

# WEST Lothian COURIER

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Six pages of sport



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## News

# Skills project helps pupils out of Ruts

A SKILLS programme is helping teenagers develop their learning.

West Lothian Council's More Chances More Choices programme has helped deliver a motor bike maintenance course to groups of secondary school pupils.

In partnership with Rural and Urban Training Scheme (RUTS), the council-run Moto Learn Programme provides alternative curriculum education and training to young people through hands-on learning.

Using motorbikes as a focus,

the three-day course aims to equip young people with the confidence and skills needed to achieve their highest potential.

Executive councillor for education, Andrew Miller, said: "The mobile unit visits all West Lothian secondary and special schools as part of the council's More Choices More Chances strategy.

"It supports young people to think independently, act responsibly and value learning."

The mobile programme forms part of a number of en-

gineering programmes for young people in West Lothian.

RUTS run a SQA certified programme from their base in Whitburn for post-school pupils, and then a progression route onto engineering courses at West Lothian College.

RUTS have three mobile units, which were developed through a grant from the Big Lottery Fund and Inspiring Scotland, and each has its own integral workshop and classroom teaching area with fully equipped tool shop.

Previously pupils would have had to travel to college to receive this type of training but now it can be delivered into the heart of the community to a variety of groups.

Sean McPartlin, deputy head teacher at St Margaret's Academy in Livingston, said: "We are delighted to be working with RUTS in supporting pupils at a crucial time in their schooling.

"We know that our young people are benefiting greatly



SADDLE UP: West Lothian teenagers had the chance to learn about motorbike maintenance at the training event.

from RUTS' many years of experience in working with youngsters.

"For the pupils, the opportunity to work practically and collaboratively with partner

agencies, and see tangible outcomes to their work, is invaluable – both in terms of their education and in preparation for work and adult life."

## Cyclist hurt in hit-and-run crash

WITNESSES are being urged to contact police after a cyclist was injured in a hit-and-run road crash.

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for anyone who may have seen the incident in Winchburgh last Thursday, March 24, to contact them.

The 42-year-old cyclist was on Main Street, near the junction with Niddry Road, about 2pm, when a vehicle on the other side of the road crossed over and

turned into Niddry Road, colliding with the bike.

The cyclist was knocked to the ground, and suffered a broken shoulder blade, but the vehicle did not stop at the scene.

It is described as being a blue hatchback, with roof rails.

Anyone with information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or the charity Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

# Public give wind farm plan positive support

By Marjorie Kerr

Fauch Hill Sustainable Energy Ltd. Calder, East Calder and Livingston, FHSE plan to plant part of the site (FHSE) last week held the events as to see how the plans have evolved, with native broad leaves, providing a