


We are pleased to bring you the July/ August 2009 issue of *West Lothian Business Connections Online*! Our monthly update brings you West Lothian's recent business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource for business - [www.westlothian.com](http://www.westlothian.com)

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS** [www.westlothian.com/news](http://www.westlothian.com/news)

STIRLING DEVELOPMENTS have unveiled the winners of their 2009 design competition for the Calderwood development in West Lothian. The announcement coincided with the submission of an outline planning application and masterplan for the Calderwood development near East Calder that includes 2,400 new homes, schools, employment opportunities and extensive public open space.

WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE in Livingston was 'topped out' at a ceremony attended by representatives from the partner organisations that will occupy the centre including Police, Council and Courts staff. The Police Station has already opened and all staff will have moved in by late Autumn 2009.

NEW CONSTRUCTION JOBS are being created on the £300 million Airdrie-Bathgate rail link, which is being funded by Transport Scotland.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT** 

AN EXCITING new business competition is to be launched in West Lothian. A fantastic prize package to the value of £50,000 is on offer to the winning business. The Alba Innovation Challenge has been organised by West Lothian Council's Business Gateway with the aim of finding and supporting innovative new businesses which can grow in West Lothian. The competition is sponsored by Scottish Enterprise, Alba Innovation Centre, Springfords and MBM Commercial LLP. [www.aic09.com](http://www.aic09.com)

IS YOUR BUSINESS benefiting from the **Small Business Bonus Scheme** that aims to drastically reduce business rates? Businesses who use or are entitled to use properties with a combined value of £15,000 or less may be entitled to a reduction in their rates bill. To find out if you're eligible call 01506 776982

KEEP UP-TO-DATE with the latest Swine Flu Information for businesses.

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/swineflu/index.htm>

A **contingency planning workshop** to help businesses deal with the Swine Flu pandemic will take place in Livingston on 28 August. It will take you through the key stages of risk identification and reduction and enable you to draw up a draft action plan. Call 0845 609 6611 to reserve your place.


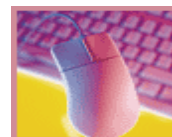
WANT TO KNOW more about companies you do business with? West Lothian Council's Business Information Service can access national databases with financial information, director details and contacts for thousands of companies across the UK. Call 01506-777910

**ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES** 

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for June '09 (latest data released at July '09) is 4.3% (4,573 an increase of 31 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is now slightly above the Scottish (4.0%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates.

KEEP UP to date with 15 Key Economic Indicators on our website at:

[http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl\\_economy/facts\\_figures/](http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/)

**BUSINESS LEARNING** [www.westlothian.com/events](http://www.westlothian.com/events)

BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian has organised a number of workshops in Livingston:

- **Basic Bookkeeping** on 5 August.
- **Marketing and Market Research for Start ups** on 10 August.
- **Resource Planning and Management** on 24 August.

OTHER **FREE** workshops are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington.

For more information call 01506 777 400.



WHISKY MAKER GLENMORANGIE more than doubled its annual profits for the second year running, boosted by one-off gains on the disposal of its Broxburn headquarters and the sale of a distillery.

BROXBURN BASED distiller Ian Macleod has announced a 53% rise in profits to £1.5m.

FINDLATER'S FINE FOODS in Linlithgow is to benefit from £113,626 from the Food Processing and Marketing Grants scheme. The company has also received a top award for its tasty Dunsyre and Fresh Pressed Pear Pate.

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC has announced it is to start production of its low carbon Ecodan residential heating system at the company's manufacturing facility in Livingston.

LINLITHGOW-BASED software design company, Intrallect has won a £1.7m, five-year contract to create an online assessment system for schools.

LEADING INFORMATION protection and storage company Iron Mountain has signed a 10-year lease on a 17,000 sq ft unit at Rankine Square, Livingston.

BAUSCH & LOMB is spending millions of dollars on new marketing and rebranding efforts aimed at its ReNu line of contact lens solutions and its new daily disposable contact lenses which are made in Livingston.

BROXBURN-BASED precision machining business Nexus has been acquired by Sheffield-based engineering firm Material Advantage Group. Nexus provides final finishing of metal components to the oil and gas industry and employs nearly 20 workers.

THE CENTRE in Livingston has received a national accolade for safer shopping for its good practice in promoting, co-ordinating and overseeing measures which contribute to a safe and secure shopping environment for its visitors.

PERSIMMON HOMES, the UK's third largest housebuilder, has announced the launch of a management training scheme aimed specifically at school-leavers. Places are available at Bathgate, as well as other UK sites.

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL has announced plans to develop a package that will create additional jobs - providing community benefit in the area. The council is leading on the development of a Future Jobs Fund package for West Lothian, in partnership with other local public sector and voluntary organisations.

BATHGATE-BORN cake designer Paul Bradford - famed for fashioning cakes in the shape of Edinburgh Castle, Cybermen, dragons and just about anything - is set to reveal his secrets with a new cake school.

WEST LOTHIAN'S leading wedding suppliers have banded together to stage their own wedding fayre, known as The Wedding Box. Their first big show will be at Centrex, Livingston, from 12 noon to 5pm on Sunday, 6 September. [www.theweddingbox.info](http://www.theweddingbox.info)



Jim Mather, MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, is to lead an interactive Mind Mapping event for the area's business leaders to address West Lothian's economic future. The meeting is to be hosted by West Lothian Council and will take place on 11 August at the Alba Innovation Centre in Livingston.

The West Lothian Coffee Morning is going from strength to strength and has teamed up with The Centre in Livingston and O'Briens to host this Business Networking event every Friday from 8 am at the Winter Garden. No membership, no fees, no speakers, no agenda.

### FREE EMAIL UPDATE

Would you like to receive this FREE Business Update by email?

Contact [andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk) or call 01506-777911 to be added to our mailing list.

### TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your feedback or comments, a FEEDBACK link is provided at the bottom of every web page on our website at [www.westlothian.com](http://www.westlothian.com) or you can email us at [enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk)