

April | 2025 | ISSUE 132

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



Photo of Border Leicester lambs by Graham Wardill



Pupils busy growing plants at Libberton Primary School

Dates for the diary



April

Wed 7th **Elsrickle SWI**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7pm
Wed 16th **Dolphinton SWI**, Dolphinton Church Hall, 7.30pm
Sat 26th **Stitch and Scone Day**, BASTG, Elsrickle Community Hub 1.30pm
Sat 26th **Black Mount Community Fun day**, Black Mount Primary School, 1-4pm.

May

Wed 7th **What's going on at the Hub?** Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Sun 11th **What's going on at the Hub?** Elsrickle Community Hub, 2pm, 4pm
Mon 12th **Community Council meeting**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Wed 14th **Elsrickle SWI day trip**
Fri 16th **Dunsyre Duck Race**, Organised by Black Mount School Parent Council, 6.30pm
Sun 18th **Barbeque**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 2.30pm
Mon 19th **Monday Morning Club**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 10am
Thur 22nd **Blackmount Sports**, Newbigging Playing Field, 6pm organised by Blackmount Social Group

June

Mon 2nd **Community Council meeting**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Sat 21st **Quiz**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7pm

Later in the year organised by Blackmount Social Group

Sun 7th Sep **Black Mount Sponsored Walk**: Route and venue to be confirmed.
Fri 5th Dec **Senior Citizens Christmas dinner**

Regular groups:

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group, Wednesdays 7.30 to 9pm.

Biggar Men's Shed, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 4pm.

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.

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 area.

Note from our Councillor

The most important decision in the last month has been setting of this year's council tax. About 80% of the council's income is the grant we receive from the government and this year we received more than originally expected and this has meant we did not need to make the significant cuts that were in the coming year expected. We were able to restrict the council tax rise to 6%, the lowest that I am aware of in Scotland this year. What is more important we were able to put money into the roads budget, create a fund to help maintain the council assets and a number of other projects. Although we raised prices as well for some of the services the council provides, such as school meals we are still among the cheapest of all councils in Scotland. The only way that we can do this and still provide a quality service is due to the high quality of our staff in South Lanarkshire.

I was at the Clydesdale Sports Awards at the beginning of the month and was very impressed with the achievements of all the sportsmen who were nominated for awards that evening. Whether they were winning awards on the night or not they have all had a very successful year and I would wish all of them continued success in the current year, they bring a great deal of credit to Clydesdale. I would hope that we see many of them on a national stage in the future.

Cllr Allison



Bulk Oil Buying Groups

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 the contact email is dolphintonbulkoil@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining either group, please email and the coordinators will explain how the groups operate and put you on the contact list.

Blackmount Community Council

Defibrillator update. The Blackmount Community will soon have two new defibrillator locations 1. Libberton Phone Box 2. Elsrickle Phone box. Both of these locations will also be refurbished (weather permitting).

The equipment also comes with paediatric pads, so should they be required they are capable of being used with children as well as adults.

The Blackmount Community Council will arrange open training sessions at the Hub for anyone who is not familiar with the operation of a defibrillator. These defibrillators are fully automatic so once the pads are applied and the device is switched on the defib takes over.

Fully automated defibrillators analyse the heart's rhythm and deliver a defibrillation shock if commanded by the device software without user intervention. These are simple and effective tools should they be needed, as they are proven to save a life.

As soon as the sites are operational, they will also be listed on to the Circuit, a web page which lists defibrillators which are available to the 999 call handler.

Blackmount Community Grants. The Blackmount Community Council has awarded just over £4,965 in grants during the 2024–2025 financial year.

These grants have supported our community in various ways, helping to continue our old traditions while also creating new ones for future generations.

Our local schools, Blackmount and Libberton, have been active in organising events with the support of the Community Council. In addition, we have been working hard to facilitate the installing of defibrillation units in Elsrickle and Libberton. While this process took longer than expected, we are pleased to share that, thanks



to the generosity of a local resident, we now have both machines. Of the total grants awarded, £384 has been allocated to cover the cost of an electrician for their installation.

We have also awarded £500 to the Dolphinton Hall Group, which is currently working to reopen the hall. We wish them every success.

Additionally, the Community Council provided funding to open Elsrickle Hall during the recent power outages. For those who experienced prolonged loss of power, the hall served as a warm space, offering hot beverages and the opportunity to charge batteries. We would like to extend our thanks to the Elsrickle Hub for their quick response and support during this period.



Anyone interested in applying for a grant can find the application form on our facebook page along with guidance. If you have any ideas for community engagement etc please reach out to anyone on the community council, who I am sure will be able to assist you.

Pauline, Treasurer of Blackmount Community Council

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, Tammy McAllister, Sarah McGlasson



Remembering ALEX CAMPBELL, who died on 12th January, age 91. Alex came to Westmill Farm with his parents when he was 3 years old and he grew up in Dolphinton, attending primary school there, then Biggar for secondary. He milked cows at Westmill until he retired to Elsrickle 26 years ago. He delivered milk (in glass bottles) for many years, he was the fastest milkman in the area, always running! He loved his cows, but was not fond of sheep, although he married a Lamb, Jean to be exact in 1959, and they had 3 daughters, Jennifer, Fiona and Moira. Jean and Alex were married for 64 years and celebrated silver, golden and diamond wedding anniversaries. He enjoyed Carpet Bowling and was a big fan of car rallying. Alex was a very cheery person, always laughing, and was well liked and respected by all his many friends in the Blackmount area.

Blackmount Church - continues to meet for worship each Sunday at 9.45. We are currently reflecting on the book of Romans. Services are always followed by tea /coffee and lots of chat!

In February, Mr Willie Leiper organised a superb concert, when the nationally acclaimed Johnstone family entertained with accordion, drums, keyboard and vocal renditions. We also enjoyed beautiful solos from Cate Leiper. It was an outstanding evening and £271 was raised for church funds.

Negotiations with The Church of Scotland are ongoing in relation to the sale of the church hall.

Looking forward to Easter, Maundy Thursday service will be held in Blackmount Church at 6.30 pm. The Good Friday service will be in Biggar Kirk at 6.30pm. A warm welcome awaits you.

Gillian Coulter (Session Clerk)

Libberton Church - Worship continues second Sunday of each month at 11am. On Palm Sunday 13th April Libberton will be hosting joint worship with Symington and Cairngryffe



Biggar Men's Shed

Now that we officially own our Shed, we've started decorating! The first room we tackled was the social room, and we're pleased to say the pool table is now perfectly positioned by the wood stove - ideal for a relaxing game.

Our gardeners have been hard at work in the polytunnel, planting and potting up. They're aiming to hold a plant sale in June, so keep an eye out for that! Anyone with green thumbs would be more than welcome to join our gardeners.

Exciting news from our motorbike enthusiasts - after some dedicated work, they've restored a Moto Guzzi motorbike to road-legal condition. The owner generously agreed to donate the profit from its sale to be split 50/50 between the Shed and Kidney Research UK. The bike has now been sold, making this a fantastic achievement all around.

We've also been invited, once again, to take part in Biggar High School's Youth Initiative Project. It's a great opportunity to connect with the younger generation and share skills and knowledge. Fingers crossed that this year we will win!

It has been proposed that we start an art group and possibly a video editing class soon. If you would be interested in joining either of these activities, or would like any other information, please contact us at info@biggarmensshed.uk. We are open Wednesday & Thursdays 10-4pm.

DOLPHINTON VILLAGE HALL

We are currently awaiting the outcome of our application to become a Small Charitable Organisation and in the process of applying to South Lanarkshire Council to be granted a lease on the Village Hall.

We will keep everyone posted on our progress.

Dolphinton Hall Community Association

Dolphinton SWI

We are coming to the end of our 2024-2025 session, and our final meeting will be on Wednesday April 16th, at Blackmount Church, Dolphinton, at 7.30pm. The subject for this meeting will be Success via Simulation: Teaching Clinical Skills to Vet Students. Our speaker is Caz Moseley who runs the Clinical Skills Department at the Vet School - it promises to be an interesting and unusual evening! We will hold our AGM on that evening too.

In January we had a demonstration of Pole Fitness - given by Caz (the veterinary expert above) and her friend Sarah. We all attempted very basic moves on the pole and discovered how tricky it can be, not to mention balancing on the 6" heels they sometimes wear - we laughed a lot too which is a great tonic on a cold winter evening.

Scottish Charity Air Ambulance service representatives gave us a very interesting talk in February. We learned about the invaluable work they do all over Scotland, particularly in rural areas where their interventions can mean the difference between life and death for isolated patients.

Our March meeting was a Taste and Try evening, when we sampled many delicious goodies. We also discussed the forthcoming Spring Show. We are delighted to report that our Community Effort, on the theme of SWI Centenary, won first prize at the Show. Hilary Lyons also won first prize for her beautiful quilt in the Winter's Work category. Our bulb offerings won us a cup too, so we came away exhausted but happy after a highly successful day.

Our Annual Flower Show is scheduled for the middle of August. We do not have a venue for it as yet but we are optimistic that the Show will go on! More news in the next Bugle.



Joke - What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny



Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group

Wednesday 7.30 to 9pm in Dolphinton

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.

Elsrickle SWI

On Saturday 15th March we had a very successful bowling tournament well supported by WI groups and others. The winning rink was Chapelton WI, with Trows, previous years' winners, coming second.

The AGM together with cake decorating by Katie Hobbs will be our next meeting on 9th April. Shortly after that the committee will start to plan the schedule for August's Flower Show.

The annual outing is on 14th May to Cardwell Garden Centre, Gourrock, then on to Largs for the afternoon. We will have our meal at Seamill Hydro. There are still places available. If you would like a trip, contact Anne Moffat (01899 220794).



Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group



STITCH AND SCONE DAY

Saturday 26th April

1.30 to 4.30pm at Elsrickle Community Hub

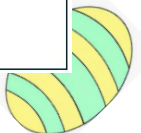
Bring along some sewing / knitting / embroidery etc. to do whilst eating scones (plus other refreshments available)

The afternoon includes quiz, raffle, sales table and chatter so don't worry about getting much stitching done or possibly none at all!

FREE for MEMBERS and £6 for NON-MEMBERS

For more details or to book please email:

secbiggarstitchtextiles@gmail.com



Elsrickle Carpet Bowling

20th March Steak pie Winners - Dick Bell, Steve Jenkins, and Anne Hutchison, **Runners Up** - Jim Kinloch, Maisie Jackson, Lynette Hogg

Club prizes

Championship: Winner Jim Kinloch, **Runner Up** Matthew Kinloch
Robert Howieson Trophy: Winner Iain Minto, **Runner Up** Matthew Kinloch

Sanderson Trophy: Winner Jim Kinloch, **Runner up** Matthew Kinloch

Junior Trophy: Winner Peter Muirhead, **Runner Up** Abi Jenkins

Pairs: Winners Jim Kinloch and Peter Muirhead, **Runners up** Alistair Muirhead and Bethan Muirhead

Elsrickle Community Hub

We have recently set up a group to organise some social events to bring our community together and help raise money to keep the Hub going. You will see that there are some dates for your diary this May. We have a few opportunities to come and find out what is going on at the hub, a chance to get involved, discuss its opportunities and how we progress. We look forward to seeing you for tea, coffee, and cake at our Monday Morning Club which we have planned for the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 10am starting on May 19th.

For information you can search on Facebook Elsrickle Community Hub or enquire by emailing echbookings24@gmail.com.

Blackmount Social Group

Date for the diary!

Annual Blackmount Sports Night

Thursday 22nd of May at Newbigging Playing Fields 6.30 pm
Further information nearer the time.



Joke - What do you get if you cross a frog with a rabbit?

A bunny ribbit

Libberton Primary School

WW2 Topic. As part of our WW2 topic, we had a visit from a lady from Summerlee Museum yesterday and she brought lots of things with her – I liked holding the bits of WW2 bombs! It felt very surreal! We learned that there was food, oil and clothes rationing and people would have to juggle getting food to eat and oil to cook with and they would need to stitch up their clothes. When their shoes got too small, they wouldn't be able to get new ones. Children were evacuated during the war and taken away from their families and sent to the countryside to live with random strangers! They would have felt very sad and scared and would have been away from their families for around 6 years. Women had lots of jobs as well because the men were at war. One of the women we learnt about worked inside a factory and they also helped with farming so that they could eat. I have really enjoyed learning about this topic. **By Craig, P6**

World Book Day. We had lots of activities for World Book Day organised by the Lion King Clan, and one of them was Biscuit and a Blether! We had biscuits in the middle of a circle where we sat and then we were sharing about the books which we recommended to everyone else! My book was Matilda! It's about Mr and Mrs Wormwood sending Matilda to school with the headmistress who is not nice! Her name is Miss Trunchball! It's a really funny book and I enjoyed sharing it with everyone. We also got to bring a teddy, a blanket, an oodie or a onesie to school which was really fun. We also did



paired reading, so the Primary 1-4 class were able to read with someone from the Primary 5-7 class, which we really enjoyed. We had a special World Book Day lunch which Mrs Hodge made for



us – it was delicious! We also did a book quiz which was based on Julia Donaldson books and if you got the question right, we won ten gems! It was a brilliant day! **By Addi, P2**

Braw Produce Project

We are working with Braw Produce from Biggar Market Garden to grow our own plants and do some planting in the school grounds. One day when the Braw Produce



lady, Julie was in, she brought in some socks with the vegetables inside and we had to put our hands in and guess what it was! That was fun! Also, on a different day, we put out cardboard on the grass in our outside area and we put down compost down on the top; everyone was helping because it was a lot of work with the wheelbarrow. Seeds

are going to be put into the soil to see what grows. We've also got some sunflowers and potatoes in the class which we are growing. The sunflowers are actually growing really fast. We also have Waste Warriors in the lunchroom who are helping us to eat more of our lunch so that there isn't so much waste, but we are also putting any waste into our new compost bin to make our own compost! **By Jack, P3**



Black Mount Primary School

World Book Day. On Thursday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day by taking part in lots of different book-related activities! We created bookmarks, enjoyed a delicious book-themed lunch and visited the Book Swap Shop, where people had donated books that they had finished reading and could take a different book home with them. We are currently sorting the remaining books with a view to creating an outdoor library to use at playtimes. We also enjoyed taking part in a scavenger hunt, searching the playground and garden for jigsaw pieces to make into the front cover of a book. Lindsay from Atkinson Pryce book shop in Biggar came to visit us to explain what a day in the book shop is like. She also brought a selection of books for us to spend our book tokens on. Finally, we spent some time reading our new books.

My favourite part was the Scavenger Hunt in the playground! **Jamie P1**

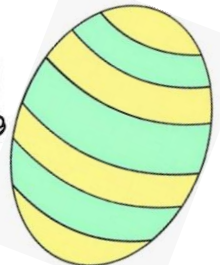
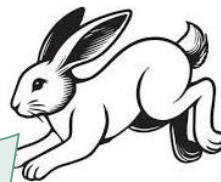
I enjoyed setting up the Book Swap Shop and making some bookmarks. **Natasha P7**

I enjoyed making my own bookmark and more to put into the Swap Shop. **Abi P6**



Joke – How do rabbits travel?

hareplane



Cross Country. Primary 4-7 have been training hard this term for Cross Country to develop their stamina, fitness and resilience whilst running. We are very grateful to Joyce Laird who gave up her time to help train the pupils as part of their PE sessions. 21 pupils attended the small schools' cross-country event at Lanark Racecourse on Thursday 20th March. Six pupils – Lexie, Isla, Eva, Struan, James and Abbie went on to represent Team Clydesdale at the SLC finals at Chatelherault Park. They were outstanding and Lexie won a Gold Medal in the Team results.

Outdoor Learning. Black Mount Primary invited their friends in P1-P3 from Auchengray Primary School to join them for an Outdoor Classroom Day. Pupil highlights from the day were:

My favourite part was preparing the planters in the polytunnel for planting vegetables. **Eva P7**

I liked it when we went on our wheely things around the playground. **Max P1**

I enjoyed toasting marshmallows on the fire we made. **Duncan P3**

Gold medal winners

Libby (P5)

Lexie (P7)

P7 girls team (Lexie, Isla & Eva)

P7 boys team

(Struan, James & Noah – Auchengray)

Silver medal winners

Stuart (P5)

Struan (P7)

Isla (P7)

Bronze medal winners

Abbie B (P6)

James (P7)

Eva (P7)



Clydesdale Dance Festival. 17 pupils represented Black Mount Primary at the Clydesdale dance festival. The pupils have been attending a dance club in school at lunchtime to choreograph and rehearse their routine and we are very grateful to parent of the school, Alison Boyd for delivering this dance club for pupils. We were very proud of each pupil as they performed and their bright smiles on stage captured their enjoyment of the event.

BLACK MOUNT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATES: Join us from **1-4pm on Saturday 26th April for Black Mount Community Fun day** in the grounds of Black Mount Primary School in Elsrickle, an opportunity for fun, food and to celebrate the launch of the community tile artwork by artist Ellen McCann. Also **6.30pm on Friday 16th May for Dunsyre Duck Race.**

Black Mount Parent Council would like to offer a **HUGE THANKS** to the following people for their support with materials, equipment and time on building our **new outdoor classroom**: Eddie from EJJ Developments, Border Mix Ltd in Dolphinton, Ryan from AMR Log Cabins, Brian from BHC, Sarah McGlasson, Craig McGlasson, Craig Booth, Katie Hobbs, Helen Ward, James McKenzie, Andrew Simpson, Emma Ives, David Gilchrist, Andy Hudson and all the incredible last-minute home-bakers.

The parent council would also like to say thanks to our incredible P7 students for their work on organising and running our Family Film Night in Biggar in February, it was a huge success raising over £418. Well done Eva, James, Natasha, Isla, Lexie and Struan! They are straight into designing some of the activities for Black Mount Community Fun Day on 26th April too.

Joke - Why don't you see dinosaurs at Easter?

Because they are egg-stinct





Pupils from Black Mount Primary School competing at Lanark Racecourse and Chatelherault Park

How many Easter Eggs did you find throughout the pages?



Pupils at Libberton Primary School preparing the garden