

JULY | 2024 | ISSUE 129 | 2024



BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



Braving the weather for Blackmount Sports at Newbigging



A successful Biggar Gala day

Blackmount Community microgrants

– new round open!

The 2024 round of community microgrants is now open for applications. The microgrant scheme provides funds up to £500 for activities and projects which bring community benefit, and which involve people in the community by bringing them together to enjoy educational, recreational, leisure and other community activities or which improve the local environment. Previous and ongoing projects include developing the community garden at Black Mount primary school, supporting WI flower shows in Elsrickle and Dolphinton, and supporting the community survey. If you have a project in mind, or would like more information, then please email treasurer@blackmountcc.scot.



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 1st JULY 7pm Blackmount Church Hall.

The next Bugle issue is planned for October 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.

Blackmount Survey Team

Last year we launched a survey inviting Blackmount folks to tell us about what it was like living in the area and what improvements they would like to see. At Easter we closed the survey after reaching 1 in 5 households in Blackmount, representing over 285 residents. It is a good return and thanks are due to all who completed the survey.

We are now proceeding with the analysis of the rich data in the survey. Early analysis indicates that people value

- The sense of community in Blackmount;
- Living in the countryside;
- The peace which comes with rural living.

The most significant improvements identified are

- Public transport;
- Road safety;
- Road maintenance.

Pupils from the local primary schools were also invited to give their views on what they would like to see in Blackmount and we look forward to sharing these.

We are continuing our analysis and will produce a report over the summer. You can keep up to date here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/blackmount-community-survey>



We intend to use the report to start conversations with resident and community groups to explore further the issues raised and to determine plans for activity, working collaboratively to take action to make Blackmount an even better place to be.

Finally, we are delighted to announce Dr R. Alasdair B. Young as the winner of the £30 Big Red Barn Voucher. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and entered the competition!

Blackmount Survey Team

Blackmount Church

Blackmount Church has weekly services in Dolphinton at 9-45. A warm welcome awaits you and the service is followed by tea / coffee. We recently celebrated two significant birthdays for Nanette and Rob with plenty of cake!

We have weekly choir practices on Thursdays at 6-30 and, again, new members are welcome.



Our annual **Strawberry Tea** will be held on **13 July** at 2pm in the church. This is always a much-anticipated event with delicious home baking and a variety of stalls, so please come along.

Araminta has been a very loyal member and we extend our very best wishes to her as she moves to Edinburgh.

Gillian Coulter, Kirk Session Clerk

Dolphinton now has a defibrillator at Blackmount Church Hall



Elsrickle Hub Committee Update

It's taking time, but we are on our way with the initial delivery of the Hub. The pre-application was submitted, and the full application is now with South Lanarkshire Council. The Hub Committee applied for the Can Do Community Challenge Fund, and as it turned out Yes We Can. We have been awarded £10,000 grant funding; a big win for the Black Mount Community to allow us initially to upgrade the windows and lighting.

LOGO - We need one! We will have a competition to create one.

PRIORITIES – The improvements and direction for the Hub will be community led, for the community to suggest what's needed, and we will establish how best to deliver. Areas currently identified:

1. **Access and booking.** We envisage a web page with the ability to book and pay for the Hub all at the same time. The same programme will allow the hall to be opened and closed by a self-expiring access code.
2. **Lighting.** The lighting is poor, and this will be addressed by replacing the tube lighting with multi-functional LED lighting panels.
3. **Heating.** Insulation, green power use and energy storage.

WHAT ELSE? - The committee will host an ideas day to see what else can be achieved.

For further details or to express your interest in volunteering don't hesitate to contact any of the committee members Alistair Muirhead, Jim Kinloch, Andy Hudson, Gregor Doyle, Jim Steele.

Blackmount Social Group

BLACKMOUNT SPORTS NIGHT

Having cancelled the first Sports night because of terrible wet weather, it was hoped the new date in June would prove to be better. Unfortunately, it was not to be, the 13th of June was also wet and cold! It did not deter a hardy bunch of athletes who turned up to compete, although the decision was taken to reduce the number of races as the rain kept coming. All age groups ran three races, the sprint, egg and spoon race, and the obstacle race.

The Preschool boy's gold medal was won by Will Davidson with the silver medal going to Munro Brunton. The Preschool gold medal for the girls was won by Maude Mackenzie with Sophie Davidson getting the silver medal.

The Primary School Shield was won for the second year by Alexander Baillie and there were five runners up on equal points, Abbie Jenkins, Libby Boyd, Duncan Ward, Magnus Mackenzie, and Maisie McDowell.

The Secondary School Shield was won by Anya MacDougall.

The Ladies' races were won by Corrie Ward and the Men's races were won by Dan Brunton.

The Junior Welly Boot throw was won by Abbie Jenkins for the girls and Alexander Baillie won for the boys. The Ladies Welly Boot throw was won by Michelle MacDougall and the Men's was won by Shaun Currie.

Despite the wet conditions everyone enjoyed a great night with plenty of enthusiasm, smiles, and laughs. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the night run smoothly, Brian Curle, Anne Hutchison, Alistair Muirhead, Michelle MacDougall and

Steve Jenkins. Also, Kirsty Orr for manning the tuck shop, Charlotte and Georgina Campbell for scoring and Robbie Orr for running the welly boot throw. Finally, many thanks to Mrs Hamilton for allowing us access to her house for toilet facilities.

Sponsored Walk on Sunday 1st September. Meeting 10am at school for walk up Black Mount with refreshments afterwards.



Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group

Our once-a-month Monday meetings will commence again at Biggar Municipal Hall at 7.30pm from September. The first half of the meetings are as follows:

23 September 2024	Felt Purses, Fiona Dunkley
21 October 2024	Dorset Buttons, Margaret Jackson
18 November 2024	My Textile Journey, Rachel Drake
9 December 2024	Ribbon Weaving Decoration, Susan Crosby

Also, there will be a Saturday Felting workshop with Poppy Browne on 9 November 2024.

If anyone would like to join us and would like more details, then please email secbiggarstitchtextiles@gmail.com or get in touch via the Facebook page (The Biggar Area Stitch & Textile Group). Or you can just come along and try us out (non-members £6/meeting). You will be made very welcome.

Dolphinton Indoor Carpet Bowling

At the end of March Dolphinton Indoor Bowling Club had a very successful end of Season Steak Pie Night at West Linton Bowling Club. Around 40 people including a few spectators and youngsters had a very enjoyable evening with some very closely contested games. The eventual winners and runners up of the Steak Pies are named below and well done to everyone who took part and of course those who successfully organised it on the night.

Winners - Sandy Anderson, Rolf Cameron, Alan Carter, Abigail Jenkins
Runners Up - Willie Wilson, Michelle Condy, Abbi, Chris Jenkins



Dolphinton Carpet Bowling Steak Pie Night

Hopefully the weather will improve for the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again at some time next season. At the time of writing nothing has been mentioned about Dolphinton Hall being available however West Linton Bowling Club have agreed to continue our Thursday arrangements and confirmation of dates, times, etc. will be posted on Facebook during late September early October.

Deryck Hogge

Bulk Oil Buying Groups

NEXT BULK FUEL ORDER planned on 4th July. Please send orders **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 3rd July.**

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.

Elsrickle Indoor Carpet Bowling

Members of the club enjoyed an evening meal at The Crown, Biggar on 1st June. We look forward to getting back to bowling In October all being well back at the hall. Details will be given closer to the time.

Whitefield Builders & Joiners

T: 07429989377 T: 07739296229

T: 01555 895194

Whitefieldbuildersjoiners@outlook.com

Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount



Rigside and Rural Communities 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 at Black Mount Nursery have been learning about growing and planting. Using our raised beds in the garden, the children have planted potatoes, flowers, radish, lettuce and

carrots. The children have loved seeing shoots form from their seeds and have been responsible for

watering them on a regular basis. We look forward to harvesting our vegetables. The children have also



planted sunflowers in pots which they have taken home to continue to care for. Learning to plant and grow gives children a sense of responsibility and encourages them to learn about the world around them. Parents regularly share the progress of their child's sunflowers through the learning journals which has been a lovely home link.



Contact us through an online
sign language interpreter
contactSCOTLAND-BSL



We wish all our pre-schoolers the best of luck in their next venture into Primary 1. We will miss you all very much!



1000 hens have found their retirement homes from Elsrickle

The British Hen Welfare Trust rehoming site in Elsrickle reached a huge milestone on 1st June, rehoming their 1000th ex-commercial hen! Thanks to anyone who has offered these hens a lovely free-range home for life, feeling the fresh air, sun (or rain...) and grass. There are regular rehoming events from Elsrickle.

To find out more or sign up to adopt visit <https://www.bhwt.org.uk/> and look for 'South Lanarkshire' site.



Black Mount Primary School

Our Big Day Out

On Thursday 6th June we went on a trip to Glasgow with the whole school. We went to the King's Theatre to see Awful Auntie. **By Matilda P2**

First, I went to the station to get on the train. I sat next to Lucas, we had fun. Then we walked for 30 minutes to the theatre. **By Zander P3**

We had to cross lots of roads. When we arrived we watched the show. I liked the show. **By Angus P1**

After the show we had lunch and for my packed lunch I had a cake, cucumber, carrots and grapes. Then we got on the train back home. It was a fun day out. **By Heidi P2**

Gala Day

This year our float theme was Black Mount Blazin' Saddles and we dressed up as cowboys from the Wild West. We met at 9am at the Corn Exchange and got on to our float. We were really lucky that the rain stayed off for the procession and crowning. Our float won first prize and we were really proud of all of our hard work decorating the float. **By Eva P6**

Sports Day

On Friday the 7th of June we had our Sports Day. We split into our house groups (Roe Deer, Stag, Owl and Ram) and then we visited 8 stations where we had to complete activities such as the egg and spoon race, an obstacle course with water and relay laps around the garden. We earned points at each activity and added them up at the end. The winning house this year was Roe Deer! At the end of the afternoon, we got a treat - an ice pole! **By Lexie and Isla P6**

Successful Gala Float for Blackmount

All the checked shirts came out of their wardrobes and hats were dusted off on Biggar Gala day of the Blackmount Blazin' Saddles. The gala float with a cowboy/Western theme was created and adorned by former and existing children, parents and families of Black Mount School and Nursery. Despite the forecast it remained dry for judging and the journey of the float through Biggar. Two first prizes were awarded as a school entry together with being the winning float overall. Although many contributed to the float's success (too many to mention) it is important to mention and thank



the vision and creativity of Carrie Allison, the engineering skills and tremendous tractor driving of Duncan Allison, towing two trailers loaded with children and parents navigating through Biggar, along with the courage of Michelle MacDougall up front as a rider, and sheriff, Jenni Dodds, keeping law and order in the town.

Our local sport's celebrity: Emma Orr

Congratulations and best wishes to Emma Orr, our local sports hero, who will be putting on a Bears rugby shirt when she joins the Bristol Bears in the Autumn. Emma, daughter of proud parents Mara and James Orr, was raised at Wester Walston Farm and started her schooling at Walston Primary School. At the age of 21 years her brimming CV is an inspiration to the young girls and boys at Black Mount Primary School, whom she visited at the end of the school term, answering the children's questions.



As early as 2006 we have evidence of Emma's flair for sport when she took third place in the toddler's race at Blackmount Sports as reported in the Bugle. Her name continues to be mentioned in 2007 with second place, and in 2008 with first place, still as a preschooler. Emma first started rugby at Biggar RFC when she was a P4 at Walston Primary School. Though, the lack of girls playing caused her to stop for a while. However, she was encouraged back to the sport and started playing in the Biggar U15s girls' team. The team went on to win the U15 Girls' Club Cup title at BT Murrayfield Stadium in 2017. Her rugby achievements have been plentiful since (you can Wikipedia or google them!). Emma was selected for Scotland's Women U18 7s squad, which took her to Lisbon in 2021 for the Rugby Europe Sevens Championship. Scotland's senior women's 15s squad followed, gaining her first

cap in the 2022 Women's Six Nations opener in Wales. Also, in 2022 Emma went on to play in the Rugby World Cup. For 2023 she was Scotland's Women's Player of the Year and for 2024 has just been voted as Young Female player of the year by Friends of Scottish rugby.

As well, Emma has an interest in farming, however the Six Nations is very inappropriately timed for assisting at lambing time. Despite intense rugby training week in week out, Emma has studied and attained a degree in Agriculture over the last four years and will be graduating in July.



So, your proud community wishes you the best of luck Emma for when you head South, and we hope that you are made very welcome there.

Exciting Developments at Biggar Men's Shed

School Purchase Progress We are thrilled to announce another step forward in our endeavour to purchase the former Walston Primary School. At the end of April our asset transfer request to purchase the former Primary School was approved.

Gardening News The various plants in the polytunnel are thriving, and we eagerly anticipate the harvest season. Currently, a couple of our outside raised beds are empty. If any local community group would like to use them, please get in touch!

Donations and Projects

Garden Sheds: We received three garden sheds donated by St James Quarter in Edinburgh and have successfully built one so far.

Tool Donations: Ian Benzie organized a donation of some of our surplus garden tools to Stuart Houston. Stuart is involved in an appeal for tools to be sent to Africa where they will be refurbished and used locally.



Pool Table: We've had a pool table donated. We will soon find out which of our Shedders had a misspent youth!

3D Printing and Upcoming Events Our 3D printers have been busy creating items for our stall at the Biggar Fayre on June 29th in the

Corn Exchange. We will also be attending three local Agricultural Shows.

Wood Workshop and Exciting Additions Our wood workshop is now fully functional with a new dust extracting system installed and operational.

Visiting Hours and Contact Information

We are open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 4 pm. If you want to find out more, please drop in or contact us:

Email: info@biggarmensshed.uk

Mobile: 07471491099 Ranald McGregor (Chair)

Elsrickle SWI

On Wednesday 8th May our coachload of ladies set off from Biggar on an excursion to Dumfries House in Cumnock. First stop was Dobbies in Ayr for Tea/coffee and scones where many of the ladies made very valuable purchases from the garden centre. Then it was onto Dumfries House for an excellent tour from a very experienced tour guide with an amazing wealth of knowledge about the history of the house and its famous collection of Chippendale furniture. We were all in awe. Following tea and shortbread after the tour we were blessed with such a beautiful day. We were able to enjoy the vast exquisite gardens set in 2,000 acres of this wonderful estate coming into life, tended to by staff and volunteers. Finally, it was onto The Loch Inn Hotel, New Cumnock where we all enjoyed High Tea in lovely surroundings to end our day.



ELSRICKLE SWI FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW

at Black Mount Primary School

Friday 30th August 2024 at 7.30pm

Entries open to all and to be delivered between 5-5.30pm

ADMISSION FREE, competitions entries 25p, children's classes FREE

SECTION 1. FLOWERS

1. 3 Dahlias (*any variety*)
2. 5 Stems Sweet Peas
3. 1 Rose
4. 1 Flower other than 1-3
5. Vase of Garden Flowers
6. Pot Plant

SECTION 2. VEGETABLES

7. 3 Potatoes (*same variety*)
8. 3 Tomatoes
9. 3 Beetroot
10. 3 Onions
11. 6 Pea Pods
12. Any other vegetable

SECTION 3. INDUSTRIAL

13. Jar of Raspberry Jam
14. Jar of Strawberry Jam
15. Jar of Lemon Curd
16. Jar of Chutney
17. Jar of any other Conserve

SECTION 4 BAKING

18. 3 Oven Scones (*fruit*)
19. 3 Pancakes

20. Fruit Loaf
21. Chocolate Butter Sponge
22. Bread Loaf
23. 3 Pieces of Tray Bake (*same variety*)
24. 3 Empire Biscuits
25. A Cold Sweet

SECTION 5. HANDICRAFTS

26. Article in Embroidery
27. Knitted Article
28. Sewn Article
29. Bookmark (*any craft*)
30. A Happy Photo

SECTION 6. FLORAL ART

31. Bowl of Floating Flowers
32. Arrangement in a Jug

SECTION 7. CHILDREN

33. Pre-School. A Decorated Plate
34. Primary 1-2
35. Primary 3-5
36. Primary 6-7
- P1 – 7 classes 34, 35, and 36
- Drawing of a Sport

Dolphinton SWI

Would like to announce:

DOLPHINTON VILLAGE FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 24th August 2024

Blackmount Church Hall, Dolphinton

**Classes in flowers, vegetables, floral art, industrial,
handcraft, photography, and for children**

Please come to the Church Hall on Thursday 22 August at 7.30pm to collect your entry forms and pay your entry fees. 20p per entry.

All enquiries to the following –

Ann Yourston tel. 07946 628835, Anne Hutchison tel. 01968 682256
or Pam Taylor tel. 07977 453317.

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group

Every Wednesday 7.30 to 9pm in Dolphinton
Church Hall.

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 tutor if we have one. Everyone welcome.

For more information call Pam on 07966 453317



Black Mount Primary School on their Big Day Out to Glasgow



Dolphinton SWI held a Summer Social on Saturday inviting friends and neighbours to join us. Good weather, good food and good chat was enjoyed by all.