

MARCH | 2024 | ISSUE 128



BLACK MOUNT BUGLE



Dolphinton SWT



Best in home skills



Elswickle SWT

Call for Membership - Black Mount Community Council

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 residents to act on behalf of their area. Their main activities include:

- identifying and acting 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 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 secretary@blackmountcc.scot.

Micro Grant Funding for the Community

As we fast approach the end of the Financial Year it is a busy period for the community council to ensure any energy grant applications are progressed in a timely fashion. We must submit our accounts for Audit by early April and we expect that as in previous years, our energy grant fund will be topped-up to a maximum amount of £5000, a few months later, allowing us to issue fresh grants for the period 2024/2025.

Any group or individual in the Blackmount catchment area can apply for a grant, the maximum allowance is £500 per application, per year, all awards must benefit the community directly. If you require any information on eligibility or the application process, please do not hesitate to email treasurer@blackmountcc.scot for assistance.

As an example, we have granted applications to the 'new community hub group' to facilitate the re-opening of Elsrickle Hall. We hope by doing this it will allow more local opportunities for a wider diversification of grant applications; we look forward to hearing from you.

Note from our Councillor

I have been a councillor for 12 years and this has been the most difficult budget setting I have experienced. We have had to make significant cuts to services to balance the budget. With most of our funds needed for statutory services the greatest effect has been on the leisure trust resulting in many hall closures. What we have been able to do is change the rules for the Renewable Energy fund that will allow organisations that are willing to look at an asset transfer support to take on the running of the halls, more important is this fund will be available to the groups looking to take on our own two halls in Dolphinton and Elsrickle. We have also been able to retain the funding for the maintaining the roads, this is especially important with the level of work that has been required this winter so hopefully they can keep up with the road repairs required.

On a happier topic the Clydesdale Sport Awards have just taken place and it was good to see some local faces from the Blackmount area receiving awards and acknowledgement for all their hard work. The sports council have grants to help with coaching and can give some support to those competing at different levels and I would encourage anyone to make use of these supports and I'm sure we will see many more Blackmount sportspeople receiving awards.

Cllr Allison

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Mrs Mary Kerr who has reached the grand old age of 100 years, almost all of which have been lived in the Blackmount area!

She was born in 1924 at Cossarton, Dolphinton, as Mary Dechman. When she married John Kerr in 1944 she moved next door to Croft an Righ Farm where she was kept busy as the wife of a dairy farmer, milking cows by hand. They moved on to the bigger farm at Kirklands, Dunsyre, where she also brought up her 5 children. Next move was to Newbigging Mill, then "retirement" to the Halt at Dunsyre, and on to foreign lands in Biggar. Her family has expanded to 13 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren, too many for Blackmount but still all in Scotland. Among her many Birthday cards was one from His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla...not many people have one of those!!

Happy Birthday, Mary, our walking history book.

Blackmount Social Group

Date for the diary!

Annual Blackmount Sports Night

Thursday 23rd of May at Newbigging Playing Fields 6.30 pm
Further information nearer the time.

Back in time with the Bugle: In the headlines 25 years ago!

WELCOME TO RESIDENTS OF NEWBIGGING

In May 1999 the Bugle was distributed to the Newbigging area for the first time after changes in council boundaries. For the sports evening held in May the following was written.

*Everyone is welcome especially our new neighbours from Newbigging.
We look forward to the extra competition!*

Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount

Black Mount Nursery is a small SLC run, standalone nursery, operating within Black Mount Primary School. It is open 50 weeks per year offering early years childcare and education to ages 3-5, funded by the government and enabling additional chargeable hours.

The children have been learning about road safety by exploring different road signs, pedestrian crossings and how to cross the road safely. They have enjoyed taking on the roles of cars and pedestrians when we made a road in the playground and exploring the crossings and traffic lights on the tabletop road. The children have been practicing crossing the road safely outside of the nursery with the help of the ladies.



Dolphinton Indoor Carpet Bowling Club

Despite the closure of Dolphinton Village Hall our club have been enjoying a successful season at West Linton Bowling Club.

Membership remains the same and as a reminder the season runs from the end of October to the end of March on a Thursday evening.

We also held an excellent Christmas Steak Pie competition night attended by around 32 of all ages including Elsrickle Bowling Club and an end of season similar night is planned for the 28th March to which all are welcome.

Ann Ross and Deryck Hogge

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group

We meet every Wednesday evening in Dolphinton Church Hall,
from 7.30 - 9pm.

We draw, we paint, we chat, we do various crafts.

On some weeks we have a tutor, on others we do our own thing.

We generally pay £5/week to pay for the hall and a tutor if we have one.

Everyone welcome.

For more information call Pam on 07966 453317

Elsrickle Indoor Carpet Bowling

The season is just about over and here we have results from our Thursday evenings.

Thursday night pairs points: Winners - Matt Kinloch and Peter Muirhead, **Runners Up** - Iain Minto and Iain Steele.

Junior cup: Winner - Abi Jenkins, **Runner up** - Bethan Muirhead.

Bobby Howesion Trophy: Winner - Iain Minto, **Runner up** - Matt Kinloch.

Sanderson 4 bowl Trophy: Winner - Jim Kinloch, **Runner up** - Matt Kinloch.

Our **Christmas steak pie night** held on 4th January: **Winners** - Matt Kinloch, Ronnie Reid and Bethan Muirhead, **Runners up** - Iain Minto, Alistair Muirhead and Peter Muirhead.

Championship Trophy Final is still to play and in the final is Matt Kinloch and Iain Minto.

This year our bowling pairs tournament in February was held in West Linton Bowling Club with a good entry of 42 pairs. The winners of the William Ramsay shield were David Orchiston and Rachael Simpson, and runners up were Jan Oliver and Wullie Mair.

Blackmount Church

Worship takes place each Sunday at 9.45am followed by tea/coffee.

We also have fortnightly coffee morning at 10.30am on Wednesdays and the Guild meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 2pm, when we enjoy hearing from a variety of speakers.

At Easter there will be an evening service on Good Friday at 6.30pm and an Easter morning service at 9.45am.

Please join us if you can. You will receive a warm welcome!

Biggar Curling Club

The last game was played Wednesday 13th March and the results of the season are as follows

League Winners: Tom Shearer, John Struthers, Robert Campbell, Kyle Allison, Kieran Allison. Runners Up: Andrew Clark, Jim Steele, Matt Kinloch, Cara McInnes, Connor Frame.

Kerr Winners: James Orr, Tom Shearer, Jim Wallace, Alistair Walker Runners Up: Billy Buchanan, Brian Carrick, Alistair Muirhead, Matt Kinloch

Murray Winners: Andrew Clark, Graham Barrie, David Brown, Kathy Maher.

Pairs Winners: Brian Carrick, Jim Steele. Runners Up: Andrew Clark, Jan Rooney

Ladies V Gents Winners: Ladies – Helen Carrick, Jean Taylor, Jackie McMaster, Jan Rooney. Runners Up: Gents – Jim Steele, Brian Carrick, Russell Kerr, Matt Kinloch

Newcomers Game Winners: Cara McInnes, Kyle Allison, Robert Campbell, Peter Muirhead. Runners Up: Kieran Allison, Bethan Muirhead, Connor Frame, Heidi Muirhead

If you are interested in curling with the club, get in touch with Jim Steele 07980 560448.

Hamilton Young Curlers are based at Lanarkshire Ice Rink, off Moat Hill in Hamilton. New members are always welcome from about ages 10 to 21, we have about equal numbers of girls and boys. The main session is on Saturday mornings 8:30 to 11:30am at Hamilton Ice Rink from end of September to March with a combination of coaching sessions and curling games. New members are welcome to come and try or join on any week. Just turn up with a clean pair of trainers to change into and preferably contact us first hsycurlers@gmail.com.



VISIT US

Biggar and District Men's Shed
School Road, Elsrickle
ML12 6RA
www.biggarmensshed.co.uk

Our "Shed" was first established in 2018 and
is based at the old Walston Primary School

For anyone (men or women) with
time on their hands!

Unemployed, Employed,
Retired? Skilled or Unskilled?

The "Shed" welcomes
all members from
18 years and over

Do you want to
learn some
new skills?

Do you want to
educate others?

There are no prerequisites
for becoming
A SHEDDER

FIND OUT MORE

Phone/Text: 07471 491 099
Email: biggarshed@gmail.com
Facebook: Biggar and District Men's Shed



OPENING TIMES

Wednesdays and
Thursdays
10am - 4pm



With a brand new fully fitted workshop why not get stuck into some joinery or have a go at wood turning? Our prep room offers additional space for planning those many projects!

Our Poly Tunnel and Allotment offers the perfect escape for those Green Fingered Friends



3D Printing, Electronics, Clock Repairs and Art Classes all take place across our spacious accommodation!
Why not suggest a new class?

The Opportunities are Endless!

Advocating for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Socially-Isolated. We believe it's our members who make the Shed a success!

Everyone has something to offer or share, So why not join us (for free) today! Even if it's for a cuppa and a blether, come along and give your life a boost!

SUPPORT US

Registered Charity in Scotland: SC049102

Biggar and District Men's Shed is a member of the Scottish Men's Shed Association - www.scottishmsa.org.uk



Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group



Photos by Gail Carmichael

We love all things stitch, embroidery and textile related and welcome anyone with a love of Stitch & Textiles (no need for prior knowledge or skills). Meeting once a month on a Monday evening at Biggar Municipal Hall we come together to learn, take part in it and share our knowledge. Visitors are welcome to come along (£6) and we also have a raffle and refreshments (bring a mug).

We host a variety of speakers and workshops. Our social occasions include an annual dinner in May as well as a bus trip. Last year it was Dalgarnen Mill with the most amazing costume collection and Chinese embroidery. This year we are going to the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels. If anyone would like to join us, then please do email or get in touch via the Facebook page. You will be made very welcome.

Information about meetings and events are found on our Facebook page (The Biggar Area Stitch & Textile Group) and on What's On Biggar.

Email: secbiggarstitchtextiles@gmail.com

Elsrickle SWI

March began with the SWI Federation Show at Ravenstruther. Some members had prizes for individual classes and a few children from Black Mount School were successful in the children's classes.



Some of the entries to the Federation Show

The meeting on 6th March took the form of a musical evening. Alan and Emma Gardiner came along with some very talented young members of the fiddle and accordion club. Alan and Emma fronted a very enthusiastic young team. The whole evening was a delight. The enthusiasm, talent and modesty of all these young players is commendable. Wednesday 27th March is a 'Taste and Try' evening along with AGM. The competition is a wedge of Coffee Cake for the Georgie Wallace Trophy.

March is the last month of our meetings until September however we have two trips to look forward to. May 8th will be a day trip to Dumfries House, gardens and grounds which will include a trip to Dobbies in Ayr beforehand and a meal at Lochside Hotel afterwards (£35 for gardens and grounds or £50 for tour of the house as well). Also, in September we have a three-day trip organised to Durham. There may still be space on either trip so if you are interested contact Anne Moffat for booking or for further details on 01899 220794.

Be prepared for the annual Flower Show at the end of August. Further details will be announced in the next issue of the Bugle.

Dolphinton SWI



Dolphinton SWI has a strong membership of around 20 local women who enjoy coming together once a month to try various activities or hear about different topics. We're a friendly bunch and are very welcoming of new members and guests. At present, we are looking ahead to our Flower Show in August - always a popular community event.



On 16th March Dolphinton SWI were very successful at the Peeblesshire Federation SWI – Spring Bulbs Craft Show. The Mrs Thorburn Cup was won for our entries in the bulb categories, Katie Hobbs won a trophy for Best in Home Skills overall (cake on front cover) and a spectacular entry was created for the Community Effort category (also on front cover).

Libberton Primary School

Two Gold Awards!

We are delighted to share that not only have we achieved our Gold Reading Award but also our Gold School Sports Award! We were recently awarded our Gold Reading Award meaning our school now benefits from a reading-rich environment; encompassing cosy reading nooks and regular ERIC time during the school day for our pupils and a staff Reading Group with recommendations of books enjoyed. Our Community Library is available to benefit the whole community and has been down to the tireless efforts of the Reading Group in the school! In addition, the School Sports Award was recently presented to Libberton Primary! Our pupils have been very enthusiastically attending several after-school and lunch time clubs with both parental and community partner involvement as well as attending several Biggar Learning Community events. Our pupils have been sharing their wider achievements out with school too which has helped to highlight to other pupils what is available out there!



SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TRIP *by Isla, P7*



On Wednesday the 7th of February, P5-7 Libberton Primary went on a trip to the Scottish Parliament for our democracy topic. First, we were led into a considerably large and complex building where we had to go through a scan, which is key for the safety of anybody coming through. We walked down a big hall, and into a small room where we did a wee pop quiz on whether certain laws belonged to reserved (UK) or devolved (Scotland). Shortly after, we were given a tour of the building, involving seeing inside of the debating chamber! (Did you know that there are 129 seats instead of 130 seats so that it's a fair vote?). Afterwards, Mairi McAllan and Martin Whitfield, who are two of the MSP'S (short for Member of Scottish Parliament) came in to answer some of our questions. Later then, it was lunch. It was probably the most HECTIC part of the trip. Finally, we had to leave. Furthermore, it was fun, enjoyable and interesting to learn about! We got to take one last picture of our class standing in front of the parliament building.

Primary 1-4 Trip to Libberton Church *by Alfie and Orla P4*

Primary 1-4 from Libberton Primary on Thursday 22nd February went to Libberton Church. Deaconess Angela Wilson showed us around the church. We learnt about the different stories explaining the stained glass windows and the objects in the church. We loved exploring the organ and the pews.



Black Mount Primary

Community Art Project

Who would have thought back in 2019, when we opened our new school building to the community to participate in an art project, there would be a global pandemic and it would take nearly three and a half years to complete. I do have to say that it has been well worth waiting for as it is stunning! A massive thank you to Ellen McCann for her vision and all her hard work in enabling the children of Black Mount along with community members to get involved in such a great installation. The photograph does not do it justice and if you haven't seen it in person, please pop along to the school and have a look – you will not be disappointed!



The Wee Class is learning about the Egyptians this term. Some questions they have are 'What is a mummy and why did they keep dead bodies?' They have also asked about Pyramids and what their temples were for. The children also want to know what Egyptians looked like and what their clothing and jewellery was like.



So far they have learnt about the importance of the River Nile and the papyrus plant. They have made paper similar to papyrus. They have also found out about hieroglyphics and learnt how to write their name using them. Look out for children wearing their fabulous Egyptian themed collars they've been making.

The Big Class - Trip to New Lanark by Primary 4 – 7



On Friday morning, the Big Class, Mrs MacIntyre, Ms Umar and Mrs Davis went on buses to New Lanark Heritage site since we did a Victorian topic.

For the class we did spelling with a slate and slate pencils. The writing we did was old cursive. We also did maths (which used to be called arithmetic) and geography. My favourite was the dancing.

After lunch we went with Lydia and she told us what the mill made – it was cotton. Next, we went on a ride called the Annie McLeod experience, I learnt that Annie lived in a house with ten people! Annie was a mill worker her job was to run in and grab cotton from under the machine. After that we went and looked at a massive machine – it was powered by water.

Overall I enjoyed seeing the massive water wheel the most, it was so good. I loved the fact that they had different houses for different years – it was from 1890 to 1950 – it was so good.

To finish our day we went to the workhouse to see what working Victorian's house was like. They were tiny with roll out beds and barely a kitchen and no living room. I would hate to live in these confined spaces. We carried through the building to a 1930's room. I was shocked at how different it was, more room, a kitchen and living room. After we carried on out to the one and only Robert Owen's house.

I learned that New Lanark was founded in 1810. I love it all and I would love to go back soon.

Date for your diary!

Spring Time Fun

Wednesday 27th March 1.30pm at Black Mount Primary School.

Everyone Welcome!

Decorated egg display followed by an Easter Egg roll (bring your own to roll down our hill!), Easter bonnet parade, board games and refreshments.

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 Blackmount area.

The Blackmount Group covers households within the ML11 and ML12 postcode areas and is coordinated by Catriona Malone (blackmountfuelgroup@gmail.com). The Dolphinton Group covers the EH46 postcode and is coordinated by Tim McLean (dolphintonbulkoil@gmail.com). If you are interested in joining either group please contact Catriona or Tim who would be happy to explain how the groups operate and put you on the contact list for future orders.

Members of Blackmount Community Council

Chairperson	Alistair Muirhead	chair@blackmountcc.scot
Secretary	Andy Hudson	secretary@blackmountcc.scot
Treasurer	Pauline Irwin	treasurer@blackmountcc.scot
Anne Hutchison		
Steve Jenkins		
Sarah McGlasson		

Next Community Council meeting: Monday 25th March 7pm Black Mount School.

The next Bugle issue is planned for beginning of July so if you are interested in contributing, please contact bugle@blackmountcc.scot.

The Bugle is published by the Blackmount 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.

Blackmount Area covering Candymill, Dunsyre, Dolphinton, Elsrickle, Greenshields, Libberton, Newbigging, Weston, Walston and surrounding areas.