

Bulletin



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SUMMER SAFE

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World Cup Stars Honoured

Good luck to West Lothian's Shelley Kerr and Hayley Lauder,
West Lothian is proud of you! [More on page 5 >](#)

20 NEW foster families are needed **urgently**
We care... do you? Turn to page 15 for more information





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Robert Burns collection donated to Simpson Library

A new section of Simpson Library in Bathgate dedicated to the works of Robert Burns has been boosted by a special donation from a member of the public.



Executive councillor for culture and leisure Dave King, Housing, Customer and Building Services Manager Anne-Marie Vance with Allister Mackie

Former depute provost and Bathgate local Allister Mackie has donated his personal collection of Robert Burns, written works to the library located within Bathgate Partnership Centre.

The collection is free to read for library members and includes collections of his poetry, texts about his life and work, and also a copy of Allister Mackie's book *Robert Burns: Warts and all*. Further donations of Burns material are welcomed. Mr Mackie, who is a

Burns enthusiast said: "I am delighted to donate my collection to the library. I hope to see many people experiencing a similar level of enjoyment from the collection that I have over

the years. I would encourage anyone with any collection of their own to donate to the library so we can build a reference point for Burns lovers to enjoy for years to come."



Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King

"A huge thank-you to Mr Mackie for his kind donation. The words of Robert Burns are celebrated all over the world and now library users in Bathgate will have their own special collection of his works to enjoy."

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/advicehop

Former depot becomes new home for Lothian Country

A former council depot in Livingston has become the new base for Lothian Country buses in West Lothian.

The council has approved plans to sell the vacant depot in Nairn Road in Deans to Lothian Country for £700,000, subject to final agreement and approval.

The 3.6 acre site was formerly home to a fleet depot, waste transfer station and associated offices before services were relocated to the new Whitehill Service Centre in Bathgate.

The move is part of West Lothian Council's strategy of modernising depots and stores to improve service delivery, improve working

standards, and reduce building maintenance and heating costs.

Council Leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "We are delighted that Lothian Country are establishing a permanent base in West Lothian at

the council's former Fleet depot in Deans, Livingston. The total value of their investment should exceed £6 million, which shows their long-term commitment to West Lothian."



Executive councillor for development and transport Cathy Muldoon

"It's fantastic news that Lothian Country are bringing 120 jobs to West Lothian at their new depot, giving a welcome boost to the local economy. The addition of Lothian Country buses to West Lothian's public transport network has increased choice for local residents, encouraging more people to consider using public transport."

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



Work begins @ Whitburn Partnership Centre

Whitburn is the latest town in West Lothian to benefit from the creation of a new Partnership Centre.

Whitburn's new Partnership Centre will bring a number of local facilities and services under one roof in the heart of the town centre.

The original Burgh Halls façade will also be kept and restored.

The project is the latest in the council's partnership centre model that has proven successful in other parts of the area including Armadale, Bathgate, East Calder, Broxburn, Fauldhouse and Linlithgow.

West Lothian Council will invest nearly £5 million in the facility which will see the redevelopment of the Burgh Halls on East Main Street to create a centre. A new two-storey extension is being constructed to the retained East Mains Street building which will provide a new easily accessible main entrance leading in to an airy reception area with seating. The redeveloped building will provide accommodation for the Library, Housing Office, Access 2

Employment, Customer Information Service and Museum as well as providing two community rooms, separated by a sliding folding partition which can be opened up to form one large Community Hall. A kitchen is also being installed with a servery which opens in to the larger of the two community spaces. The ground floor also provides public toilets, an accessible WC and a baby change within an extra unisex WC. The upper floor houses additional office space and meeting rooms with staff WCs.

Central Building Contractors have been appointed to carry out the works and existing local facilities will continue to operate, with the new facility expected to open late 2020. Depute Council leader Kirsteen Sullivan said: "This is a significant investment in the town and the new building better meets the needs of customers by hosting a wider

variety of services under one roof as well as providing new spaces for the local community. There is a lot of work to be done and we are delighted that the project is now underway. I am sure that the investment in this new facility in Whitburn will prove extremely popular once it opens." Ann Marie Carr, Acting head of housing, customer and building services added: "Our Partnership Centres have proved very successful in other towns and we have high hopes for the new Centre in Whitburn which is really about creating a new, modern facility that delivers a range of services under one roof. In other locations we've seen an increase in the numbers of visitors to libraries within Partnership Centres so we know this model of service delivery works well."



Briefing and liaison officer, Ruth Strachan; Acting head of housing, customer and building services, Ann Marie Carr; Depute Council Leader, Kirsteen Sullivan; CBC Ltd Pre-construction site manager, Michael McAleney and Construction and design manager, Marjory Mackie

The community can read about updates at: www.westlothian.gov.uk/whitburnpartnershipcentre

New hub for Blackburn



A fantastic new £8.2 million hub for health, council and community services has been officially opened in Blackburn.

A special ceremony was held recently to mark the completion of Blackburn Partnership Centre, a partnership project between West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian at the heart of the village.

Services now based in the new Blackburn Partnership Centre include health services such as a new GP practice and community health centre, as well as council

services such as Customer Information Services (CIS), library and employability services. A dentist is expected to be based in the centre soon.

Blackburn Credit Union is also now based at the centre, along with a community centre including sports hall, IT training suite and multi-purpose, early years and young people's spaces.

Chair of the West Lothian Integration Joint Board, Martin Hill, and Depute leader of West Lothian Council, Kirsteen Sullivan, officially opened Blackburn Partnership Centre together with invited guests.

Martin Hill said: "It's great to officially open the new centre where the Council, NHS Lothian and care providers have worked together to make sure the right services are in place to support people in this fantastic facility."

"This is another example of an effective partnership approach, good for people and good for improving health in Blackburn. "NHS Lothian is committed to the partnership centre model for communities such as Fauldhouse and Strathbrock in Broxburn, and I'm confident this substantial investment of public funds will benefit Blackburn residents for many years to come."



Depute leader, Kirsteen Sullivan

"I'm delighted to be part of the official opening of the fantastic new Blackburn Partnership Centre. This superb new facility is already creating a real hub for the village, by bringing together services in one central location. This investment will ensure the Blackburn community has a first class facility for services at the heart of the village. West Lothian Council has a strong track record of delivering new partnership centres to bring vital services together for communities including Armadale, Bathgate, East Calder and Linlithgow, and work has already started on a new partnership centre for Whitburn."

New Linlithgow Heritage Museum

It follows the relocation of Annet House Museum to a brand new, fully accessible space in West Lothian Council's Linlithgow Partnership Centre.



The new museum takes the form of three large galleries, exploring the history of Linlithgow, trades within the town and 'Life by the Loch'. Old Annet House favourites, such as the Newlands plough and the statue of Mary Queen of Scots, will be on display, as well as many objects that have never been exhibited before. New interactive features are also available, including listening posts with clips from the museum's recent oral history project. Entry is free but donations are very welcome.

William Morrison, Chair of the Linlithgow heritage trust, said: "The aim is for the town to view the museum as their museum. We want it to be not only an exciting visitor attraction but for it to become part of the community, so that local people enjoy the

galleries, participate in the events and take part in running the museum."

"We are very grateful for the funding that has made the move possible. We would especially like to thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund, LEADER, West Lothian Council and other funders for their support."

West Lothian's executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King said: "We are delighted to see the excellent new Linlithgow Museum now open to the public."

"The opening of the community-led museum is the culmination of over five years of hard work by the dedicated Linlithgow Heritage Trust Board and volunteers, and we are proud to be a partner in this endeavour."

Success for West Lothian's School Bands



There was success for a number of West Lothian schools and area bands at the recent Scottish Concert Band Festival Final in Perth.

The annual event which is made up of bands who achieved a Gold Award or higher at a Scottish Concert Band Festival regional heat took place at Perth Concert Hall which saw West Lothian excellently represented across several categories.

There was a Gold Plus Award for the West Lothian Schools Wind Ensemble in the Advanced Youth Band Class.

Deans Community High School Cluster Brass Ensemble picked up a Gold Award in the Ensemble Class.

Deans was also represented in the Achieving School Band Class, with Deans Community High School Wind Band picking up a Gold Award.

In the Advanced School Band Class, West Calder High School Senior Band achieved a Silver

Plus Award and The James Young High School Senior Band received a Gold Award.

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "Congratulations to all of our young musicians who took part. It is clear that we have an

abundance of musical talent in West Lothian. We are delighted to hear of their success and they can feel very proud of their achievements."

The success of the groups at the festival came during a busy period for West Lothian Council's Instrumental Music Service.

The annual Spring Concerts featuring the West Lothian Schools String Ensemble, Brass Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble took place at Deans Community High School with over 170 pupils taking part.

A 'Big Band' weekend also recently took place with a group of 24 students spending a weekend rehearsing a number of big band numbers before putting on an exciting performance for family and friends at the end of the weekend.



Recently, the West Lothian Schools Pipe Band travelled to Tallaght, Ireland and gave a fantastic performance at Tallaght's St Patrick's Day Parade. The band has also recently achieved 1st place in the Novice Juvenile grade A the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) Lothian & Borders Branch indoor competition and 1st place in the Novice Juvenile grade at Dunbar Highland Games.



BROXBURN UNITED SPORTS CLUB
JULY AND AUGUST 2019
MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS
20% OFF (FULL WEEKS ONLY)

The Summer Holiday Multi Sport Camps, for 5-12 years old, offers a wide range of fun activities for boys and girls. Their weekly programmes cover individual and team sports such as football, rugby, tennis and cycling.

They guarantee your children will have the opportunity to try new sports, make new friends, and gain new experiences.

Voucher must be presented on arrival. Photocopies will not be accepted. Offer valid only for all BUSC Multi-Sports Summer Camps. Albyn Park, Greendykes Road, Broxburn, EH52 5BP. Tel.01506 858 057. A.White@BUSC.org.uk

Summer Schools Programme



Over £4 million of improvement work to West Lothian schools is set to take place over the summer holiday period.

The programme includes work to support the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare from August 2019. It also includes refurbishment and extension work at the Polkemmet Primary School nursery (Whitburn), refurbishment work at Carmondean and St Nicholas Primary Schools and the installation of new kitchens at Simpson Primary School (Bathgate) and St John the Baptist (Fauldhouse).

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "We have one of the best school estates in the country in West Lothian and we are continuing to invest to ensure that this remains the case.

"By continuing to improve settings across our education facilities we

are providing the best possible environment for students to learn and the summer holiday period allows essential work to take place with minimal disruption to pupils." Work will be taking place at schools across the area including: significant investment in refurbishment and internal works at Ogilvie School Campus (Livingston); toilet refurbishments at Our Lady's Primary School (Stoneyburn), Williamston Primary School (Livingston) and Springfield Primary School (Linlithgow); roof replacement works at St Ninian Primary School (Livingston) and St Nicholas Primary School (Broxburn); and phase four of the science lab refurbishment at Linlithgow Academy.

Huge investment in early years and childcare expansion



The council is growing and improving Early Learning and Childcare facilities all over West Lothian for the next two financial years, as part of our priority to support the growing numbers of local young people. West Lothian Council is introducing the national pledge of providing 1,140 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare for all three, four and eligible two year-olds in 2019/20, a year ahead of schedule.

To deliver this free quality service, it requires huge investment in infrastructure such as in catering capacity, which will allow the council to provide free school meals for nursery children from August 2020. West Lothian has one of the fastest growing young populations in Scotland and the council will continue to invest in the services and facilities that help our children and young people to succeed in life.



Council leader
Lawrence
Fitzpatrick

"I'm delighted that we are continuing to invest in education to cater for the growing demand for Early Years and Childcare in West Lothian, which will allow us to deliver increased hours of Early Years and Childcare a year earlier than many local authorities. Prudent investment has made sure we already have one of the best school estates in Scotland, and this £13 million investment will grow our capacity and make further improvements to the facilities needed for learning. Our investment in our schools has been hugely significant over the past few years, with a number of schools extended or refurbished, as well as new schools built."



World Cup Stars Honoured

Primary pupils from across the West Calder cluster area joined West Lothian's Provost Tom Kerr and guests at West Calder High School to recognise two stars of the Scottish Women's Football Team.

National Team head coach Shelley Kerr (Former pupil of West Calder High School) and midfielder Hayley Lauder (who attended Deans Community High School in Livingston) were special guests at the recognition event.

Provost Kerr presented both guests with a gift and joined hundreds of pupils – who were at the school to take part in a football festival – in wishing both Hayley and Shelley the best of luck at the World Cup.

Shelley also presented a signed Scotland shirt to the school and also provided some inspirational advice to the youngsters. Shelley has led the Scottish Women's football team to FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time ever. The World Cup began on Friday 7 June. Scotland is in the same group as Argentina, Japan and England.

The council has also named the new 3G pitches at West Calder High School after Shelley in recognition of her achievements.



Provost Tom Kerr

“ We are very, very proud of Shelley and Hayley and we couldn't let their achievements go unrecognised. We wanted to wish them well before the World Cup started and it was fantastic to see them both at an event with so many local youngsters.

This is the first time ever that Scotland has qualified for the Women's World Cup and, as Team Coach, Shelley will forever be a legend of Scottish Women's football. It is very fitting that the new school's 3G pitches are being named after her. I'm sure everyone in West Lothian will be watching to see how Scotland gets on at the World Cup but, no matter the results, we are all incredibly proud of Shelley and Hayley. ”



The Best Start Grant

The Best Start Grant is a package of three different payments to give extra money to parents and carers during the early years of a child's life. Each of the three payments need a separate application.

The pregnancy and baby payment

£600 payment for a first child is provided and £300 for other children to help with the cost of having a new baby. This replaced the Sure Start Grant. Applications are open now.

The early learning payment

£250 payment to help with the cost of having a pre-school child aged between 2 and 3 and a half is provided. Applications are open now.

The school-age payment

£250 payment to help with the costs of uniform, bags and equipment when starting school is provided. Applications open from 3/6/19.

The Advice Shop can check if you are entitled to claim the Best Start Grant. Call 01506 283000 option 4.

New Headteacher for Armadale Academy



Headteacher Graham Paris (back centre) joined by 6th year students.

Graham Paris has been appointed as Headteacher of Armadale Academy

The former depute and acting headteacher of Lasswade High School in Midlothian has taken on the permanent role of leading the school. Armadale Academy serves the catchment of Armadale, Blackridge and Bathgate, and works closely across its wider cluster of primary schools to deliver a coherent curricular experience from ages three to 18.

Mr Paris said: "I am delighted and feel hugely privileged to have been appointed to the role. "I am looking forward to working with students, staff, parents, partners and the wider community to deliver a shared, ambitious vision for the school moving forward. We have already started the process of shaping the school improvement plan for

next session based on building on a number of clear strengths identified in the recent Education Scotland inspection report, as well as addressing our areas for improvement.

"I am committed to ensuring we deliver an excellent experience to our students and their families. My priorities are ensuring that

students feel both happy and safe in school, alongside creating a calm and settled climate for learning where they can reach their individual potential.

"Armadale Academy is a school that has great potential. I am determined to build on the existing good practice across the school and ensure that moving forward, we are a school that the wider community can be proud of."

Graham has enjoyed a variety of roles within secondary education since graduating from The University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Physical Education.

He first joined Ross High School in Tranent, East Lothian, taking up the post of Physical Education teacher. Since then he has gained a wealth of leadership experience across Depute Headteacher, Principal Teacher Curriculum, Principal Teacher Student Support and Inclusion roles.

Graham has furthered his professional knowledge of school leadership through ongoing work-based, academic study at the University of Edinburgh, completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Learning: Into Headship (with distinction) in 2017.



Executive councillor for education David Dodds

“ We are delighted to welcome Graham Paris to Armadale Academy and West Lothian Council. Armadale Academy has made great strides in recent years, and we believe Graham is the best candidate to continue to deliver improvements at the school, ensuring young people are able to achieve their full potential. ”



**PART-TIME
ENROLMENT
EVENING***
13 AUGUST
4PM - 7PM

WHERE YOU CAN achieve your potential

**THINKING
ABOUT
YOUR
NEXT
STEPS?**

**JOIN OVER
8000 OTHER
STUDENTS
STUDYING
WITH US
EACH YEAR**

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4 RIGHT UP
TO DEGREE
LEVEL**

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for more information & to apply

* No pre-booking required



**west lothian
college**

Tackling funeral poverty in West Lothian



Operational services manager Andy Johnston, Executive councillor for the environment Tom Conn and Cemeteries officer George Downey join local funeral directors.

West Lothian Council is working with local funeral directors to mitigate the effects of funeral poverty and provide greater choice to all residents when dealing with the death of a loved one.

A recent meeting of West Lothian Council Executive approved developments in relation to the provision of a West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model, provided by local funeral directors.

The West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model will add an element of choice for residents who may find the cost of paying for the funeral of a loved one through the traditional methods beyond their financial reach.

West Lothian Council's charges are currently set at one of the lowest in Scotland at 27th out of the 32 Scottish local authorities. It was discussed and agreed with the funeral directors that as the council's charges are significantly below the national average they should remain unchanged.

The average cost of a funeral in Scotland is £3,700. For a burial in West Lothian, including lair purchase and interment this model will save West Lothian residents approximately £993 against the national average with a saving of £1,285 on the cremation

cost. The West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model provides a further choice to residents to ensure that they can, where finances are difficult, deal with their deceased loved ones in a respectful way by utilising the West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model and the services that this endorses.

Leaflets will be made widely available in council offices and at point of registration of death, providing further information so that people are kept aware of the new model.

Managing director of Brodie's funerals, Jim Brodie said: "The majority of West Lothian Funeral Directors: Brodies, Brownings, Cooperative Funeralcare,

Grievess and Scotmid Funerals, are delighted to be working with West Lothian Council to promote a new respectful funeral package, at a cost which gives families with financial constraints the ability to have a witnessed funeral for their loved ones at an agreed cost of £1,550, (not including cremation or burial fees), for the next two years to April 2021.

The effects of the Funeral Affordability gap on families is difficult and has far-reaching consequences.

This initiative will go some way to help those families, and the West Lothian Funeral firms will guarantee to deliver a simple standardised service to help breach that gap."



Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn

"Funeral poverty is an increasing reality for many people throughout the UK who find themselves in a position where the cost of a funeral outweighs their ability to pay. We are confident that the West Lothian Respectful Funeral Model will add an element of choice for residents and help to mitigate the effects of funeral poverty"

First meeting for Anti-Poverty Task Force

A new task force set up to look at ways to tackle poverty in West Lothian has met for the first time.

The Anti-Poverty Task Force is made up of officers from a wide-range of West Lothian Council services as well as a diverse range of community organisations, community planning partners and local elected members from across the political parties.

The aim of the task force is to deliver on the objectives set out in the Better Off: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23.

Launched in 2018, the strategy has been developed to take into account the changing world and better reflect the challenges, constraints and opportunities there are in West Lothian over the next five years.

The first meeting focussed mainly on child poverty in West Lothian with the group hearing that around one in five children in West Lothian are in relative poverty. The task force considered measures, which are being taken or are in progress, to reduce this number.

The task force also heard

about the work which has been undertaken to support families by providing meals during the school holiday period.

Discussions took place around looking at ways to make the school day easily affordable for pupils and their families. Chair of the anti-poverty task force, Councillor Andrew McGuire said: "Tackling poverty, in particular child poverty, is a main priority for West Lothian Council.

"The Anti-Poverty Task Force allows us 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.

"I was pleased to chair the first meeting and was delighted to hear about some of the positive work that is already underway in tackling child poverty in West Lothian.

"Working with our community partners, we will continually seek to reduce poverty and improve the lives of those affected by poverty across West Lothian."



Advice @ St John's

A new service has been set up at St John's Hospital to provide patients, their families, friends and carers with free advice and support. This can include accessing benefit entitlements, offering energy and housing advice, and supporting them with any money worries including debt and budgeting.

The launch of Advice@St John's will see West Lothian Council's Advice Shop work together with partners in the NHS and the Citizen's Advice Bureau West Lothian to provide support and information to patients in the hospital, five days a week. Along with access to a range of services, patients will be able to speak confidentially to an advisor at a specific appointment in the hospital or through a ward visit. Specially trained volunteers are there to provide a much needed 'listening ear' to those who are worried and anxious. The Advice Shop is a free, impartial and confidential service to help the people of West Lothian with a focus to alleviate poverty and to promote inclusion and equality

through advice, assistance and advocacy.

Advice Shop Services are currently available at Bathgate Partnership Centre and sessions are held at other venues across West Lothian.

Further information on the Advice Shop can be found via the West Lothian Council website:

www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

Chair of the anti-poverty task force, Councillor Andrew McGuire attended the launch of the new service.

He said: "One of the key aims of the Anti-Poverty Task Force was to improve access to advice in health settings. The Advice Shop staff and

volunteers deliver information to anyone who requires it and, working together with partners, I'm sure they will deliver for the patients of St John's hospital."

West Lothian Council leader Lawrence Fitzpatrick said: "We are fully committed to tackling poverty in West Lothian. This service will prove to be a valuable resource for the patients of St John's at what may be a vulnerable time in their life. Staff from the Advice Shop and partner organisations will now be in a position to offer a wholly comprehensive and confidential service, providing valuable information and advice to help people get their financial matters in order."

West Lothian marks 100 years of women's right to vote

West Lothian Council recently held an event at Howden Park Centre to commemorate the suffrage movement and 100 years since some women first received the right to vote.

The first women's suffrage petition was presented to Parliament in 1832, but it wasn't until over 80 years later in 1918 that some women were granted the vote, making 2018 the 100-year anniversary of this important milestone in history. The celebration also marked the 100 years which have passed since the first woman served as a member of the UK parliament in 1919. The event included a performance about the fight for suffrage by St Kentigern's Academy and a talk from former MP and Chair of the Remember Mary Barbour campaign, Maria Fyfe, who spoke to the audience about the

progress and achievements of women in politics throughout the last century. She said: "I was delighted to speak at today's event and highlight the achievements of women in politics over the past 100 years. "There has been great progress but it is our responsibility to ensure that we achieve equality in politics and see a 50-50 split in representation between women and men. "I hope that all the young people in the audience will be inspired by the stories of women such as Mary Barbour and can see that a



Maria Fyfe (front centre) was joined by St Kentigern's Academy pupils and representatives from West Lothian Council to mark 100 years of women's right to vote

life in politics still has the ability to promote and campaign for vital causes." Depute council leader Kirsteen Sullivan who opened the event, said: "The fight for women's suffrage was not an easy one, and it was down to the tireless campaigning, lecturing and demonstrating, writing letters to MPs and producing political

leaflets, that suffragettes and suffragists managed to further their cause for votes for women. "I was delighted to see so many people at today's event, especially the students from across all secondary schools in West Lothian. The performance from St Kentigern's Academy pupils really allowed us to reflect on a key moment in history and

offered real inspiration to think about how we can positively influence society in the years ahead and ensure equality." An exhibition called 'Women and Democracy: the West Lothian Story' was featured at the event and will soon be appearing at partnership centres across West Lothian.

Bulletin special offers



in association with Visit West Lothian visitwestlothian.co.uk



Set down your modern tools and discover the past by visiting eek! Escape Rooms.

Prices start at £22.50pp but the more friends who come, the more you save! You can come as a six player for just £15pp

The escape rooms can accommodate between two and six people. Please pre-book your session online. If your preferred time is not available, please contact us directly. 18 High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7AE Tel.0730 562 7750 www.eekescaperooms.com



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Stay for a week in November 2019, January 2020 or February 2020 – get a 20% discount. Exclusive of any other offer.

Customers get 10% discount on Beecraigs Trout Fishery and Polkemmet Golf Course activities during their stay. Exclusive of any other offer.

Voucher must be presented on arrival. No photocopies accepted. Beecraigs Caravan & Camping Site, Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow, West Lothian EH49 6PL Tel.01506 284516 www.beecraigs.com Other offers may also be announced



SCOTTISH OWL CENTRE AT POLKEMMET COUNTRY PARK CHILD GOES FREE!

Visit the Scottish Owl Centre, where one child can go free with a full-paying adult with this voucher.

Valid 1st July to 31st August 2019. No photocopies accepted. Scottish Owl Centre, Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn, West Lothian EH47 0AD Open: 10.30am to 5pm. Last entry 4pm. Meet the Birds: 11.30am. Flying displays: 1.30pm, 3.30pm. Tel.01501 228184 www.scottishowlcentre.com



LITTLE LODGE OFFER

WEEK SPECIAL – stay seven consecutive nights and get a 30% off the total accommodation cost (exclusive of any other offer).

Voucher must be presented on arrival. No photocopies accepted. Beecraigs Caravan & Camping Site, Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow, West Lothian EH49 6PL Tel.01506 284516 www.beecraigs.com Other offers may also be announced



Uphall Golf Club

Full seven day adult membership package available for only £52 per month

Join as a full member for only £156 and then just £52 per month then enjoy unlimited golf, leisure and competitions on our challenging but fair parkland course

This package applies to players 30 years of age and over. We offer many other options for younger players. Offer expires 30th September 2019. Uphall, West Lothian, EH52 6JT. 01506 855553 www.uphallgolfclub.com



Gardens Competition 2019

Wildlife Garden ~ Vegetable Garden
Floral Containers ~ Best New Entrant
Best Communal Garden (flats/sheltered housing)
Tallest Sunflower

Closing date 12.07.2019 Judging begins 22.07.19
Prizegiving 25.10.19

To enter call Jillian Spowart on 01506 284629
or email jillian.spowart@westlothian.gov.uk



New members sought for race forum

West Lothian Race Forum is looking to expand its membership

The group aims to promote diversity and equality amongst all cultures and highlight race issues, promoting and enhancing understanding and awareness of race and race equality in an increasingly culturally diverse West Lothian.

Anyone is welcome to join the group, which meets on a regular basis and holds events to celebrate diversity and promote cohesion within the community.

It is also one of West Lothian Community Planning Partnership's (CPP's) equality forums, providing an opportunity to have a say on policies and services in relation to race equality issues.

The forum has recently elected new office bearers and is keen to get more people involved, with a relaunch of the race forum planned for 20 June in Midnight Breakfast Club in Bathgate.

For more information or to join the race forum, please email communityraceforum@hotmail.co.uk. You can also get updates from the forum on both Twitter and Facebook at twitter.com/race_west and facebook.com/WLCommunityRaceForum/.



FLY-TIPPING IS CRIMINAL **THERE'S NO EXCUSE**



Over 80% of fly-tipping is a result of commercial operators dumping household materials such as old kitchen and bathroom suites and flooring, as well as garden waste.

HOUSEHOLDERS CAN HELP:

- Always check that the tradespeople you employ have a Waste Carrier Licence.
- Don't use tradespeople who can't provide you with a Waste Carrier Licence.
- You should ensure that the removal of waste is included in any quote for work and get a waste transfer note/receipt for taking your waste away.
- If you have not made these checks, and your waste is dumped illegally, you could share liability jointly with your tradesperson and be subject to enforcement action, a fixed penalty notice or court action.

REPORT IT: www.westlothian.gov.uk/report or 01506 280000

Armadale Academy student named national student of the year



Niamh was joined by her mentor, Mark McKenny, from the Scottish Government (left) and West Lothian Council Head of Education James Cameron at the ceremony in Perth

Armadale Academy pupil, Niamh McConnell, has been named 'Scotland Student of the Year' at this year's Career Ready programme graduation ceremony.

The event, held at Perth Concert Hall on 28 March, recognised the achievements of pupils and employers who have successfully taken part in the programme. Career Ready is designed to support secondary school pupils into employment by connecting

schools with local employers to open up the world of work to young people. Offering a structured programme for 15–18-year-olds, the programme relies on employers to deliver the four key areas of activity – mentoring, internships,

masterclasses and workplace visits.

This year saw eight West Lothian schools participating in the programme; with 25 year 2 students graduating following time spent with a range of employers.

Niamh was named 'West Lothian Student of the Year' before being announced as the overall national winner and going on to represent Scotland at the UK Career Ready ceremony.

The Armadale Academy pupil completed a four-week internship with the Scottish Government in the Cyber Security & Defence team. Her time with the team proved to be a success and she is now undertaking an HND in ICT at West Lothian College in addition to continuing to work with the

Scottish Government team two days a week on a permanent basis.

Niamh said: "The thought of the internship was really daunting but I loved getting work to do and being treated like an adult. It was so different from school. I have now changed my whole career path and am doing something I would have never considered before the programme, IT and Cyber Security. It has been truly life changing."

West Lothian Council's head of education, James Cameron said: "Congratulations to Niamh and all of our pupils who took part in Career Ready this year. I was very proud to be invited to present the 2019 Career Ready Scotland Graduation certificates to West Lothian students."

"The Career Ready programme has been very beneficial for our pupils over the years in increasing their confidence and networking capabilities to prepare them for the workplace."

Executive councillor for education, David Dodds said: "Well done to all the students who have graduated and in particular, Niamh McConnell. The future is clearly bright for Niamh. We are fully committed to ensuring that our young people are equipped with the knowledge they need to enter further and higher education, training and the employment market. We also have to thank employers who have been involved with this year's programme for providing our young people with the opportunity to gain crucial work experience with them."

Any business which would like more information about supporting the programme in West Lothian should contact Michelle Robertson, Education for Work Officer: michelle.robertson@westlothian.gov.uk

Summer Safe

Summer Safe 2019 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.

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, wear 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 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.

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.

Visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/summersafe for more information



Executive councillor for education David Dodds with Linlithgow Academy pupil Ellie Roy

Ellie Roy wins Schuh Design Challenge

Ellie Roy (S3) from Linlithgow Academy picked up the top accolade for her shoe design at the Schuh Design Challenge 2019.

The runner-up was Morven McBride from St Kentigern's Academy, with Lucy Halliday 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 Executive councillor for

education, David Dodds said: "Huge congratulations to Ellie from Linlithgow Academy for her wonderful design. We look forward to the Schuh Design Challenge every year and the creativity and innovation that comes with it. For over 20 years Schuh has sponsored this fantastic competition which showcases the creative talents of so many young people in West Lothian and we are grateful for their continued support."

Broxburn Academy pupil wows crowd at national public speaking competition

A pupil from Broxburn Academy has become the first from West Lothian to win a national public speaking competition.

Meg Wishart (S5) from Broxburn Academy won the English Speaking Union National Public Speaking Competition which has been running in its current format since 1987 and is open to all S4 – 6 pupils in Scotland.

Meg qualified for the national final in Edinburgh at the prestigious Playfair Library having won her local heat by giving a powerful speech about how young women are held back from leadership roles.

At the national final, Meg found herself up against eight competitors coming from schools from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Fife and Aberdeen.

For the final, the speakers were asked to prepare and deliver a five-minute speech based on a Chinese proverb. Meg discussed the proverb: An inch of time is an inch of gold, it is hard to buy an inch of time with an inch of gold.

She delivered a truly fantastic speech describing how difficult it is for

individuals to adapt their own lives to tackle climate change, but showing how important it is that this happens.

Meg will now go on to represent Scotland in the ESU's international public speaking competition.

Broxburn Academy history teacher, Robbie McDonald said: "This is a truly fantastic accomplishment, even for Meg who has achieved an incredible amount already. Not only was her speech incredibly moving and impressive, the effort and preparation she put in despite studying for six upcoming higher exams was unbelievable.

The school is very lucky to be represented by a pupil like Meg."

Executive councillor for education David Dodds said: "Huge congratulations to Meg. Public speaking can be an extremely daunting affair at times and having the skill to get your views across in a

confident manner is something that normally takes years of experience. It is clear that Meg is very talented and should take great pride in her success. I wish her the very best of luck in the international competition."



Meg Wishart with her award



WHEN PEOPLE PUT FOOD, LIQUID OR THE WRONG ITEMS IN THE BLUE BIN, IT CONTAMINATES THE CONTENTS OF THE LORRY AND CAN'T BE RECYCLED

! ONLY PUT THESE MATERIALS IN YOUR BLUE BIN

PLASTIC

PAPER/ CARDBOARD

CANS/TINS

MAKE SURE THEY ARE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOOD AND LIQUID TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION

Plastic bags can be placed in the blue bin but they need to be clean and empty.

Visit: www.westlothian.gov.uk/bluebin for details on what can be recycled



Citizen led inspection



West Lothian Council is looking to recruit volunteers for its Citizen-led Inspection programme.

Citizen-led Inspection (CLI) offers local people the opportunity to help council services improve what they do on behalf of everyone living and working in West Lothian. It allows the council to gain a better understanding of what local people need and therefore helps to design better services to meet those needs.

As an inspector, you will work within a small team, spending time with our services,

observing, collating information and talking to our staff. Your team findings will be brought together in a report which you will feed back to the council and appropriate service. Your findings will support and facilitate change within the service.

If you don't have a lot of time to spare but would still like to be involved, we can offer you the option of participating in a 'Look See' inspection which is a lighter-touch inspection that still provides us with vital feedback to help influence and shape our services.

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in you can visit our website: www.westlothian.gov.uk/cli where you will find more information, previous reports and details on how to become an inspector.

Alternatively you can email us at:
citizenled@westlothian.gov.uk – we're waiting to hear from you!

Refuse Collectors pass national award



West Lothian Council's Waste Services team is the first council in Scotland to pass a training and assessment qualification that aims to maintain high safety standards.

Head of operational services, Jim Jack, joined members of the waste team at the council's depot in Bathgate

The qualification ensures that waste operatives have received training in safety and operational procedures relating to waste collection.

The accreditation is through the National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS) and delivers Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) competence-based training to frontline RCV drivers

and waste operatives.

To date 20 council operatives have achieved the NPORS Refuse Collection Vehicle certificate with the remaining drivers and operatives due to complete the training in the coming year. Head of operational services, Jim Jack said: "We have a very good safety record in West Lothian and our team should be very proud of

their efforts in working towards this national accreditation."

"It's very important that our waste services staff receive continual training and fully understand the industry, dangers and responsibilities as a refuse collection operator."

Changes to opening hours at Recycling Centres from Monday 27 May 2019

West Lothian Recycling Centres opening hours from Monday 27 May 2019

Recycle Centre	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday *	Sunday *
Oakbank, Livingston	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Whitburn	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Blackburn	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Broxburn	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm
Linlithgow	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	8am – 2pm	Closed	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm

*No Commercial waste accepted on Saturday and Sunday

By making changes to opening hours, the council can continue to keep all five sites in West Lothian open



New bike tracks investment

West Lothian Council has spent £180,000 to install three bike pump tracks in public parks across West Lothian.

The project has built tracks in Craigs Park (Livingston), Bridgend Park and Fraser Park (Pumpherston).

Respective local communities and schools had an input into the development and design of each track.

The Craigs Park track was the first to be completed. The design of this was finalised following consultations with young people at Craigsfarm, through the Youth Action Project. The track is proving very popular and some skill sessions, organised by Craigsfarm, have already taken place there.

Meanwhile pupils at Pumpherston and Uphall Station Primary School had their say on the Fraser Park track and primary six pupils at Bridgend Primary had input into the final design of their local track. These are now complete and ready to be ridden.

The tracks are all designed and built by Velosolutions UK, who are known worldwide for their pump tracks.

Pump tracks are designed to ensure that the features can be used to propel riders around the track with no need to pedal, as a build-up of momentum takes them around the track. All the tracks enable users to progress their riding skills, from beginner to professional rider, with practice. The asphalt surfacing of the tracks means that they can be ridden on bikes, scooters, skates and skateboards.

Executive councillor for the environment, Tom Conn said: "West Lothian Council is committed to improving the quality of open spaces for the residents of the county.

"These new bike tracks will allow residents to enjoy open spaces in their local community and promote a healthy and active lifestyle and I'm sure people will enjoy them for years to come."



Executive councillor for culture and leisure, Dave King

"These tracks are designed to be used by people of all ages and abilities, making them accessible for everyone and helping people to progress their wheeled sport skills, encouraging healthy activity at all levels. I'm sure each track will prove very popular with the local community."



What's been going on in your Country Parks...

West Lothian is home to three great Country Parks as well as a host of open spaces. The Country Parks are maintained by West Lothian Council's Parks & Woodland team team, supported by local volunteers. With over 1.8 million visitors in the past year, the Country Parks are increasingly popular and require a dedicated team to ensure that visitors continue to enjoy their facilities including BBQs to hire, room hire, caravan & camping site, Visitor Centres and hireable open spaces.

Beebraigs Country Park



A new car park is due to open for summer 2019 providing increased capacity for visitors including space for coach parking. A tree-felling and replanting programme is underway at Cockleroy woodland as part of a long-term forest management plan.

A new interpretative attraction within the Visitor Centre has opened, featuring interactive displays to interpret the wildlife, woodland and history of the Country Park. Over the past few months the volunteer team Friends of Beebraigs, has made a significant effort to improve and maintain the bike trails in the Country Park.



Polkemmet Country Park



Work is now complete on the revitalisation of the historic pond area including improved paths, dredging of the pond, dipping platform, new boardwalk and pond interpretation panel. The Friends of Polkemmet have been working on the maintenance of the Dardanelles train area and path clearance works, and have assisted with the pond project.

Almondell & Calderwood Country Park



The Friends of Almondell have been involved in a project to bring the Calderwood SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) into favourable condition with improved fen-management works (SNH and WLC partnership), rhododendron control, working with River Life to reinforce the River Almond banking providing protection from further erosion and garden maintenance.



To find out more about your local Country Park and events this year visit www.westlothian.gov.uk/parks-and-woodland
Please remember to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code when enjoying the outdoors



Local groups involved in design of new-build council homes



The council's Housing Service has created a process that involves local tenants groups in the design of new-build council homes.

The process begins by using a template created by the service, the Housing Standard Spec, which brings together a number of building requirements such as basic building standards and Secured by Design – a police safety initiative in building that has resulted in an 87% reduction in burglaries in Britain since its beginning.

The service then analyses the housing waiting list to determine what mix of homes is needed in a certain area, identifying what size of homes are required and if there is a

need to provide adapted homes for prospective tenants.

The site will then go to tender when contractors will bid for the job.

Once a developer is in place, they provide a list and samples of the materials they would like to use for kitchens, bathrooms and appliances throughout the home. Samples are taken to the Tenants' Panel to make the final decision.

One of the most recent examples of tenant involvement was on the former Vion site, where the council has secured 14 new homes consisting

of six, two-bedroom homes and eight, three-bedroom homes.

Views from the Tenants' Panel are used throughout the process and the results from tenant surveys and tenant-led inspections are used to inform the employer's requirements which dictate the final designs. For example, in any future development, there will now be patio doors and windows in the kitchens of four bedroom homes, as a result of tenant surveys, and magnets will be used to replace bolts to keep doors closed in disabled and adapted bungalows.



Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul

“While the council is wholly committed to achieving the target of delivering 3,000 affordable homes in West Lothian over the 10 year period to 2022 it is vital that the new homes meet the needs of prospective tenants. The Housing Service does everything possible to try and ensure that there is variety in the housing stock to meet a wide range of needs and requirements of people on the housing list. It is also important the views of current tenants are sought so that new council homes are built to the highest standard for future residents.”

Council Seeking private-sector landlords

Do you have an empty property you want to let?



West Lothian Council is looking to procure a mix of available private-let properties.

The Private Sector Landlord service sees the council working with landlords and agents to use private let accommodation as a means of accommodating those on the council housing waiting list until a permanent home can be sourced.

West Lothian Council can offer rental income for a minimum 12-month period. The rent will match the local housing allowance rate.

Where both the landlord/agent and West Lothian Council are happy with the property and service, the agreement can be rolled over for another 12 months.

Should the property require any repairs

during the term of the tenancy then it will be reported to a council housing officer who will notify the landlord/agent to allow them to decide how to progress.

A deposit guarantee to the amount of two months' rent will be given to cover any discrepancies at the end of the tenancy, which are out-with fair wear and tear.

Executive councillor for services for the community, George Paul said: “This is an excellent opportunity for landlords to ensure they receive rent on their property for a minimum of 12 months.

“I would encourage all landlords who have properties available and who may be interested in the scheme to contact the council's Home Choice team today.”

If you would like to register your interest or find out more please email Private.LettingServices@westlothian.gov.uk.

Further information on the scheme is available via www.westlothian.gov.uk/homechoice

Recent change in law; all homes in Scotland must be fitted with fire and smoke alarms



Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London, the Scottish Government established a Ministerial Working Group on Building and Fire Safety to review Scotland's building and fire safety regulatory frameworks.

As a part of the work of the Ministerial Group, it was agreed to bring forward and prioritise a consultation on fire and smoke alarms, which had originally been planned for later in 2017. Although it has been a requirement for private rented homes and social housing to have some form of fire detection for some time, changes in the law came into effect on 1 February 2019 to make it a requirement for all homes to be fitted with Smoke and Heat Alarms.

The update also includes carbon monoxide alarms where heating or cooking in the home is done using gas or solid fuels such as coal or wood. Landlords and home owners have until 1 February 2021 to ensure that their home meets the new criteria.

The new standard requires that there is one smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes, one alarm in every circulation space

on each storey, such as hallway and landings and a heat alarm installed in every kitchen. All the alarms are to be ceiling mounted and interlinked, and there is also a requirement for carbon monoxide detectors to be fitted where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance (such as boilers, fires (including open fires), heaters and stoves) or a flue.

The council has put in place a strategy to minimise the impact on tenants as far as reasonably practicable as we will integrate some installs with other works, e.g voids and capital works. Carrying out works with applicable capital works will ensure a larger number of properties will only need to be accessed once which will reduce the requirements to use the forced access procedure. For the majority of works, disturbance will be minimal due to the use of battery detectors.

The full detail of the new requirements are available at: www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-tolerable-standard-guidance/



New sports facility for Kirknewton

A new sports pavilion in Kirknewton that will give the local community greater access to sporting facilities is nearing completion.

West Lothian Council has invested a total of £345,000 into the site, which is located on the north-western periphery of Kirknewton Park. The new two-team sports

changing pavilion is expected to open in May 2019 and will feature fully accessible changing rooms with showers, for both athletes and officials and will include internal and external WC facilities.



“We are delighted to have helped to deliver the new pavilion at Kirknewton Park. One of West Lothian Council’s key priorities is to deliver first-class sport, leisure and cultural facilities in West Lothian. Sport has the ability to promote health, wellbeing and a sense of community. I’m sure that the local community in Kirknewton will take full advantage of their new facility and will enjoy it for years to come.”

New head of social policy appointed

Jo MacPherson has been appointed as West Lothian Council’s head of social policy.



Jo, who has been head of social policy on an interim basis since September 2018, has responsibility

for all council social work services within West Lothian’s Health and Social Care Partnership. The position also includes the role of Chief Social Work Officer.

Before coming to work in West Lothian in 1987 Jo worked in residential childcare in Aberdeen and statutory children’s services in Dundee. Jo studied at Robert Gordon’s University, Aberdeen before embarking on her career in social work.

Over the last 30 years, Jo has gained extensive experience in social work services from practitioner to her most recent post of Senior Manager for Children and Families.

For the past seven months, Jo has been responsible for the management of all social policy services which include Adults and

Older People, Children & Families, Criminal and Youth Justice.

The council’s chief executive Graham Hope said: “Jo has outstanding knowledge of social care and health, and her leadership will be a real asset to West Lothian Council. There are few roles within any local authority as important as the head of social policy given the care services that are in place to serve some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

“I have worked with Jo for a number of years and I would like to congratulate her on her appointment.”

Jo said: “I’m delighted to have been appointed as head of social policy for West Lothian Council. I have worked in West Lothian for 32 years and know our services very well. I look forward to working in partnership with colleagues in council and health to ensure the delivery of high-quality social work and social care services for the community of West Lothian.”

20 NEW foster families are needed urgently



West Lothian children and young people are waiting for caring and committed people to foster them. We have children and young people aged 11-16 who need long term, short-term and short-break foster families.

Who can foster?

We welcome single people and couples regardless of your gender, sexuality or ethnic background.

Are smokers allowed to foster?

If you are a smoker, we will only approve you to foster children aged five-years and over.

How much space do I need?

You must have a spare room and enough space for the children you foster.

What happens if I have a pet?

Pets are welcome and can bring many positive experiences. Your pet will be assessed as part of the process.

Are there age restrictions?

Yes, you must be aged 21 years or over.

What about training?

All prospective foster carers must be available for assessment, and must attend the pre-approval training course. Once you are a foster carer you will receive ongoing support.

We care...do you?

More information

➔ www.westlothianhscp.org.uk/lovefostering ☎ 01506 284296

✉ fostercare@westlothian.gov.uk

West Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership
www.westlothianhscp.org.uk



Kids, Summer Programme 2019!

We have a fantastic variety of activities available at West Lothian Leisure this summer to keep the kids busy!

From sport activities, bouncy castles, arts & crafts, extended Teentone hours in the gym to outdoor adventures - there is something for all the kids!

PLUS only £1 for a swim session* or fantastic fun on our flumes, rapid river and water features for only £2.50*.

Why not try an outdoor activity provided by Low Port Centre in

Linlithgow, including paddle sports, windsurfing, and mountain biking, great for 8-15 year olds to get stuck in! Equipment and expertise provided.

Enjoy some time out while your child is well looked after and ACTIVE! We've also got supervised soft play at Xcite for the little ones so you can grab a workout.

See the WHOLE programme now and book online on our website or download the FREE WLL Xcite App, the quickest and easiest way to view timetables and make a booking.

*Please note some activities are not included in Xcite Junior Membership. *Terms and conditions apply, visit our website for more details.*

Keep active at Xcite this summer!



Our fitness classes are suitable for all fitness levels and abilities, from low impact and mindfulness to dance! Get involved with activities such as walking netball or football, gentle exercise, tai chi and body balance to help improve mobility and keep you active this summer!

We understand that taking part in physical activities isn't just about the body but also about the mind so we want to help you create a positive relationship and habit with exercise!

The Xcite team is always on board to give you a hand. If you are in need of support in the gym or want to shake up your routine to help you STAY WELL, our gym instructors will make sure you feel welcome, supported and comfortable in the gym, no matter your wellness aims or goals.

There are five Xcite swimming pools in West Lothian, a great way to stay active and cool off this summer. A swim session for a 60yrs+ West Lothian resident is only £1! Available at Xcite Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Livingston and Whitburn.

Check out our full senior programme and Ageing Well activities on www.westlothianleisure.com

Golf

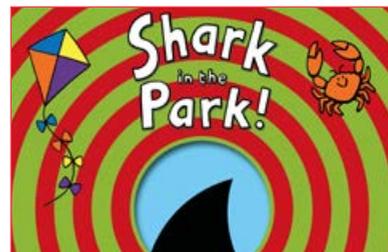
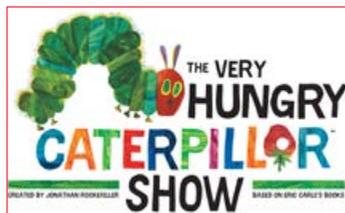
Been inspired by Tiger Woods, recent Masters comeback? It's never too late to enjoy the game!

Research has shown that playing golf improves the general well-being for people of all ages. The low-impact sociable sport doesn't stress or strain muscles even though with every swing it involves using your arms, legs, back and abdomen. Golf can help keep the mind alert and it can be a great part of a fitness programme.

Get your steps in at one of our two golf courses, Balbardie Park of Peace at Xcite Bathgate or Polkemmet Golf and Driving Range in Whitburn. The nine-hole courses are suitable for beginners as well as experienced players. Equipment hire is available.



Howden Park Centre has a variety of family shows to see this summer!



Keep the kids entertained with music, puppetry, singing and colour. We have a number of shows throughout July and August such as the well-known *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Whirly Bird*, *Funbox: The Wild West Show* and *Shark in the Park*. The funny and entertaining shows are jam packed and guaranteed to keep the kids entertained for hours!

For more info and to book visit:
www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk or contact box office on 01506 340700



Whirly Bird

"A delightful show ... slips from hilarity to pathos with ease, and keeps the children transfixed." ★★★★★ for Eco Drama's *The Whirlybird*, Lorna Irvine, *The List*.

For more info on all our activities visit www.westlothianleisure.com
Membership, pay-per-visit and concession scheme payment options are available.
Try your local venue today – what's stopping you!

We Are Winners!

