

OCTOBER | 2024 | ISSUE 130

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



At the top of White hill as part of Blackmount Annual Fundraising Walk



Libberton Primary School spending time in the woods

Blackmount Community microgrants

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. If you have a project in mind, or would like more information, then please email treasurer@blackmountcc.scot.



Note from our Councillor

I would like to start with Congratulating Alistair and his team for getting the asset lease completed for Elsrickle hall, it is a great asset for the community and I'm sure it will be well used. I'm sure that Susie and her team will have a facility in Dolphinton before too long. Thanks to both groups for their hard work. With many halls in the rural area closing last year, we are having to think of ways to protect rural services.

At this time of year, we start to think out the budget for the council next year. At our first briefing we were told that there is a gap approx. 70m to be filled over the next 3 years, this will mean that we are going to have to look at making cuts and or raising council tax to fill the funding gap. During the autumn and early winter, the council will be consulting with constituents over services and tax rates. I would encourage everyone to take part and let their views be heard.

Cllr Allison

To contribute to the next Bugle please contact bugle@blackmountcc.scot. The Bugle is published by the Blackmount Community Council (BMCC) but views expressed therein are not necessarily those of the committee. The BMCC 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.

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. The last order made was on 19th September, a joint order for 29,000 litres, across the Dolphinton & Blackmount groups, at a price of 49.9 ppl + VAT.

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

Eric Holford, Anne Hutchison, Steve Jenkins, Sarah McGlasson

Next Community Council meeting: Monday 7th OCTOBER 7pm at Elsrickle Community Hub.

Elsrickle Community Hub

We would like to thank all those with tremendous community spirit involved in getting the hall ready, such as on our recent painting weekend. As well as those who have been working hard at the painting, we very much appreciated the homemade hot soup and plentiful food that kept us going. Thank you.



Blackmount Church

Blackmount Church meets for worship every Sunday at 9.45am followed by tea / coffee. A warm welcome is extended to all and there is a crèche for little people. Harvest will be celebrated on **13 October** when donations of non-perishable foods will be collected and distributed to the local food bank.

Coffee mornings continue on alternate Wednesdays. The Guild resumed on 25 September when a good turnout enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea at the Gillespie Centre. The Guild meets at 2pm in the church on 3rd Wednesday of each month. An interesting programme awaits you! Holy Communion was celebrated at the end of August and our next Holy Communion will be on 24 November.

Our summer Strawberry Tea was a great success and was well supported by the community. Guests enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, home baking stall, a tombola and a fun photographic quiz. Last November we hosted a successful Scots evening which was enjoyed by a large audience. Another social event is being planned for this November so watch this space!

We will be working with The Church of Scotland and the local community in the coming months as the sale of the church hall is progressed.

Gillian Coulter (Session Clerk)

Libberton and Quothquan Parish Church Update

As a result of a recent major review by the Church of Scotland it was decided, very sadly, that the Libberton and Quothquan Church should be among those to be closed, uniting the congregation with Biggar Kirk and Black Mount Church.

At a subsequent meeting of trustees, it was regretfully agreed that the building should be sold and permission for the sale to proceed

has been requested from the central Church. Reassuringly, until the sale of the building takes place, the congregation will be able to continue to worship there on the **second Sunday of each month at 11am** and, as always, all those who would like to attend will be made most welcome.

Historic and important war memorials are currently situated within the Church building and arrangements are being made for these to be re-sited in a suitable shelter on land adjacent to the church building. Discussions with the council are planned regarding an appropriate setting and landscaping to make accessible public access for the future.

Distressingly, very soon after the decision to sell was taken, it was discovered that there had been a break-in at the building and the very valuable and historically significant communion silver had been stolen, together with other items. This matter is now in the hands of the local police.

The church in Libberton is a beautiful and historic building set on an elevated site with views across the valley to Tinto. It has a lovely graveyard which will continue to be cared for by the council.

Anne Cochrane (Session Clerk)

Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group

For our first meeting this September we made a start at making felt purses with the expertise of Fiona Dunkley at hand. The programme for the next few months is as follows: -

21 October	Dorset Buttons, Margaret Jackson
18 November	My Textile Journey, Rachel Drake
9 December	Ribbon Weaving Decoration, Susan Crosby

Biggar Municipal Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome (£6). 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

Biggar Area Climate Care

Biggar Area Climate Care (BACC) is a local registered charity (SC051804) which was formed in 2022 to help people in Biggar and the surrounding area take practical steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

In autumn 2023, BACC launched their home energy assessments project to help local people make their homes more energy efficient. We commissioned John Gilbert Architects, a well-established firm with extensive experience of giving advice on retrofitting energy efficiency measures to carry out detailed assessments of local properties. We also trained a team of volunteers to use a thermal imaging camera to look for cold spots in homes.



Following very positive feedback from our 2023/4 surveys and thermal imaging BACC can offer more FREE architect surveys and thermal imaging assessments. To find out more or apply for a survey visit <http://tiny.cc/WarmerBiggar2024> or scan the QR code or contact janet.moxley2@gmail.com or pick up a paper form from the Gillespie Centre or Biggar Library. Thermal imaging will be available from October until March. Architect surveys will take place between November and January. Homes in the South Lanarkshire part of the ML12 postcode area + the Dolphinton area are eligible for surveys.



Neither BACC nor John Gilbert Architects supply or fit energy efficiency products – we are not trying to sell you anything, we just want to help you to make your home warmer and cut greenhouse gas emissions!

The project is funded by the SSE Sustainable Development Fund.

Janet Moxley, Chairperson of BACC

Blackmount Social Group

The 1st of September saw the Black Mount Annual fundraising walk take place in Dolphinton. The day was overcast but warm – perfect weather for a walk. A total of 28 adults and 22 children took part, walking a circular route from Black Mount Church Hall via Hamel Hill and White hill. For those that wanted, there was the option of climbing to the summit of White Hill and taking in the glorious surrounding views. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the children took the lead and reached the top well before most of the adults! Upon their return, everyone enjoyed the sandwiches and cake that were kindly provided by members of the community and the Black Mount Social Committee. The walk raised a fantastic £350 that will be used to help fund the activities of the Black Mount Social Committee, including the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Many thanks to those who took part, the landowners and all who helped to organise the event.

Up-coming dates for the diary

Black Mount Fireworks display: 5th November, Black Mount Church Hall, Dolphinton. Food served from 6pm. Fireworks will start at 7pm and finish 7.20pm.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner: Provisional date is Friday 13th December at Elsrickle Village Hall. Tickets will be £5. All senior citizens of Black Mount community welcome. Please contact Anne Hutchison on 01968 682256 if you think that you are not already on the invitation list.

Steve Jenkins



Taking in the view at White Hill

DOLPHINTON - YOUR HALL

**YOUR CHOICE THE VILLAGE HALL?
THE CHURCH HALL?
OR NO HALL?**

*A meeting is being held at 7.30 pm Thursday 10th
October in The Church Hall, Dolphinton*

The Story So far, The pros and cons of each hall

**OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS A HALL
OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!**

*Please come along, hear the facts and vote for your
choice of Hall and possibly volunteer to help make it
happen*

*Call/text 07801 339392 to 07966 453317 if you can't attend
the meeting but want to vote*

*Parties, Ceilidhs, Classes, WI, Bowling, Coffee Mornings,
Quizzes, Pilates, Flower Show*

Dolphinton Indoor Carpet Bowling Club

We are fortunate enough to be offered the use of equipment and facilities at the Clubhouse of West Linton Green Bowling Club once again and our season will begin on **THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER at 7.30 PM.**

Our membership currently stands 16 but 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 more importantly a lot of fun. Membership is £35 for the season which will run weekly on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm until the end of March 2025. 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.



Ann Ross and Deryck Hogge

Dolphinton SWI

August Flower Show 1st prize cups went to the following people:

Flowers - Margaret Adamson

Handcraft - Libby Bean

Vegetables - Rob Dickson

Photography -Liz Glasgow

Floral Art - Anne Hutchison

Children (under 9) - Daniel Jenkins

Industrial - Jo Lister

Children (9-15)- Abi Jenkins

The September meeting involved members having a go at pyrography and clay modelling with Sue and Chrissy, mum and daughter team, from 'ARTYBITS' based in Braehead. The rest of the syllabus for 2024/2025 is as follows:

- 16 Oct 2024 BRAW BEANS COFFEE, Competitions: A favourite mug & 3 drop scones.
- 20 Nov 2024 HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS WREATH, Competitions: An item in silver & a handcrafted poppy.
- 18 Dec 2024 MINCE PIE & BLETHER. No competitions.
- 15 Jan 2025 POLE FITNESS, Competitions: Your funniest Christmas gift & a winter's scene (any craft).
- 19 Feb 2025 SCOTTISH AIR AMBULANCE, Competitions: A kitchen gadget you can't do without (small) & a favourite winter snack.
- 05 Mar 2025 Taste & Try, Competitions: Your best vase & an unusual handcraft.
- 16 Apr 2025 TBC & AGM, Competitions: An obscure garden item & a photo of summer.

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group

Wednesday 7.30 to 9pm in Dolphinton Church Hall
(except 3rd Wednesday of month)

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.

Biggar Men's Shed

Our Community Asset Transfer application has been passed by South Lanarkshire Council. We are now working through the final stages towards our goal, owning the building.

Meanwhile our shedders are getting on with individual and shed projects. One recent shed project was to build a Hedgehog house that primary school children could assemble, with supervision of a Shedder. Tinto primary were delighted with the result and the children had fun assembling the houses.



In the poly tunnel our gardeners have started a winter trial programme to propagate plants for sale next year.

We will be having an Open Doors Day on International Men's Day Tuesday 19th November. Open from 10am to 4pm then in the evening 6pm to 9pm. If you are interested in joining one of our workshops please contact us. Contact our Shed: Mobile 07471041099, email info@biggarmensshed.uk or pop into the Shed on a Wednesday or Thursday, 10am-4pm both days. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

Elsrickle Indoor Carpet Bowling

Carpet Bowling will return weekly to Elsrickle Hall on Thursday 24th October at 7.30pm. Come and give it a go. All welcome!

Elsrickle SWI

On Friday 30th August, Elsrickle Rural held their annual Flower Show in Black Mount Primary School. It was very well attended with lots of wonderful entries. The trophy winners were:

Flowers and Vegetables - Jim Steele

Industrial, Baking, Handicrafts and Floral Art - Gillian Coulter

Margaret Leiper Trophy (Industrial Section) - Gillian Coulter

Children's Section - Daniel Jenkins



For our September meeting Elsrickle Rural were treated to a Thermomix demonstration by Randal and Jane Brown from The Orchard in Biggar. Randal and Jane cooked a three-course meal from scratch in a matter of minutes using this amazing multifunctional appliance. The results proved to be delicious as we sampled each course. It was a great evening enjoyed by all.

The following are planned for 2024/2025

October 9 th	Caroline Matheous - A Gardener's Job
November 13 th	Daniel Ward - Adventurer
December 11 th	Christmas meal at The Elphinstone
January 8 th	TBA
February 12 th	Norma Duncan – Chair yoga
March 12 th	Gilbert Logan – First Aid
April 9 th	Members Evening / AGM

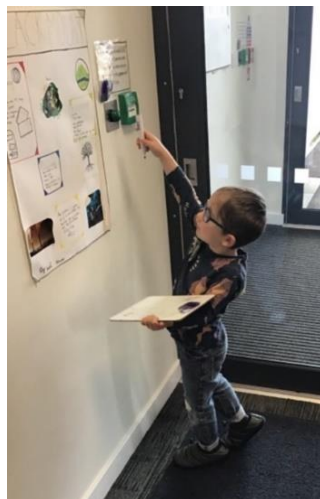
Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount

As we return after the summer holidays, we have been welcoming new children into the Black Mount Nursery where they have been learning to build and form relationships with peers and staff while exploring the different areas in the nursery.



We have also been learning how to keep our balance while climbing on tyres and walking along balance beams that were made using wooden blocks.

We have been learning about road safety, keeping safe by holding hands, looking left and right while listening for traffic as we cross the road. The children have also been learning about SIMOA. Simoa is a purple elephant that helps the children stay safe when they are playing in the nursery. There are small simoas around the playroom for the children to see and think SIMOA is there, e.g. one beside the exit button at the door and only the adults can press it.



Starting in October the children will also be learning about the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child 'UNCRC'. Information on this will be posted on the learning journals and around the Nursery.

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Libberton Primary School



Last term saw Mrs Elma McGregor retiring from Libberton Primary (and Wiston Primary) after 14 years of being the Head Teacher for both schools! She had been teaching for over 43 years and so had a wealth of experience to impart throughout those years; she will be greatly missed but we wish her all the very best in her retirement. Mrs Laura Forde has been promoted to the position of Acting Head Teacher for both schools and had previously held the post of Principal Teacher at Libberton for over 6 years so knows both schools very well.



The children returned to school in August and have settled very well back into routines. Some of our highlights this term already has included our trips to the forestry near the school for some fabulous outdoor learning!

Primary 1-4 by Alice, P4

We are learning about Pyramids in Egypt as part of our Egyptian topic. They were built a very long time ago in the south of Egypt. We have also been learning about mummies! We tried to make mummy tomatoes by

scooping out the insides of the tomato, then we put them in a bag and covered them with table salt. And then we sealed the bag and we will check on them again in October. The salt will dry

out the tomatoes and then we will take the tomatoes out, wrap them in toilet paper and put them back in the bag and seal again and open in another few weeks! For the real mummies they are covered in wine to wash them which is pretty strange. We also just learned that when you were poor in Egypt you had to wear shorts and a t-shirt but the Kings and Queens wore long robes and jewellery. We are making some paper necklaces for jewellery.



Primary 5-7 by Lena, P6

Out in the woods we went to make a Sukkah using tarpaulin and sticks from the ground. A Sukkah is a small house which the Jewish people stay in for a week during the autumn and they stay in it for the entire week to remember when the Israelites left slavery in Egypt. They had to stay in tiny huts and hope that God would protect them, and it is also part of a celebration called Sukkot. We have really enjoyed this topic as part of our RME learning.



Here is a picture of us making a Sukkah

Black Mount Primary School

The Egg Drop Challenge

We have started our new whole school science topic on Forces with a Bang! The entire school worked together in mixed groups to create a model that would protect our egg when dropped from a height. We had fun investigating different materials and working as a team to create a model. Almost all of our models were successful!



Summit of White hill as part of Social Walk

Dates for the diary

October

Monday 7 th	Community Council meeting at Elsrickle Community Hub 7pm
Wednesday 9 th	Elsrickle SWI, Elsrickle Community Hub
Thursday 10 th	Dolphinton Meeting on Halls, Dolphinton Church Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 13 th	Harvest Festival, Blackmount Church
Wednesday 16 th	Dolphinton WI, 7.30pm
Monday 21 st	Biggar Area Stitch and Textile, Municipal Hall Biggar, 7.30pm
Thursday 24 th	Elsrickle Carpet bowling starts weekly, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Thursday 31 st	Dolphinton Carpet bowling starts weekly, West Linton Green Bowling Club 7.30pm

November

Monday 4 th	Community Council meeting, AGM TBC. Elsrickle Community Hub 7pm
Tuesday 5 th	Black Mount Fireworks display, Black Mount Church Hall, Dolphinton, 6pm food starts
Wednesday 13 th	Elsrickle SWI, Elsrickle Community Hub
Monday 18 th	Biggar Area Stitch and Textile, Municipal Hall Biggar, 7.30pm
Tuesday 19 th	Biggar Men's Shed Open Doors Day, Old Walston Primary School, 10am to 4pm and 6pm to 9pm
Wednesday 20 th	Dolphinton WI, 7.30pm
Sunday 24 th	Holy Communion, Blackmount Church

December

Monday 2 nd	Community Council meeting at Elsrickle Community Hub 7pm
Monday 9 th	Biggar Area Stitch and Textile, Municipal Hall Biggar, 7.30pm
Wednesday 11 th	Elsrickle SWI, Christmas Dinner at Elphinstone
Friday 13 th	Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner, Elsrickle Community Hub
Wednesday 18 th	Dolphinton SWI, 7.30pm

Regular groups: Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group, every Wednesday 7.30 to 9pm, Dolphinton Church Hall.

Church Services: Libberton Church second Sunday of each month at 11am; Blackmount Church every Sunday at 9.45am and The Guild 2pm on 3rd Wednesday of each month.