

Black Mount Bugle

November 2023

Issue 127



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Black Mount Community Survey



We need your voices to help shape the future of the Black Mount Community. Through this survey you have the opportunity to express your views about life in the Black Mount area and your priorities for the area. So please add your voice to help influence the future of your local community.

By sharing your views you can steer the Community Council towards lobbying for improvements in local services and provide insights for local groups to create community activities that reflect your interests and priorities.

There is an optional prize draw with one person winning a **£30 voucher to spend at the Big Red Barn** (email or telephone number required for entry at end of survey).



We encourage you to fill out the survey online if possible using the QR code or web address below.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BMCommunitySurvey2023>



If you would like support to fill in the survey, or a paper copy to be dropped off please leave your address and/or number in a sealed envelope at Black Mount Primary School marked "FAO Emma Ives Parent Council"

Call for Membership - Black Mount Community Council

Do you fancy getting involved in your local community and having a positive impact on people's lives and our local environment?

Black Mount Community Council are currently looking for enthusiastic members of the Black Mount Community to apply to become members. We meet on the first Monday of the month (except for January/April/August).

Community councils are voluntary organisations set up by statute and run by local residents to act on behalf of their area. Some community councils are more active than others - but their main activities include:

- identifying and taking action on local issues such as planning and licensing applications
- arranging meetings about issues important to the community
- liaising with the public authorities and other agencies about local services.

Community councils were introduced through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Community councillors are elected as individuals to serve a four year term. They do not stand as representatives of political parties.

We are seeking applicants who reside in the Black Mount area. If you are interested and would like more information, please email the BMCC Secretary – andy@hudson-family.eu

Micro Grant Funding for the Community

Your Community Council has paid out over £5,100 from the Micro Grant Funding Scheme since November 2021. We have sponsored several local events, some of which, you might have attended and not known where the funding has come from.

The Funding, up to a maximum value of £500 is available to fund any group or individual who is organising a local community event within the Black Mount area, individuals must reside within the area. Application forms are available online via South Lanarkshire Council or contact any BMCC member and they will be able to email you one.

Applications submitted to the BMCC, if approved and within the rules then a cheque will be issued, if your application is rejected, you will be informed in writing with an explanation. Unfortunately you can only submit one application per year. The Micro grant is topped up by SLC upon submission of the community council's financial accounts.

Some of the events we have provided funding for over the last 12 months include, The Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, Children's Christmas Party, Libberton School for a Library, WRI flower show, plus many other projects.

We actively look to encourage and sponsor local events which will benefit our community, if you have any idea small or large, please drop us an email or speak to a community representative and we will let you know if we can offer funding.

Elsrickle & Dolphinton Hall updates

Elsrickle Hall - An open discussion was held on 12th October, which was well attended and very productive. A second meeting was held 14th November to set up the group to take on the lease of Elsrickle Hall. The group will operate under a lease till it can be established a way forward as a community buy out to operate as a bencom. To assist or help in any way with the above project do not hesitate to contact Alistair Muirhead - apgm100@hotmail.com

Dolphinton Hall – A group has been formed to take forward a potential community asset transfer.

Note from our Councillor - Cllr Allison

By the time you read this the AGM of the Black Mount Community Council will have passed, so I think it would be right to thank those members who have retired from the community council. Sam Cassells who has served as Chair or vice chair for many years, Nick Tucker who has been secretary and vice chairman and John McCann served as secretary, all have contributed to the community and deserve our thanks for all their efforts.

In the SLC budget last spring the leisure trust had to make savings and as a result informed SLC they could not operate Elsrickle, Dolphinton or Abington halls in our ward and as a result have been closed. There are groups looking into the possibility of asset transfers of these properties for the community to continue to operate them and I would wish these groups the best and hope they will be successful and have the local halls up and running as soon as possible.

Within the council it is a time of change with six senior officers retiring or moving on one of those being our chief executive who has been replaced with his deputy Paul Manning. These changes will take time to settle but they have strong teams to support them, and this will be important as we head into a very difficult budget round where we will have to take some difficult decisions to balance the budget.

Before too long it will be Christmas and I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a more prosperous new year.

Defibrillator update

After a long time the phone box in Elsrickle has now been secured for the Community by the BMCC to host a Defibrillator, there is currently an application in with the British Heart Foundation for a fully funded lifesaving device. The Phone box in Libberton is currently under consultation, the outcome of this consultation will be due in early January 2024. For more information please do not hesitate to contact the BMCC.

Black Mount Sports Night

A lovely, sunny May evening saw a great turnout of children, parents, and spectators at Newbigging for the Annual Black Mount Sports Night. The children were competing for the Agnes Allison School Shields and each age group took part in a sprint race, egg and spoon race, sack race, bean bag race, and an obstacle race to finish. There were also races for the adults with a sprint race and a novelty race for both men and women. And finally, if there was enough energy left, the traditional Welly Boot throw for all ages was set up ready. It was so good to see everyone taking part and enjoying themselves. The results were as follows:

Pre School-Age

Winner: **Eve Lawson** Runner Up: **Marley Robison**

Primary School Age

Joint Winners: **Alexander Baillie & Struan Malone**

Runner Up: **Libby Boyd**

Secondary School Age

Winner: **Autumn MacDougall** Runner Up: **Aiden White**

Ladies Race

Sprint Race: **Corrie Ward**

Egg & Spoon Race: **Lynsey Robison**

Men's Race

Sprint Race: **Andrew Simpson**

Sack Race: **Andrew Simpson**

Black Mount Sports Night

Welly Boot Throw Results:

Primary Boy:	Jack (19m)
Primary Girl:	Lexi Boyd (13.7m)
Secondary Boy:	Aiden White (19.1m)
Secondary Girl:	Autumn MacDougall (17.7m)
Ladies:	Corrie Ward (17m)
Men's:	Phil McDowell (30m)

The Sports also had an added extra ceremony when Mrs. Dorothy Ramsay presented all the competitors with a special Kings Coronation medal. Mrs. Ramsay, a well-known local teacher, retired this year after teaching at the old Walston Primary and the new Black Mount Primary. She has taught many of the local children over the years and we wish her a happy retirement. As well as the medals each child was given a Coronation cupcake to restore their energy! Many thanks to Mrs Anne Hutchison for baking and decorating so many cakes.

Finally, thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the evening and for making it another great community event.

Mara Orr



Black Mount Community Ramble

Black Mount Social Group and Black Mount School Parent Council joined forces to take on a fund-raising community climb of our local landmark, Black Mount. The climb was open to all members of the local community and there was a fantastic turnout on the Saturday morning. About 40 walkers set off from the school, with ages ranging from 2 years old and upwards and some accompanied by 4 legged friends as well. The children all set off at a great pace and eventually the Black Mount track was picked out by brightly coloured jackets making their way up the hill. The highlight of the walk was reaching the summit and being met by a welcome guard of honour of school children who cheered and clapped everyone through! We were blessed with a lovely, clear, dry day, and it was good to pick out landmarks in the distance like Ben Lomond. After lots of snacks and photos at the trig point, everyone set off for the return journey with the promise of bacon rolls back at the school.

Gregor Doyle, Anne Hutchison, and Andrew and Joan Highton were busy back at the school preparing bacon and sausage rolls, and tea and coffee. There was also a lovely spread of home baking supplied by parents and community members. The fundraising was in aid of future community events such as the Fireworks Display and the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner. This was a joint venture which brought together all ages of the community and was a great success. A fantastic total of £360 was raised on the day, with further donations taking the total to £415. Thank you to all who generously contributed. And thanks to all who organised this event especially the Parents Council.

Mara Orr



Black Mount Fireworks Display

On Sunday 5th November, a huge crowd gathered at Dolphinton Church Hall for the annual Fireworks Display run by the Blackmount Social Group. At 6.30pm sharp, the hall was queued out with families keen to sample the soup, hotdogs and home baking.

At 7pm, the hall emptied out to watch the start of the display. It was a spectacular display with some amazing colourful shows of light and sound, and the oohs and aahs from the crowd showed how appreciative they were of the fantastic light show in the sky. It was great to hear the spontaneous round of applause at the end and Brian Curle and Andrew Highton must be thanked for all their efforts, from selection of fireworks, and setting fuses, to the lighting of the final display. Thanks also to Alistair Muirhead for digging the holes for the fireworks with his new petrol-powered auger. No spades required this year!

The Social Group were delighted with the fantastic turnout, and sold out of glow sticks, cakes and hot dogs! Thanks are due to all the volunteers who made soup, donated home baking and helped in the hall on the night. Also many thanks to the Gilchrist family who allow us to use their field for the display. It was a great evening for the whole community to come together and enjoy. A fantastic £450 was taken in donations on the night and this should secure the future of further events.



Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery

Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount is a small SLC run, standalone nursery which operates within Black Mount Primary School. It is open 50 weeks of the year and offers early years childcare and education to ages 3-5, funded by the government. We also offer chargeable additional hours.

The children at Black Mount nursery have been exploring Halloween and we organised a trip to Newmill Farm for a special Halloween themed morning!

We explored the maze made with strawbales in the shed and a maze in the field made from kale. We took a tractor ride to the spooky woods, where we saw skeletons in baths, big scary spiders and flying ghosts, before going pumpkin picking in the pumpkin patch. We then had another tractor ride back to the farm where we had our picnic lunch. Everyone had a lovely day.



Dolphinton Indoor Carpet Bowling Club

Unfortunately due to the closure of Dolphinton Village Hall by SLC our club have had to seek new suitable premises.

We were fortunate enough to be offered the use of equipment and facilities at the Clubhouse of West Linton Greens Bowling Club and our season began on the 26th October 2023.

Our membership currently stands 15 and we would welcome new members of all ages. No equipment is required, you'll be surprised how easy it is as well as being competitive but most importantly a lot of fun.

Membership is £30 for the season which will run weekly on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm until the end of March 2024.

If you are interested then come along, join in and see for yourself or if you would like more information then contact us on the Black Mount Community Page on Facebook.

Look forward to welcoming any new members.

Ann Ross & Deryck Hogge

DOLPHINTON ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP

Where:	Dolphinton Church Hall
When:	7.30 - 9.0 pm - Wednesdays (except for 3rd Wednesday each month)
What:	We meet to draw, paint, knit, sew, craft and chat
How much:	£5.0 a week to cover cost of Hall rental
Who:	Anyone who is interested in exploring their creative side
Contact:	Pam Taylor - 07966 453317
We would welcome new faces - do come along and give us a try	

Elsrickle SWI

At the end of September the annual weekend trip went to Harrogate spending time there at leisure despite the rain. We had short visits to Thirsk and Skipton and a very interesting visit to Harwood House.

We have now adjusted to meeting in our new venue at Black Mount Primary School, where we have already enjoyed two meetings with pleasing attendance and high competition entries.

In September our speaker was Jennifer Baillie from Hillhead of Covington, who outlined how modern dairy farms operate and how the Milk Hut originated.

In October Lesley Woodall from Travel Counsellors Biggar shared her travel experience and expertise with us.

November would normally have seen our Bowling Tournament but that has not been possible so far. However a team will be taking part in Sandford WI's tournament.

Remaining Programme for 2023/24

- 8th November - David Wilson: FLYING FOR LIFE
- Our Christmas meal will be at The Barony Biggar
- 10th January - Demonstration and Talk by Carolyn from EDEN BEAUTY
- 14th February - Hands on SUGAR CRAFT with Merle Tough
- 6th March - MUSICAL EVENING (we hope to have young members from our community to perform for us)
- 27th March - TASTE AND TRY and AGM

Social Group News

Unfortunately the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner will not be possible this year. However, the Social Group are planning to arrange a Scotch night towards the end of January 2024.

Dolphinton SWI

Our 2023/24 season started off in September with an enjoyable, hands-on pasta making class with Adriana St Clair. In October we had an interesting talk from John Bracken on how to get the best out of your planted bulbs. We then all had a go at planting some bulbs for the Peeblesshire Federation SWI Spring Show in March 2024.

Remaining Programme for 2023/24

- 15th November – Denham Macdougall from Brownsbank Cottage Trust will give a talk on Scotland's other national poet, Hugh MacDiarmid
- 13th December – Mince pies and a blether
- 17th January – Seated yoga and pole fitness
- 21st February – The universe and James Webb telescope with Professor Alistair Glasse
- 20th March – Taste and Try
- 17th April – Flamingo Clays demonstration and AGM

Bulk Oil Buying Groups

With high costs of domestic fuel prices, the possibility to shave a few pounds off our heating bills becomes increasingly attractive. There are two bulk oil buying groups running within the Black Mount area with that very aim in mind.

The Black Mount Group covers households within the ML11 and ML12 postcode areas and is coordinated by Catriona Malone. The Dolphinton Group covers the EH46 and EH47 postcode areas and is coordinated by Tim McLean.

If you are interested in joining either group please contact: Catriona (blackmountfuelgroup@gmail.com) or Tim (dolphintonbulkoil@gmail.com) who would be happy to explain how the groups operate and put you on the contact list for future orders.

Libberton Primary School

Primary 5-7 Trip to the Forth Road Bridge & Education Centre

For part of our bridges topic, we visited the Forth Road Bridge. First we went to a big building to learn more and to do some engineering. We had a beautiful view of the three bridges and loved it!. Then we walked on the bridge. A few people were scared but most of us weren't. We got to the middle and decided to turn back. We all had so much fun and really enjoyed our trip.

Ella, Primary 6



P4/5 Rugby Festival at Biggar Rugby Club

P4-5 went to the Biggar Rugby Festival with other local schools. We went on a bus and when we arrived, we went inside a brick building and took a seat, while we waited for the others to join us. Once all the other schools arrived, we got put into teams and we went and played Bulldog and Chaos Tig. Then we started playing rugby. We played against three other teams and won two games. We really enjoyed our day and can't wait for the next tournament!

Lena, Primary 5

Hello from Black Mount Primary School's Parent Council

Black Mount Primary is in Elsrickle and our parent council members have been active throughout the last year trying to develop the outdoor space as well as build connections with the community across Black Mount.

- We built a wooden gazebo with seats and nearly finished a polytunnel in the school's community garden
- We have outdoor sports equipment for the community to use (old sporting equipment donations welcomed)
- The children in both Black Mount and Libberton primary schools are working to provide contributions for the Black Mount Community Survey over the next few months.

Please come join us at some of our events in 2024, including:

- A community quiz night at the school on 19th January 2024
- A family film night in Biggar on 16th February 2024
- Our Dunsyre Duck Race on 17th May 2024
- A walk up Black Mount hill in collaboration with the Black Mount Social Group on 1st September 2024

Keep up to date on our events and activities through our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bm-parent-council/>



Dolphinton SWI Flower Show

On 19th August 2023, Dolphinton SWI held its annual Flower Show at Black Mount church hall. The day was a huge success with over 250 entries.

Cup Winners

- The Jimmy Dickson Cup – Flower Section – Ann Ross
- The WRI Cup – Vegetables – Rob Dickson
- The Mrs John Mackenzie Cup – Floral Art – Anne Hutchison
- The WRI Cup – Industrial Section – Anne Hutchison
- The WRI Cup – Handcraft Section – Libby Bean
- The Jean McCracken Cup – Photographs Section – Kirsty Orr & Anthony Chrimes (joint winners)
- The Marion Gilchrist Rosebowl – Children's Section – Connie Learmonth
- The Golden Spud – Children's Section under 9 – Emily Archibald
- The IPT Trophy – Children's Section 9-15 – Millie Campbell

Special Prize Winners

- Flowers – Margaret Adamson
- Floral Art – Anne Hutchison
- Vegetables - Rob Dickson
- Industrial – Melanie Gilchrist
- Photographs – Kirsty Orr
- Handicrafts – Ann Ross
- Children Under 9 – Hazel Bean
- Children 9-15 – Ali Nixon



The Bugle is published by the Black Mount Community Council but views expressed therein are not necessarily those of the committee.

The Community Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors printed in the Bugle