

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



Notes from Newbigging

I love the hope and rhythm that Spring brings.

The gradual awakening of the woods, fields and gardens from their winter slumbers.

The joy of seeing the first snowdrops, the glorious yellow of daffodils and primroses and the intense greens of the wild garlic shoots.

It is the gathering and departing season for geese and fieldfares.

The evening congregations of raucous rooks, nest building and clamouring in the heights.

The appearance and glow of the worm moon, hinting at warming soils.

Awakening again to the symphony of the dawn chorus as the days lengthen.

The skylark is ascending once more, filling the sky with its song.

The garden birds are also busy, spring-cleaning nest boxes and guarding territories.

Most of all, I love the heat that returns, to warm my bones and the backs of new lambs.

Roll on Spring, we greet you. and away with the snow, wind and rain please!



CONDOLENCES to the Kerr family on the death of MARY KERR. She was born in 1924 at Cossaton, Dolphinton, as Mary Dechman and the majority of her long life was lived in the Blackmount area.



Aurora Borealis over Elsrickle, taken by Alistair Muirhead

Members of Blackmount Community Council (BMCC)

Chairperson: Alistair Muirhead, chair@blackmountcc.scot

Secretary: Andy Hudson, secretary@blackmountcc.scot

Treasurer: Steve Jenkins, treasurer@blackmountcc.scot

Felix Deby, Eric Holford, Anne Hutchison, Tammy McAllister

Blackmount Community Grants. The BMCC has awarded out the Renewable Energy Funds that were available for the 2025–2026 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. We are hopeful that the funding pot will be replenished in the next financial year. Anyone interested in applying for a grant can find the application form on our website <https://blackmountcc.scot/grants>. For further details contact our treasurer Steve Jenkins treasurer@blackmountcc.scot.



Note from our Councillor

It only seems like yesterday we were celebrating New Year and already we are in March looking forward to Spring. The council has agreed its budget for 2026/27 and this will involve a council tax rise of 6.5%. We had a different set of issues to deal with this time. There were several things that came together that resulted in having a balanced budget with no changes, but we always look a couple of years in front, so we do not get surprises in future years. We have been told to expect a flat settlement from Scottish Government in the next couple of years so there could be a large deficit in a couple of years' time and small rises would be better than major cuts or a large tax hike. As a result, there is funding available for this year to support services. In South Lanarkshire we have the lowest Council Tax in Scotland yet still manage to provide services at least comparable with any other council in Scotland.

It has been agreed that we would prioritise frontline services that have been the services hardest hit in previous years. Also, funding for repairing road signs, litter picking, community projects and filling in potholes and repairing roads.

I was pleased to attend the Clydesdale Sports Awards in the first week of March where a number of local constituents were receiving awards. Seeing the achievements and the work being done to support the many local sports clubs is very humbling and I would like to congratulate all of those who have had success in the last year and wish them all success for 2026.

Councillor Allison

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.

Blackmount Church, Dolphinton

Blackmount church continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9.45am, except for the last Sunday of each month when we have a united service in Biggar Kirk at 11.15am.

Other events, which meet in Blackmount church, are our coffee morning on the first Wednesday of each month and our Guild on the third Wednesday of each month which meets at 2 pm. The Guild enjoyed a Christmas lunch in December, a talk from Nicola in January about reflective walks called 'Wanderings' and in February Diane shared her story linked to her beautiful art work. In March we plan to visit Holt Trinity Chapel in Lamington.

Please feel free to join us at any of our services or events.

Gillian Coulter

Elsrickle Carpet Bowling Club

On 14th February we held our annual tournament with a good turn-out of 38 pairs playing for the William Ramsay Shield. The winners were Neil Shearer and Alasdair Sloan and runners up were Colin Thorburn and Davie Foster.

Our last Steak pie night of the season will be on Thursday 19th March. There are still a few games to play before we find out all the trophy winners. However, so far, the Junior Cup has been won by Abi Jenkins.



Dolphinton Indoor Bowling Club

It was great to experience the successful restart of the Dolphinton Indoor Bowling Club's season!

Returning to the Village Hall after a two-year break and seeing a boost in membership is a testament to the club's community spirit.

With four boards available, there's ample room for people of all ages to join and experience the joys of indoor bowling. The mix of seasoned players and new members always brings a fresh and dynamic atmosphere to the club.

The upcoming traditional Steak Pie Night on the 26th of March will close the season, celebrating with friendly competition and delicious pies for the winning team and runners-up.

It's a fantastic opportunity for anyone curious about indoor bowling to come by, try it out, and maybe even consider joining next season. It's events like these that foster community engagement and can turn a simple interest into a passion.

Deryck Hogge



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 date for orders will be 14th April and members will be emailed a couple of weeks before.

Dolphinton Hall

It's been a busy start to 2026 at Dolphinton Hall.

We held a much acclaimed and well attended Ceilidh, an Open Evening for the Village and all our members and our first of many Table Top Sales (no weather worries at our indoor Car Boot!).

All this in addition to our once monthly Friday Family Fun Night & Quiz, weekly Thursday coffee mornings, Art Group weekly, the "Rural", our carpet bowlers and Pilates sessions.

Starting w/c **16th March** we will be offering the opportunity to learn **pickleball** or come along for a game if you're already experienced

Coming up on **21st March** we are proud to present the locally renowned rockers **Lazy Horse** when dancing will be a must.

25th April we will be hosting a **Curry Night** (Tickets Only in advance).

16th May (tbc) for the brave or the uninhibited it will be **Karaoke** compered by Dolphinton's very own bassist, Barry Yourston.

We have plans to host other rock outfits, yet more exciting food nights, Exhibitions and sporting activities.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from using our multi-functional space then please contact us for booking information.

We are on the phone, Facebook and our website:

www.dolphintonhall.org.uk

FB Dolphinton Hall Community Association

Phone: Pam 07966 453317, Ann 07946 628835, Susie 07801 330392

We look forward to seeing you soon

Dolphinton SWI

At January's meeting, Anna Ludwig gave a very interesting talk about Music Therapy.

In February, Gary Watkins came to Dolphinton to discuss how he came to set up the charity Help for Children of Ukraine and gave us an excellent view of the work they do to help the children who are particularly marginalised and suffering due to the conflict.

March's meeting was a variation on our usual taste and try, with guesses to be made as to the ingredients of the six brought savoury and sweet items. There were a lot of surprises and fun was had.

Our last meeting of this season will be on 15th April at 7.30pm. This will be a craft evening and AGM. There will be no competitions and Libby Bean and Chantel Archibald will be the hostess

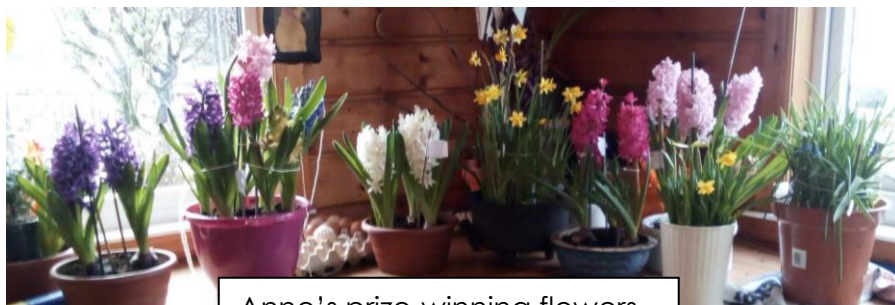
Carpet Bowling Tournament

On Saturday 31st January, Dolphinton SWI held their annual bowling tournament. Eight rinks took part. The winners were Janet Bryson's team, made up of Janet Bryson, Jessie Meikle, Janet Mitchell and Jean MacDonald. Dolphinton came 2nd, beaten in the final by Janet's team. Everyone who attended had a good time and the plentiful and delicious food was much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to support the day and make it such a great success.

Peeblesshire SWI Federation Spring Show 2026

This took place at Newlands Centre on 14th March. The Community Effort's theme was Summer Holiday and was won by Whitebridge. The following members of Dolphinton SWI won prizes;

Hilary Lyons – Robb Bequest Salver for the Best Article of Winter's Work; 2nd for a sewn cushion cover



Anne's prize-winning flowers

Anne Hutchison – 1st for 3 blue hyacinths, a small pot of pansies and a bowl of mixed hyacinths; 2nd for 3 white hyacinths and 3 pink hyacinths; 3rd for a bowl of grape hyacinths, 10 miniature daffodils and an amaryllis

Pam Taylor – 2nd for 3 savoury scones

Hanna Grant – 3rd for a macrame item and 3rd for foliage pot plant

Kirsty Orr – commended for a miniature garden in a seed tray

Thank you to everyone's hard work putting the show together.

Dolphinton Art and Craft Club

Meets 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.

2026 Programme

We have a short program for Spring/Summer 2026 which includes a variety of arts and crafts - you may find that you try something new and you can of course just bring any art or craft you wish to do and enjoy creating with a group. For more information please call: - Pam - 07966453317 or Sarah-Jane – 07928529239.



Drawing Flowers and Garden things - 22nd & 29th April

Use different materials pastels, pencils charcoal paints, to explore drawing / painting flowers or other items from the garden.

Sketching Movement - 6th & 13th May

Express movement, quick poses, spontaneous sketching - capture the moving figure with a line.



Crochet flowers or plants - 20th & 27th May

Spring is here -summers around the corner, let's crochet a bunch of flowers to celebrate and bring a smile after the cold and rain!

Boro - 3rd & 10th June

Boro, derived from boroboro (meaning tattered or repaired), is a traditional Japanese, indigo-dyed patchwork technique. It involves layering and mending scraps of old fabric using functional, decorative sashimi running stitches. Create a piece of boro fabric art - no sewing experience necessary!



Sketching Outside - 17th & 24th June

If it's not raining come and spend the evening sketching outside in Pam's beautiful garden. Plenty of inspiration for all, from flowers, trees, woods and views across ponds.

Q. What kind of books do bunnies like?

A. Ones with hoppy endings





Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group

Stitch and Scone Day

Saturday 25th April

11am to 2pm at Elsrickle Community Hub



Come along for a time of eating scones (+ other refreshments available) and working on your own stitching/knitting /embroidery/crochet etc. It's a chance to catch up with friends, make new ones, chat about something you are working on or perhaps solve a sewing problem.

Includes bingo, raffle, sales table, and chatter so don't worry about getting much stitching done.

Free for members and £5 for visitors

For more details or to book please email sechbiggarstitchtextiles@gmail.com

CRAFTING AT THE HUB ON WEDNESDAY



**COME AND HAVE A CUPPA,
A CHAT, CRAFT, AND EAT CAKE**

**Elsrickle Community Hub
10am to 12pm**

Crafting at the Hub

We are a warm, welcoming and friendly group who get together every week to craft, to share ideas, and chat.

Bring your own craft and sometimes we try and have a go at something together.

Planning on some workshops soon.

Email Tracey at pritchard.tc@gmail.com for more details or to go on the mailing list.

ELSRICKLE COMMUNITY HUB



Tea, biscuits and a performance by a
professional actor

1.30pm, 25th March, Elsrickle Community Hub

Book your free ticket now

Enjoy tea, biscuits and a live performance by a professional actor. Braw Clan, the Scots language theatre company based in Biggar, invites you to enjoy a cup of tea, lively conversation and a short story read by professional actor Clare Yuille. You might know Clare from Emmerdale, Single Father, Calibre or Outlander. She'll be reading The Credde Knot by Robert McLellan, a true story in which a little boy investigates what made his cousin Mary cry at a Kirkfieldbank blanket washing, nearly 100 years ago.

Tickets are FREE. Email Jim at echbookings24@gmail.com or Tracey at pritchard.tc@gmail.com (or phone/message on 07799 890503 / 07944 081656) to book your seats. Please let us know of any special dietary requirements or if you need a lift.

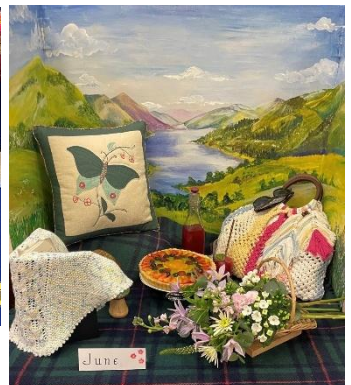
- ❖ **Coffee and Chat** takes place on the **last Monday of the Month**.
- ❖ For booking enquiries please email Jim echbookings24@gmail.com and check our website <https://www.elsricklecommunityhub.co.uk>

Elsrickle SWI

In January we had a lamb butchery demonstration by Mike Forsyth, in February we had an interesting talk from John Hart about the community buyout of Broughtonknowe Woods, and in March Colin MacDowell presented about his time on the 'Plants Project,' which documented all the individual plant species and their locations across National Trust of Scotland properties. Our last meeting on Weds 8th April will be a Scot's evening with Clare Yuille from Braw Clan as well as our AGM. Non-members welcome (£5).



Also, in the last couple of months we have been busy preparing for the Lanarkshire Federation Show, where we exhibited our talents, on 7th March at Stonehouse. Congratulations to all competitors and Thank You to those who helped out at the show. We were thrilled to come away with first prizes for the Auldhouse and Millennium Trophy group competitions. Our exhibit for the Silver Salver Trophy did not get a prize but it looked a lovely place for a picnic on a June day.



From April we have a break from meetings but we still have things going on such as the planning of the August Flower Show Schedule, the next session of meetings and our annual Autumn Trip. Our annual outing on **Wednesday 13th May will be a sail on Loch Lomond** with time to spend on the shores. If you are interested in the trip, contact Anne Moffat (01899 220794).

Blackmount Social Group

BLACKMOUNT SPORTS NIGHT

The proposed date for the Annual Sports Night, organised by the Blackmount Social Group, is **Thursday 21st May at Newbigging Playing Fields**. Registration commences at 6pm and races start at 6.15pm. Fun races for all ages from pre-school to adults, with the school age children competing for the primary and secondary shields. Welly-boot throwing competition for all and tuck shop available. Any volunteers would be welcome on the evening. Any queries contact Mara Orr 07767152090.

Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount

During the month of February we have been celebrating the people we love by making cards for them.

As we are now in Spring we have been busy preparing our raised beds for planting our vegetable seeds by removing weeds. We have planted some potatoes in bags and have our fingers crossed they grow.

As this week is science week we are having a stay and play with lots of STEM activities on offer to all our families.



Black Mount Community Development Trust

420 saplings planted. A Fun Day incoming. And we want to hear from you.

This spring, 420 edible saplings have been planted across Black Mount — creating wildlife habitats, edible hedging and natural windbreaks for years to come. Look out also for the planters brightening our village signs, made with Biggar & District Men's Shed, with more arriving soon.



Community Fun Day — Saturday 25th April, 1–6pm. Planned with Black Mount Primary pupils, expect local groups, business tasters, music, food and fun for all ages. Don't miss it!

Become a Friend of Black Mount CDT — it's free. As we near our first year as a charity, join us to get first news of events and member discounts. Sign up at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/black-mount-development-trust/>

Thanks to all our partners, especially **Errington's Barn** for generously hosting our events. We want to hear from you — is there something you'd love to see happen in Black Mount? Get in touch: bmdevtrust@gmail.com



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Elsrickle
ML12 6QZ

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relieve pain, improve movement so
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your kids or grandkids without
flare-ups or setbacks.*

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Biggar and District Men's Shed

We have now built and delivered the playground equipment to Blackmount Primary School. I'm assuming the MagPost should have been delivered and installed by the time you are reading this, fingers crossed. The planters were all finished and collected and we look forward to seeing them full of flowers this spring.

We have been building trench candles/cookers for the troops in Ukraine. These are taken to Ukraine by a local Humanitarian Aid charity. Made from a tin can, cardboard and candle wax and paraffin, simple but much appreciated by the troops in the trenches.



A "Welding Shack" recently has been setup for upcycling metal goods.

At the end of last year some of our Shedders started refurbishing motorcycles. They are onto their fifth motor bike as well as having collected a frame and a lot of part for a 1950s Bantam motor bike, interesting project.



More Than Just Woodwork

While our workshop is filled with tools and projects, our true "output" is community health and well-being. Based on the idea that people often talk best "shoulder to shoulder" while working on a task, the Shed provides a low-pressure environment for conversation to flow naturally.

To find out more about Biggar & District Men's Shed drop in, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday 10am-4pm. Best to look in in the mornings. Or email info@biggarmensshed.uk phone 07471491099.



Quercus Garden Plants

Tough plants for Scottish Gardens



Quercus is a unique plant nursery and gardens situated in the Scottish Borders, specialising in hardy plants, old favourites and interesting plants that are well suited to growing in our Scottish gardens.



Our plants are propagated and grown here at 850 feet and stay outdoors all year, so are tough and acclimatised to Scottish growing conditions. Most of them can be seen growing in our inspiring demonstration gardens.



We grow our plants in and only sell peat free compost. We are wildlife and environmentally friendly, providing habitat and encouraging wildlife, recycling and demonstrating as much sustainability as possible.

Whitmuir is also home to a Café and farm shop

Open 10am – 5pm Wednesday – Sunday,

March to end October

Whitmuir Farm, Lamancha, EH46 7BB

quercusgardenplants@gmail.com



www.quercusgardenplants.co.uk





Libberton Primary School News!

Trip to Hampden Stadium On our trip to Hampden Stadium, there was a museum where we looked at lots of trophies and football kits from Scotland and other countries. There was also a cardboard cutout of the Scottish Cup! The stadium was way bigger than we thought it was going to be – it used to be the biggest stadium in the world. We also did a football quiz and we really enjoyed that. We learned that concerts are held there too, and we saw pictures of some famous singers like Ed Sheeran and Pink! We got to kick a football into a goal and a machine tracked how fast we kicked the ball which was very cool. It was a really good trip and we all enjoyed it. By **Sam P7 and Thomas P6**



Young Leaders of Learning Update

We had the opportunity to go to Glengowan Primary School recently along with



Wiston Primary as part of being the Young Leaders of Learning! It was a massive school and felt really big compared to ours. Glengowan has a nursery with around 40 children and the school has around 300. We really enjoyed the food, and the canteen was really big too. We had a health and wellbeing lesson where we learned a lot about what good friends should do. For example, playing together and not making fun of each other. We played board games with the Primary 5s and 7s and it was really good to be in a larger school environment. We loved that their MUGA had astro turf too. The Primary 7s and the Primary 1s do a lot of things together through the whole year as Buddies which we thought was really cool too. By **Michael P6 & Alfie P6**

World Book Day I really enjoyed World Book Day especially when the two classes came together and read books which the wee class had chosen. We wore our Oodies and brought blankets and teddies so that made it really cosy when we were reading together. We completed book reviews on the books which we had read and then one person would take a random book from the library



and then wrote a review to share too. We had a really good lunch which Mrs Hodge made especially for the day which we really enjoyed. I love World Book Day because we could bring in cosy things and have the special lunch (especially the marble cake). But we also got to hear about books which we wouldn't normally choose. By **Jack P4**

Trip to Dumfries House We went to Dumfries House, and we got to go outside in to the grounds and dig square holes to find worms and we had to identify what type of worms they were. There are over 7000 worm varieties but only 27 different types in Scotland. We had a workshop where we did science experiments with vinegar and calcium carbonate and it fizzed up. We also put Mentos into Coca Cola bottles and it actually exploded and blasted really high out the top! We were seeing which bottle of coke would work better either hot or cold. The hot worked better! We measured trees by looking through our legs backwards using perspective. We had a great time on the trip, and we would really recommend it. (But it's a good idea not leave your jacket there!!). By **Thomas P6 & Sam P7**



Black Mount Primary School

Small School, Big Heart

A Snapshot of our term As we near the end of another busy month Black Mount Primary is celebrating a term full of achievement, creativity and community spirit.

P7 Transition We were delighted to welcome Mrs Sim, the new Head Teacher at Biggar High School, along with staff from the English and PE departments. Their visits have helped our P7 pupils feel excited and reassured as they prepare for the next stage of their journey.

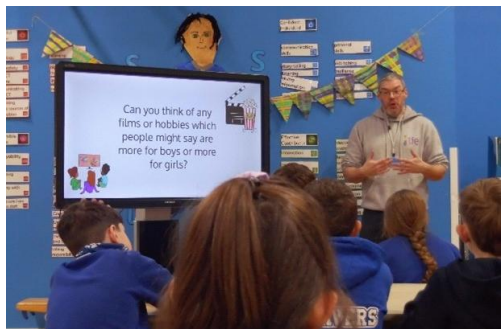
Celebrating Our Pupils

Our P7s represented the school brilliantly at the SLC Netball Festival in Carluke — their determination and sportsmanship made us incredibly proud. Pupils also had the exciting opportunity to present at the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Conference, sharing the story of our Eco Drama residency with real passion and creativity.

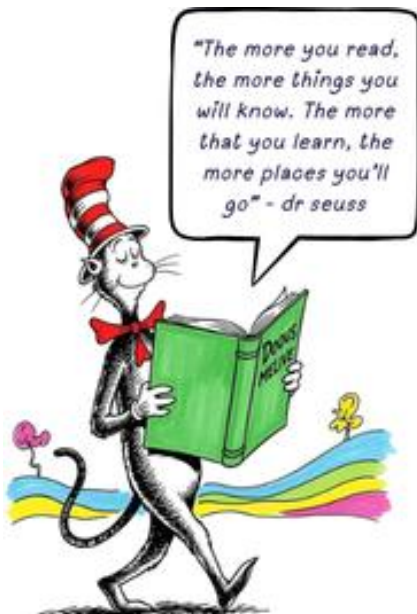


Building an Inclusive Community

Upper-school pupils recently took part in workshops exploring Equality and Difference, Challenging Gender Stereotypes and addressing Homophobic Language — encouraging thoughtful discussion and helping build a respectful school for everyone.



The Sprouts Gardening Club The Sprouts has had a fantastic start, led by dedicated parent volunteers. The children have been busy preparing raised beds, building wildlife habitats, planting crops, crafting bird feeders and brightening the school grounds with colourful planters. Looking ahead, they have big plans: a mini orchard, sensory garden and a contribution to the local Community Fun Day. A huge well done to all involved — and heartfelt thanks to our parent volunteers!



*"The more you read,
the more things you
will know. The more
that you learn, the
more places you'll
go" - dr seuss*

Book Drive Black Mount Parent Council have launched a book drive to buy diverse and inclusive books for school and community use - help us reach our goals. To donate:

pay.sumup.com/b2c/QCLKSAWR

SCAN HERE
TO DONATE





you are invited to join us for our annual

BLACK MOUNT COMMUNITY FUN DAY

→ 25 APRIL 2026

→ 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Activities for adults and families:

- Live music
- Raku firing demonstration
- Yoga by Strength & Soul
- Errington Cheese
- Hot drinks by Bonnie Brews
- Food and baking to buy
- Or bring your own picnic

Activities for children:

- Ice cream
- Fire engine and tractor
- Meet some goats
- ...and lots more!



🔍 <https://sites.google.com/view/black-mountain-development-trust>

Dates for the Diary

March

Thur 19th **Elsrickle Carpet Bowling Steak Pie night**, ECH, 7pm
Sat 21st **Lazy Horse** (Rock Band), DH
Sun 22nd **Spring Wreath Making** (BMCDT), Errington's Barn
Wed 25th **Tea and a Tale with Braw Clan**, ECH, 1.30pm to 2.45pm
Thur 26th **Carpet Bowling Steak Pie night**, DH, 7pm
Sat 28th **Spring Wreath Making** (BMCDT), Errington's Barn
Mon 30th **Community Council Meeting**, DH, 7.30pm

April

Wed 8th **Elsrickle SWI**, ECH, 7pm
Wed 15th **Dolphinton SWI**, DH, 7.30pm
Sat 25th **Stitch and Scone Day (BASTG)**, ECH, 11am to 2pm
Sat 25th **Community Fun Day**, BMCDT, Black Mount School, 1pm
Sat 25th **Curry Night**, DH

May

Mon 11th **Community Council Meeting**, ECH, 7.30pm
Wed 13th **Elsrickle SWI sail on Loch Lomond**
Sat 16th **Karaoke**, DH
Thurs 21st **Blackmount Sports Night**, Newbigging playing field, 6pm

June

Mon 1st **Community Council Meeting**, DH, 7.30pm



Regular groups:

Crafting at the Hub, ECH, every Wednesday 10am-12pm

Dolphinton Arts and Craft Group, DH, Wednesdays 7.30 pm

Coffee Morning, DH, Thursdays, 10.30am

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

Monthly Fun Nights, DH, first Friday of the Month 6.30pm

Coffee and Chats, ECH, last Monday of the Month 10am

Blackmount Church Choir Practice, Thursdays 6.30pm.

Church Services:

Libberton Church first and second Sunday of each month at 11am.

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



**Q. Why shouldn't you tell an
Easter egg a joke?
A. It might crack up!**

