MUIRKIRK NEWS

PRINTED ON BEHALF OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Quiz

Questions:

- 1 Where is the last coal fired Gas Works in Scotland to be found?
- 2. What loch is the largest in Scotland?
- 3. Where is the longest river in Scotland?
- 4. Name the Scotsman who worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in the 1860's
- 5. Which team did Sir Alex Ferguson manage before he moved to Aberdeen?
- 6. What is the name of the hospital for disabled servicemen in Renfrew?
- 7. Where is the regimental headquarters and Museum of the Blackwatch Regiment in Scotland?
- 8. What do The Proclaimers have in common with Jimmy Shand, the great accordion player?

How did you do? Find the answers on page 6



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



You fixed my boiler when two other firms failed to identify the real problem. Excellent service & price. Happy to recommend you. *SM, Muirkirk*

I thought I'd need a new boiler but you sorted it out in no time. My house is lovely & warm for the winter. Can't thank you enough. *RW, Muirkirk*

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

Chairman's Update

We are pleased to report that the Kames Disaster 60 year Commemoration Event was very well attended with people travelling from as far away as Reading to be there on the day.

The feedback from the event has been very positive and we take this opportunity to thank all involved in the organisation including the Association, MEG, both churches Father Philip Kitchen, Locum Minister Stan Kennon, Amber Riddicks & Robert Bradford for lighting the candles, Provost Jim Todd for his speech, Gemma Stoppard for her reading, all those who loaned the pit lamps, Sally McGarey for lending the photographs, the organist Joanne Spreadbury, the piper Dennis Connelly, Lyn Johnstone of Vibrant Communities, Wilma Brady and her team for the excellent meal, Al McCann for laying the Community Wreath, The Provost Fund, Coalfield buses and all the church officials and volunteers who gave their time to ensure that the event went without a hitch. Apologies if we have missed anyone out.

At this time of year everyone is busy preparing for Christmas it is also a time of reflection over the past year and we are happy to report a number of positives in the village and the number one obviously is the completion and opening of the New School and Community Complex

The Opencast restoration continues apace although SMRT have had a setback with their Heritage Lottery Bid for the first phase at Glenbuck which has been refused. Whilst the restoration will never achieve what was originally intended nevertheless it is a vast improvement on what we have been looking at for the last number of years.

We would at this time give congratulations to Amy McCubben (Motor Sport), Bernadette Lesley (Riding Disability Association)Ronan McCutcheon (Irish Dancing) and Cameron Menzies (Darts) who have had great success in the their respective Sports over the past year. This is a good news story for Muirkirk in that we are able to produce such talent from this small village and it will keep us firmly on the map.

The works to the Day Centre are nearing completion and it is expected to be handed over to MEG at the end of the year. The existing Library will close for lending on the 15th December 2017 and it is planned to reopen in the Day Centre with a provisional date of the 15th January 2018. This would include the new Fitness Suite. The existing Games Hall and Fitness Suite will close on the 15th December 2017. Please note Registration Forms for the Fitness Suite are available in the Games Hall, Library & Nearly New Shop. The Day Centre will be renamed as the Muirkirk Hub.

We are delighted to confirm that this will be our twelfth edition of the Muirkrk News since we started publishing in December 2016 and we take this opportunity to thank all the advertisers and volunteers alike who are involved in production of the Newsletter and without whose contribution we could not exist. Please note our next edition will be in February as we are giving our volunteers a well deserved rest.

On behalf of the Community Council we would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and we can confirm we will continue to work hard on your behalf over the coming weeks and months.

Finally we hope all of the village residents and beyond have a good Christmas and wish you all the best for 2018.

Written on behalf of Muirkirk community Council by David McLatchie

Muirkirk Juniors FC

Why not come along and support new manager Kevin Muirhead and his new look side. The manager has been busy adding to his squad with latest acquisition Yaminaki Misanjo being purchased from East Super league club Fauldhouse United, he has also added David 'Buster' Edwards on loan from Neilston and hopefully both will make their home debuts this week

Not surprisingly our recent fixture away to Dalry was postponed due to frozen pitch but we hurriedly arranged a friendly v Carluke Rovers. It was a keenly contested match and ended up 0-0, it gave our new players a chance to get to know each other better and was a useful exercise.

Lottery

Jackpot not won and now stands at \pounds 1800.

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Once again the club will provide this service locally in Muirkirk with a suggested donation of 20p per card. Cards can be uplifted and delivered if you wish contact secretary Billy Tait on 07596 089828 or contact us through twitter and Facebook pages. Cards can also be left at Muirkirk Charity shop and will be uplifted from there if that is easier. We expect to be delivering them between Monday 11th and 18th December.

Davidson

Isobel Davidson would like to thank Family, Friends and Neighbours for the kindness shown to me on the occasion of my 90th Birthday. Thank you all for the cards, gifts and flowers and all the good wishes received. Thank you for that lovely day.

Isobel Davidson wishes Family, Friends and Neighbours a very Merry Xmas and a happy prosperous and extra kind New Year.

Gibson

Gilbert and Gillian would like to thank everyone for their kind donation at the church service of the late Crawford Gibson for the Ayrshire Hospice. The amount was $\pounds 655.51$ which is an amazing help for them. Thank you all again, much appreciated.

The Gibson Family.

Higgins

Jim and Elizabeth Higgins would like to wish all Family, Friends and Neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Beck

Angus & Janette Beck would like to wish family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018.

Muirkirk Women's Institute

Tuesday 12th November saw another monthly meeting of the Muirkirk SWI which was chaired by the president, Mrs Grace Cowan. After all the evening's business was attended to Mrs Cowan welcomed our demonstrator for the evening, Yvonne Mackie. Yvonne very interestingly demonstrated how from plaster being poured into moulds to the finished ceramic shapes she created many lovely ornaments and lamps, etc. Ably assisted by her mother there was a very varied display of her works of art which were available to purchase. Also on display at our meeting were photographs taken at our recent 60th Anniversary Dinner and thanks go to our member Madge Whelan and to Hugh Moorhead for downloading and printing the photos.

After tea the raffle was drawn and the singing of the WI song brought another successful evening to a close.

Muirkirk Cancer Support Group

Once again we had a superb meal at St Thomas's Hall and thank Wilma, George, Jim, Sophie and Rhona for looking after us so well.

We are raising money for Ayrshire Cancer Support by giving out tubes of Smarties and asking folk to fill them with 20 pences. We had several handed in on the night, which amounted to over $\pounds 80$. We also sold some Calendars and Christmas Cards also for ACS.

A very surprised Stephanie was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers and Janie gave a vote of thanks to her and Andrea for arranging the dinner and the small gifts that everyone received.

We all had enjoyed a thoroughly good evening with lots of chat and laughs with good company.

MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

MEETING OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 5th FEBRUARY AT 7pm IN COMMUNITY ROOMS, BURNS AVENUE.

BUSINESS

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
 I MATTERS ARISING
 REPORTS
 POLICE
 2 LOCAL COUNCILLORS
 OTHER GROUPS
 PLANNING
 TREASURERS REPORT
 CORRESPONDENCE
 MUIRKIRK NEWS
 INPUT FROM PUBLIC
 A.O.C.B.
 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Quiz Answers

- 1. Biggar Gasworks Museum
- 2. Loch Lomond
- 3. River Tay
- 4. Andrew Carnagie
- 5. Saint Mirren FC
- 6. Erskine Hospital
- 7. Dalhousie Castle, Perth
- 8. They come from Auchtermuchty

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MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017 in Community rooms.

PRESENT: David McLatchie, Tom Bark, Judith Linton, Kathleen Hignett, David Agnew, John Dempster, Ludovic Dunlop, Cheryl Hynd, Gordon McGuire, Declan Crews,

IN ATTENDENCE: Jim Higgins, Andrew Brown, Nan Beck, William Kirk, Robert Gillan, Maureen Drennan, Sam Purdie, David Higgins, Robert Smith, Robin Caldow, Russel Griggs, Lyn Johnstone (EAC) cllr Neil McGhee.

APOLOGIES: Harry Murray, cllr Claire Leitch. Lisa Macmillan, Jim Roberts, David Norman.

A presentation was given by SMRT. Questions were asked and a lively discussion took place.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and proposed by Tom Bark and seconded by Gordon McGuire.

MATTERS ARISING: BT have the surgery lines repaired. The railings at the school are to have permanent fixtures. The legal requirements have been met by contractors.

POLICE REPORT: No police present.

COUNCILLORS: Neil McGhee stated there was nothing to report.

MEG: Roof at Garan House completed. Plantation insurances have been incorporated into one policy. Lapraik – Douglas McKenzie has stepped down as coordinator. The group are looking for a replacement who has the time to run the event. Although well attended there is a lack of local interest.

EA Car Club: Fireworks display was excellent. No change in grant situation. The track is used by cycling groups for racing. A disabled motor club use the track and are well supported by the group.

TREASURERS REPORT: Balance - £2537.49

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PLANNING: None to report

MUIRKIRK NEWS: There is a technical problem with the hard copies for October. Deadline for November is 10th and for December the 1st. No Muirkirk snippets in Cumnock Chronicle yet article is in Ayrshire Post,

KAMES DISASTER: Plans are complete. Order of service is being printed by

Vibrant Communities. Requesting 300 copies. 2pm at church, 3pm wreath laying at Heritage Park, 3.15pm refreshments at school.

It will be a joint service, Provost will give a speech, Piper will break the 2 minutes silence at church and Heritage Park. Various councillors and Mps will be attending. May 2018.

INPUT FROM PUBLIC: Some comments were made regarding SMRT accounts. It was asked for public to be able to see detailed accounts as it is public money being used for regeneration.

Request to have zig zag lines at school crossing area.

Victory Park a disgrace. This needs dealt with by all villagers.

There is still an interested party for the Games Hall. The astro turf is still open and used.

Trees in village need maintainance. There are a number of dead ones at Hawkshaw Terrace and Main Street.

The retaining wall outside the Coach House is in need of repair. This wall has already been reported to EAC.

DAFFODILS : The majority have been planted. Hope to have a good show in the Spring.

A.O.C.B. Drain at bus stop opposite school keeps getting choked and causes flooding.

T Shirt idea has been on facebook with a positive response. Several ideas of designs have been put forward.

There are no plans to build further industrial units on Furnace Road due to lack of interest.

Some street lights on Furnace Road are not working. Strathaven road needs some white lines redone.

The Sorn Road B743 still to be white lined. This is needed urgently.

Proposal to twin Muirkirk with Castelloi village in Spain. EAC recommend a friendship agreement.

POST MEETING – Permission was given for all attendees to have names printed on EAC website.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 4th DECEMBER IN COMMUNITY ROOMS.

Muirkirk Parent Council

Hi everyone, welcome to the Muirkirk Primary and ECC section of the Muirkirk news.

On the 30th of November we had a table at the Christmas Fayre. It was a successful night and we managed to raise \pounds 135.

We would like to thank all the shops in Muirkirk who donated a prize to go into the hamper.

All money that we fundraise will be used for the Primary and ECC to help towards trips and any wish list that we are provided with to help as much as we can.

After Christmas we are hoping to have some more fundraising ideas to help get some funds for the kids.

We also have a Facebook page set up Muirkirk Primary & ECC Parent Council.

There will be a folder available at the school reception with minutes of the meeting for anyone wishing to look at it.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Hear to Help Ayrshire

We have used the kind donation from Muirkirk Enterprises to try and recruit a local volunteer to run our community based hearing aid support sessions in Muirkirk Library, as well as providing visits to housebound residents. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to identify a local volunteer as of yet, therefore have been using the donation to pay for a nearby volunteers travel expenses – to ensure that Muirkirk doesn't go without a service.

We are keen to use the rest of the donation to recruit volunteers, if you are keen to volunteer for this valuable community service please contact Thomas Denholm on 0141 341 5330 or email Thomas.denholm@hearingloss.org.uk

Many thanks

Donna McSwiggan Hearing Forces Project Manager Action on Hearing Loss Scotland





MUIRKIRK NEWS

Bookbug For Muirkirk

There is a weekly Bookbug Session in Muirkirk on a Friday morning at 10am until 10.30am.



These sessions are currently being held in the Muirkirk Community Library next door to the doctor's surgery on Burns Avenue.

Due to the relocation of the public library in Muirkirk these sessions will eventually move to the Daycentre on Furnace Road in 2018.

These sessions are run by a volunteer so the more people that come the better.

Not only do I provide the Bookbug basics of songs, rhymes and a story but I also have a lending library and a colouring section for the children.

These sessions look to enhance your child's development and the bond that reading and singing creates with you and your child.

Public/School Holidays do not impact on the running of these sessions.

All children aged 0-5 years old are always welcome to attend. As are any older children who wish to tag along.

If you want to get to know other parents in the village this is the group for you.

There is a Twitter Account called @MuirkirkBookbug which will be updated regularly regarding the next session and general information about Bookbug events.

Community News December Issue

St Thomas' Hall Committee were delighted to take part in The Kames Colliery Disaster 60th Anniversary. Congratulations to Muirkirk Community Council for marking the occasion so well. Can we also thank the lady janitors for their assistance and the volunteers who stayed and helped us with the tidy up leaving this splendid facility how we found it.

The Christmas fayre went very well with a variety of stalls catching the eye. The mulled wine was popular too. The raffle prize winners; Moira Frew – Christmas Hamper, Ann Menzies – Christmas Cake, George Brady – Christmas Decoration, Debbie Cathcart – Sweeties.

The tea Bingo was well attended with the sum of $\pounds 366.84$ being raised for the Pensioners Party. Thanks to all who supported this event. All Hall events will be advertised locally as well as in the Community News. George Brady – 661377

Christmas Services (2017) at Muirkirk & Cumnock Trinity

Sunday 24th December

10:30am	Joint Morning Service at Trinity		
6:00pm	Christingle Service and Sunday School Nativity at Trinity		
8:00pm	Christmas Eve Service at Muirkirk		
-	(followed by tea/mince pies)		
11:30pm	Watchnight Service at Trinity (followed by tea/mince pies)		
	Monday 25th December		

Christmas Day United Service at St Andrews, Cumnock

Sunday 31st December

10:30am

Joint Morning Service at Muirkirk

Nearly New Shop

The ladies from the shop would like to wish all our customers and the people who donate items to the shop a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be open from 18th December every day that week except Wednesday so if you are looking for last minute gifts or outfits for that party we will be there.

The money from the shop has supported several organisations in the village this year and is helping to maintain Garan House. I would like to thank all our volunteers who give up their time to keep the shop going and to all who donate and buy from the shop, we couldn't do it without your support so Thank You.

Letters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David McLatchie and the Community Council for giving me the honour of laying the wreath at the miners memorial to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Kames Disaster, it was very much appreciated.

If I may add, the service at the Church when the Children lit a candle for each name read out, was very fitting and emotional.

Thank you Al McCann.



Banana, Walnut and Choc Chip Bread and Butter Pudding

Ingredients

300ml Cream
300ml Milk
1 Vanilla Pod (remove seeds)
4 Egg yolks
75g Caster Sugar
4-6 Slices of bread, no crusts

Method

Preheat oven to 180c.

- 1. Whisk together 4 egg yolks with caster sugar
- 2. Add to milk, whisking continuously
- 3. Sieve mixture and leave to rest. (custard)
- 4. Layer bread, banana, walnuts and chocolate chips. Layer until dish is full.
- Pour over custard and put in a big tin for water bath for 30-35 mins. Water ³/₄ up tin.
- 6. Sprinkle over icing sugar and place under grill.

From one of June Bark's recipes.





Photos of Muirkirk: above by Jared Earle, below by David McLatchie





THE OLD GASWORKS GARAGE PATHHEAD, DOUGLAS LANARK, ML11 0QJ

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COACH HOUSE INN

Fri 22nd	"Darts Open Pairs"	6.30pm	Sat 23rd	"Taboo"	9pm	
Sun 24th	"Cover Story"	6pm	Tues 26th	Quiz Day,	5pm	
Wed 27th	Poker,	6.30pm	Thur 28th	"Pub Champion"	5pm	
Fri 29th	"Darts Open Singles"	6.30pm	Sat 30th	"Bad Boy Boogie"	9pm	
Sun 31st	HAPPY NEW YEAR	!	Mon 1st	Billy Hamilton	2pm	
"" Karaoke/Disco, 7.30pm						
Please check Facebook closer to the events for entry cost and prize money. All entertainment is free.						
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FROM ALL						

AT THE COACH HOUSE.

Newsletter

The next date for submission of articles for the February newsletter is Friday 16th February 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 (addresses 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 outlaying areas.

Muirkirk News Advertising

Classified Adverts - £5 ¹/₄ page - £10 ¹/₂ 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** Please visit our new website - **http://muirkirk.org.uk** Muirkirk News is available online at **http://muirkirk.org.uk/newsletter**

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Chemist	01290 661280			
Help To Hear	01563 639900 (0141 3415330)			
Sensory Impaired Support Group 01292 266 791				
Ayr Hospital	01292 610555			
Crosshouse Hospital	01563 521133			
IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999				



Danny and Janet would like to wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



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