

# MUIRKIRK NEWS

ISSUE 5 - MAY 2017

PRINTED ON BEHALF OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## John Lapraik Quiz

- 1 Why is John Lapraik famous?
- 2 There is a cairn built in his memory where is it?
- 3 Why did Lapraik spend time in Ayr jail?
- 4 Where did he go when he came out of jail?
- 5 What was his occupation?
- 6 There is another local who lived about the same time, who wrote poetry and songs and was alleged to have penned one of Scotland's best loved songs, who was it?
- 7 Where did that person live?
- 8 He died in 1807 in his 80th year. Where is he buried?
- 9 Who was his first wife?
- 10 Who was his second wife?

To find out more and how you can get involved in celebrating the life of John Lapraik turn to page 22

Answers on page 15

Now available online at <http://muirkirk.org.uk/newsletter>

# hhp

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*RW, Muirkirk*

**What are you waiting for? Don't get caught out in the cold!**

## **Chairman's Update**

The recent spell of good weather has seen many of the residents out and about enjoying the sunshine, working in their gardens, walking etc, hopefully this is a forerunner of the summer to come.

Following the recent local Council Election we congratulate our newly elected Councillors namely: Claire Leitch - SNP, Jim Roberts - SNP, Neil McGhee - Labour, Alyson Simmons - Conservative

We give our commiserations to David Shaw who was standing as an Independent having been deselected by Labour who, since we were reconstituted as a Community Council was very helpful with local issues that were raised.

The recent litter pick was well attended however there was a bit of an issue with the delivery of the equipment to enable us to carry out the works effectively. This did not hinder the volunteers who used their own equipment to clean up a number of the worst affected areas. Many thanks to all attendees for giving up their valuable time for this worthwhile cause.

Dumping of litter is becoming a major issue in and around the village and surrounding areas and we would ask whether the Council's policy of charging £15 for a three item uplift is not counterproductive. On a similar vein the booking & charging system for van's and trailers taking material to the local coup for disposal seems to be another area that is liable to encourage dumping due to the constraints and cost's that are applied.

We would stress that we are not the only Community with this problem however we would appeal to all residents young & old to properly dispose of their rubbish and to take pride in the appearance of their village.

The New School Complex works look to be progressing well no doubt helped by the recent good spell of weather.

We had a slight hiccup with the printing the April edition of the News whereby some of the adverts were upside down and the photographs were in black & white whereas we had prepared the proofs for them to be done in colour so apologies if you were disappointed with the quality.

We also owe Sally Whittet the Headmistress an apology as we did not print the article submitted by the school in last months publication. This was due an oversight on our part.

We are pleased to report we have had a good response to our advert for Library Volunteers and we con-firm we will be in touch soon with regards to the training arrangements.

Finally we are very happy with your continuing support both with the News and the Community Council and would welcome your feedback.

Written on behalf of Muirkirk community Council by David McLatchie

## Eden Park Academy

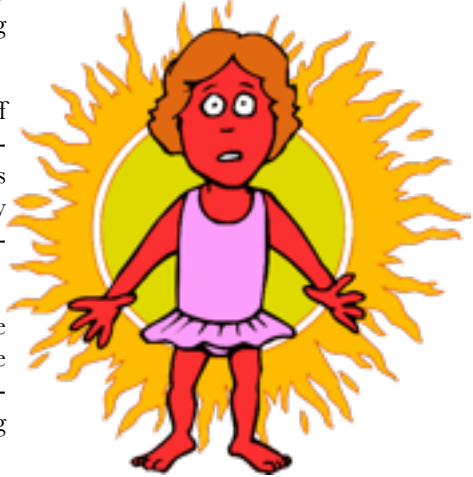
### Schoolchildren coming home sunburnt as teachers banned from applying suncream



Yes, this was the headline in one of our national newspapers a few days ago. According to a new survey, 20 per cent of young people are said to be returning home with scorched skin.

As the Mirror reports, this is due to concerns staff members may be accused of child abuse if they directly apply sun lotion to children. Several schools have introduced a blanket ban on touching as they are wary of facing potential allegations of misconduct.

We are all aware of the serious long term damage sunburn can cause, but surely there has got to be some solution to this societal issue surrounding doing something positive for the health and wellbeing of children in our care.



We cannot allow ourselves to become de-humanised and fearful when our actions are proper and necessary.

Clear communication with parents/ carers and clear protocols specific to the best interest of the child/young person should be embedded within school policies.

Skin cancer is one of the most common types and kills 2,500 people each year.

Parents/carers, teachers and suncare brands all play a key role in making this process as easy as possible.

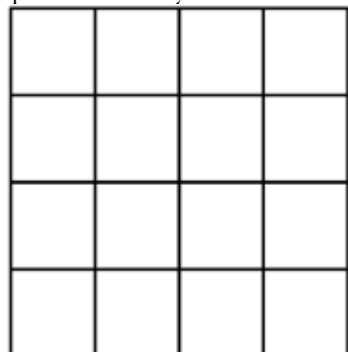
Winner of last month's Eden Park Academy Competition was: Lynda Donaldson who received her £20.00 voucher for T Johnstone & Son (Muirkirk).

The answer was 30 squares. (can you see them now)!

Well done Lynda.

Look out for next month's competition.

Alan Gray  
Head Teacher



## Creamy Cheese and Onion Soup

### Ingredients

2 large onions  
1 carrot chopped  
900ml (1 ½ pt) Vegetable stock (use stock cube)  
100g (3 ½ oz) low fat soft cheese  
2 tbs chopped fresh chives or parsley  
75 g (2 ¾ oz) Double Gloucester, Red Leicester or Cheddar Cheese, grated finely  
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
50 g (1 ¾ oz) croutons

*Serves 4*

Put onions, carrot and stock into a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to simmer, partially covered, for 20 to 25 minutes, until the vegetables are tender.

Blend the soup in a liquidiser or food processor, or use a hand held stick blender. Add the soft cheese and half the chives or parsley and blend until smooth. Gradually add most of the grated cheese stirring until melted. Reheat gently and season to taste. Ladle the soup into 4 bowls and garnish with the croutons, chives or parsley and remaining grated cheese.

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## **Boys Brigade**

The boys and girls of the BBs would like to thank everyone in the village who opted to support them through the charity donation process at the Muirkirk Co-Op. We have just received a cheque for over £1000. This fantastic donation from the people of Muirkirk will help the company achieve many of its targets for this year and sets up the Company for its 70th anniversary next year. Thanks again to everyone who shopped at the old Co-Op.

We would also like to thank the old members of the Muirkirk Pipe band who also provided a donation which we appreciate very much.

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## **MEG**

Thanks again to everyone who supports MEG through their purchases at the Nearly New Shop. We also wish to thank the tireless work of our volunteers who man the shop. MEG also thank everyone who voted in the Participatory Budget process to allow MEG to receive funds to renovate the shop. The initial sums revived have been spent and I think everyone can agree how much the look and the feel of the shop has improved. It is certainly the case that many customers have commented favourably on the work done so far. We will be doing more work shortly to improve the overall appearance of Garan House as a whole and other parts of the shop.

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## **Asset Transfer**

MEG continues to work with the Muirkirk Community Council and East Ayrshire Council to secure an effective transfer of the old Nursery in order to preserve existing community facilities and to complement other East Ayrshire Council services. In doing so MEG and The Community Council are working to enhance our environment and ensure that Muirkirk remains a great place to live.

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## **Available for Work**

I am putting advertisement in Muirkirk News as I am seeking employment within the village. I am able to carry out odd jobs (within the house, garden, pets etc) even moving items, clearing out of cupboards sheds etc. Good rate, honest, hardworking and able. Text me on 07511 963455 and I will phone you back. Maureen Drennan at 6a Hawkshaw Terrace, Muirkirk.

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## Muirkirk Co-Op



There is a rich history to our village we are all proud of. We have been referring to the Cairn Table Echoes by Jimmy Taylor for our research of Muirkirk Co-op. Muirkirk was a highly industrialised village built up from the early 1800's. By 1901, the population was 5,670, there was a need to supply provisions. The Co-op opened a grocery and butcher in 1892 and later a Drapery and Bakery. The SCWS which the co-op was part of was a U.K. organisation, the idea being, you bought a Share Book. Your purchases would be counted up and you would receive 3 shillings, 3 pence, in the pound in dividend in 1913.

The Co-op had strong links with the people. In 1912 there was a miners strike for better conditions. They were out for a month and Muirkirk Co-op played their part by feeding 960 children in the Temperance Hall by providing a good meal for them. In 1927 the Co-op expanded with offices and new shops across from the grocery. To the back of the shops were garages for the new vans which had taken over from the horse and carts, their drivers were great characters.

We have a lot to thank the men who started it all. The Co-op members board were - Hugh Bell; Tom Hazle; James McCartney; Tom Morrison; R.K. Wilson; William Hogg; Andrew Welsh; Thomas Weir; Peter Brown; William McCall.

Whether it be creating jobs, providing us with much needed services or supporting local events and charities, there is no doubt the Co-op has been at the heart of this community, creating memories along the way. You only have to look on social media like Facebook and you quickly delve into tales from employees and customers reminiscing about good times:





#### MUIRKIRK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY STAFF TRIP

TOP—Rae McColl, Sis Rae, Andrew Logie, Murn Caldwell, Jock Wilson, Mrs Fulton, Tom Fulton, Mrs McKie, Bus Driver.  
 2nd ROW—Bob Symington, Alex. Hazel, Jean Gordon, John Gray, Alex. Dempster, Willie McColl, Tib Robertson, Mrs Fred Wilson, Mrs McColl.  
 3rd ROW—Jenny Sarnson, Tom Murray, Mrs Gray, Mrs Davidson, Alec Anderson, Mrs Dempster, Mrs Shaw, Mrs Murphy, Netty Adamson, Mrs Kirkwood.  
 BOTTOM—Jock Thomson, Tom Murphy, Tam McCartney, David Shaw, Bob Kirkwood, Willie Tanner.

*James Park (former employee) – Going to work in the Grocery Department was my first job as a 15 year old when leaving school in 1955 . . . George Ballantyne took me under his wing and learned me the ropes . . . Enjoyed working there.*

*Shona Campbell (former Manager of the Co-op and new Manager of McColl's) – It was such an emotional night from chatting with you (our superb customers), to seeing our shelves empty, our very last customer and then that final turn of the key. We as a team want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support, without you we just would not be able to survive as a store and we hope that you will continue to support us as McColl's! I'm sure you will all have a story to tell about the 'Store' as do we and I am honoured to be the last Manager of the 'Store' and I can hand on heart say I am proud as punch to be just that! We really do value each and every one of you and if there is anything we can do for you in our future with McColl's please do not hesitate to ask.*

The Co-op closed its doors for the last time on Monday 10th April and opened as McColl's on Thursday 13th April with the same well known staff team. Pictured is Sharon Beck, the Co-op's longest serving member turning the key for the last time as Co-op.

Here at Muirkirk news we would encourage you to share your experiences of the life and times of the Co-op in this village and as a wave to the past welcome McColl's and support their new adventure here in the hills.



## **Muirkirk Primary School and Early Childhood Centre**

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Muirkirk Primary School and Early Childhood Centre children and staff are really looking forward to the completion of our new facilities and returning home in August 2017. Claire, David and Derek from Ashleigh are keeping us up to date on the progress of the building as is our architect Alex. Our Project team, Aileen, Anne and Helen are at present busy ordering our new furniture.

On Thursday 2nd March 2017 six children, representing each class in school and the ECC, visited our new school and Early Childhood Centre. Excitement was high as they got their hard hats and high vis waistcoats on. After the photographs with invited guests were taken, the children were escorted into the building. They were eager to see which classroom would be theirs in August.

As they entered the building the first thing they saw was the huge, bright and airy break out space, with the high ceilings and windows. The classrooms are at the side of the building facing Cairntable and one room had been cleared of all tools, materials and equipment so it was safe for the children to enter. The view from the classrooms is spectacular. When asked later what their favourite part of the visit was, most answered 'writing on the wall!' A small section of wall, still to be sheeted, had been left for us to write our names on.

It has been an adventure for the children, travelling by bus and being in a different environment. They have all coped remarkably well. Our children are a credit to their families and the village of Muirkirk. Their behaviour, smart appearance, manners and smiling faces are often commented on as we move around. Staff are working hard to ensure all learning opportunities continue and all our children are progressing in their learning.

A big thank you to the Community of Muirkirk for allowing the School and Early Childhood Centre the use of their facilities to hold our events (Parents' Evenings, Prize giving, Sports Day, Graduation, Lapraik, Bookbug etc) thus ensure as many of our Parents and families as possible have the opportunity to attend.

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### **Afternoon Tea**

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St Thomas's Hall, Kirk Green  
Sunday 11th June from 1.30pm till 4pm  
£5.00

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Kerr & Smith would like to support community projects within Muirkirk, for further information contact [news@muirkirk.org.uk](mailto:news@muirkirk.org.uk).

## East Ayrshire Car Club



*Marc McCubbin, Joan Blackwood, Amy McCubbin and Brian McClelland*

### 7th May

Ross Auld from Whiting Bay on the Isle of Arran won the 5Star Vehicle Deliveries Rally at Kames Motorsport Complex on Sunday 7th May, with co-driver Richard Stewart he drove his powerful two litre Ford Escort to a convincing victory over two experienced Ayrshire crews.

Runners-up were Derek Connell from Tarbolton in his Subaru Impreza with Laura Marshall at his side. Willie Pollock from Cumnock made his comeback after a break from the sport by coming third in a Ford Escort he shared with Helen Brown. Of the other Ayrshire entrants, Donald Cameron from Ardrossan (with Alasdair Graham) was seventh in a 1.6 Honda Civic, Sundrum's Graham Bruce / Keith Fair tenth in an Escort and Muirkirk's Marc McCubbin, partnered by Joan Blackwood were 11th in a one litre Nissan Micro.

Best of the Lanarkshire drivers were Gary McDermid from Carluke in a Peugeot 106 co-driven by Emma Picken. Motherwell's Cameron Craig retired his Peugeot 205 with a fuel problem and Martyn Douglas from Carluke withdrew his Subaru Impreza with Turbo failure on special Stage 5.

Ewan Tindall and navigator Paul Hudson were rewarded for their long trip up from the Newcastle area with a fine win in the 5Star Junior Rally with their Citroen C1. Another crew far from home were Aberdonian's Johnnie Mackay and Gordon Reid, heading north pleased with a runner-up spot in their Suzuki Alto. Completing the podium of the under-seventeen year olds was yet another non-local Jude McDonald

and Michael Cruikshank in a Skoda Citigo, fitted like all the teenagers' cars with a 1000cc engine.

Andrew Blackwood from Stewarton was sixth in a Citroen C1, one place ahead of Muirkirk schoolgirl Amy McCubbin.

**13th & 14th May**



*Winner Stewart Robb.*

Competitors in the Scottish Sprint Championship events at Kames Motorsport Complex Muirkirk encountered varied weather conditions with Saturday's action being held on a wet course and a drier track next day providing excellent sport enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Entrants came from as far away as Thurso, Aberdeen and Yorkshire.

Results were similar on both occasions, twice British Sprint Champion Stewart Robb from Doune taking his powerful Pilbeam MP88 to a double outright victory. His nearest rival was Stephen Alexander from Uplawmoor in a two litre Gibson Nemesis who shared the car with David Loomes from Broughtly Ferry who finished third overall.

Another remarkable performance came from Louise Calder, all the way from Caithness, securing fourth place overall in the smallest car in the entry list, a one litre Jedi racing car. In the same car she became the 2016 British Junior Sprint Champion.

Leading Ayrshire driver was Graham Hutchison from Pinwherry, who was eleventh overall in his smart Ford Sierra Cosworth. Best of the Lanarkshire drivers was Henry Simmons from Wishaw coming home fifth in a class of 13 in the Mazda MX5 category. Jim Robinson from Leadhills was tenth in the same class.



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## COACH HOUSE INN

- |                    |   |                           |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Saturday 27th May  | - | Cover Story @ 9pm         |
| Friday 2nd June    | - | Lapraik Festival @ 7.30pm |
| Saturday 3rd June  | - | Cocker & Ally @ 9pm       |
| Saturday 10th June | - | JFK @ 9pm                 |
| Saturday 17th June | - | Ray George @ 9pm          |

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## An Amateur Dramatic Theatre Group for Muirkirk?



To all budding thespians. I have recently moved to Muirkirk from Corfu, Greece. In Corfu I established the Corfu Panto Group and we have successfully held 4 annual panto's over the last 4 years and raised thousands of euro's for local charities. Would anyone be interested in joining a similar group here in Muirkirk? Having fun, working hard and developing capabilities you never thought you had? Can we do something similar here? If you are interested please contact me, Hazel McCully (01290 660058 or email [Hazel.mccully@googlemail.com](mailto:Hazel.mccully@googlemail.com)). Alternatively leave contact details at the Muirkirk Community Library.

Can we do it? Yes we can!

## Jamieson

Treasured memories of Robert, passed away on 21st May 2008. A dear son, brother and uncle. Gone but not forgotten. Inserted by Dad for all the family.

## Quiz Answers

- 1 He was a friend of Robert Burns and corresponded with him. They wrote poems to each other.
- 2 Wee Dalfram on the Sorn Road
- 3 The Douglas, Heron & Company Ayr Bank went bust and he could not pay the Guarantor Creditors.
- 4 The Mill at Muirsmill across from Nether Wellwood
- 5 Muirkirk's Inn keeper and Postmaster
- 6 Tibbie Pagan
- 7 A cottage on the Garpel water
- 8 In the Kirk Green Churchyard.
- 9 Margaret Rankin
- 10 Janet Anderson of Lightshaw.

## **MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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### **AGENDA**

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MEETING OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 6th JUNE 2017 AT 7pm IN ST. THOMAS'S HALL

### **BUSINESS**

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1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
  2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
  - 2.1 MATTERS ARISING
  3. REPORTS
  - 3.1 POLICE
  - 3.2 LOCAL COUNCILLORS
  - 3.3 OTHER GROUPS
  4. PLANNING
  5. TREASURERS REPORT
  6. CORRESPONDENCE
  7. MUIRKIRK NEWS
  8. KAMES DISASTER ANNIVERSARY
  9. DOCTORS UPDATE.
  10. LIBRARY/ GAMES HALL UPDATE
  11. INPUT FROM PUBLIC
  12. A.O.C.B.
  13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
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## **MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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### **AGM**

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Held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 at 7pm

### **BUSINESS**

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1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Adoption of previous minutes.
3. Matters arising.
4. Annual reports
- 4.1 Chairperson
- 4.2 Treasurer
5. Election of office bearers.
6. Election of committee members.
7. A.O.C.B.



# 'IMAGES OF MUIRKIRK'

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1L Grouse £18.99, 1L White & Mackay £18.99, 1L Bells £18.99, 1L Morgans †£18.99, 75cl Buckfast †£5.70, LOTS OF £1 ITEMS AND SPECIAL OFFERS IN STORE. A WIDE RANGE OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND MUCH MUCH MORE.

**Muirkirk Golf Club**

Competitions are now well underway and are now being well attended, new members are always welcomed.

The course is in excellent condition, full marks to the dedicated band of men who work tirelessly to give us a golf course to be proud of.

The match play draws have been made and several ties have taken place, the first shock result was the Sloth and the Hamster beating the Dominator and the New Cumnock Persian.

Round of the month came from Murray Pringle who won the May medal by 8 shots with a stunning 65.

The club recently defeated Drongan Golf Club in the presidents putter handicap knockout trophy, the team was I. Girvan, D.Murphy, H.Fyfe and C.Burns. Well done lads.

**June fixtures**

3rd	June medal
10th	Centenary Cup Rd1
17th	Centenary Cup Rd2
24th	Billy Burns Trophy - Championship Qualifier
25th	A&W Higgins Trophy

Clint the stag

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<b><u>MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB</u></b>				
<b><u>COMPETITION RESULTS</u></b>				
<b><u>MOORHEAD TROPHY</u></b>				
	22/04/2017 (Stableford)		H/cp	Points
1st	Craig Menzies		9	38
2nd	Iain Girvan		9	36
3rd	David Murphy		10	33
4th	Graeme Walker		13	31
5th	Hugh Moorhead		27	31
	Entry 24, CSS 70 (34 Points)			
<b><u>TAYLOR PRINTER TROPHY</u></b>				
	29/04/2017 (Stroke Play)	Gross	H/cp	Nett
1st	William Wilson	85	16	69
2nd	Douglas Peacock	89	20	69
3rd	Robert Kane	89	19	70
4th	Hugh Moorhead	97	27	70
5th	Graeme Walker	83	13	70
	Entry 18, CSS 67			
<b><u>GEORGE ROSS TROPHY</u></b>				
	30/04/2017 (Stroke Play)	Gross	H/cp	Nett
1st	Robert Kane	88	19	69
2nd	Douglas Peacock	90	20	70
3rd	Stewart Murphy	94	24	70
4th	Craig Menzies	81	9	72
5th	Craig Burns	86	13	73
	Entry 9, CSS 67			
<b><u>MAY MEDAL</u></b>				
	06/05/2017 (Stroke Play)	Gross	H/cp	Nett
1st	Murray Pringle	85	20	65
2nd	William Wilson	89	16	73
3rd	Rhett Dodds	95	22	73
4th	Stuart Angus	86	11	75
5th	Graeme Walker	88	13	75
	Entry 24, CSS 70 (Reductions Only)			
<b><u>PRESIDENTS CUP</u></b>				
	14/05/2017 (Stableford)		H/cp	Points
1st	Craig Menzies		9	38
2nd	Brian McFadden		16	37
3rd	David Murphy		10	37
4th	John Jackson		18	36
5th	Graeme Walker		13	36
	Entry 18, CSS 68 (38Points)			

# Crambo-Jingle and Sang

Friday 2nd June  
Coach House Hotel  
Muirkirk

A nicht o' Sangs an' blethers perform't bi sum o' the finest  
traditional musicians and poets in Scotland

Alistair McCulloch (Fiddle)  
& Sean Gray (guitarist/flautist)

Andrew McNeil  
(poet and author)

Claire Hastings (singer)

Chris Rollie (author)

& other local readers and poets.

7pm for 7:30pm - Tickets £8  
(Snack at Interval)  
for tickets/info go to:  
[www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk)  
Phone: 01290 661324  
or: 07564 301440



## **'Masters' comes to the Hills of Ayrshire**

It's hard to believe that the Lapraik Speaking Competition is now in its 10th year. To celebrate the Anniversary, the organisers of the Lapraik Festival have invited all previous winners of the World John Lapraik Speaking Competition to return this year to compete for the 'Lapraik Masters' trophy and title.....a once in a decade opportunity! The line-up for the competition reads like a 'who's who' of Burns reading talent with Wull Horne, Alister Sim, Jimmy Law, Bobby Jess, Ian Buick, Neil Macgillivray, Graham Wight and Susan Chown all agreeing to compete. A judging panel of Professor Gerry Carruthers, Mrs Karen Kane and Mr Bill Dawson have agreed to take on the challenge of finding a winner among such a talented field and the exuberant Angus Middleton will be MC for the event. RBWFL President Bobby Kane will be there to support the event and present prizes. The competition starts at 2pm on Saturday 3rd June 2017 at Muirkirk Caravan Park.....in the Hills of Ayrshire!

But that's not all!.....our Annual John Lapraik World Speaking competition also takes place on the same day and at the same venue...but with a 10 am start. The line-up of competitors has now been finalised with well-known readers such as George Park, John Hutcheson, Willie Waugh, Hugh McHarg, Willie Dick and local favourite, Eric Dempster all throwing their hats in the ring. The judging panel for this competition is Jim Thomson, Dr Rhona Brown, Susan Chown and James Waite with Angus Middleton, once again, leading the programme.

The John Lapraik Memorial Reading will be given at Lapraik's grave in the Muirkirk Parish Kirkyard at 1pm.....during the break between the 2 competitions. The competitions are all-ticket events and tickets, costing £5 for each competition, can be obtained by contacting Festival Co-ordinator, Douglas McKenzie at loudoun73@hotmail.com or via the Festival website [www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk) .

These competitions are part of the Lapraik Poetry Festival which also includes 'Crambo-jingle and Sang'....an evening of Tradition Music and Poetry. Headlining the event this year is celebrated fiddler Alistair McCulloch along with local flautist/guitarist Sean Gray. The line up is completed by well-known singer Claire Hasting from Dumfries and poets/authors Andrew McNeil from Fife and Chris Rollie from New Cumnock.

Other events include the Young People's Speaking Competition, which encourages our World Speaking champions of the future.

Another first for this anniversary year is our partnership with the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Rab Wilson, Scriever in Residence at the Museum, will be running Scots Language workshops for Muirkirk Primary School children during the Festival week (. 'I think my ideas are more barren in English than in Scottish' Robert Burns to George Thomson, April 1793).....and on Sunday 4th June, at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Rab Wilson joins Professor Alan Riach to discuss

(and read from) their new works, set in the context of Robert Burns' relationship with John Lapraik.....'Brither Bards'!

To quote Rab... *'In a speerit o comradeship in the Scots Leid, this year the Lapraik Festival is teamin up wi the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum an twae o Scotland's leadin contemporary poets, Alan Riach an Rab Wilson, wi a 'partner' poetry event at the Burns Museum oan Sunday 4th June. The poets will be readin frae their raicently published new collections..... sae come along an hear twa o Scotland's finest poets readin poetry that hus a rael Scots souch tae it an cairries the torch o Burns an MacDiarmid intil the 21st Century – an ayont!*

For more information please use the contact details above.....and the RBBM web-site [www.burnsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk)

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## **Muirkirk Gala Day - Saturday 15th July**

The Gala Day is fast approaching and hopefully we get some of this amazing weather we have been having! We have a few updates for you all including Gala Court, Muirkirk's Got Talent, Nerf Wars and Treasure Hunt and not forgetting the Gala Day itself!

### **Gala Court**

We are beyond thrilled this year to bring back the Gala Court after the success of last year. With support from Muirkirk Primary this year's court is:

Queen	-	Emma Hope
Herald	-	Paul Hyslop
Lady in Waiting	-	Eva Purdie
Page Boy	-	Gary Shaw
Junior Maid	-	Ciara Burns
Junior Page	-	Danny Belk

The kids and their families are already working on how to decorate their houses to mark their involvement with the court, so why not join them! Get your bunting out or decorate your house and street to win the prize on the Gala Day! This is open to everyone in the village and we cannot wait to see what everyone can come up with after how involved people were last year! It was fantastic and gives the village a good buzz on the run up to the Gala Day! Get your creative thinking caps on!

### **Nerf Wars**

1,2,3,4 we declare a NERF WAR!! Why not book yourself into one of two sessions available on Sunday 11th June at Muirkirk Games Hall. The first session will be held from 11:00 to 12:20 and the second session will be held 12:30 to 14:00. This is open to everyone from age 5 upwards (this includes dads, uncles, grandpa's that want to play!) In each session there will be scenarios for teams to play against each other to become the Nerf War Champion! You can bring your own Nerf Gun or use one of the limited guns we have available. The session will cost £7 per person and will include safety glasses and bullets. If you would like to book a slot for this event please contact Cheryl Shepherd or Sheree Mullen asap to book your place as these are going fast!



**Treasure Hunt**

Who didn't love the Treasure Hunt years ago on the run up to the Gala? Well, it's back again this year on Sunday 4th June 2017. Who will follow the clues and win the pot of gold! Cash prizes for the winner of this event folks, entry fee of £5 per car (or team of 4). Start the quest at 2 Garpel Avenue from 11am on the day to pick up your form! Cheryl will be waiting, and don't ask her for the answers! ha!

**School Disco**

To celebrate the court this year, we will be holding a School Disco on Friday 23rd June at St Thomas Hall! Our lovely Gala Queen, Emma, and the rest of her court can dance the night away with all their school mates! This disco is open to any child primary age who lives in Muirkirk. This will start at 18:00 to 20:00, ticket price at the door of £1.50, tuck shop will also be available!

**Muirkirk's got Talent**

A night of fun for the adults in the village will be taking place Saturday 24th June 2017 at Muirkirk Bowling Green. Think Britain's Got Talent mixed with a little bit of the Generation Game. A great night will be promised with fantastic prizes for the winners. This will be a ticketed event, look out for more information on our Facebook page.

Fantastic events on the run up to the Gala Day folks, and we are constantly trying to do something different and fun for all members of the community to take part in! We are excited for our Gala this year and we have met our promise in having brand new rides, with an exciting thrill ride for those wanting to give it a go! There will be hot food, treats to suit everyone (hot doughnuts for example) as well as stalls of games and gifts to purchase!

We will be holding our annual fancy dress competition for everyone to take part in, as well as races for all the family to get involved in, plus a few special guests for the kids to keep them happy and entertained throughout the day.

We really look forward to seeing you at our events and the Gala Day, keep posted here, on our Facebook page or local shops for any updates on our events! This gala is going to be the best one yet!

If you have any questions or any suggestions in regards to the Gala Day, please contact a member of the committee!

Cheryl Shepherd  
Chairperson

## Newsletter

The next date for submission of articles for the May newsletter is Tuesday 20th June 2017. Please send any correspondence to **news@muirkirk.org.uk**

We will be glad to accept any letters for inclusion into the news, please supply your name and address on correspondence (address' will not be printed). We would also be happy to receive photos & recipes for inclusion into the news.

Muirkirk News is available free of charge to all households within the village and outlying areas.

## Muirkirk News Advertising

Classified Adverts - £5

¼ page - £10

½ page - £20

Full page - £40

Full page (back cover) - £60

Full page (inside front & back cover) - £40

We require all adverts to be submitted electronically.

Please submit all adverts to **news@muirkirk.org.uk**

Deadline date for submission is 20th June 2017

Please visit our new website - **<http://muirkirk.org.uk>**

Muirkirk News is available online at **<http://muirkirk.org.uk/newsletter>**

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

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Police	101
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East Ayrshire Council	01563 576000
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The Samaritans	01563 531313
Womens' Aid	01290 423434
Doctor's surgery	01290 661286
Chemist	01290 661280
Help To Hear	01563 6399000
Sensory Impaired Support Group	01292 266 791
Ayr Hospital	01292 610555
Crosshouse Hospital	01563 521133

**IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999**

# Lapraik Poetry Festival

**Crambo Jingle + Sang**  
**Friday 2nd June - 7.30pm**  
**Coach House Hotel - Upstairs room**

**John Lapraik World Speaking Championships**  
**Sat 3rd June - 10am - Caravan Park**

**Lapraik Memorial Reading**  
**Sat 3rd June - 1pm - Parish Kirkyard**

**Lapraik 'Masters' Speaking Championships**  
**Sat 3rd June - 2pm - Caravan Park**

**Brither Bards**  
**(Burns, Lapraik - Riach, Wilson) - Partner Event**  
**Sunday 4th June - 2pm**  
**Robert Burns Birthplace Museum - Alloway**

**Young People's Competition**  
**Sat 10th June - 10am - Muirkirk Parish Church**

For enquiries or to reserve tickets  
logon to: [www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.lapraikpoetryfestival.co.uk)  
or phone 01290 661324



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