depute Council Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan; Head of Finance and Property services, Donald Forrest; Welfare Rights Officer, Gillian Pearson and Senior advisor, Nahid Hanif at the strategy launch.

The Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23 has been launched by West Lothian Council and Community Planning partners.

The strategy takes into account the changes in society and reflects the challenges, constraints and opportunities in West Lothian over the next five years.

It sets out the council's ambition to take positive steps to address the financial pressures felt by residents, and to ensure that tackling poverty is at the centre of work within West Lothian.

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan, Depute Leader of the council and Chair of the Community Planning

Partnership Board officially launched the strategy at Armadale Partnership Centre recently.

She said: "Tackling poverty, in particular child poverty, is a main priority for West Lothian Council. Working with our partners, we will continually seek to reduce poverty and improve the lives of those affected by it."

"This is an incredibly important area of work which will build upon the positive work that has been carried out over recent years, resulting in

some real improvements.

"We have already agreed to increase the school clothing grant and we will continue to fund the school holiday lunch and activity programme. We will be working hard to improve uptake of free school meals and educational maintenance allowance. Schools will be looking at how they 'poverty proof' the school day. Together, we can and will take action to make sure that everyone has a decent standard of living and the same chances in life."

The focus of the new strategy will be on households which are:

- Working but not earning enough
- Not working and on a very low income
- Just about managing
- Those not managing at all
- Nearly 5,400 adults have engaged with employability support resulting in 62% progressing to a positive destination including employment

The council's previous strategy set about minimising poverty and focussed on strengthening the ways in which partners worked together and ensured that actions and resources were targeted to help those most at risk.

Progress has been made over the past years:

- Partners have helped manage over £60 million of debt
- Supported customers gain £153 million of income through welfare rights advice and support to claim benefits and tax credits
- 1039 employment

Elaine Nisbett, Anti-Poverty and Welfare Advice Manager said: "We have made significant progress but more can be done. Almost one in five children are living in poverty, with many living in a family where a parent is already working. As part of the strategy, we have been speaking to households in our communities and those families have told us that reducing day to day living costs is important, and that is reflected within our new strategy."

If anyone would like to join our Expert by Experience Panel to discuss poverty issues affecting our communities, and what can be done to help, please get in touch with the council's Advice Shop on 01506 283000 – Option 4.

Selfless Kevin saves life

West Lothian Council Gardener, Kevin Cooper, has been hailed a hero for donating one of his kidneys to a stranger.



Image courtesy of Stuart Vance

Kevin went through 18 months of rigorous tests before going under the knife to give someone he didn't know the chance of a new life.

The 35-year-old from Livingston is one of very few people who become altruistic donors in the UK each year. It is thought that Kevin is one of the first altruistic organ donors to donate while working at West Lothian Council.

Although Kevin doesn't personally know who he donated his kidney to, he has been told he's helped save the life of a 50-year-old woman in England. He returned to work just two weeks after the operation and wants to use his sacrifice to encourage other people to donate, especially blood.

Kevin said: "I've donated blood for about 10 years and donated blood platelets for about two years. I

guess what really made me decide to put myself through this was when one of my children fell ill for a period. Thankfully she is fine now but scenarios like that really make you appreciate how precious life can be and make you think about what you can do to help another person.

Even if one person hears about my situation and then feels they want to go and donate blood, then it's a win-win."

West Lothian Council Grounds Maintenance Manager Tony Fleming said: "This is a really selfless act on Kevin's part and shows the kind of person he is. We were happy to give him the support required and are delighted to have him back with us at work so quickly. Speaking on behalf of all of his colleagues we are really proud of what he has done."

Dechmont Law incident marked

A special information board has been erected to mark one of Scotland's most famous alleged UFO encounters at scenic Dechmont Law woods in Livingston.



Pictured left to right are Tree and woodland inspector, and former colleague of Robert Taylor, Stuart MacDonald; Parks and woodland manager Eirwen Hopwood; and Councillor Tom Conn.

The board has been erected at the location where Livingston forestry worker Robert Taylor claimed he was confronted by an unknown object in November 1979.

Mr Taylor said he encountered a metallic sphere hovering in a clearing in the woods. As he approached it, two smaller spheres emerged and starting to drag him towards the object before he lost consciousness.

Police investigating the incident found unusual marks in the clearing that did not match any known vehicle, and tests on his clothes showed it was likely they had been ripped by a sharp upward pull, such as a mechanical device.

The incident has fascinated people for almost 40 years, due to the physical evidence and Mr Taylor's testimony as a very respected and credible witness.

Dechmont Law is managed by West Lothian Council, and offers amazing views across the region as the highest view point in Livingston. The 66 hectare open space is well-used for recreation, and is popular with local walkers and runners.

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn said: "The Dechmont Woods

encounter is Scotland's most famous alleged UFO incident, and has featured in a number of books and TV programmes.

"The information board will help visitors to Dechmont Law find the exact location of the encounter, as well as give details of Mr Taylor's report of the incident.

"Dechmont Law is already very popular with local residents, especially runners and walkers, and we hope this board will help more people discover and enjoy the picturesque area."

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

Gold award for Beatlie



Councillor David Dodds and Depute headteacher Debbie Green with the certificate, with Headteacher Carol Robbie, Depute chief executive Elaine Cook, with staff and pupils at the school.

Beatlie School Campus in Livingston has become the first special school in West Lothian to achieve a Gold award from United Nations' children's charity UNICEF.

It is one of just three special schools in the whole of Scotland to win the top award in the Rights Respecting Schools programme, which places children's rights at the heart of the curriculum.

To achieve the award, the school demonstrated how they have put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the core of the school's planning,

policies, practice and ethos.

This includes teaching about children's rights, as well as encouraging respect in all relationships involving teachers, adults and pupils.

Beatlie Headteacher Carol Robbie said: "We are delighted and honoured to have achieved the UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting

Award.

"It's great to see that the assessors recognised the positive ethos and culture that places children's rights at the heart of our curriculum.

"We are very proud of our fantastic pupils, families and staff who work together to make Beatlie the special place it is."

The school has been involved in events throughout the year to achieve the award, including the Changing Places and UNICEF OutRight campaigns with support from the school community.

Gerry McMurtrie, Senior Professional Advisor (Scotland) from UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools said: "Children at Beatlie are happy, safe, nurtured and supported to communicate in ways that meet their needs. Staff are highly skilled, confident and committed - they strive to do their very best for every child.

"The whole school has embraced a culture based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the

Child. It is clear that the school's rights respecting work has created a positive and empowering learning environment for all, and we are very pleased to be awarding them the UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award."

Beatlie is one of seven schools in West Lothian to have achieved the Gold award, which also includes primary schools such as Boghall and Windyknowe in Bathgate, Knightsridge and St Ninian's Primary School in Livingston, and East Calder as well as St Kentigern's Academy in Blackburn.



Executive councillor for education David Dodds

"Congratulations to everyone at Beatlie on becoming the first special school in West Lothian to achieve Unicef's Gold award. It's a tremendous achievement that the whole school community can be rightly proud of. All the schools taking part in the Rights Respecting Schools programme have shown their commitment to creating a culture of mutual respect in their community."

Pupils achieve record exam results

Pupils in West Lothian have recorded the best ever set of exam results in the area for a fantastic 6th consecutive year.

Indications show that the results across West Lothian have improved by 3% or more in every key area.

All eleven secondary schools in West Lothian recorded increases in key results, with West Calder High and Livingston's Deans and Inveralmond Community High schools achieving especially strong results this year.

Executive councillor for education, David Dodds said: "We would like to thank all the students on their hard work in their Nationals and Highers, who have helped deliver another amazing set of exam results for West Lothian.

"Their hard work has paid off and will stand them in good stead for the future. Many thanks must also go to all the families, carers, teachers and school staff who have played a vital role in helping our young people achieve these

fantastic results.

"It's fantastic to see exam results continuing to improve in West Lothian, with our best ever set of exam results for a sixth consecutive year. We are also supporting pupils to achieve their best regardless of their level in our schools."

West Calder Headteacher Julie Calder said: "We are immensely

proud of all the young people at West Calder who have helped deliver a fantastic set of results for the school this year.

"With a superb new £32 million state-of-the-art school now in place, we hope to build on these results next year and help every one of our pupils to achieve their full potential."



Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick

"I'm delighted to see exam results improve in West Lothian for a record 6th consecutive year, with the success is down to the dedication of the pupils and the quality of teaching. "It's vital we play our part to support their achievements by giving them the best possible platform for learning, such as continuing to invest in our school estate to ensure it remains one of the best in Scotland."



West Calder High School students celebrating their results
Image courtesy of Stuart Vance

Welcome to West Calder High School

The new £32 million state-of-the-art West Calder High School is now open for business.

The first term in the superb new building was marked with this special picture of the whole school, staff and pupils.



Spotlight on pupils at Stellar Awards

The Stellar Awards celebrate educational excellence in West Lothian, with awards handed out in categories recognising achievements covering all aspects of the education curriculum.

Conor Jackson
West Lothian College

One of the winners was Conor Jackson who was presented with the Foundation Apprentice of the Year Award by Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon.



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 the day prizes were handed out in categories including, academic achievement, foundation apprentice of the year, STEM, literacy, the creative arts, numeracy, sport, health and wellbeing and groups and community heroes were acknowledged.

The event was compered by James Cameron, West Lothian Council's Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) with a dance performance from the winners of the West Lothian Secondary Schools Dance competition, the Senior Dance Team from Inveralmond Community High School.

Councillor David Dodds said: "The Stellar Awards allow us to turn the spotlight on the excellent work taking place in schools across West Lothian

and are undoubtedly the highlight of the year.

"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 and all should be very proud. We would also like to thank everyone involved in running the event for helping to make the Stellar Awards a very special afternoon for our pupils and students."

Winners:

Attainment Award - Katy Russell (St Kentigern's Academy), Orla Davey (St Margaret's Academy) and Harriet Brown (Linlithgow Academy)

Foundation Apprentice of the Year - Conor Jackson (St Kentigern's Academy/West Lothian College)

STEM Award - St Joseph's RC Primary School (Linlithgow)

Literacy Award - Knightsridge Primary School

The Creative Arts Award - Jack Forehand (Bathgate Academy)

Numeracy Award - Bankton Primary School

Sports Award - Emma Davidson (James Young High School)

Health and Wellbeing Award - Inveralmond Community High School Employment Hub

Community Heroes Award - Jemma MacKay (James Young High School) and the Parkey Pals from Parkhead Primary

School Terms and Holidays 2018/2019

School term dates in West Lothian for the next two years have been agreed. Term dates for the for the 2019/20 session have also been agreed and are available online. For full details, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/schoolholidays.

School Term 2018/19

The term dates for 2018/19 are shown below.

PLEASE CUT OUT AND KEEP THIS GUIDE AS A HANDY REMINDER

TERM 1

- Term ends - Friday, 21 December 2018

TERM 2

- Term starts - Monday, 7 January 2019
- February break - Friday, 15 February 2019
- Pupils resume - Wednesday, 20 February 2019
- Term ends - Friday, 5 April 2019

TERM 3

- Terms starts - Tuesday, 23 April 2019
- May break - Friday, 3 May 2019
- Pupils resume - Wednesday, 8 May 2019
- Term ends - Friday, 28 June 2019

There is also a one day local holiday with the majority of West Lothian schools closed on Spring Day, Monday, 20 May 2019, except schools in Bathgate, which will be closed on Newlands Day, Monday, 3 June 2019, and Linlithgow schools which close for the Linlithgow Marches on Tuesday, 18 June 2019. Parents/carers should confirm with their school if they aren't sure which holiday affects their child.

In-service days for teachers will take place on: Tuesday, 19 February 2019; and Tuesday, 7 May 2019.

Please do not dispose of artificial Christmas trees in the **blue bin**

Find out more : www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste





It's never been easier to access local services online via our new portal **MyWestLothian**

Through **MyWestLothian** you can:



Pay your council tax



Book a bulky uplift



Report a missed bin



Pay your rent



Report pot holes



Pay for school meals

and much more..



▶ Online - Anytime, Anywhere
Visit: my.westlothian.gov.uk

Shop Local this Festive period

West Lothian stores and businesses are gearing up to participate in a nationwide shop local campaign.



Small Business Saturday (SBS) takes place this year on Saturday 1 December, with local shoppers urged to show their support for small and local independent businesses, such as those that can be found throughout West Lothian's traditional town centres and villages. With a unique selection of retailers and services that can't be found anywhere else, West Lothian's traditional town centres such as Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn and Uphall, Linlithgow and Whitburn, as well as local villages, offer an alternative and more personal

shopping and leisure experience than large shopping destinations.

Shopping purchases made locally support your town and help to keep the High Street vibrant and attractive. Shopping local also means that more of your money stays here in West Lothian, in turn helping to protect employment in our communities.

Independent and small traders across our traditional towns offer unique gifts and products, to help you in your choice for that special festive present. Local butchers, bakers

and delicatessens provide local, good quality produce to cater for all tastes and help you create great tasting, traditional festive meals. The nationwide event will also coincide with local festive celebrations being held on the first Saturday in December featured on these pages.

Local small businesses are also being encouraged to register their business online via the 'Small Business Finder' tool at www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com It's free of charge and will help promote their business.

If you have any questions on SBS then please contact in the first instance: Nairn Pearson, BID & Town Centre Manager, at nairn.pearson@westlothian.gov.uk

Festive events 2018

Bathgate Saturday 1 December	Broxburn/ Uphall Saturday 8 December
Linlithgow Saturday 24 November	Armadale Saturday 1 December
Whitburn Saturday 1 December	And much more!

Keep checking West Lothian Council's social media channels for up to date information on festive events in your area

westlothiancouncil @LoveWestLothian

Jack and the Beanstalk

10 - 28 December

Howden Park Centre, Livingston

Join us for another super-doooper-party-poooper panto!

Tickets £16 adult, £14 children, £56 family (4), buy 10+ 1 free, £12 sales performances, £8 school groups

Box Office 01506 340700 | howdenparkcentre.co.uk

West Lothian Leisure (known as Xcite) is a Scottish Charity, (SC027470)

west lothian leisure

West Lothian top for **recycling rise**

West Lothian has recorded the largest rise in household waste recycling rates in the whole of Scotland.

Recycling rates in the area have risen by a fantastic 12.8 percentage points to

61.3%

West Lothian now has the second highest rate of household recycling in the country.

The average household waste recycling rate in Scotland is 45.6%, an average increase of 0.6%.

For more information, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/domestic-waste



Executive councillor for the environment
Tom Conn

“It’s fantastic to achieve the largest rise of 12.8% in household waste recycling in the whole of Scotland. Thank you to all the West Lothian residents who participate in our recycling scheme for their contribution. There have been many changes to our recycling and waste services in recent years, and it’s satisfying to see us reaping the rewards of them now. We appreciate that a number of residents were unhappy with the slim bins when they were first introduced for example, but we can now see proof of the positive impact they have had. Improved technology is also helping ensure more items can get recycled. There is still work to be done such as getting more recyclates out of the grey bin and making sure the correct materials are placed in the blue bin and they are clean and dry, reducing contamination, so we hope residents will work with us to continue to deliver improvements in these areas.”

View your bin collection dates **online**

A new service has been introduced to allow residents to access their bin collection dates online.

Visit the council’s website

www.westlothian.gov.uk/bins

Enter your postcode and select your house/flat number

EH54 6FF

FIND ADDRESS

Check the dates of your next scheduled collections.



The new online service...



allows customers to **access their bin collection dates** within a few seconds from their phone, tablet or PC



has allowed the council to stop distributing paper recycling calendars to each household in West Lothian. This will help to **significantly reduce the impact on the environment**.



allows customers to **add their bin collection dates** to their preferred calendar on their phone, tablet or PC.
Note that bin collection dates will not update when there are temporary day changes during holiday periods.



will be **more responsive** than a paper calendar as next bin collection days displayed on the screen and email reminders can be updated for temporary service changes, such as collections during holiday periods.



features the **option of printing off a calendar**. (Once you have selected your property, you can download a copy of your calendar onto your phone, tablet or PC, or print it).

Note that printed calendars will not update when there are temporary day changes during holiday periods.



can send **email reminders** which will be updated when there are temporary changes during holiday periods. We strongly recommend subscribing to the email reminder service.



If individuals do not have access to online services or printing facilities, customers can visit their local Library, Partnership Centre or Customer Information Service office. **Staff on site can assist customers to view their calendar and print out a free copy.**

Find out more by visiting www.westlothian.gov.uk/bins

New Whitehill Service Centre opens for business



Work has been completed on a new state-of-the-art facility to bring together Council services under one roof.

The new Whitehill Service Centre in Bathgate is home to around 800 council staff from services including: Roads & Transportation; Recycling; Waste Services and Fleet Services; NETs; Land and Countryside Services; Public and Community Transport; Facilities Management; InPrint and Operational Services support staff. The Service Centre is situated in Whitehill Industrial Estate, Bathgate, on the site of the former Mahle

building and it replaces a number of older and inefficient council properties. The council's forward-thinking model of bringing together services under one roof brings both long-term financial savings and more efficient working. This has already been successfully used in West Lothian at the Civic Centre, Kirkton Service Centre and partnership centres across the county.

The completion of the Service Centre will see the demolition of outdated council depots and offices such as Guildiehaugh and Waverley Street to make way for council Housing and will additionally help to regenerate the Whitehill Industrial Estate. Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn was joined by Leader of West Lothian Council Lawrence Fitzpatrick and the council's Chief Executive Graham

Hope to officially open the new facility. Councillor Tom Conn (front of picture) said: "I am delighted to open the new, Whitehill Service Centre which will help the council modernise the way it delivers key services. "With so many teams coming together in the state-of-the-art facility it really is the ideal setting for collaborative working to deliver the

best service possible for the people of West Lothian."

The new facility at Inchmuir Road also includes a new waste transfer facility and two salt domes which will hold 30,000 tonnes of salt, providing resilience for responding to winter weather.

Whitehill Service Centre will enable the council to further improve recycling rates and the quality of materials within the new transfer facility, which is expected to handle more than 100,000 tonnes per year to handle the predicted growth in the West Lothian population over the next 25 years.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick added: "The council is modernising the way services are organised and delivered in order to provide best value for Council Tax payers and the completion of the new Whitehill Service Centre is the latest milestone.

"This another example of the council effectively rationalising existing buildings to bring services together under one roof in order to create savings and allow the council to work smarter through modern energy-efficient buildings and better working practices in order to best serve the West Lothian community."



Festive recycling and waste collection changes

Check www.westlothian.gov.uk/festivebins in December 2018 for detail of recycling and refuse arrangements over the Christmas and New Year period.

Householders are advised to make sure they find out when their bins and caddies will be collected over the festive period.

The holiday period means collections could be liable to change from Monday 17 December onwards.

Changes will be advertised on the council website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/festivebins in December as well as on the council's social media channels and in the local press.

Householders can also subscribe to email reminders via our new online service at www.westlothian.gov.uk/bins (more details on page 8).

Householders are advised to look out for the changes and set a reminder, such as marking a calendar, to make sure they don't miss any collections.

Email reminders will be updated when there are temporary changes during the holiday periods.

We strongly recommend subscribing to the email reminder service.

Collections times could also differ from usual, so residents are also reminded that bins and food waste caddies should be put out by 7am on the morning of collection and kept out until they are emptied.

Recycling and refuse can also be taken to West Lothian's five Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) at Blackburn, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Oakbank in Livingston and Whitburn between 10am and 5pm, with last entry at 4.45pm, seven days a week.

Bulky uplifts and brown bins will be temporarily suspended over the Festive period to give priority to householders' wheeled bin and food waste caddy collections.

Details of the winter brown bin collection in January for real Christmas trees and other green waste will also be available in December at www.westlothian.gov.uk/festivebins

Please do not dispose of **foil** or **glitter** wrapping paper in your **blue bin**

Find out more : www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste

LOVE

your local library this autumn

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, 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

Bookbug Library Reading Challenge

The Library Reading Challenge is a free and fun way to encourage children from birth to discover and enjoy their local library. The challenge runs in libraries across West Lothian and your child will have the chance to collect beautifully illustrated certificates. The scheme is suitable for children up to the age of seven. Sign up for Bookbug's free and fun Library Challenge - www.westlothian.gov.uk/bookbug



Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland takes place from 19-24 November and there is a full programme of exciting events going on to celebrate Scottish books and authors. There will be lots of fun things to do for children and toddlers, with Scottish-themed Bookbug sessions, author visits and more. To find out what is happening in your library go to www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries

Talk Money Week

12 TO 16 NOVEMBER 2018

Talk Money Week seeks to raise awareness around money issues and encourage customers to talk more openly about money.

This links closely to the West Lothian Anti-Poverty Strategy which aims to reduce stigma of poverty and mitigate the impact on local people.

The Advice Shop and partners have developed activities and events are being offered throughout the week within the local community across the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Area.

Talk Money Week will offer support to those on Universal Credit who are finding it difficult to manage on a budget.

The type of activities and support offered to West Lothian residents during Talk Money Week 2018 include:

- Financial advice including income maximisation, debt and budgeting advice
- How to use a price comparison website
- The cost of cancer
- Universal Credit
- MOOD (Mental Health Options for Older People with Depression)
- Information and Support Stalls

Date	Location	Time
Monday 12 Nov	The Pitstop, Addiewell	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 13 Nov	West Calder Community Centre	10.00am - 12.00pm
Wednesday 14 Nov	Fauldhouse Partnership Centre Longridge Community Wing	2.00pm - 4.00pm 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday 15 Nov	Polbeth Village Hall	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday 16 Nov	Stoneyburn Community Centre	10.00am - 12.00pm



Universal Credit was introduced in West Lothian by the UK Government in May 2018

Universal Credit (UC) is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and aims to make the Welfare Benefits system simpler by replacing six key benefits and tax credits with one single monthly lump sum payment.

Universal Credit replaces:

- Housing Benefit*
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits

What you need to receive your benefits:

In order to receive Universal Credit you must have in place:

- A bank account
- An email address
- A telephone number

Change in Circumstances

Once you have a Universal Credit online account, it is important to keep your account up to date. You need to report changes to your circumstances so you keep receiving the right amount of payment each month. The Department for Work and Pensions may stop or reduce your claim if you don't report a change of circumstance straight away.

Changes can include:

- finding or finishing a job
- having a child
- moving in with your partner
- starting to care for a child
- moving to a new address
- changing your bank details
- your rent going up or down
- changes to your health condition

- becoming too ill to work or meet your work coach
- changes to your earnings (only if you're self-employed)
- You can report a change of circumstances by signing in to your Universal Credit account.

Digital Support

If you need to make a new Universal Credit claim but aren't confident with your IT skills contact **Access2Employment** on **0800 0329768** to arrange an appointment in your local area. Information on the service available -

www.westlothian.gov.uk/access2employment or email access2employment@westlothian.gov.uk

Other Support

West Lothian Council's Adult Learning team can offer a wide range of courses for people that may improve confidence in making and managing a UC claim online, such as;

- English as a second or other language
- Digital courses
- Courses to improve reading, writing and numeracy
- Call **0800 731 1831** or e-mail adultlearning@westlothian.gov.uk for more details on the courses they offer.

Support to make the claim

If you feel that you need advice about claiming UC or do not understand the application form, you can visit the Advice Shop or call them on 01506 283000.

West Lothian Council has produced a guide that explains what the introduction of Full Service Universal Credit could mean for you and your family and provide details of the support available.

The guide is available at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/universalcredit

Better off
West Lothian

*Certain groups of people will continue to claim Housing Benefit. Contact the Advice Shop if you have been told that you cannot get your housing costs through UC.

On track for cycling in West Lothian

West Lothian is gearing up to get cycling this year. A new joint initiative aims to encourage local residents to get out on their bikes and enjoy West Lothian in 2018, whether travelling to work, school or shops, or for a weekend family leisure outing.



West Lothian Council, Lothian-wide cycle campaigners Spokes, national walking and cycling charity Sustrans and West Lothian Bike Library have teamed up to help people to get active on West Lothian's cycle routes.

For more information on cycling and active travel in West Lothian, please visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/cycling

Spokes have launched their new cycle and walking map, which shows the extensive network of cycle and dual use paths in West Lothian available to enjoy.

For more details, please see the special offer voucher below or visit:

www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps

Funding from West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government through Sustrans' Community Links programme are helping grow the path network for cycling. For example, in Whitburn, Town Path improvements have already been completed and the path outside Polkemmet Country Park linking Greenrigg to Heartlands is set to be widened to create a safe, traffic-free active travel route for

cycling and walking. For more information on Sustrans work, please visit

www.sustrans.org.uk

West Lothian Bike Library offer a wide range of bike-related services including hire, repair, training and support. They now stock e-bikes and have a large range of inclusive bikes to help get as many people active as possible.

For more details on hiring a bike, please visit

www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk or call **07724 667321**.



SPOKES

Save 14% on your West Lothian cycling and walking maps

Bulletin has teamed up with our friends at Spokes to offer our readers the chance to buy their West Lothian map for the discounted price of £6, a saving of 14% on the regular retail price.

Please cut out this voucher and send it along with a cheque for £6, payable to Spokes to the address below. Photocopies will not be accepted, and don't forget to include your name and address details.

Spokes Maps, St Martins Resource Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2JG



Depute Council Leader Kirsteen Sullivan

“Cycling is a fun and healthy activity that can be used for commuting or leisure. A great deal of effort has been made to make sure everyone in West Lothian can get cycling, including improving the network, producing the maps and making sure they have the bikes they need to get around.”

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



Here's what you said and our reply:

“Bulletin should not publish articles that have already been in the local press”

• Thanks for the feedback. The team that write Bulletin also send news to the local newspapers which publish weekly. However not everyone reads the local press so council news is also published in the council's own channels such as Facebook, Twitter, website and Bulletin.

“Bulletin should publish more offers and activities”

• We do try to publish offers for local activities. However it is difficult to publish regular activities because Bulletin is only distributed four-times per year. However we will look to include more local events in future editions.

“Bulletin should include my bin collection calendar”

• There isn't one bin collection calendar – each area has different collection dates and it is impossible for us to publish all calendars in Bulletin. The council has launched a new online service which makes it very easy to view your collection dates. Please turn to page 8.

“School term dates should be published in the Bulletin”

• Happy to help. We will include school terms dates in each edition. Please turn to page 5.

“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 (56p).

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.

Please do not dispose of **Christmas lights** in your **blue bin**

Find out more : www.westlothian.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste



www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter

Please plan ahead and be WinterReady

This special Bulletin supplement provides you with an overview of how West Lothian Council has prepared for winter.

West Lothian Council plans to have 30,000 tonnes of salt in stock.

This represents three times the amount that is needed for a 'normal' winter.

In addition, we have pre-arranged contracts with suppliers if we need them in periods of prolonged snowfall. It is not possible for support to be provided everywhere at the same time. Please note our priority system routes, which can be found at www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter

Keeping West Lothian moving

We have 96 vehicles which help keep West Lothian moving throughout the winter

Roads

Livingston to Brussels and beyond

With a distance of over **645 miles** of roads to treat - that would take you from Livingston to Brussels and beyond - it is not possible to give all roads equal priority. During periods of severe winter weather treatment may be limited to primary roads and footpaths.

Footways

From Bathgate to Paris and beyond

With a distance of over **800 miles** of footways to treat - that would take you from Bathgate to Paris and beyond - it is not possible to give all footways equal priority. During periods of severe winter weather treatment may be limited to primary roads, footpaths including priority routes to schools.

Primary road and footpath routes are available @ www.westlothian.gov.uk/winter



Road and footpath routes and actions

An extreme weather event will be considered to be an event where continuous snow is forecast and likely to give significant accumulations in excess of 10cm covering the whole of the north or south expanse within the council area. The snow will also be expected to remain in untreated areas for a prolonged period due to low temperatures before a natural thaw disperses it.

During periods of extreme weather, treatment may be limited to primary carriageway routes and primary footpath routes or 'snow routes'.

Gritters and footpath resources will be deployed on these specified 'snow routes' continuously until satisfactory snow clearance has been achieved before resources are deployed to any secondary routes, to maintain access to key facilities and other transport needs.

Grit bins



There are **2,225** grit bins across West Lothian

Grit bin policy

In times of an extreme weather event it is not always possible to service and replenish grit bins due to their location and the deployment of resources in higher priority areas.

In the event that the grit bin service is suspended, the council will provide temporary grit bags and grit heaps at locations across the area for use by the public. The locations will be advertised on the council's website and social media pages.

Many shops also sell salt/grit for domestic use.

Primary routes (snow routes)

These are important principal roads, major scheduled bus routes, routes to fire stations, hospitals, ambulance depots and local danger spots on roads and major industrial estates.

Actions

Gritting and/or snow ploughing 24 hours a day on all days. Pre-grit if required - in advance or if snow falls.

Secondary road routes - Level 1

Other classified routes, distributor routes and connecting routes between centres, minor bus routes, main accesses to schools, medical centres and residential areas.

Actions

Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours from 8am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. Pre-grit if required.

Secondary road routes - Level 2

Residential areas, culs-de-sac and other unclassified roads.

Actions

Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours 8am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.

Secondary road routes - Level 3

Surfaced areas within schools, roads within industrial estates, routes to car parks and car park surfaces.

Actions

Gritting and/or snow ploughing during normal working hours 8am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.

Primary footpath (snow routes)

Urban shopping areas and precincts. Routes to schools, accesses to health centres and medical centres, hospitals, main routes to residential areas and bus stops.

Actions

During November and March, gritting of widespread ice/snow clearing takes place from 5am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. During December, January and February the service will be extended to cover weekends and public holidays (5am to 3.05pm). Reactive treatment only.

Secondary footpath routes - Level 1

Other routes to schools, residential areas and housing areas in general.

Actions

Gritting/snow clearing from 8am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.

Secondary footpath routes - Level 2

Footway links to car parks, community centres, day centres etc and cycle routes.

Actions

Gritting/snow clearing from 8am to 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. Reactive treatment only.

Salt conservation

In periods of extreme weather, it may be necessary to restrict the use of salt to 'snow routes' only. West Lothian Council reaches a minimum stock level when there is only enough salt for six continuous days.

Please note: Salt is less effective at minus six degrees and has minimal impact on ice and snow below minus 10 degrees.

Heavy rain following a treatment of salt can wash the salt from the road meaning we often need to return to the beginning of the priority cycle before many secondary routes are reached. Unfortunately this familiar pattern can prevent any significant progress through the various priority levels.

Schools

Safety is a top priority for West Lothian Council and the decision to close a school or nursery to pupils is one which is not made lightly.

The Head Teacher has responsibility for undertaking a risk assessment in the event of severe weather or building difficulties. There are several factors which may impact on this decision, which is made in consultation with an education manager.

West Lothian Council will provide as much notice as possible of any school closure so that you can make alternative arrangements for your children. We will contact you via Group Call, provide information to local radio stations, and update the council's website and social media channels. Many schools can also contact parents/carers by email.

Travelling to school

In extreme weather conditions, parents/carers should assess whether they consider it safe for their child to travel or walk to school, and

alert the school of their decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please check that your child knows how to access the online education community GLOW, where pupils can access educational material online.

Severe weather volunteer service

The service to help vulnerable members of the community is ready to be activated should this winter prove to be challenging.

If this happens information will be shared via the local media, the council's website, social media channels and the email information service.

Waste collections

During the winter, please continue to present your bin as usual. Please ensure snow has been removed from the lid. The council will only suspend the household waste collection service in extreme situations. For example, where there is widespread heavy snow which makes it impossible for the bin lorries to enter residential areas.

If the service is suspended, updates will be provided via local press and the council's website and social media channels.

Winter colds and prescriptions

Please ensure your medicine cabinet is sufficiently stocked with over-the-counter remedies so that if you become unwell you are prepared.

GP Surgeries will be closed at times over Christmas and New Year.

Prepare by ordering medication to cover both Christmas and New Year holiday breaks.

Don't give COLD a chance

Protect yourself and your home

Inside your home:

Frozen Pipes:

- turn off the water supply (make sure you know where this is).
- turn off the stopcock in your cold water tank, if you have one.
- protect everything around the frozen pipe to avoid damage; if it bursts, place buckets, basins and towels around the area.

Thawing Out:

- open the tap nearest to the part of the pipe you think is frozen, so the water can flow through when it has melted.
- thaw the ice in the pipe with a hot water bottle or hairdryer (taking care to keep it well away from any water). Start from the tap end and work back toward the cold water tank.



NEVER use a heat gun or blowtorch – the pipe needs to be thawed out slowly and safely!

Try the following care tips:

- if your tank is in the loft, open the loft trap door on very cold days to let heat in.
- if you're going on holiday and your home will be empty drain down the water system. If you are a council tenant contact your local housing office who can arrange for this to be done.
- in very cold weather, if you're going out for the day, or perhaps away for a couple of days over the Christmas period, keep your heating on, or set it to come on a couple of times a day.

Following this advice should minimise the risk of having a frozen or burst pipe. However, should this happen, please report it immediately to our Customer Service Centre on 01506 280000.

Outside your home:

In very severe cold spells, care should be taken outside your property due to the formation of icicles, which can become dangerous when they grow large, especially if they have a long distance to fall.

what you shouldn't do

Don't try to knock large icicles off the gutters. Hitting icicles could cause more pressure on the guttering which in turn could cause them to collapse. Large icicles in particular are unpredictable when they fall and could cause injury or property damage.

The best thing to do

leave them alone and monitor them. If necessary cordon off or block the area where the icicles are hanging to prevent and deter anyone from walking directly below them. or set it to come on a couple of times a day.



How can you help?

- Consider the steps you can take to protect your home and business.
- Living with severe weather is frustrating – please be patient with council staff who are trying to work in challenging situations.
- Consider volunteering.
- Keep an eye on your neighbours and

share information.

- Make sure that your child's school has up-to-date contact details for you.
- Follow the council's social media channels for updates.

Clearing snow:

There is no law preventing members of the public and businesses from clearing the

snow and ice from public roads and footways outside their property. However, please take care when attempting to undertake any snow clearing so you don't create any further hazards.

Park sensibly:

Abandoned cars hamper access for snowploughs and diggers, emergency

vehicles, bin lorries and other road users.

Travel:

Check your travel arrangements before starting out and leave extra time for your journey.

Prepare your car for winter now.

JANUARY START COURSES NOW LIVE FOR APPLICATIONS!



Visit: www.west-lothian.ac.uk for more information and to apply

2019/20

Full-Time and Schools Courses open for applications
December 2018



Come to one of our Open Information Events
Check our website for the date & time of our next event



Applications for 2019 open in December

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS AT WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE

Staying at school but want to get a head start in your chosen career?

If you are going in to 4th, 5th or 6th year, you could choose a Foundation Apprenticeship as one of your school subject choices! You can choose a range of subjects including, Engineering, Healthcare, Children & Young People, Scientific Technologies and Creative Industries. These courses are equivalent level to a higher and combine school, college and hands on work experience with a local employer – giving you a head start in your career when you leave school.

Visit www.west-lothian.ac.uk to find out more or speak to your school

Almondvale Crescent, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7EP.

T:01506 418181 E: enquiries@west-lothian.ac.uk



The 100th house at one of the largest new build council housing sites in Scotland has been completed.

West Lothian Council is building 230 new homes at Kirkhill in Broxburn – making it one of the country’s largest council housing sites in Scotland. The new houses will include a mixture of 92 cottage flats, 105 houses and 33 accessible bungalows and range from 1 bed flats to 5 bed houses.

In total, West Lothian Council is building 1,000 new council homes by 2017. The local authority built more new council homes than any other Scottish council in 2013 and 2014.

Executive councillor for services to the community George Paul visited Ms Dianne McDonald who is the 100th tenant to move into their new home at Kirkhill.

He said: “We are very proud to be building more high quality, affordable homes to rent across West Lothian and we are delighted that Ms McDonald – the 100th tenant - has now moved into their new council home at Kirkhill.

“These new homes will enhance

the communities around them for generations to come and help meet the high demand for affordable housing in West Lothian.”

Ms McDonald said: “I love my new home at Kirkhill. It is a lovely home and a very nice development. The location is perfect as I work at Broxburn Academy so it is ideal for me getting to and from work and for my daughter, who attends the Academy, too.”



Executive councillor for services to the community, George Paul (second from left) joined staff from Lovell and West Lothian Council’s Housing service in welcoming Ms McDonald to her new home.

Cleaner Communities Team urge public to get their litter walking

West Lothian Council’s Cleaner Communities Team have launched a colorful keep-fit campaign to remind the public to walk their litter and dog foul to the nearest bin when they’re out and about.



The team are promoting the health benefits that come with walking around West Lothian’s open spaces whilst also reminding the public that there is always a bin nearby to dispose of their rubbish.

The team deployed a series of stencils featuring humorous anti littering reminders during a trial at Bankton Mains Park in Murieston. Positive feedback from local dog walkers and residents alike has prompted the team to place stencils in a number of other outdoor areas such as around the play park at the Water Yett next to Linlithgow Loch.

Cleaner Communities manager David Lees said, “We are always

looking at new ways to publicise the need for responsible behaviour regarding litter and dog fouling. This is a slightly more light-hearted approach to what is a serious issue however it is one has been received positively by the public.”

Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn said: “We have some fantastic parks and outdoor spaces in West Lothian that we want everyone to enjoy litter free. We’re asking people to be mindful when they’re out for a walk in the sunshine with family or friends or walking their dog that there is always a bin nearby where they can dispose of their rubbish.”

Bulletin special offers



Visit West Lothian
visitwestlothian.co.uk



BURN UP THEIR ENERGY AT JUMPSTATION, HOME OF OVER 80 INTERCONNECTED TRAMPOLINES FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES
Bounce on down to JumpStation, Scotland’s #1 Trampoline Park for fun! With the UK’s first Augmented Climbing wall!

Take advantage of our holiday Jumper Card! Eight jumps for £60 (saving 25% on our walk-in price). Perfect for a weekly jump throughout the holidays for one child, or split it for friends and siblings.

Photocopies will not be accepted.

3 Kingsthorne Park, Houston Industrial Estate, Livingston EH54 5DB.

Tel: 01506 537966, www.jumpstations.co.uk

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



Half price ice cream at Jack and the Beanstalk

Enjoy half price ice creams for you and family or friends when you come along to Howden Park Centre’s super-doooper pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. Running from 10-28 December, Jack and the Beanstalk is a fresh take on the classic tale, full of jokes and fun for all the family.

Maximum 4 ice creams per voucher. Please present original voucher when placing order photocopies not accepted. Valid until 28 December 2018. Howden Park Centre, Livingston, EH54 6AE.

Tel: 01506 340700 www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



10% DISCOUNT ON ALL BOOKINGS WITH THIS VOUCHER



Have a short haul holiday this winter at Linwater and make use of a 10% discount on all accommodation. Offer valid on touring pitches as well as our fabulous little Timber Tents and luxury lodges!

Offer Valid between 1 October 2018 to 15 March 2019. (excluding 22 Dec to 5 January and not in conjunction with any other offers.)

Linwater Caravan Park, West Clifton, East Calder, West Lothian, EH53 0HT. Tel: 0131 333 3326 www.linwater.co.uk

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



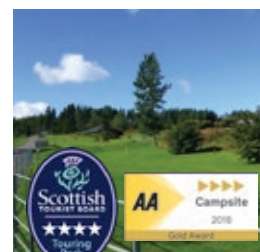
WILLIAMSCRAIG HOLIDAY COTTAGES £50 OFF EACH BOOKING MADE BEFORE 31 MARCH 2019

Seven comfortable and stylish self-catering holiday cottages in one of the cosiest retreats, with some of the best views in the land. Cottages come with a Jacuzzi hot tub, badger cam and bird-cam, and are close to a large swing park and woodland walks.

Voucher must be presented upon arrival. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Offer valid until 31 March 2019. The Horsemill, WilliamsCraig, Linlithgow. EH49 6QF, 07795040608. www.holidaycottageslinlithgow.co.uk

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



Book your caravan, motorhome or trailer tent into Beecraigs Caravan Site as a “Family Ticket” & 2 Children go FREE with 2 Adults!

An ideal countryside retreat, with modern toilet facilities. A perfect base to explore Central Scotland, Glasgow and Edinburgh, situated in the Bathgate Hills within Beecraigs Country Park.

Exclusive of any other offer. Original voucher must be presented, photocopies not accepted. Valid between 05/11-20/12/18 and 07/01-28/03/19. Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow, EH49 6PL. Tel: 01506 284516 www.beecraigs.com

Bulletin Visit West Lothian



West Lothian Leisure Xcite shortlisted by Scottish Swimming for the Learn to Swim Provider of the Year Award 2018!

The prestigious industry award considers all providers across the whole of Scotland and the West Lothian sports and culture charity trust has made the final three, against strong competition.

The programme they deliver, provides swimming tuition by fully qualified swim teachers for all abilities, from birth to adults. Lessons start from Adult & Baby, all the way through to Pre-Club and Adult Swimming and is available at Xcite venues in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Livingston, Linlithgow and Whitburn.

Robin Strang, Chief Executive of West Lothian Leisure (WLL) Xcite said "I'm delighted that our swim teams has been shortlisted for the award. It's fantastic recognition of all the hard work that has gone into improving and delivering the programme.

I'd like to thank all our dedicated Swim Team for making it happen, from Swim Teachers to those behind the scenes and all our swimmers who take part in our programme throughout West Lothian.

We continue to be committed to delivering quality programming and facilities to the community and improving their health and wellbeing."

Through their partnership work with Scottish Swimming, elite swimmer Duncan Scott visited Xcite Bathgate last year and has since gone on to win gold at the Commonwealth Game and European Championships.

Duncan was recently awarded 2018

Scottish Sportsman of the Year and is Scotland's most successful athlete ever at a single Commonwealth Games. WLL Xcite also provide facilities for local swim clubs with a natural progression path from their Learn to Swim programme. Mr Strang added "We believe our partnership work continues to enable us to teach and inspire young swimmers and provide local access to swimming pools across West Lothian."

Giving your child the opportunity to learn to swim is one of the best gifts you'll ever give them and one they will absolutely love.

To celebrate the nomination WLL Xcite are giving away a FREE* Learn to Swim Lessons to selected classes during December 2018.

- Adult & Baby 4-12months
- Adult & Child 12-24months
- Adult & Toddler 24-36 months

To find out more about Learn 2 Swim at Xcite and how to take up this offer visit www.westlothianleisure.com. *Terms and conditions apply.

Get more from your membership

Xcite Options are specialised 1-2-1 sessions with our expert Gym Team designed to help you improve your technique, training, widen your workout range and learn more about your fitness. There are 11 Xcite Options to try and they are included in all Xcite Adult Membership!

- Core
- Free Weights
- Tanita - Health MOT
- Suspension Training
- Functional Training
- Flexibility
- Power Plate
- Plyometrics and Metabolic Conditioning
- Lifestyle Tracker App
- Nutrition
- Event Training



Book now online or at reception. Not an Xcite member?

Did you know as an Xcite member you get access to 10 Xcite venues in West Lothian: nine Gyms, over 400 Fitness Classes a week*, six Swimming Pools, plus Teaching Pools, Sauna & Steam Rooms, Golf Course, Athletics Track, Indoor Sports: Badminton, Tennis, Short Tennis, Squash and Table Tennis. PLUS the fully qualified expert Xcite Team on hand to support, teach and motivate you from open to close! Adult memberships start from £15 per month.*Fitness classes are not included in Gold or Silver memberships. All ages and fitness ability welcome!



WLL XCITE APP

Get quick and easy access to view timetables and book your favourite activities with WLL Xcite App!

Fitness Classes Timetables

Get real-time access to fitness classes and quickly book! Over 400 a week to choose from!

Gym Classes

Book your next gym review, or try one of our Xcite Options.

My Wellness

Instant access to My Wellness App, with your latest gym programme updates and results!

Venue information

Opening times, facilities, and contact details.

News & Offers

Check out news and offers so you're always up-to-date!

Kids Holiday Programme

Get access to the latest holiday programme with bookable feature.

Facebook

See WLL Xcite's latest social media posts and share your bookings so your gym buddy can book in too!

To find out more download WLL Xcite App visit www.westlothianleisure.com or directly via your App Store on your Apple device or Android on Google Play.

