

SUMMER | 2026 | ISSUE 137

BLACKMOUNT BUGLE



Note from our Councillor

With the elections in Holyrood at the beginning of May there are restrictions on what we can do in the council so it has been a rather quiet time. One of the results of the election was that Joe Fagan was elected as an MSP, this has resulted in us having to elect a new council leader. The successful councillor was Cllr Maureen Devlin who represents the Bothwell constituency.

One important area that is still moving is development of the local plan; this is important as it not only highlights where development would be looked at positively but also what kind of development would be wanted. If anyone has any views, they should put them forward now by emailing our planning department.

By the time you read this Biggar gala day would have passed, I hope Black Mount Primary had a successful day and the weather has been kind to them. More locally, the social group have again run a successful sports in Newbigging park, so well done to all of those who competed and a thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen.

Councillor Allison



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

To contribute to the next Bugle please email Tracey Pritchard (the Editor) at bugle@blackmountcc.scot. The Bugle is published by the Blackmount Community Council (BMCC) but the committee or Editor cannot accept responsibility for any errors printed or for any content (past, present, or future) from external weblinks given. Blackmount Area covering Candymill, Dunsyre, Dolphinton, Elsrickle, Greenshields, Libberton, Newbigging, Weston, Walston and surrounding area.



THE EDITOR

Blackmount Church, Dolphinton

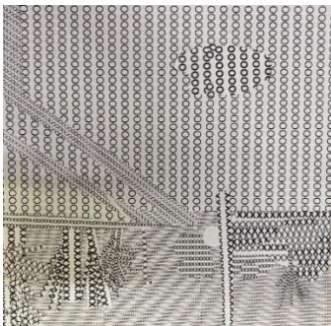
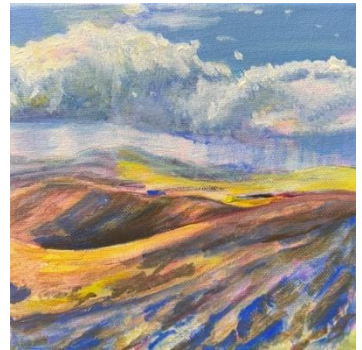
Blackmount Church continues to meet for Sunday worship at 9.45am apart from the last Sunday in each month, when we join in a united service at Biggar Kirk at 11.15am.

Our annual Strawberry Fair will be held on 11 July 2- 4 pm. Due to the popularity of this event we need larger premises! So, this year it will be held in Dolphinton Village Hall and we are grateful to them for accommodating us. Come along and enjoy delicious home baking, stalls and tombola.

Gillian Coulter

Dolphinton Art and Craft Club

The Dolphinton Art and Crafts Group meets weekly, 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 had a busy Spring and Summer programme which has included portraits, collage, flower painting, crochet and the Japanese patchwork art of Boro. A new program of varied activities for the Autumn session (starting in August) is being planned and we are looking forward to exhibiting again as part of the Bigger Little Festival Art trail in October at Dolphinton Hall.

For more information please call:-

Pam - 07966453317 or

Sarah-Jane - 07928529239





Dolphinton Flower Show

2pm Saturday 22nd August 2026

Dolphinton Village Hall

Admission; £4 adults £2 children £10 Family

Afternoon Tea included. All Welcome.

Schedule will be advertised on Blackmount Community Facebook page
or email Libby Bean for a copy (details below)

Entry tickets (20p) to be purchased at the hall 7-8pm Thurs 20th August

Entries to the hall 8.30-9.30am Saturday 22nd August

Organised by Dolphinton SWI

Contacts:

Libby Bean 07762 091624 libbybean99@gmail.com,

Anne Hutchison 01968 682256,

Pam Taylor 07966 453317



Dolphinton Hall

We have had another busy couple of months at Dolphinton Hall.

Very excitingly we are now hosting **PICKLEBALL** each Tuesday evening. Six people are now playing regularly with a number of bookings for taster sessions. If you're interested in this exhilarating new sport give JOHN a call on 07981 731786.

In addition to our popular First Friday Fun Nights and weekly Coffee Mornings we have also hosted a Curry Night, catered by Kiran's Kitchen, West Linton and a hugely enjoyable Karaoke Night which proved that "Dolphinton's Got Talent".

We were also delighted to host, for the second time, the Biggar Repair Café. Many broken and otherwise defunct items were fixed and saved from landfill by the Team's experts.

Our June Special Event was held on the night Scotland played Morocco in the World Cup. Keen fans enjoyed a superb TexMex meal to set them up for the match which had an 11pm kick off and was followed live on our brand-new Giant TV. We are looking forward to our busiest month yet in JULY.

In addition to the Fun Night, we look forward to hosting several new attractions. We are hosting the **Peebles and District Riding Club on JULY 6th** attending a talk on "How Horses View the World".

July 11th sees a Fund Raiser Coffee Morning on behalf of the Trussell Trust. Come along and support Ann in her efforts (and on her very long Cambodian walk) on behalf of this worthy cause.

JULY 18th we welcome the Scottish writer and comedian Richard Cobb for an evening of Stand Up fun as he previews his new show as life changes for him with a return to the Borders and becoming a father.

We are hosting an ABBA night (**July 25th**) with Dolphinton's "Super Troupers" and "Dancing Queens" enjoying a smorgasbord of Swedish delicacies to an ABBA sound track.

On **AUGUST 22nd** the SWI will host the Annual Flower Show, followed by a Village Barbecue organised by some of the younger residents to which all are welcome as ever.

SEPTEMBER 19th will see a Village Quiz with wide ranging topics to test our knowledge.

OCTOBER 24th & 25th brings an exciting collaboration. The Arts and Craft Group together with the SWI are holding an exhibition as part of the Biggar Little Arts Festival Trail. The SWI received a grant from The Knot, West Linton to demonstrate photographic skills. Also, on 24th October local band Lazy Horse will play a gig.

If there are any events you would like to see held in the Hall then come and discuss your ideas with us. We look forward to welcoming you in the coming months. **CONTACT** Pam on 07966 4533317 Susie on 07801 339392 Ann on 07946 628835.

Gold Award for Robert's Marvellous Marmalade

In April marmalade makers from around the globe descend on the historic Dalemain Mansion near Penrith, home of the renowned Dalemain World Marmalade Awards. As well as being an enjoyable day for marmalade enthusiasts the event raises money for local hospices. Robert Howieson of The Croft, Elsrickle has entered the famous Marmalade Festival and gained bronze many times before. This year, however, he gained the prestigious Gold Award for his marmalade entered in the Octogenarian class, with a perfect score of 20 out of 20. The judge's comment for Robert's perfect marmalade was 'Can't fault this delicious harmonious marmalade, Congratulations!' It is such a great accolade to gain an award amongst over 3,400 jars from 33 countries, entered across the various classes, with there being around 100 entries in the Octogenarian class.

Robert was born at The Croft in 1935. He made marmalade along with his wife Bett for many years and has continued since her passing, sharing countless jars of marmalade over the years. Robert also has a connection with Dalemain as he worked with the McCosh family at Baitlaw, part of Huntfield estate, and Dalemain is also part of the McCosh family estates.

Now that word has got out about Robert's winning marmalade, I am sure his advice will be in great demand (How much peel? How chunky?) and so will his award-winning recipe with the local Rurals. Many thanks to Liz and Anne Howieson for bringing us this story and starting it by secretly entering the first jar of their dad's marmalade at Dalemain.



THE DALEMAIN WORLD MARMALADE AWARDS www.dalemainawards.com		
Gold 20, Silver 18 - 19, Bronze 16 - 17, Merit 12 - 15		
1. Presentation, appearance and colour	3	3
2. Texture, peel size and set	7	7
3. Flavour, aroma and harmony	10	10
MAXIMUM TOTAL	20	20
JUDGES' COMMENTS <i>Can't fault this delicious harmonious marmalade Congratulations!</i>		
Jar No. <u>1187</u>	Year <u>2026</u>	Category <u>10</u>



Elsrickle SWI Open Flower and Vegetable Show

At Elsrickle Community Hub 2pm Saturday 29th August

Show rules 1) Entries open to all; 2) deliver all entries to Elsrickle Hub between 9am-10am on show day; 3) Entry Fees Adults 25p and children's classes 10p per entry; 4) Exhibits MUST NOT have been shown at a previous Elsrickle WI Flower Show (excluding plants); 5) The Judges' decision is final. Official opening by Mrs Ellen McCann.

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) Flowering Pot Plant
- 7) Foliage Pot Plant

SECTION 2 – VEGETABLES

- 8) 3 White Potatoes
- 9) 3 Coloured Potatoes
- 10) 3 Tomatoes
- 11) 3 Beetroots
- 12) 3 Onions
- 13) 1 Courgette
- 14) 1 Leek
- 15) Any other vegetable

SECTION 3 - INDUSTRIAL

- 16) Jar of Raspberry Jam
- 17) Jar of Strawberry Jam
- 18) Any Other Conserve
- 19) Jar of Lemon Curd
- 20) Jar of Chutney
- 21) Mocktail in a Glass
- 22) 3 Squares of Tablet

SECTION 4 - BAKING

- 23) 3 Plain Oven Scones
- 24) 3 Pancakes
- 25) Fruit Loaf
- 26) Bread Loaf (Yeast)
- 27) 2 Strawberry Tarts

SECTION 4 – CONTINUED

- 28) Egg Sponge (single layer, undecorated)
- 29) 3 Empire Biscuits
- 30) 3 Pieces of Traybake
- 31) A Filled Meringue Nest (individual)

SECTION 5 – HANDCRAFTS

- 32) An Article in Embroidery
- 33) A Knitted Article
- 34) A Sewn Article
- 35) Article in any other Craft
- 36) A 'Floral' Photo

SECTION 6 – FLORAL ART

- 37) A Bowl of Floating Flowers
- 38) An Arrangement incorporating a Kitchen Utensil
- 39) 5 Blooms and Foliage

SECTION 7 – CHILDREN'S

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 40) Pre-School | } Drawing of a character from a favourite book |
| 41) P1-3 | |
| 42) P4-5 | |
| 43) P6-7 & Secondary | – Drawing of a book cover |
| 44) Pre-School & P1-5 | } Handcraft article (state age) |
| 45) P6/7 & Secondary | |
| 46) Pre-School & P1-5 | } Decorated digestive biscuit (state age) |
| 47) P6/7 & Secondary | |



Great local dog walks around Libberton/Newbigging and one in Coulter by *Pauline Irwin*

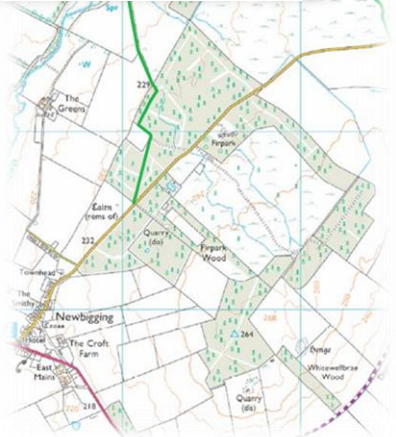
For anyone who has recently welcomed a new dog or puppy into the family, or has just moved to the area, here are a few local walks that both you and your four-legged friend might enjoy.

One of my favourite dog walks is just outside Libberton on the Biggar Road. On either side of the road, between the trees, you'll find pleasant gravel paths that are ideal for dog walking. There are also several smaller routes branching off into the woodland. These are mainly well-worn paths, so sturdy walking shoes or wellies are recommended, particularly after wet weather. There are three different places where you can park and access the woods. As always, please remember that much of the surrounding land is privately owned, so be respectful and leave no trace behind.



Looking towards Newbigging from Woodland walk by Pauline Irwin

Another favourite are the woods located on Dunsyre road just out of Newbigging. Well-established paths can be found on both sides of the road, with a variety of routes winding through the woodland. It's an excellent place to explore, whether you're looking for a short stroll or a longer adventure. Be mindful if any forestry works are ongoing and also watch out for Deer.



The wider surrounding area offers many wonderful walks. One route I particularly like is the "Chinese Walk" in Coulter, which follows the river through beautiful countryside. I've never discovered why it's called the Chinese Walk — perhaps one of our readers can enlighten us! To find it, continue from Biggar on the A702 to Coulter, at the bridge, take the road on the left-hand side and head out past the school. Before you cross the next bridge, you'll see a metal gate on the right-hand side in between the wall, you can park on the right- or left-hand side. This gate marks the main entrance to the walk, which eventually brings you out on the opposite side of the bridge from where you parked. It's a peaceful and scenic route that is popular with walkers and dogs alike. Some bits are tricky especially if wet and be careful going over the old wooden bridge on the way round. At the end of the walk, you do go through a field and sometimes the farmer has sheep in it so dogs must be kept on a lead.

If you have a favourite local dog walk that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear about it for a future edition.

Here is my 4-legged friend enjoying one of the above walks...



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 orders for fuel are expected to be Mid-September.

Marmalade Fact. When Captain Scott set off for the Antarctic in 1910, he stocked up on marmalade. Many years later, a solitary jar of it was found buried in the ice.

Blackmount Social Group 2026 Events

Blackmount Sports Night



The first event hosted by the Social Group this year was the Annual Sports night held at Newbigging on Thursday 21st May. It was a perfect night for sports, and there was a great turnout of families there to take part and enjoy the fun. After the points were tallied up from all the races, sprints, egg and spoon, bean bag, sack and obstacle, the winners were as follows: -

Preschool Boys Winner: Reuben Gilchrist

Preschool Girls Winner: Maude Mackenzie

Primary School Agnes Allison Shield Winners (3-way tie, all on maximum points): Duncan Ward, Eve Lawson, Libby Boyd.

High School Agnes Allison Shield Winner: Lexie Boyd

The adults also enjoyed a competitive evening of races.

Ladies Winner: Melanie Gilchrist **Mens Winner:** Iain Livesey



The Welly Boot Throw was a popular event as ever and after three throws each, the winners were: -

Primary Girl: Abi Jenkins

Secondary Girl: Lexie Boyd

Ladies Winner: Lynsey Robison

Primary Boy: Stuart Ward

Secondary Boy: Cameron Barclay

Men's Winner: Philip McDowell



An extra event this year was a Charity Fun Run, where all the participants paid £1 to run round the field. The Social Group donated £120 to the Clydesdale Food Bank from proceeds of the Tuck shop and fun run. Well done, Blackmount Community. Finally, many thanks to all the volunteers on the evening, Brian, Alistair, Kirsty and Steve for running the event, Alison, Kathryn and Emma for scoring, and Anne for manning the tuck shop, and also special guest Cameron Barclay from This Farming Life who presented the prizes.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED WALK on SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, 1PM.

The walk this year is leaving from Ferniehaugh Farm, which is just past Garvald EH46 7HJ. It takes the route north of Mendick Hill to North Slipperfield where there will be a stop for refreshments. The return route is to the south of Mendick Hill and will continue to Ingraston Farm. The walk is 5.25 miles. Dogs on leads welcome and route is also suitable for cycling.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER – FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER at Elsrickle Community Hub

Rural Communities Nursery at Black Mount

Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about people who can help us and can help to keep our bodies safe i.e. doctor and nurse give jags and medicine if you're sick, a dentist looks at our teeth and an optician looks at our eyes 🧐. We we're lucky enough to get a visit from a real doctor who showed us all the equipment she uses to listen to your heart and look at your ears and a machine that takes your blood pressure and another one that tells you how much oxygen is in your body. We have been learning about substances and medicines that we should and should not eat or touch.



We have also been learning about electricity, how it's made and how it is used.

Last week we had our graduation for the 8 children who are going to school and performed 2 dances - reach for the stars and dynamite and we also sang 2 nursery rhymes - twinkle twinkle little star and incy wincy spider. We have our sports day on Friday 19th June and can't wait to show everyone how fast we can run.

On another note, we have been very successful growing strawberries and lettuces in the poly tunnel and have been eating them for snack. We will wait another few weeks before digging up our carrots and potatoes



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Biggar and District Men's Shed

From Seedlings to Software: Inside the Bustling World of Our Men's Shed

There's never a quiet moment down at the Shed, and this month has been no exception. From leadership shake ups and digital upgrades to green thumbs and gears, our members have been working hard to keep our community hub thriving. Here is a look at what's been happening—and what's coming up next.

Black Mount School Fun Day

We had the pleasure of heading over to Black Mount Fun Day, which was a glorious hot Saturday afternoon. The atmosphere was just as bright as the weather; we were thrilled to see so many people stop by to say hello.

Fresh Faces and Digital Spaces

Following our recent AGM, we are officially ushering in a new chapter with some changes to our Board of Trustees. A massive thank you to everyone who stepped up; your leadership is what drives our upcoming projects forward. Speaking of moving forward, our premises are getting both a physical and a digital facelift. Step inside, and you'll smell fresh paint—we are continuing to redecorate our internal rooms, with the Headmaster's Office / Board Room getting its star turn this month.

Meanwhile, our upgraded computer system is officially transitioning to Google Workspace. This will serve as our new, streamlined central hub for all Shed business, making collaboration easier than ever. We are also working on a brand-new face for the public, so keep your eyes peeled for a fully revised Facebook page launching soon!

On the Road: The Shed is packing up and heading to Biggar Show on Saturday, 18th July. We would love for you to drop by our tent to say hello, see what we've been up to, or just have a chat.

What's on Sale? We are thrilled with our continued partnership with The Knot, West Linton's fantastic charity shop, where our custom, shed-made items are regularly on sale. For the Biggar Show, we will be bringing special items straight from our garden....

Greens in the Garden, Grease in the Workshop

Our garden crew has been remarkably busy. Inside the polytunnel, tomatoes are planted, whilst broad beans are settled in outdoor beds. The star of the garden this season has been our stunning crop of Himalayan poppies. We are leaving these to propagate and generate more tubers for next year's bounty.

In the new bike workshop, the grease is flying as another donated motorcycle has rolled through our doors. Our mechanics are already stripping it down and getting ready to bring it back to life.

Of course, there is plenty of woodwork, willow weaving, gardening, and tech-tinkering to keep everyone's hands full. Want to get involved? Whether you want to volunteer, donate an old bike, or just see the new boardroom, the door is always open.

Elsrickle Carpet Bowling Club

It was fantastic to see so many new folks trying out the game this year and to welcome new members. The season ended in March with our Steak Pie Night. Many thanks to Andy Ironside for sponsoring the event, and to all those coming along and supporting us from surrounding groups. The winners were I Minto, A Brown, L Hogge and A Jenkins and the runners up were D Wallace, C Shand and A Muirhead.

The 2025-2026 club trophy winners were: Championship, I Minto (runner up M Kinloch); Sanderson Trophy, I Minto (runner up B McFarlane); R. Howieson Handicap Cup, I Minto (runner up J Kinloch); Pairs Trophy, Tuesday night M Kinloch, Thursday night H Muirhead; Junior Cup Winner, A Jenkins (runner up C Gardiner). Come and join us for the new season. Our Tuesday and Thursday (Junior) sessions will start 27th and 29th October, respectively.

Elsrickle Community Hub News

For enquiries, please email Jim Kinloch
echbookings24@gmail.com and check
our website
<https://www.elsricklecommunityhub.co.uk>
Bookings from £16/hr

The Hub will soon be moving to its third operating year after closure by SLC in their 2023 cost reduction measures. Many key works were identified for improvements and step by step, when we can, we have been taking measures to future proof the Hub. Initially inefficient tube lights were changed to LED lighting that gave better brighter lighting whilst reducing operating costs. Alongside we introduced thermostatic controls to operate the heating in conjunction with the online calendar booking system. In 2025 we upgraded to a more efficient twin oven and grill range cooker, which was essential for our Burns Afternoon three course meal.

Now in 2026 we have taken a massive leap forward for future sustainability by upgrading the electrical connection to a 3-phase electrical operating supply and installing a commercial solar array with AI enabled battery and gateway. Thus, in the event of a power cut the Hub has the ability to operate on a stand-alone basis with "Energy Independence" and concurrently protecting the hub from fluctuating energy prices.

This is a fantastic milestone for reaching energy independence; reducing the carbon footprint by using a clean green renewable energy source. We are also taking part in the Lanarkshire Climate Action (LCA) Festival this September with a coffee morning along with other activities where anyone can come along and find out about our journey to sustainability so far and our future plans.



Coffee and Chat takes place **last Monday of the Month at 10am**. Children are very welcome to come and have a play too.

Also, if you are interested in a new activity starting at the hall (e.g. table tennis, film showings) then please get in touch.

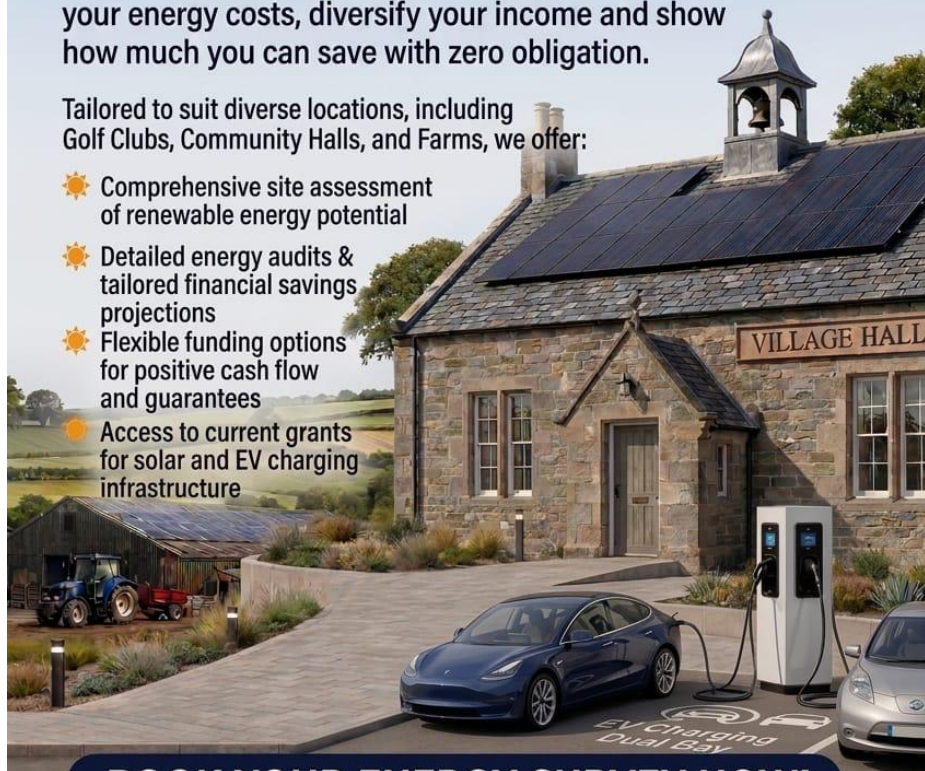


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Crafting at the Hub on Wednesdays at 10am.

Come and have a cuppa, chat, craft and eat cake. In recent weeks we had fun wet felting and needle felting with guidance from Fiona Dunkley. Also, one Saturday, a willow obelisk workshop, helpfully subsidised with a BMCC microgrant, was taught by Eve Jardine. During the LCA Festival we will focus on upcycling and recycling materials into new spectacular articles or making things from natural products. Further craft workshops will also be planned for the Autumn. Email Tracey pritchard.tc@gmail for more details.



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

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quercusgardenplants@gmail.com**



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Libberton Primary School News

Biggar Little Festival

We were delighted to learn that Lena (P7) received a Special Illustration prize for her creative, mixed media artwork and that Mayze (P4), Sofia (P5) and Quinn (P2) won Special Merit Awards for the **Biggar Little Festival** poster competition this year! Thank you to the committee for their considerations and the wonderful afternoon tea.



World of Work Day

A massive thank you to all our fantastic visitors who came into school recently to share their career journeys for our **World of Work** workshop afternoon! The children had a wonderful time learning about a huge variety of jobs and asked some brilliant questions to deepen their knowledge. From dairy farm workers to restaurant owners, we are certainly motivated for the future!



Bikeability - Lena P7 & Rowan P7

The P7s brought their bikes into school for **Bikeability** training in May. It was good fun when we learned about roundabouts and we got to do free cycles. Overall, the skills we learned were really useful for our daily bike rides.



Broomlee Residential

- Kenny P7 & Pyper P7

We went to **Broomlee** for our P7 residential in May. Pyper really enjoyed the Blindfolded trail – we had to be blindfolded and wear a safety helmet. We held onto a piece of rope, and we had to walk through and over obstacles with the person at the front of you telling you what to do. Kenny loved being in the dorms! There were lots of sweets and juice but not much sleeping! It was great to see everyone from other schools, and we made some great friends.



Sports Day

We had an amazing day with Wiston Primary for our **Sports Day**! The morning was spent working in our clans to earn



points for teamwork and enthusiasm. We participated in netball, dance, and team-building sessions, culminating in a tug-of-war tournament. All children demonstrated our values of respect and ambition, but in the end, Clyde were crowned the winner! After a fabulous lunch, we competed in our traditional sport day races and a few more rounds of tug of war.



Black Mount Community Development Trust

More than 220 people turned out for the Black Mount Community Fun Day in April - stalls, activities, food and fun for all ages, with funds raised for future Trust projects. Thank you to everyone who came along, volunteered or ran a stall.

We've also just launched the Black Mount Observer, a new Substack gathering stories from our community - past, present and future. First up: one of our trustees writes in The Scotsman about their work with the British Hen Welfare Trust; learn more about the Black Mount Trig Point; celebrating a year of Dolphinton Hall and Black Mount's very own Marathon Man. Read them here: <https://substack.com/@blackmountdevtrust>

Black Mount Development Trust has now been a charity for a full year, and our AGM is 4-5pm on Sunday 26th July. Become a Friend of the Trust to stay in the loop on what's ahead this autumn, including the Black Mount Tool Library, our annual community cycle, Make & Mend workshops and more:

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

Get in touch: bmdevtrust@gmail.com



Trustees at our Spring Wreathmaking at Errington's Barn

Biggar Area Stitch and Textile Group

The new programme starts in September and we meet monthly until April at The Municipal Hall in Biggar. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Annual Membership is £30 and visitors are also welcome (£6). We have a couple of workshops during the year and these are generally highly subsidised for members. Our first few sessions are: -

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 21 Sept | Fiona Dunkley, Weaving (Practical) |
| 19 Oct | Katharine Huggett, Practical with tomato paste tubes |
| 16 Nov | Duncan Tattersall, talk |

For more details email: secbiggarstitchtextiles@gmail.com

Black Mount Primary School

From Rockstars to Rainforests

It has been a vibrant and exciting term at Black Mount Primary School, filled with memorable experiences, achievements, and opportunities for pupils to shine. Throughout the term, our children have approached every activity with enthusiasm, determination, and a strong sense of community.

A major highlight has been our involvement with Rookie Rockstars. Pupils across the school have been busy rehearsing for their upcoming performance, and excitement is building as they prepare to take to the stage. This experience has helped build confidence, teamwork, and a love of performance, and we are incredibly proud of their commitment.

Our Primary 1–3 pupils had a fantastic day at the Biggar Learning Community Multi-sports Festival. This event allowed them to try a wide range of activities, work with others, and enjoy friendly competition. Their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour were a real credit to the school.

School trips added to an already memorable term. Primary 1–3 pupils enjoyed a visit to Amazonia, exploring the rainforest and learning about animals, while Primary 4–7 pupils had great fun tackling an inflatable course at Lanark swimming pool, building teamwork and resilience.



We also celebrated an important milestone with our Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils. Our youngest learners have made outstanding progress in their first year, growing in confidence and independence. Meanwhile, we said farewell to our Primary 7 pupils as they prepare to move on to Biggar High School. They

have been excellent role models, and we wish them every success.

Overall, it has been a highly successful term, with a wide range of enriching activities supporting learning and strengthening friendships. We are very proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to our families and wider community for their ongoing support, which plays a vital role in making these experiences possible.

Parent Council Activities

In April the pupils did an excellent job working with The Blackmount Development Trust to organise the Community Fun Day. With ice-cream, pizza, tractors, fire-engines, stalls, yoga, art and even flamenco dancing, there really was something for everyone. We're all looking forward to next year already!



In May we held our annual duck race fundraiser – the kids love this event and especially getting into the water themselves, even though it wasn't particularly warm this year. The hot chocolates, hot-dogs and lots of home baking warmed them all up though.

In June we took part in the Gala Day, a small team of parents put in a great effort to decorate the float for the theme of Scotland at the World Cup, chosen by the pupils. The kids put lots of effort into their art-work for the float and thoroughly enjoyed the Gala Day atmosphere and getting towed around the Gala Day parade – it was great to see lots more float entries this year too.



A major date in the children's calendar is Biggar Gala Day. A Massive THANK YOU to Carrie and Duncan Allison and family, Anston Farm, who for years kept going the tradition of the Walston / Black Mount Primary Gala Day Float. We have been blessed with Carrie's ingenious creativity and Duncan's excellent engineering and tractor driving skills; not an easy job manoeuvring through Biggar with a trailer full of excited children and parents. Now that all three Allison children have gone through primary school we really wish it won't be the end to their involvement. However, this year Katie Hobbs took over the reins and did a fantastic job with her team. Many thanks also to the Barrie Family, of Howburn Farm, for housing the trailer for the float team to work upon, making it possible for the float to have another day out in Biggar. As always, some great photos captured by Helen Ward to help keep those great memories.



Dates for the Diary

DH = Dolphinton hall; ECH = Elsrickle Community Hub

July

- Mon 6th BMCC Meeting, ECH, 7.30pm
 Sat 11th Blackmount Church Strawberry Fair, DH, 2pm

Aug

- Sat 22nd Dolphinton Flower Show, DH, 2pm
 Sat 29th Elsrickle Flower Show, ECH, 2pm

Sept

- Sun 6th Community sponsored Walk, Ferniehaugh Farm, 1pm
 Mon 7th BMCC Meeting, DH, 7.30pm
 Sat 19th Coffee morning plus other activities (part of Lanarkshire Climate Action Festival), ECH, 10am

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, Mon, Weds and Thurs 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.

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.

