

# Blackford GALA WEEK



2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**In the village  
By the village  
For the village**

Come and join this wide range of events as we get out and about with family, friends and neighbours. Follow the week on the Blackford Gala Facebook Page.





## Gala Bunting

We hope that you have kept your red and yellow bunting as we'd love to see it taken down, stored and reused each year. We have a small amount left from previous supplies and these 20m lengths of bunting can be picked up at Gala events as stocks last.

## Scarecrows

Now's the *time to create the idea you've been working on*. We are not providing straw this year but all sorts of creative ways of building scarecrows have been demonstrated over the years

**Entries with name and address by the evening of Monday 3rd June** through the clipboard in the village shop, Blackford Gala Facebook page or by email to [gala@blackford.org.uk](mailto:gala@blackford.org.uk). **Judging will take place on the Tuesday evening** and results will be announced on Gala Day.

If you're looking for some scarecrow inspiration, you'll find films on the church website capturing our village scarecrows from previous years: [blackfordparishchurch.org/flyingtheflag](http://blackfordparishchurch.org/flyingtheflag) (note there's no ".uk")

## Art Competition

Our theme of Paris is in keeping with this year's Olympic and Paralympic venue. Whether you choose to immortalise the Eiffel Tower, an Olympic scene, Parisian life, or anything else relating to France's capital city, the possibilities are endless.

Please hand in your entry (the actual entry—not a photo) at any of the Gala Events from Sunday to Wednesday. Please add name, address and age group but not where the judges will see them. We'll announce our winners on Gala Day when entries can be collected.

The Art Competition is open to the following age groups:

Pre-school | P1-P4 | P5-P7  
Secondary | Adults



## **Sunday 2nd June**

### **10:00am Gala Church Service**

Blackford Parish Church starts the Gala party since 1977. Our 2023 and 2024 Queens, Emma and Isla will be taking part in this all-age service.

Please also join the McIntyre family as they bring Jack to be baptised. All are welcome to join this special occasion for so many people.



## **Sunday 2nd June**

### **2:00pm Take a walk to the Whitemuir Ponds**

It's a few years since we did a group walk to this beautiful and ever changing part of our village area. (Photo by our guide, Bob Watkinson.)

Meet at the church gates at 2pm. We'll be respecting and obeying the Countryside Access Code at all times so responsible dog owners are welcome with well behaved dogs on leads at all times.



On return to the village, we'll pause for tea, coffee and juice at the church or grounds.

## **Monday 3rd June**

### **6:30pm Basketball**

#### **All Weather Games Court**

Whenever you last played, come along for an hour's basketball and "shoot some hoops" at the court behind Allanwater Gardens.

6:30—7:30 Children and Families

7:30—8:30 Teens and Adults





# Gala Day

**1:30pm Floats & Fancy Dress Parade  
Leave Moray Institute to go down Moray Street  
and up Stirling Street led by the Comrie Pipe Band**

**Come on! Get in the parade this year!**

There are cash prizes for individuals of all ages, for groups and for floats, plus a trophy for “Best Dressed Float” (front cover photo of current holders Ann Isdale and Irene King) and the John (Jock) Aitken Trophy for the “Best in Show” held by Charlie Wilson and also on our front cover.

Floats can be entered by families, neighbours or village clubs and organisations. If you’d like help getting a trailer, ask around, including through the Blackford Cares Facebook Group or on the Blackford Gala Week Facebook page.

If you are preparing a float and the weather is bad, phone 07540 353399 or check our Facebook page for judging information. The Crowning of the Queen and the judging of remaining costumes would then be in the Moray Institute.



Last year’s Royal Party—Emma Reid with attendants Natalia Bajkowska (L) and Amber McIntyre (R) prepare to present the group and individual age group prizes for the fancy dress costumes and floats.

# Sunday 9th

2:00pm Arrival back at the Highland Games Field  
Crowning of the Blackford Gala Queen 2024 - Isla Leisk  
by Blackford Gala Queen 2023 - Emma Reid  
Attendants: Emily Forsyth (left) and Lara Reid (right)



## Let the games begin

Races and competitions for cash prizes across the ages. Team Challenges and Tugs-of-war will determine the winners of the Village Trophy (right).



Free children's inflatables. Free tea/coffee/juice.  
Prize Raffle Draw—tickets on sale in the village during Gala Week and in the Games Park on the day.  
Please support the local businesses who donate prizes.

**Tuesday 4th June**  
**6:30pm Walking Treasure Hunt**

Join us out in the streets with the perfect opportunity to stare in windows, up trees, across fences and down at pavements. Open to all ages with separate competitions for children and adults.

There is also the option to complete the treasure hunts in your own time earlier in the week. The questions will be available from the Blackford Gala Box by the community noticeboards at the Moray Institute from Sunday afternoon. Entries must be returned for judging by Tuesday evening (instructions will be on the sheets). Remember, adult winners take home the Willie McLaren Trophy and create next year's courses.

**Bowling Club**



**Wednesday 5th June**  
**6:30pm Family Games Night**

We've always had a great summer evening for this. We play a bit of rounders and nukumball; it's a bit of exercise and it's good to get out in the sun together of an evening. The football goals will be up for those who prefer that.

**Highland Games Field**



**Thursday 6th June**  
**2:00pm Senior Citizens' wine tasting**

Cairn O'Mohr winery will be coming to the village to provide a tutored tasting of their produce. During the *Talk and Taste*, their host will talk on the history of the winery, followed by a tutored sampling of a mix of their wines: and there will be a chance to buy! We'll also have tea and cakes. Would anyone like to come and help with the tea and cakes? Speak to a committee member.

**Bowling Club**



**Thursday 6th June**  
**6:00pm Blackford PS Ceilidh**

The primary school are inviting us to come and join them in the playground for an hour of dancing and fun together. If it's wet we'll need to cancel as there's not another space big enough. Gala raffle tickets will be on sale. Please bring cash.

**School Playground**



**Friday 7th June**  
**1:00pm Community Lunch**

The monthly Community Lunch falls in Gala Week. Sign up at the Village Stores, through the Church Facebook page or speak to Jane or Gordon Roy by the evening of Wednesday 5th. The two course lunch is served by a couple of P7 pupils from the school and more pupils join us for some songs after we've eaten.

**Parish Church**



**Friday 7th June**  
**7:00pm Car Treasure Hunt**

Hand over your £5 entry fee and your team name and you'll get a set of clues to follow around the roads and lanes of the area. The winners set the 2025 course and receive the Julie Shankland Trophy.

**Bowling Club**



**Saturday 8th June**  
**10:00am Children's Magic Show Parish Church**

This 60 mins of amazing magic, fun and beautiful balloon models is for primary aged children and any younger ones who you've been told to take with you. Dean Spruce is a new magician and children's entertainer for us in Blackford. We look forward to a fun-filled show. Tea and coffee for parents and carers.



## Saturday 8th June

### 7:30pm Family Quiz Night

The quiz is for families or teams of four with some questions aimed at children. £5 entry per team. Sign up on the night. Enjoy the evening regardless of who wins the trophy. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Moray Institute



## Sunday 9th June

### Gala Day Parade and afternoon events in the centre page

### 6:30pm Bowling Competition Blackford Bowling Club

The final event of Gala Week. Enter (£1) as a bowler or a non bowler (Age 16+) by submitting names to the Bowling Club or Village Shop by Sunday morning or at Gala Day.

Pairs will be set by the Bowling Club. Flat shoes only—no trainers.

And there's a trophy for the winners too.



Blackford Gala Week is put on through fundraising events such as our raffle, the Duck Race, grants from the Blackford Community Fund and support from Highland Spring and other local businesses, community groups and individuals.

Blackford Gala cannot be held responsible for any personal injury or loss of property, dignity, credibility or sense of humour sustained during the events of Gala Week. All participants join at their own risk to life, limb, standing and reputation and so help to create the fun that Blackford Gala Week brings us together to enjoy.

**Children remain the responsibility of parents and carers (rather than the organisers) during Gala events. They are designed to be enjoyed together as families or friends.**

Why not join us to plan Blackford Gala Week 2025?

Anne-marie Carter, Irene King, Robin Peacock,  
Gordon Roy, Marjorie Sloan, Stuart Smeaton, Sarah Thomas,  
Jan Thompson and Claire Tuck