

April 2022
As restrictions lift



Blackford Cares

for Blackford residents to support each other during COVID-19

It's now over two years since Blackford Cares was launched through Facebook and a maildrop of the green and red thumbs. This month, the last of the COVID legislation—face coverings in public places—is due to be stepped down to “guidance” as we move to live with COVID in an ongoing basis.

Technically, Blackford Cares does not exist as an organisation but is merely a platform to allow us to express care and consideration in practical ways during this time—and sometimes a few other emotions came out in the Facebook Group as well. Over the course of the next few weeks, we look forward to moving unused funds to established community groups that have a history of making things happen in the village. Please give them your support by joining their events and even joining their planning groups and committees to make these things happen. You'll read of them in here.

The Blackford Cares Facebook Group will remain to encourage the sharing of news, support, resources, ideas and opportunities. Keep it positive!

Baby boxes sent to refugees fleeing war in Ukraine

As the Daily Record reported, a group of Blackford friends turned the church hall into a local collection point and filled 72 baby boxes last month.

One of those mums, Emma Ballingham, told them, “It was a crazy couple of days but we enjoyed every minute. We are all glad to have done something to help. People have donated from all over really. We know a lot of mums in places like Auchterarder or Perth so we've been picking up boxes and dropping them off at our houses. There have been so many people helping. I don't think I could thank everyone individually.”

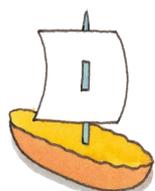
We add our thanks and congratulations to you all!



Blackford
GALA
WEEK
In the village
By the village
For the village

Sunday 10th April
2:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt,
Decorated Egg, Easter Bonnet
and Boat Race Competitions
Annual Duck Race
Picnic Area opposite Moray Institute



Ducks (£1) sold in advance from the Blackford Inn, Blackford Village Stores or from committee members and at the park on the day.

Bring your **Decorated Easter Egg, Easter Bonnet and Boat**. Our **Boat Race** competition will be judged on design/appearance and then we'll race boats down the burn. If it floats, it's a boat. Thanks to Tesco, Morrisons and Asda for prizes.

Blackford Gala Queen 2022 will be a girl in P6 or P7 with attendants in P4 or P5. The names and parent/carer contact details of all girls who wish their name entered in the draw should be handed in by parents or carers at the Duck Race, to a committee member, by email to Gala@Blackford.org.uk or by a message to the “Blackford Gala Week” Facebook page by Tuesday 19th April. Names will be drawn at the next committee meeting.

Our Queen fulfills duties during the 2022 Gala as well as at the Blackford Flower Show on 3rd September 2022, the Blackford Highland Games on the 27th May 2023 (with attendants) and Blackford Gala in June 2023.

Gala starts on Sunday 5th June. Gala Day is Sunday 12th June including Fancy Dress Parade with floats.



Welcome to Blackford Highland Games

Saturday 28th May 2022
The 150th Gathering

Adults £8, Concessions £5,
Children £2, under 5's free
A family ticket is £18

Two adults & two children including parking

Events start at 10:30am

Track, field & cycling
Heavies and Junior heavies
Solo Piping
Highland Dancing
Tug of War
Primary Schools Events
The Ardblair Stones

Opened by the current Blackford Gala Queen
Maisie Shedden
with attendants Peggi Beck and Beth Forsyth



The Edinburgh Highland Reel and Strathspey Society

Musical Director: Yla Steven, BEM

An evening of traditional Scottish music
in

Blackford Parish Church
Saturday 21st May, 7:30pm

Tickets (including refreshments)
Adults £10, Children free



Calling All TCSOA Parents

A new morning club service will be opening on the 19th April, that will provide a safe place for children. The club will be located behind the dining room in the school campus and will open between 8am – 9am on school days.

The cost per day is £4.50 and includes breakfast, activities and safe transfer to the school. Thanks to some funding there is additional support available for low income families.

For more information or a registration form email tcsوامorningclub@gmail.com

Dead or sick wild birds: what to do

Wild birds can carry several diseases that are infectious to people, so do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find in and around Blackford.

If you find a single dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks), a single dead bird of prey, or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls) at the same place at the same time, you should report them to Defra's GB telephone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.



The Blackford Music Club started meeting in the church this year as an opportunity to get together and make music in an informal and relaxed setting.

Everyone is very welcome to come along and join in or just relax and enjoy the "live music"!

The cost per evening is £2 (under 18s free) with tea/coffee available. We look forward to seeing you at the Music Club on the dates listed below.

Sandy Marshall, 01764 682354,
sannocksongs@gmail.com

APRIL 28th

SEPTEMBER 29th

MAY 26th

OCTOBER 27th

JUNE 30th

(MUSICFEST 22)

JULY 28th

NOVEMBER 24th

AUGUST 25th

DECEMBER 29th

**MUSIC CLUB - IN THE CHURCH -
LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

Blackford Bowling Club Grand Opening Weekend Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th April

Saturday 16th

Opening Day Bowls from 2:00pm
Tasty buffet for all

Fantastic quiz by Blackford's own Sarah Thomas with a top prize of £100 and 3 other great cash prizes (Registration by 6pm)

Finish the night with bingo and music

Sunday 17th

Live music on the veranda with Ted Christopher
Fun Day Bowls @ 2:30pm

Bowls open to all ages
(Flat shoes to be worn please)

Pool & darts available all day
Club available for private functions
Fully accessible for reduced mobility

Open to all

**Please support your local bowling club
You don't have to be a member
to enjoy the weekend!**



Blackford Crafters

Tuesday 5th April 2022

7.30 – 9.30pm

Large Hall in the Moray Institute

Needlefelt Landscapes

Taster session to produce small landscapes using specialist tools which will be supplied. Please bring either a garden kneeler, a piece of high-density block foam, approximately 20x30cm (8x12") or a block of polystyrene, if you have them, as we only have a very limited supply.

Cost to attend - £1.00 per evening

Cost of Kits – £1.00 (prepared 48 hours in advance)

Face coverings or exemption lanyards to be worn at all times and hand sanitiser to be used on entering the teaching area.

Please book your place in advance (contact details below) and bring your own refreshments this session.

Please do not attend if you have any Covid, flu or cold symptoms.

If you just wish to carry on with an existing project, you are equally welcome. The aim of the group is to meet and share with like-minded people as well as having a chat.

Contact Irene McLaughlan Tel. 682495
Email blackfordcrafters@hotmail.co.uk



Funded by the Blackford Community Fund administered by Foundation Scotland.



Saturday 23rd April

The Community Vegetable Garden will be open to visitors interested in making bird boxes and hedgehog houses. We will have a number of kits available and can take orders.

We would also welcome anyone wishing to be involved with the garden. It isn't a huge commitment; come and have a chat.

Also available:
potato bags and potatoes
Grow your own organic,
zero carbon footprint spuds.

We look forward to seeing you.



Saturday 23rd April

Doors open 11am – close at 3pm

10 tables available for £5 each

Admission 50p

Refreshments available

Tables booked through Nicki – 07785 530300

Set up from 10am on the day

Tables supplied by the church

First come, first served basis.

The most repeated question in the Blackford Cares Facebook Group is now Where can I get a plumber? Here are the current answers:

Graham Keir, Blackford, 682426

David Keir Plumbing & Heating, 07542 527317,
dkplumbingandheating.co.uk

Firmus, Auchterarder, 01764 682540, firmusltd.co.uk

William Lawson, Auchterarder, 01764 663443

David Hughan, Auchterarder, 01764 663203

Alex Moore Plumbing & Heating, Braco,
07967 646131 or 01786 880761

John Douglas Plumbing and Heating Ltd, Crieff, 07841
015785, johndouglasplumbingandheating.com

LW Haddow, Perth, 01738 620046, lwhaddow.co.uk

Kyle Barr Plumbing & Heating, Stirling, 01786 230337,
kb-plumbingandheating.co.uk

The church offers a welcome leaflet to new arrivals in the village and all this sort of information gathered through Blackford Cares is now part of that. Visit "Flying the Flag" on the church website blackfordparishchurch.org.uk—or visit the church. You'll find the bin rota there too if you missed it on the back of the church Christmas card.

Blackford Village Stores Opening Hours

Monday-Saturday: 7am-9pm, Sunday: 8am –6pm

Post Office Van outside the Village Shop

Tuesdays 9:00 to 10:00, Thursdays 12:30 to 1:30

P&K Council Mobile Library Visits

Alternate Tuesdays (Next visit 12th April)

Moray Institute 11:00-11:30, by Shop 11:35-12:00

Bank of Scotland Mobile Van

Auchterarder Parish Church alternate Thursdays
10:00 to 1:00. (Next visit looks like 7th April)

There's a free cash machine in Blackford Stores



Ted Christopher
Friday
8th April
Live @ The Blackford Inn

Blackford Inn's current opening hours

Mondays & Wednesdays: 4pm to 8pm

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays:
12 noon to 12 midnight

Sunday: 12 noon to 10pm

Tuesdays: closed.

(The kitchen is closed until we recruit a chef)

A few Items from the village diary

Sunday 10th April

Gala Duck Race, 2pm

Friday 15th April (Good Friday)

Easter's Open and Shut Case,
Drop in at the church from 2-4pm

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th April

Bowling Club Grand Opening Weekend

Sunday 17th April (Easter Day)

Services at 8am and 10am

Saturday 23rd April

Table Top Sale and Community Garden Open

Saturday 21st May

Edinburgh Highland Reel and Strathspey Society

Sunday 5th to Sunday 12th June

Blackford Gala Week

Thursday 30th June

End of school term

Monday 8th to Friday 12th August

Church Holiday Club (mornings)

Wednesday 17th August

Pupils back to school

Saturday 3rd September

Blackford Flower Show

Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th October

Blackford Music Festival—MUSICFEST22