

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



Pam Taylor



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Libby Bean



Libby Bean

Biggar Little Festival Art Exhibits from Dolphinton Art and Craft Club



Harvest from Libberton Primary School

Produce grown at
Black Mount Nursery



Dates for the Diary



Dolphinton Hall = DH, Elsrickle Community Hub = ECH

October

Wed 1st **Crafting at the Hub**, Elsrickle Community Hub (ECH), 10am
Fri 3rd **Family Fun Night**, Dolphinton Hall (DH), 6.30pm
Mon 6th **Community Council Meeting**, DH, 7.30pm
Wed 8th **Elsrickle SWI**, ECH, 7pm
Sat 18th **Biggar Little Festival Dolphinton Art and Craft Club Exhibition**, 9 Hillside Gardens, 10-4pm. Also on dates 19th, 22nd, 25th, and 26th
Wed 23rd **Dolphinton SWI Centenary Dinner** (members only)
Sat 25th & **Biggar Little Festival Ellen McCann**, Ministers Walk, Elsrickle, 10am-4pm.
Tue 28th **Elsrickle Carpet Bowling** starts weekly, ECH, 7.30pm (2 hr)
Thu 30th **Elsrickle Carpet Bowling** starts weekly, ECH, 8pm (1 hr)
Thu 30th **Dolphinton Indoor bowling** starts weekly, DH, 7.30pm (2 hr)

November

Mon 3rd **Community Council Meeting**, ECH, 7.30pm
Wed 12th **Elsrickle SWI**, ECH, 7pm
Wed 19th **Dolphinton SWI**, DH, 7.30pm
Sat 29th **Candy Mill Christmas Lights** switched on, 5.30pm until Dec 28th

December

Mon 1st **Community Council meeting**, DH, 7.30pm
Fri 5th **Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner**, ECH, 7pm
Wed 10th **Elsrickle SWI**, ECH, 7pm
Wed 17th **Dolphinton SWI**, DH, 7.30pm
Wed 31st **Hogmanay Celebration with Ceilidh**, ECH

January

Thu 8th **Elsrickle Carpet Bowling Steak Pie Night**, ECH, 7.30pm
Wed 14th **Elsrickle SWI**, ECH, 7pm
Sun 25th **Robert Burns Afternoon**, ECH

Regular groups:

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group, Wednesdays 7.30 pm.

Biggar and District Men's Shed, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 4pm. Mobile: 07471491099. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

Coffee, Cake and Chat (children welcome), 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, Elsrickle Community Hub, 10am.

Blackmount Church Choir Practice, Thursdays 6.30pm.

Church Services:

Libberton Church second Sunday of each month at 11am.

Blackmount Church every Sunday at 9.45am and The Guild 2pm on 4th Wednesday of each month.

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 covering the EH46 postcode is coordinated by Ian Poole (dolphintonbulkoil@gmail.com and Tel: 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 around the **17th November**.

Home Energy Efficiency Surveys

Biggar Area Climate Care (BACC), a registered charity, is offering Home Energy Efficiency Surveys, to help people reduce their carbon emissions - and their heating bills. The surveys are in two parts: 1) thermal imaging by a BACC volunteer, and 2) a



professional architects survey informed by the thermal images, making efficiency retrofit suggestions. Thanks to our funders these surveys are entirely free to householders and rest assured no-one is selling anything. If you are interested in taking up this offer then please complete a simple online form at <https://forms.gle/7GNDvzPEUZs3rjiz6> - or use the QR code.

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 email bugle@blackmountcc.scot. The Bugle is published by the Blackmount Community Council (BMCC) but the committee cannot accept responsibility for any errors printed. Blackmount Area covering Candymill, Dunsyre, Dolphinton, Elsrickle, Greenshields, Libberton, Newbigging, Weston, Walston and surrounding area.



Candymill Christmas Lights

Down at Candymill Road, we host a colourful and festive display at Christmas to raise funds for charity. We switch the lights on Saturday 29th November at 5.30pm and switch off Sunday 28th December. Santa Claus can be found in his grotto on Fridays and Saturdays, with Sunday 21st December being the last time to visit.

Blackmount Church, Dolphinton

Blackmount Church continues to meet for worship followed by tea/coffee on Sundays at 9.45am.

Our Strawberry Tea was a great success with the church packed to capacity and over £500 was raised. Anne Hutchison was the winner of the lucky square.

Our Guild meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm September - October. Our programme is diverse with speakers talking about army nursing, Glasgow Cathedral, Wanderings. We have also planned a Christmas lunch and a visit to Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington. Everyone is welcome. Choir practices continue at 6:30pm on Thursdays (new members welcome).

Blackmount Church participated in Open Doors for the first time. Visitors left encouraging and positive messages about the stained glass and the history of the building. *Gillian Coulter (Session Clerk)*

Libberton Church

On the 31st August, Blackmount Church, Biggar Church and Libberton and Quothquan Church voted in favour of a union with each other. Technical details need to be clarified but it is likely that a formal service of union will take place by the New Year. The organisation of worship and of the church buildings themselves will then be under the control of the new united Kirk Session. However, in the meantime, services of worship continue to take place at Libberton and Quothquan Church at 11.00 am on the second Sunday of each month. *Anne Cochrane*



Dolphinton Indoor Bowling Club

Thanks to all the hard work done by the Dolphinton Hall Community Association Committee the club are delighted to say that we will be returning to the hall for our regular sessions again on the 30th October 2025

Our membership currently stands at 16 which we hope will all rejoin but we would welcome new members of all ages. No equipment is required, we have plenty for all and you'll be surprised how easy it is to play, often competitive but more importantly a lot of fun.

Membership is £35 for the season which will run weekly on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm until the end of March 2026

If you are interested then come along, join in on the 30th or thereafter and see for yourself. If you are still not sure and would like more information then contact us on the Black Mount Community Page on Facebook.

Look forward to seeing you then

Ann Ross and Deryck Hogge



Elsrickle Carpet Bowling Club

With Autumn comes the beginning of carpet bowling season, but this year the Elsrickle Club will be returning with a new format. We will have two weekly meetings: our standard format will move to Tuesday evening 7.30-9.30pm and we will have a new shorter format on Thursday nights 8 to 9pm. These will start on the 28th and 30th October, respectively. We are always very happy to welcome new members, so if you've never played before and would like to find out more, please do come and give it a try. All ages welcome.

Steak Pie Night: Thursday 8th January (provisional)

Elsrickle Community Hub

Elsrickle Community Hub extends a warm welcome to all. Many thanks to Black Mount Social Group for organising the beautiful flowers outside the Hub. It's been a year since our first booking on 4th October 2024, and we are pleased to host Biggar Young Farmers again this year for their annual carpet bowls tournament.

We are constantly trying to make improvements. Soon, a fixed speaker system, to compliment the HD projector and screen, will be installed and the oven will be upgraded.

As well as hiring out the hall we have been running 'Coffee and Chats' on the first and third Monday of the month, and we have recently started 'Crafting at the Hub' on Wednesday mornings. Also, a Hogmanay Ceilidh on 31st December and a Robert Burns Afternoon on 25th January is planned.

It is great to see the hub being used more frequently. Our website www.elsricklecommunityhub.co.uk hosts the online calendar where you can find out availability. Booking rates start at £16 per hour and enquiries can be made by emailing echbookings24@gmail.com. Also, please email if you would like to receive our newsletter for updates on what's going on.

Biggar Little Festival Art Trail

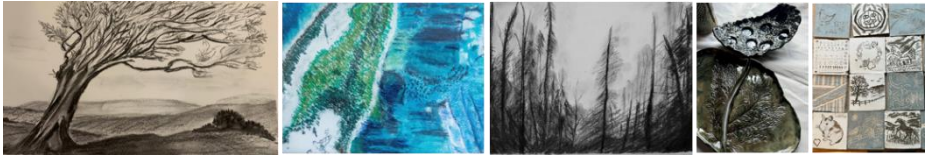
Ellen McCann welcomes you to her studio at Ministers Walk in Elsrickle, where you are invited to view her sculptures in a garden setting. The studio is situated down a lane between the Old Church and the Elsrickle Hall. Open Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th 10am-4pm.
<http://www.ellenmccannsculpture.com/>



Members of the Dolphinton Art and Crafts club

will be exhibiting in the Biggar Little Festival Art trail. A wide variety of art will be on display and for sale, including paintings, photography, ceramics, and jewellery. A proportion of the sales from this exhibition will be donated to the Dolphinton Hall Community Association to support the re-opened hall and the community activities it aims to run. Come and see our exhibition!

Venue T. 9 Hillside Gardens, EH46 7AE. Exhibition open 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Sat 18th Oct, Sun 19th Oct, Wed 22nd Oct, Sat 25th Oct and Sun 26th Oct.



Dolphinton Art and Craft Club

Our group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7.30pm at Dolphinton Hall. We draw, we paint, we craft, we chat. Generally, our meetings are self-directed based on a theme, we learn from being creative and sharing ideas and techniques together. We have also occasionally had tutors for example in illustration.

Our planned program for Autumn 2025 to Spring 2026 includes a great variety of arts and crafts - ceramics, printing, portraits, macrame...you may find that you try something new and we are always open to ideas. You can of course just bring any art or craft you wish to do and enjoy creating with a group of friends. For more information please call: Pam - 07966453317 or Sarah-Jane - 07928529239.

Dolphinton SWI

Thank you to everyone who supported the Dolphinton Flower Show on Saturday 23rd August. It was a great event and even better that we were back in Dolphinton Village Hall. Thanks to all who helped, exhibited and attended. It was especially great to see the many children's entries that they had put so much effort into at school. Martin O'Dwyer from West Linton Pharmacy opened the show with encouraging words about our community and aided Susie Davison, Chairman Dolphinton SWI, in presenting the cups for the winners of each section, as follows.

Section 1 Flowers – Margaret Adamson

Section 2 Vegetables – George Anderson and Duncan Grant tied

Section 3 Floral Art – Pamela Taylor

Section 4 Industrial – Hilary Lyons

Section 5 Handcraft – Xanthe Abernethy

Section 6 Photographs – Lin Smellie

Children under 9 – Hazel Bean

Children 9-15 – Abi Jenkins

Meetings Diary Autumn 2025 in Dolphinton Village Hall

17 September – Four Corners; Crochet with Ann Ross and Jean McCracken, Pottery with Sarah-Jane Selwood, Beading with Libby Bean, Cake decoration with Katie Hobbs

23 October – Centenary Celebration Dinner for members only

19 November – Planting Bulbs for Spring Flowering with speaker Joanne Thomson (Medwyn Cottage Nursery): Competitions; a flower drawing, a miniature vase: Hostess; Pam Taylor & Joanne Nethercott

17 December – Christmas Decorations Make and Take with Margaret Leiper: Competitions; Christmas card, colourful gloves: Hostess; all (mince pies)

Further details, please contact Pam Taylor 07966 453317/Libby Bean 07762 091624

DOLPHINTON HALL GRAND OPENING

This took place on Sunday 21st September. It was a wonderful event and we would like to thank all those who joined us at the Hall - and a particular mention to the large group of cyclists who visited us. We very much appreciate all the support we have received from the community in the process of reopening the Hall.

*Dolphinton Hall
Community Association*



Blackmount Social Group

Sponsored Walk

On Sunday 31st August, a large group of walkers of all ages set off from Elsrickle Community Hub to climb the local landmark Black Mount and to raise funds for future community activities. It was a sunny day but there were a few squally showers as well as a nasty hail shower on the return journey. Everyone returned to the hub to enjoy a well-earned refreshment. The tables were laden with sandwiches, cakes, scones, and traybakes, all provided by members of the community. It was a very successful day with £470 raised to help fund the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner. Many

thanks to all who helped in the planning of this event and who helped on the day.

As most will know, Blackmount Church Hall is for sale and unfortunately, the social group have been unable to secure a suitable alternative venue for the fireworks display. If anyone in the community would like to propose an alternative venue or would be willing to host the display on their land (or would like to discuss the possibility of this and what it would entail) please contact us at blackmountsocialgroup@gmail.com

Elsrickle SWI

On Saturday 30th August, Elsrickle Rural held their annual Flower Show at Elsrickle Community Hub. It was very well attended with lots of wonderful entries. The trophy winners were:

- Flowers and Vegetables – John McCann
- Industrial, Baking, Handicrafts and Floral Art - Gillian Coulter
- Margaret Leiper Trophy (Baking) – Ann Leiper, Katharine Barrie, Margaret Leiper
- Children's Section – Eve Lawson

For our September meeting we all created our own clay tiles with Ellen McCann. We look forward to seeing them when they are all glazed and fired. Below are details of the 2025/26 session meeting at Elsrickle Community Hub, 7pm. You don't need to be a member. Come along for £5.

8 th October	Cake decoration - Julie Miller
12 th November	Foot First Podiatry - Foot Surgery
10 th December	Christmas Wreath - Pauline Rodgers (bring your own greenery)
11 th January	Christmas Lunch at Elphinstone Hotel (12.30pm for 1pm)
14 th January	Forsyth the butchers – Mike Forsyth
11 th February	A Scots Evening – Braw Clan Claire Yuille
11 th March	Gardening – getting your garden ready for Spring with Colin MacDowell
8 th April	Broughtonknowe Community Buy Out -John Hart

Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount

We would like to wish all our friends who moved onto school good luck in primary one!

Since the start of the new term, we have welcomed four new friends to nursery, and we have all been learning to build and form new relationships with staff and children. We've all been settling into our nursery routines and have been exploring all areas around the nursery. We are also learning to share and take turns as well as look after the toys and resources.

Over the past few months, we have successfully grown peas, broccoli, tomatoes and courgettes in the polytunnel, and in the nursery garden we grew potatoes, carrots and lettuce, all of which we have eaten in nursery or taken home to share with our families.

This week we have been tasting a variety of foods and were able to describe them as being soft, crunchy, juicy, sweet and sour as we are learning all about our five senses and will be exploring the rest of them throughout the month.





We have been using our imagination to create and build cars, tractors and boats using large and small wooden blocks, as well as exploring various ways to create pictures using paint, rollers, feathers and our fingers and hands which was lovely and messy!

Every week we focus on a different book of the week where we explore the author and illustrator, it's front and back covers, it's spine and the blurb on the back. We also have a Makaton sign of the week, a nursery rhyme and song of the week.

Black Mount Community Development Trust

– Local Update

It's been a busy few months for us! Since gaining charitable status in May, we supported the Black Mount Community Fun Day (including the children's speeding protest), and secured funding for community speed watch equipment, as well as activities for Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival.

September has been especially lively we hosted Gear Up who offered free bike servicing at Elsrickle Hub, we collaborated with Errington's Barn on a family-friendly breadmaking event, and had our first community cycle from Newbigging to Dolphinton - finishing at the grand opening of the hall.

Looking ahead, we'll host some Climate Readiness activity in October, and on Tuesday 25th November we're holding our first public meeting where everyone can hear updates, share ideas, and get involved.

We'd love to welcome our community to join as Friends of Black Mount Community Development Trust – it's free, no obligation, and a great way to stay in the loop. The more voices, the stronger we are.

👉 Sign up & find out more: <https://sites.google.com/view/black-mount-development-trust>

Did you know South Lanarkshire Libraries offer a free service delivering books directly to the doorstep for anyone unable to visit. Email: homedelivery@library.s-lanark.org.uk or Call 01698 452143.

Libberton Primary School News!

Primary 1-7 Trip to the Beach. In June we were delighted to be able to take our pupils along with Wiston Primary to Aberdour Beach for a fabulous day out to celebrate the end of the school year. We had such a fantastic time.

Account by Alfie (P6) and Sofia (P5). We had the chance to play with the kite and some footballs, as well as with a frisbee and we even paddled in the sea – which was very chilly! There were monkey bars and climbing frames at the park and playing tig was very fun. We were also burying each other in the sand too! Alfie had brought a huge spade and bucket with him and enjoyed digging loads of holes which even had seats in them for people to sit in for their lunch! We were burying each other and treated to some ice cream at the end too. Some other schools were on the beach too but we all had so much fun. Just before lunch, Alfie realised that he had accidentally left his sandwich on the coach and had to go back to retrieve it – the driver was cheeky and said that he had eaten it! Thankfully he was joking! It was an excellent day out and we all enjoyed it very much!

Primary 1-7 Netball and Ball Skills After School Club

We thought the club was really good – we learned how to do a chest pass and we learned how to put one foot forward when we are throwing the ball, so that you have more power in your arms. We started off playing games and then we had a lesson on the passes. Niamh took the class, she is an ex-pupil of Libberton Primary School, and she was very good. We also were taught how to shoot the ball into the net and we practiced those skills. Ben won in the finals in the shooting competition and Meg came second! We are really looking forward to the next club as we are learning lots and really enjoying it! Our Primary 1s were also really enjoying the club and some of them even managed to net some balls! It was great. **Meg (P5) and Ben (P5)**

Primary 1-4 Gardening

Following on from our very successful collaboration and help from Biggar Community Garden in the summer, our Primary 1-4 class were very busy this week tidying up the outdoor gardening areas in preparation for the coming months and harvesting some vegetables.



We have been very busy this week out in the garden – we have been digging in the planters and trying to find onions, potatoes, spring onions, parsley and carrots. We found a lot of weeds too! We made some soup with the vegetables – the soup was oniony and most people loved it! We picked out lots of weeds and we put those in the compost bin which is now really full! We saw lots of flies, butterflies, bumblebees and worms! Caterpillars and snails too! We had to clean the vegetables and then we needed to cut them up and then we took turns to put them into the soup which we cooked on the hob. It was very noisy but lots of fun and it was cool to see turning the vegetables into something we could all eat. **Quinn (P2)** and **Cameron (P2)**

JRSO Trip to Chatelherault Country Hall for the JRSO Big Day Out!



P7's Kenny, Rowan and Lena were successful in their interviews to become our new Junior Road Safety Officers! As part of their role, they attended the JRSO Big Day Out at Chatelherault to learn about Road Safety and how this can be emphasised to the pupils of the school. It was a very fun day for all and they learnt loads! They got to explore lots of different safety regulations. They learned how good electric cars are for the environment but how dangerous they are because

you can't hear them, and you need to look even more than usual to cross the road safely. Lena's favourite bit was going on the special 'smoothie bicycle' which gave the power to make a smoothie which they then got to enjoy! Lena said it was quite tricky to ride the bike though! Kenny and Lena made a raspberry and apple juice one. They loved the freebies – pencils, notepads, lanyards which will be used as prizes for the competitions that they will run through the year for the children to learn about road safety. It was a brilliant day – they even had free biscuits – and met Ziggy the mascot for Road Safety! They learned a lot about what to do in their new roles.





Libberton Primary School at the beach



Sponsored Walk up Black Mount



Balloon over Elsrickle taken by Graham Wardill

