

Blackford GALA WEEK



8th — 15th June 2025

**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.

Art Competition

Our theme of “**my favourite place..**” could set you off using any medium of your choice. Please hand in your entry (the actual entry—not a photo) at any of the Gala events from Sunday to Friday including 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

Our Art Competition Sponsor is **NNPS - Prompting, Production and Pastoral Services** from Nicki Nightingale, nixnight@icloud.com



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 local businesses, community groups and individuals. (See the back page for many of them.)

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 2026?

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

Sunday 8th, 11:30am Gala Service

Parish Church



The Parish Church starts the Gala party since 1977. Our 2024 and 2025 Queens, Isla and Lucy will be taking part in this all-age service that also celebrates Pentecost—the birthday of the church—with popcorn and cake.

Sunday 8th, 2:00pm Family Orienteering Meet at the church



We're introducing a bit of a treasure hunt in the woods up by the church overlooking the village. Meet at the church to have an explanation of what these control flags and punches are all about and how the map will help you find them.

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

Monday 9th, 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. We put up fresh nets every year and see how long they last.

6:30—7:30 Children and Families

7:30—8:30 Teens and Adults

Tuesday 10th, 6:30pm Family Games Night

Highland Games Field

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. We really do mean "family" so don't just "send them along." Rather, why not come along and join in, cheer on or enjoy the fun one way or another.



Tuesday 10th, 8:00pm Volleyball anyone?

Highland Games Field

When the net is already up, let's move up a gear and play some volleyball for adults and secondary pupils.

Wednesday 11th Walking Treasure Hunt **Sheets available from 6:30pm**

Bowling Club

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 1pm on Sunday until 5pm on Wednesday,. Entries must be returned for judging by Wednesday evening (instructions on the sheets). Remember, adult winners take home the Willie McLaren Trophy and create next year's courses.



Our sponsors for the Walking Treasure Hunt this year are **The Sinclair Partnership**, Accountants. Contact: 01764 682562
info@sinclair-partnership.co.uk

Thursday 12th, 12noon Senior Citizens' Outing **Leave from the Moray Institute**



This year we're returning to the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge with its attractions including a sawmill, miners' cottages, a tram, engineering and iron works and a café.

En route home it's a Chippy tea at the Allanwater Café in Bridge of Allan.

Names by 6pm, Sunday 8th June to the clipboard in Blackford Village Store (01764 682245). Coach space may be limited.

Thursday 12th, 6:00pm Ceilidh School Playground



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.

Friday 13th, 9:30am Toddlers Group Moray Institute



Join the regular Toddlers Group for a special two hours of Stories, Songs and Crafts. Bring your own snack please (helps with allergies etc) Cost is £3.00 per family.

Friday 13th, 1pm Community Lunch Parish Church



The Blackford Community Lunch falls in Gala Week. Sign up at the Village Store, through the Church Facebook page or speak to Jane or Gordon Roy by the evening of Wednesday 11th. 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.

Friday 13th, 7pm Car Treasure Hunt Bowling Club



Bring a car and a team name and you'll get a set of clues to follow around the roads and lanes of the area. The winners set the 2026 course and receive the Julie Shankland Trophy. Our 1998 Blackford Gala Queen, Jenn Little (now a nail technician and beautician in Perth) is sponsoring our Car Treasure Hunt. Contact: 07834 725034 or on Facebook.

Saturday 14th, 10am Animal Man's Mini Zoo Parish Church



This hour of animal magic has been a regular success for primary aged children and for any younger ones who you've been told to bring.

Saturday 14th, 7:30pm Family Quiz Night Moray Institute



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

Our sponsor is **Brush and Bloom** at Allankpark, Moray Street filled with plants, Frenchic paint, and all sorts of inspiration for your home and garden.



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



Floats can be entered by families, neighbours or village clubs and organisations with prizes and a trophy for Best Dressed Float. If you'd like help getting a trailer, ask around, including through the Blackford Cares Facebook Group.

Our Floats competitions and prizes are sponsored by **The Sinclair Partnership**, Accountants. Contact: 01764 682562
info@sinclair-partnership.co.uk



Come on! Get in the parade this year!

There are cash prizes for individuals and groups of all ages, plus the John (Jock) Aitken Trophy for the "Best Individual Fancy Dress"



Our Fancy Dress competition is sponsored by **Thistle Piping Central Scotland** - Wedding Piper Specialists. Contact: 07899 988005
drew@thistlepipingcentralscotland.com

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.

Sunday 15th

2:00pm Arrive back at the Highland Games Field.

Blackford Gala Queen 2024, Isla Leisk crowns Lucy Reid

Blackford Gala Queen 2025 with her attendants: Lara Reid (left) Belle Stephen (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) between the north and south sides.



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 (cash only).

Please support the local businesses who donate prizes.



Isla Leisk, our 2024 Gala Queen opened the 2025 Blackford Highland Games with attendants Emily Forsyth and Lara Reid

Sunday 15th

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.

Please support local supporters, sponsors and raffle prize donors

