



Blackford Cares

for Blackford residents to support each other during COVID-19



Photo: Bill Robertson



© Stuart Baird 2019

This Saturday would have been the 150th Blackford Highland Games but Covid-19 has achieved what two world wars could not do

In living memory, the Games have been called off just once—on a Saturday morning in the early 1950's when the torrential rain won the battle.

The first Blackford Highland Games of 1870 was a modest affair. Victorian Britain, driven by the Queen's passion for all things Scottish, had gone "Highland mad." All over the UK, Highland societies were being established to promote Scottish tradition and the appetite for Highland mythology was insatiable. This was the inspiration for many towns and villages in Scotland to form their own events; Crieff held its first games the same year.

Blackford's popularity went from strength to strength due in no small part to its main line railway station and proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The beautiful location, number of public houses and local breweries in the village may well have helped!

By the 1980's Blackford was attracting world class athletes; Commonwealth Games champion and three time Olympian Geoff Capes still holds the ground record for the shot put at the 1982 games.

Last year, Lexie Head won the Mrs. M. Mitchell Trophy for the best performing Blackford Primary School pupil. Who will win it in 2021?

Next year we will have our 150th Gathering opened by the current Gala Queen, Emily Sinclair (top left) and we will help celebrate 151 years of tradition.

More on the games at: blackfordhighlandgames.co.uk

The Strawberries that accompany this pack are a gift from Zed Hussain: a punnet to every household.

Our thanks—your thanks—to him and his team for remarkable service that goes the second mile every day.

BLACKFORD VILLAGE STORES



Blackford Community Veg Garden

We have been talking about a Community Veg Garden for at least a year and now, in one month, we have a functional garden with help from Zed, McNaughton's, David Wallace, Crieff Garden Centre, Stockbridge Nursery and an army of volunteers.

The pallets now all full of Swiss Chard, radishes, beetroot, cauliflower, broad beans, onions, mange tout, sugar snap, borlotti, carrots, celery, sprouts, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes and courgettes. The Herb Bed is full and the border has corn, sunflowers, rosemary, bay and blackcurrants.

If you'd like to be involved let us know through Blackford Cares Facebook Page; we'll also try to keep people up-to-date in other ways.

If anyone wants to grow veg but doesn't have the space... come and join us and you will have a wee supply for yourself – or just come and sit and enjoy the sights, smells and sunshine.

Great things really have come out of a very trying time for so many and again we say "thank you" and we can look forward to some tasty results and making new friends.

Mark Nixon and Nicki Sinclair

A "less potted" version of the garden's development (and the history of Blackford Highland Games) is available online.*



How did you get on with the figures in the last pack? Here's another craft for your window; self-adhesive small circles and wool are in the pack. Larger circles and instructions are in the Blackford Cares boxes & online.*



You may have heard the Air Raid Siren on VE Day, well this is where the noise came from: Jimmy Taylor of the back street. Hear it and him online* as well as film of Blackford's VE Day tribute at 11am outside the church building.



Post office van restarts
Tuesday & Thursday
9am to 10am outside
Blackford Village Stores

Opens 30th May for pre-booked "Pick your own Strawberries" slots
07801 069933



Auchterarder Recycling Centre opens from Tuesday 2nd June but "don't expect business as usual."

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.00 - 19.00
Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 - 17.00

VISITING THE RECYCLING CENTRE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



1 SOCIAL DISTANCING



Stay at least 2m apart at all times. Only 1 person may exit the car to dispose of waste

2 DOMESTIC VEHICLES ONLY



No commercial vehicles or trailers of any size permitted

3 FOLLOW SIGNS AND INSTRUCTIONS



Stay in your car and follow onsite signage and instructions

4 A MAXIMUM OF 6 BAGS



Only bring a maximum of 6 bags. Site Attendants are not permitted to assist, therefore ensure you can lift and carry the bags

5 NO BULKY ITEMS OR RECYCLING



No access for bulky items or recycling such as garden waste or glass

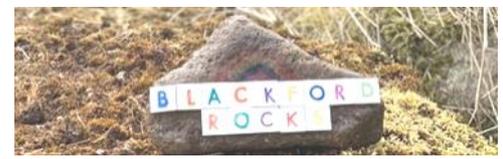
6 WASH YOUR HANDS



Ensure you wash your hands thoroughly after visiting the Recycling Centre



Have you seen Blackford's Hot Stuff doing the Full Monty? Try the Gala Facebook Page or the websites of the church or the Daily Record!



Grab some rocks, give them a clean and decorate them! When out on your walks hide them for the kids to find and re-hide again! Lots of fun for the kids on walks. Post photos on the Blackford Rocks Facebook Page.

Where to find help

Blackford Cares exists "for Blackford residents to support each other during COVID-19."

The foodbank is currently being topped up by those shielded residents who receive food parcels then passing on what they'll not use. That has recently maintained the flow through the foodbank. We are also ordering from P&K Council and pass on to families referred to us.

Work circumstances will change for some of us and some of us will need support from the foodbank; we'll ask more from the community as required but the informal support of neighbours and extended family remains strong. Please do take from the foodbank when you need to.

These organisations are also here to help when required:

Scottish Citizens Advice Helpline
0800 028 1456 / cas.org.uk

Christians against Poverty
(Debt Counselling Charity) capuk.org

Samaritans ☎116 123. (Free 24/7)

Perth & Kinross Council Community Support 0345 30 111 00.
CommunitySupport@pkc.gov.uk



Local takeaways

Maybe not open every evening so please check as these things change

Auchterarder

Lal Tandoori
156 High St, ☎663111

Din Dins Tandoori
82 High St, ☎663553

New Honey Flower
80 High St, ☎663734

The Fish & Chip Company
102 High St, ☎662530

Sheray Punjab
97 High St, ☎664277

Delivino
22 High St, ☎660033

Cairn Lodge "Dine@Home"
Orchil Road, ☎661095

AuchterLarder (lunches)
High St, ☎07925 859027

Sugar and Spice
96 High St, ☎661100

Jon and Fernandas
34 High St, ☎662442

Café Mimi's (Afternoon Tea)
86 High St, ☎664671

168 Topshop
168 High Street ☎662297
Order through Facebook Messenger

crieffhydro.com/eat/takeaway
☎07738 731861

India Gate Indian Restaurant, Dunblane
Fourways Roundabout, ☎01786 825394

China Gourmet (Delivery £5)
33-35 High St, Dunblane ☎01786 820110

We've enjoyed some fantastic photos in the Blackford Cares Facebook Group over the past month as we've gone out and explored our local area. For those not on Facebook there's a highlights film over at blackfordparishchurch.org/flyingtheflag (This is what we mean when we have said "online*") Family photos and Tarneybackle sound track are used with permission.



Blackford Gala Week

Blackford Gala happens during the second week of June; it's different but you'll still recognise it for the bunting, the treasure hunt, the art, windows and a new competition, the Senior Citizens' event and the BBQ on Gala Day.

But clearly it's not quite the same. We're "exercising caution" and recognising that during Gala Week, "we expect no public gatherings except for meetings of two households and only outdoors and with physical distancing." We are therefore not holding a parade or crowning a new Queen but are delighted that Emily Sinclair will remain our Gala Queen until crowning a successor in June 2021.

So get your bunting back up; read up on the events and start working on the competitions for all ages.

Walking Treasure Hunt

Adult courses and child courses will be available in the Blackford Cares boxes and downloadable from the Gala Facebook page and Flying the Flag page on the church website from Sunday 7th June. Do the course at any time of the week—one attempt only; no going back to check. Remember physical distancing and look to start at any point on the course. Place entries in the box on the door step of Maybank, near the middle of Moray Street when you've finished and by 5pm on Saturday. As last year's winners, it is the Thomas family who live there who set this year's course and will mark your answers. The same privilege waits this year's adult winners next year.

Video Competition

 Capture a moment to amuse or inspire the village with a TikTok or other creative short video submitted to the Gala Facebook page by Saturday night. Judging on Sunday 14th.

Please take particular care and responsibility this year in what we put on across the village.

Get more involved and get more out of it to make it a year you'll not forget.

Jan Thompson, Marjorie Sloan, Gordon Roy, Stuart Smeaton, Sarah Thomas, Anne-marie Carter & Irene King



Blackford Church is flying the flag for the village including the weekly mix of flags to puzzle over. Christian Aid Week (above) had no house to house collection, but £78.36 was sent from the village via the box in the shop.

We mix live services on Zoom (like this Sunday 31st, 11am) with our recorded services drawing songs from YouTube and elsewhere to view on our website.

Our Bible Study and our Hot Chocolate Youth Group meet weekly on Zoom and we've had two Elders' Meetings that way. Having taken pews out in February and discovered dry rot we're onto making that good, have new chairs delivered and getting ready to start cleaning up the building.

Almost 100 copies of a Prayer Journal were handed out across our members and friends in the village and beyond.

Jesus applied a verse from the Psalms to himself and said, 'The stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone.' So we have (with permission) taken materials from skips to create an installation for the outside of our building; *Two metres of saving grace is never negative space.*



You may have noticed that the **Blackford is Brighter** tubs are getting fresh compost ahead of flowers arriving very soon. Whilst we don't have any big projects this year we are really hoping to cheer people up with splashes of colour around the village.

Thanks to everyone who agreed to 'adopt' a tub, making the watering a wee bit easier. If you want to find out more about Blackford is Brighter take a look at our Facebook page. It would be great to hear from you.



Bike not working properly? Service required or needing repaired?

We now have our very own **Blackford Bike Guy** who you can reach on his Facebook page of that name. Message for availability and a quote will be given before any work is started.

Martin Tait says, "As a keen cyclist & bike enthusiast, I can service both adult & children's bikes. I also accept donations of bikes that can be recycled. As this is a hobby, and due to working full time, any messages will be answered in the evening or weekends. Price will be dependent on service and parts required but if I can help people save some cash that's a bonus."

**Blackford Cares finances are handled by Blackford Parish Church
Scottish Charity Number SC005594**

Blackford Gala Programme 2020

Sunday 7th — Church Service and Bike Ride

Like previous Gala Queens, Emily will be taking part in the Sunday service. This year that's recorded and available on the church website.

Then go and enjoy one of the routes on the Blackford CCC (Community Cycling Club) Facebook page.



Monday 8th — Art Competition

The Art Competition is open to all ages this year and any medium. It could be a stone, drawing, painting or other creation or a fantastic photo. Make it topical and/or local. Send a photo of your entry and let us know your age group by Messenger to the Gala Facebook page or by email to gala@blackford.org.uk and we will post them all with no names in each age group: (a) pre-school (b) up to P4, (c) P5-P7, (d) secondary, (e) adults. Judging will be through the Blackford Gala Facebook page but you don't have to be on Facebook to enter as you could ask a neighbour or friend to photograph and send it on. **Entries must be in by noon on Thursday to be judged so get to work.**



Tuesday 9th 7:00pm — Online Bingo

Make it a Full House at the Blackford Cares Facebook Group where you can join in the fun over five games with a "fastest finger first" on the chat column to call "house!"

Collect a book from the Blackford Cares boxes.



Wednesday 10th — Afternoon Tea for over 70's and those who are shielding

Please book in advance to have a Café Mimi's Afternoon Tea delivered to your door by one of our Gala Volunteers. To book for yourself or a neighbour/family member, text/WhatsApp Irene King on 07403 767599 or call her on 682889 or message to the Gala Facebook page or the clipboard in the Moray Street Blackford Cares Box. **Bookings close Sunday 7th June.**



Thursday 11th — Judging of scarecrows and windows

We invite you to decorate one of your windows with the theme of "happiness" and join our new scarecrow competition. Let your imagination go and get to work. Perhaps give it a wooden cross frame; what to stuff it with? What's it doing? Enter both or either **by noon on Thursday 11th** with a message to the Gala Facebook Page or the clipboard in the Moray St Blackford Cares box.



Friday 12th 7:00pm — The Prize Trophy Gala Quiz

The Gala Quiz led by Sarah (and the photo bombing cats) is live though the Blackford Cares Facebook Group but we're playing for the Gala Quiz Trophy. Team size and make up is over to you this year and we have to rely on no googling or messing with scores.



Saturday 13th 8:00pm — Blackford Gala Concert on Zoom

We're showcasing Blackford's talent this evening. Book a performance slot on the Gala Facebook page or email gala@blackford.org.uk; we'd prefer it live or, if you really need the space, record yourself for that killer performance. The finale will be a "Blackford Lockdown Orchestra" video and the opportunity to stay online in Zoom's Breakout Rooms to talk the evening away in smaller "Lock-in" groups. **The Zoom link will be on the Gala Facebook Page.**



Sunday 14th 2:00pm — Village Lockdown BBQ

Every house will be offered (on Saturday) a packet of sausages, packet of rolls and a disposable BBQ. Veggie sausages also offered. Social distancing required. Don't all rely on topping up your BBQ from Zed's on Sunday morning; plan ahead for that Halloumi & ketchup.



Blackford Gala Week 2020
For the village, By the Village



**Foundation
Scotland**

