

July | 2025 | ISSUE 133

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE

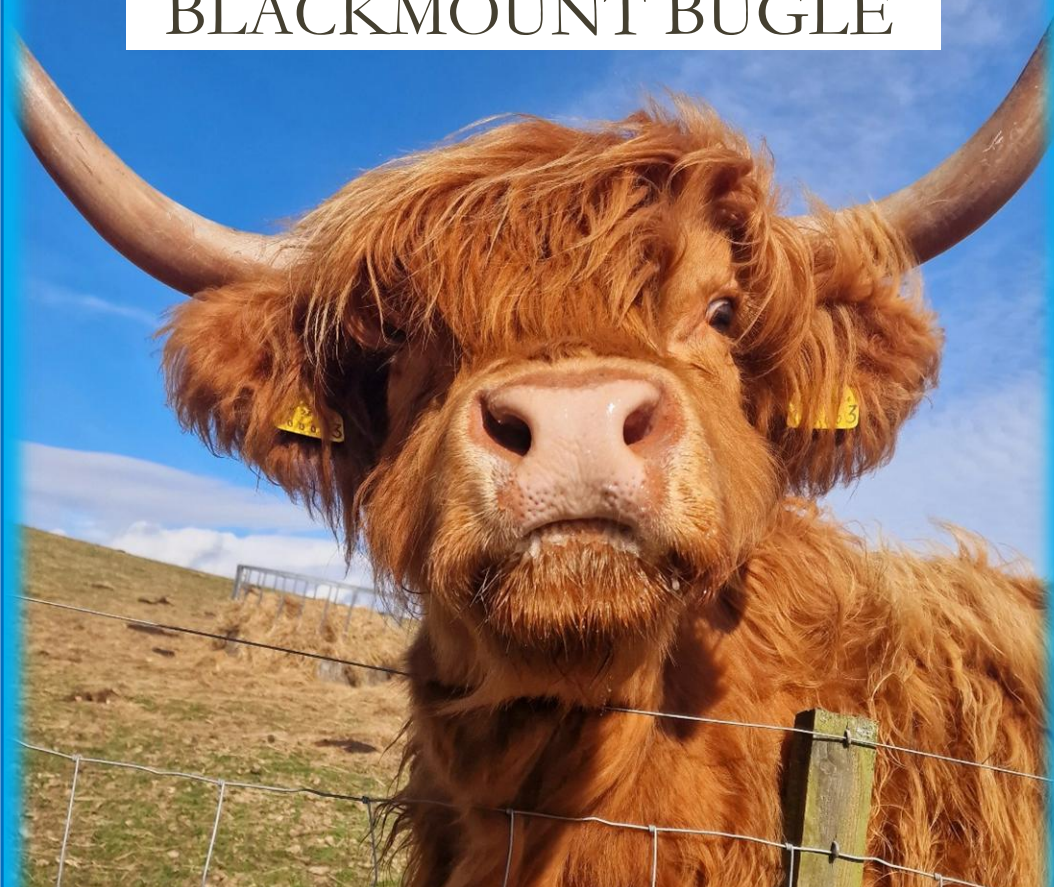


Photo of Highland Cow at Candymill from Sarah Wilson and Hazel Warwick



Libberton Primary School at
Glasgow Science Centre



What's on!

July

Sat 5th **Strawberry Tea**, Blackmount Church, Dolphinton, 2pm
Mon 7th **Community Council Meeting**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Fri 25th **Quiz Night**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 6.30pm

August

Mon 18th **Coffee, Cake, and Chat**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 10am
Sat 23rd **Dolphinton Flower Show**, Dolphinton Village Hall, 2pm
Sat 30th **Elsrickle Flower Show**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 2pm

September

Mon 1st **Community Council meeting**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7.30pm
Sat 6th **Showing Women's Rugby World Cup Scotland vs Canada**,
Elsrickle Community Hub, From 11.30am for Kick-off 12pm
Wed 10th **Elsrickle SWI**, Elsrickle Community Hub, 7pm
Sun 14th **Annual Community Walk**, Elsrickle Community Hub, Time to be confirmed

Regular groups:

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group, Wednesdays 7.30 to 9pm.
Biggar Men's Shed, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 4pm.
Coffee, Cake and Chat (children welcome), 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, Elsrickle Community Hub, 10am.
Elsrickle Carpet Bowling weekly on Thursdays starting on 27th October 7.30pm, Elsrickle Community Hub.

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.

Members of Blackmount Community Council (BMCC)

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

To contribute to the next Bugle planned for October 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.*

Remembering Tim McLean who died at home in Dolphinton on 31st March 2025, aged 66, after a short illness. Tim and family moved to Dolphinton in 1999 and quickly became involved in village life. Memorably their first winter saw a snowstorm that shut off the village (and the power!) for several days and they saw how people in the village pulled together in a crisis. Tim served on the BMCC for several years and was perhaps best known to many recently as "the oil man", coordinating oil deliveries for the Blackmount Bulk Oil Buying Group, a role that Tim enjoyed. Tim was a keen cyclist and loved being able to ride his bike in surrounding countryside. He also enjoyed walking all around the Blackmount area, particularly up the hill to the viewpoint between Blackmount and White Hill.

Note from our Councillor

There has been significant growth in the trees and bushes at the roadside all over the ward, not just locally. The vegetation stretching onto our narrow roads has led to complaints from pedestrians and drivers having to walk in the middle of the road and cars being scraped when meeting another vehicle. It is up to the landowner to keep the vegetation back from the road and if this could be done many residents and drivers would be very grateful.

It was great to have a dry night for the sports especially after the very wet night last year. There was an excellent turn out and thanks to Mara and her team for their efforts and congratulations to all who competed.

Due to a by-election there has not been a great deal of activity in the council but one issue that is continuing is the consultation on a paper called Rural Development Plan 3. This is to set the guidelines for planning in the rural area for the next 10 years therefore if you have views on what should or should not be allowed then you can make your views known. You can do this by looking up Local Development Plan 3 on the council website.
Cllr Allison

Blackmount Community Council (BMCC)

BMCC is the first tier of local government acting on behalf of local residents. Meetings are held throughout the year to discuss and respond accordingly to matters affecting our local communities. Our purpose is to make sure that the views of this community are heard by all public bodies acting on our behalf and to promote and support initiatives to improve the place we live in. We are also tasked with the distribution of the Renewable Energy Fund micro grants to individuals and small local groups.

This year two new defibrillators have been commissioned within the phone boxes of Elsrickle and Libberton. The telephone boxes will be refurbished over the summer.

Engagement between BMCC and Scottish Water has brought about a priority action plan; this means if residents are without water, then bottled water will be distributed to the area. Given the area still has problems with intermittent water pressure we are continuing to press Scottish Water to resolve these issues. We are also following up with Scottish Power to see what investment they will bring to Blackmount to enable greater resilience in the distribution network.

Alistair Muirhead (Chair)

Blackmount Community Grants

We're pleased to confirm that our accounts have now been audited and verified as accurate and in good order. Our Energy Grant Funding account has been topped up for this financial year to £5000. Spending from our £500 administration account, which covered hall hire, honorariums, printing, and annual software fees, is due to be topped up within the next few weeks. BMCC is welcoming local grant applications for the current financial year (up to a maximum of £500). For more information and guidance on how to apply, please visit our website or contact treasurer@blackmountcc.scot.

Pauline Irwin (Treasurer)

Blackmount Church, Dolphinton

Please join us for our annual Strawberry Tea on Saturday 5 July at 2 pm. This is always a very enjoyable event with delicious home baking, tombola and lots more! All welcome.

Church services take place each Sunday at 9:45am and services are followed by tea / coffee, biscuits and lively conversations!

We have a church choir and we meet for practice on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. We would be delighted to have new members. *Gillian Coulter (Session Clerk)*

Libberton Church

Delighted to say that there is really good news. Although there were initially plans to close Libberton and Quothquan Parish Church building, changes to the situation in Symington meant that Presbytery had to review the whole area. Consequently, a decision was taken in April that the church building in Libberton should be retained.

The congregation is continuing to work with the congregations in Biggar and Black Mount towards uniting the three churches which will, hopefully, take place later this year, and the congregation will be continuing to look at ways of developing the work of the Church locally. *Anne Cochrane*

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). Tim McLean sadly passed away in March so the management of oil orders for the Dolphinton group covering the EH46 postcode has been taken over by Ian Poole (email remains the same dolphintonbulkoil@gmail.com and Tel is: 07510310754). 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. **The next order will be Tuesday 18th August.**

Biggar & District Men's Shed

What has been happening apart from lots of chat, coffee drinking (other drinks are available), eating and the odd game of pool. Our gardeners have been busy in the poly tunnel where various edibles are coming on a treat. They also have a few lovely hanging baskets.

We have finished decorating the Main Hall, we just need to change the lighting to LEDs.

The Knot in West Linton is proving to be a success. We have mainly 3D printed products on the shelf but the sales are adding to our funds.

Our Biking Shedders have been working on a member's motor bike that has been off the road for a while, it is now ready for an MOT. Once sold the Shed will receive a donation for the work done.

This year we will be at both the Biggar & Carnwath Agricultural Shows. If you come to the shows please drop by. It is always good to meet more of the local community and you can find out more about our Shed. We may have some interesting item on show!

We are now open on a Monday as well as Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 4pm. If you wish, drop by and you can see what happens at our Shed. *Ranald McGregor (Secretary)*

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.





Dolphinton

Flower Show

2pm Saturday 23rd August
2025

Dolphinton Village Hall

Admission; £4 adults £2 children £10 Family
Afternoon Tea included

Schedule will be advertised on Blackmount Community Facebook page
Entry tickets (20p) to be purchased at the hall 7-8pm Thurs 21st August
Entries to the hall 8.30-9.30am Saturday 23rd August

Organised by Dolphinton SWI

Contacts:

Anne Hutchison 01968 682256 Pam Taylor 07966 453317 Libby Bean 07762 091624

Blackmount Social Group

BLACKMOUNT SPORTS NIGHT

The sun was a rare but welcome visitor to the annual sports night at Newbigging on the 22nd of May. It was just lovely that everyone could enjoy all the activities on a warm, dry, sunny evening, and it resulted in a great turnout of children, parents and spectators. For once the wellies were only needed for the welly boot throw!

Everyone from toddlers to 12-year-olds took part in the sprints, sack race, egg and spoon race, bean bag race and the obstacle race. The results would decide the winner of the Preschool medals and the Agnes Allison Primary school shield. The adults

were also fiercely competitive in their races. There were 13 ladies, and 12 men lined up for their respective sprint race and egg and spoon race and all opted to do the obstacle race for fun as well! What a great turnout and a great example to set. The results are as follows:

Preschool Girls medals: 1st Grace Miller, 2nd Skye Livesey, 3rd Lyra Doyle

Preschool Boys medals: 1st Angus Taylor, 2nd Elliot Gilchrist, 3rd Hector Hudson

Primary Shield Winner: Libby Boyd, 2nd Struan Malone, 3rd Stuart Ward

Ladies Section Winner: Corrie Ward

Men's Section Winner: Mr. Taylor

Finally, the night was finished with the Welly Whanging competition!

Welly Whanging!

Boys Winner: Struan Malone

Girls Winner: Lydia Saunders

Men's Winner: Philip McDowell

Ladies Winner: Corrie Ward

Long standing Newbigging residents, Mrs Mary Black

and Mrs Betty Hamilton kindly presented the medals to all the prize winners, and we are grateful to them for their support. Thanks, are also due to Mrs Hamilton who always opens her house to us every year for toilet facilities. A very enjoyable night was had by all, and thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped make the night possible. First, for setting up the field - Alistair, James and Jamie, the scorers - Georgina, Alison, and Emma, tape holders - Alex, Destiny and Michelle, tuck shop lady - Anne and finally Alistair, Steve and Brian for keeping the night running smoothly.

ANNUAL SPONSORED COMMUNITY WALK

This will be held on Sunday 14th September and will start from the Elsrickle Hub. Time to be confirmed.



Elsrickle Community Hub

Many thanks to the Community Lottery Fund for the support of £9,939 that will be used to cover our running costs and to hold some community events.



We've started our Monday Morning Cuppa, Cake, and Chat on 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, which will resume on 18th August after the summer break. Events planned include a quiz night on 25th July at 6.30pm, and supporting our local rugby star Emma Orr on 6th September by watching on screen the Women's World Rugby Cup Scotland vs Canada – 12pm kick off (BYOB).

For information on events and bookings you can check our website <https://www.elsricklecommunityhub.co.uk/>, email us on echbookings24@gmail.com, and follow us on Facebook.

Family Quiz Night
Friday 25th July 6.30pm - 8.30pm

**£60
prize**

The logo features a central illustration of a horseshoe with a hammer and anvil positioned above it. A banner across the middle of the horseshoe contains the name 'MICHAEL LAMB' in bold, capital letters. Below the banner, the words 'FARRIER' and 'SERVICES' are written on either side of a horseshoe.

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Elsrickle SWI

FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW Elsrickle WI annual show will take place on Saturday 30th August. ALL WELCOME. Official Opening by Mr Alistair Muirhead at 2.00pm. Entries for the show should be delivered to Elsrickle Hub between 9.00 – 11.00am on the day of the Show. Entry fees per entry – Adults 25p, Children 10p.

SECTION 1 – FLOWERS

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

SECTION 2 – VEGETABLES

- 7) 3 Potatoes
- 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) Any Other Conserve

SECTION 4 - BAKING

- 18) 3 Cheese Scones
- 19) 3 Pancakes
- 20) Fruit Loaf
- 21) Apple Tart
- 22) Chocolate sponge (*undecorated*)
- 23) 3 Empire Biscuits
- 24) 3 Pieces Traybake (same variety)
- 25) Cold Sweet (Individual)

SECTION 5 – HANDCRAFTS

- 26) Article in Embroidery
- 27) Knitted Article
- 28) Sewn Article
- 29) Greeting Card (any craft)
- 30) An Animal Photo

SECTION 6 – FLORAL ART

- 31) A Bowl of Floating Flowers
- 32) A Hand Tied Bunch of Flowers
- 33) A Yellow Arrangement

SECTION 7 – CHILDREN'S

- 34) Nursery- A4 Drawing of an Animal
- 35) P1/2-A4 Drawing of an Animal
- 36) P3/4/5-A4 Drawing of an Animal
- 37) P6/7-A4 Drawing of an Animal
- 38) Handcraft Article (state age)
- 39) Decorated Cupcake (only decoration judged)

Exhibits MUST NOT have been shown at a previous Elsrickle WRI Flower Show (this excludes plants)



TRIP Our annual trip 3rd to 6th Oct is to Carrbridge, staying at Carrbridge Hotel. Various trips and activities are organised e.g. steam train ride on The Strathspey Railway, Folk Museum in Kingussie, cruise on Loch Ness and a visit to The House of Bruar. There are still a few spaces available. The price is £440 (twin room) £500 (single room) and includes 3 nights D,B&B, coach, rail trip, cruise and tea on homeward journey. If interested, contact either Dorothy Ramsay 07470 118162, Anne Moffat 01899 220794 or Margaret Moffat 07388 725172. Anne will be at Elsrickle Hall on Mon 28th July for those wishing to complete payment or payment can be made by bank transfer (Elsrickle SWRI 83-16-11 00150055).

NEW SESSION Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our first meeting will be held on 10th September in Elsrickle Hub at 7.00pm. New members are most welcome. Come and join us for fun, friendly and informative evenings.

A Busy and Exciting Term at Black Mount Primary School!

This term has been full of activity and achievement at Black Mount Primary School, and there's plenty of good news to share with our local community. First, congratulations are in order for our rugby team, who proudly brought home the trophy from the Clydesdale Rugby Festival! The players showed fantastic teamwork and skill, making us all very proud.



Our annual School Sports Day was a huge success, with pupils participating enthusiastically in a variety of events. It was wonderful to see so much energy and sportsmanship on display, and everyone enjoyed cheering each other on. In other sports news, our P7 pupils took part in the Clydesdale Netball Festival, demonstrating great coordination and teamwork. Meanwhile, our P1-3 children joined the multi-sports Festival, trying out different activities and enjoying a day of active fun.

Our whole school recently went on a trip into Glasgow. Accompanied by our friends from the Transport Police, the children travelled by train to see 'The Baddies' at the King's Theatre. It was a fantastic experience that sparked their imaginations and brought a fantastic story to life on stage.



It's been a busy and wonderful term filled with learning, sport, and memorable experiences. We look forward to more exciting events ahead and thank our dedicated staff and supportive community for making it all possible! Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

Libberton Primary School News!

Primary 1-5 Trip to the Science Centre We were successful in our application for a BMCC microgrant which enabled our Primary 1-5 pupils to go to the Science Centre in Glasgow for the day! We had such a fantastic time. Here are some accounts of the day from the children.

On Monday the 12th May, P1-5 went to the Science Centre. I enjoyed the iMax because we got to wear these special glasses that made it pop out! I learned that dung beetles are very strong, it's like a human pushing six double decker buses, Wow! My favourite part was all of it because it was all very fun. **Meg P4**

We were going to the Science Centre in Glasgow. It took a long time to get there. I enjoyed the iMax because we got to watch a 3D real film. I learned that dung beetles can push five times their weight. My favourite part was the iMax because it was extremely cool! **Ben P4**



P1 to 5 went on Monday 12th May. It was in Glasgow. I enjoyed the bar challenge. I learned arm exercises. My favourite was the bar challenge. **Braxton P3**

We went to Glasgow Science Centre. It was so much fun. We went

on Monday 12th May 2025. I went with Primary 1-5. I enjoyed playing with the illusions. I learned about the body parts of a human. My favourite part was the iMax! **Jack**

Primary 1 to 5 went to the Science Centre in Glasgow at 09.05 on 12th May. I enjoyed when I went on the hamster wheel. On the

second floor I learned that you should not smoke too much or your lungs will turn black! I got to pump the lungs and saw how they would react. My favourite part was when we went to the iMax and watched a movie that was 3D. **Alice**

Libberton Primary P1-5 went on a trip to the Science Centre on Monday 12th May. I enjoyed the iMax movie of the Animal Kingdom. I learned that dung beetles are the strongest for their size. My favourite part was playing in the 7 and under part. **Max**

We went to Glasgow Science Centre for the full day; it was so fun. I went with Primary 1-5; it was extraordinary. I went on Monday 12th May. I enjoyed playing on the hamster things. I learned not to smoke because it will make your lungs very bad. My favourite part was the iMax because it was so interesting and cool. **Sofia**

Primary 5-7 Netball Tournament at Carnwath Primary At netball we were split into countries – my country was Zimbabwe. We started playing the games in our teams against each other; my team was good at passing but not so good at shooting! Sadly, we didn't get into the final, but we had a blast! We had a lunch break and then we had 3 more matches until we returned back to school. Each coach from each team got to pick a Player of the Day award and it was really well organised. The teachers even got to have some nice cake! Sadly, not for the pupils. It was good that we had a mixed team with members from other schools in our teams and we got to meet some new people. **Samuel, P6**

Primary 7 Residential The Primary 7s went to Broomlee for their residential in May. When we got there, we went over the safety rules and our first challenge was to put the sheets and cases on our beds! We only had 5 minutes to do it too and it was very hard! My favourite activity was called the 'Catwalk'; there were two tall trees and a wooden beam in the middle. There were notches on the trees and you had to try to climb up onto the beam, if you got up, you had to try to walk across the beam and when you got to

the middle, do a pose, and then try going to the other side and touch the tree! It was really hard, but we had two shots each and I managed to do it both times. Once you touched the tree, you had to go back to the middle and either jump down or trust fall and you were on a harness and so our instructor lured you down close to the ground (so you were dangling) and your partner lifted you up and spun you around, this was called the



washing machine. For breakfast the next day, we had pancakes, toast, bread rolls and yoghurt. There were plenty of choices and you could go up and get seconds. It was really good and I was surprised how good it was, I wasn't expecting so much. For lunch we got the choice of baguettes or sausage rolls and for dinner we had the choice of macaroni cheese or spaghetti Bolognese. It was all really good. I had the spaghetti Bolognese, and it was amazing! We had the chance to make lots of friends and there were plenty of opportunities for free play. We did lots of cool activities and it was probably my favourite trip we went on in primary school. **Ella, P7**



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Blackmount Sports Night at Newbigging



Libberton Primary
P7's at Broomlee