

MUIRKIRK NEWS

ISSUE 14 - APRIL 2018

PRINTED ON BEHALF OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Quiz

Questions:

- 1: Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk was the inspiration for which literary character ?
- 2: Robert Gordon University is in which city?
- 3: Which suburb of Dundee was once Known as The richest square mile in Europe?
- 4: What is the name of Scotlands oldest continuously inhabited house?
- 5: Which famous lighthouse lies off the east coast, south east of the town of Arbroath?
- 6: Which island on the Firth of Clyde provided a source of Granite for Curling Stones?
- 7: Name the burgh in Lothian which stands below two Forth Bridges?
- 8: Where is the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum?
- 9: Which Scottish Town was granted City status in 2012?

How did you do? Find the answers on page 19

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RW, Muirkirk

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Chairman's Update

Congratulations to the three Muirkirk Groups who were successful in East Ayrshire Council's recent Participatory Budgeting Event. A big thank you to the many residents who went down to Cumnock and voted and also to everyone from the village who assisted at the Event.

The winning bids were from Muirkirk CC & MEG £2000, Gala Day Committee & East Ayrshire Car Club £2000 and Muirkirk Parish Church & St Thomas the Apostle's Parish Muirkirk £1250.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the Community Benefit from Penbrek Wind Farm was signed by three local groups Muirkirk CC, MEG and Muirkirk Community Association. The wind farm is due to come on stream in 2021 and the benefit will come direct to the Community to be spent on local Projects.

In a similar vein East Ayrshire Council are looking at piloting a scheme in Muirkirk whereby the Community Benefit arising from Galawhistle wind farm will come direct to the Community again to be spent on local projects. The benefits are now accruing so this will happen fairly quickly.

On recent site visits to see the restoration to the opencast works at Powharnal, Ponesk & Spireslack we can confirm these are progressing well and the Contractor expects to be finished by the end of this year. The only leaves Dalfad in our area for which funding is being sought at this time.

As you will be aware the Games Hall has closed after forty years which is a loss to the village but on a more positive note the HUB in Furnace Road may well be open by the time you read this Newsletter. We believe this will be a great facility for the village and that it will be well supported by the Community to make it a success.

Muirkirk CC have taken over the organisation of the Lapraik Festival from the Community Association who ran it for ten years. They will be a hard act to follow as they did a tremendous job over that period. It is being headed by Harry Murray, supported by a Committee a number of whom are outwith the Community Council. The festival is being held on the 15th & 16th of June so take a note of the date for your diary.

You may have read in the national or local press that the Westminster Government has announced that they are supportive of the proposed Ayrshire Growth Deal. This will bring substantial investment to the three counties. In particular road and rail infrastructure Projects in the old Cumnock and Doon valley area ought to benefit so watch this space for further announcements.

We hope you are still enjoying reading our Newsletter. We are constantly looking to improve it and are looking for articles that would be of interest to our readers so if you have something that you think would meet the criteria we would be delighted to receive it.

Written on behalf of Muirkirk community Council by David McLatchie

Boys Brigade

The Boys Brigade held a very successful Easter Disco. A big thanks to all who helped out at this event. The Brigade are planning to participate in the proposed events to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice that effectively ended World War 1.

Muirkirk Enterprise Group

Everybody associated with Enterprise Group would like to thank everyone who voted for our joint project with Muirkirk Community Council in the recent East Ayrshire Council Participatory Budget programme.

Muirkirk Enterprise Group, Muirkirk Community Council and the Muirkirk Community Association recently signed a memorandum of understanding with a Wind Farm developer setting out how we can use the funds that will be available from the development at Penbreck to help improve the lives of everyone in Muirkirk. This development will not be on stream for a number of years, but when it does it will be the first on-shore wind farm that will become operational without any subsidies and as such represents a breakthrough in the provision of clean renewable energy, and although the role of the community of Muirkirk in this landmark development is relatively small it is vital.

Hub Update

EAC have now produced a property rental contract that is currently being reviewed by MEG's lawyers. Hopefully completion will not be long delayed and the village will shortly be able make use of the new facility. MEG proposes to set up a volunteer sub-group to handle the day to day running of the HUB, which will provide a library service, a fitness suite and a kitchen which will provide cookery lessons and the opportunity for inter and intra-generational socialisation across the Muirkirk Community.

Finally, as everyone is probably aware, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the effective end of WW1. The Great War as it was known at the time has had an enormous impact on the history of the world and MEG would like to help ensure that Muirkirk commemorates this event to that end we will be setting up a sub group to work with other community organisations to ensure that this happens.

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NATIONAL INDEPENDENT
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MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018 in Community Rooms.

Note taker: Kathleen Hignett

1.	<p>PRESENT : D McLatchie, T Bark, J Linton, K Hignett, D Agnew, H Murray, J Dempster, C Hynd, D Norman, G McGuire, L Macmillan.</p>
	<p>IN ATTENDANCE: J Higgins, K Clifford, W Kirk, S McGlynn, N Beck, R Smith, B Park, J Lowe, G Clifford, I Davidson, W Murray, J Marshall, PC N Saunderson, PC L Campbell, cllr C Leitch.</p>
	<p>APOLOGIES: D Crews, L Dunlop, cllr A Simmons, cllr N McGhee, cllr J Roberts</p>

2.	<p>PREVIOUS MINUTES: The previous minutes were proposed by G McGuire and seconded by T Bark.</p>	ACTION	DATE
	<p>MATTERS ARISING: Stagecoach response not very positive. They don't run buses for connecting despite a one hour wait for Muirkirk passengers. No plans for earlier buses . 29th March is to be an open day games hall 2pm – 9pm. Vibrant communities has a bouncy castle. Litter pick arranged for April 7th – 8th The map is to be placed in hub when it opens. Galloway National Park will give a presentation at April meeting. Review on winter gritting by EAC will start in April. Local opinions will be considered.</p>	D McL	

3.1	<p>POLICE : Two crimes reported and both been detected. Discussion about Neighbourhood Watch and rogue callers. Jenna Dodds will supply information for next meeting. Will contact Dmcl. Police will attend at Games Hall on 29th to show children round a police car.</p>	ACTION	DATE
3.2	<p>C Leitch gave a report . There is a £6m budget for roads in this area. e.g. B743 will have various areas resurfaced. The placement of grit bins will be updated shortly. EAC is to supply free sanitary goods in schools. Wellwood Street needs resurfacing and is also subsiding.</p>	CL	
3.3	<p>MEG: Asset transfer going to cabinet on Wednesday.</p>		

	<p>CAR CLUB: Not a lot of activity.Meeting with Gala committee this week.Work on clubhouse continues.Should be useable by April.</p> <p>MUIRKIRK JUNIORS: There is a need for an all weather pitch in the village.Funding for this will be difficult to source.</p> <p>Suggested having a questionnaire round all residents in village.Also possible asset transfer with EAC, CL will liase with club.</p>		
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4.	<p>PLANNING: Glenbuck Loch – monitoring water quality and fish numbers. 104 Smallburn Rd -erection of one and a half storey dwellinghouse. 11 Main St – erect porch at front of property.Caravan Park – extend touring area by 14 pitches.</p>	ACTION	DATE

5.	<p>TREASURERS REPORT: Balance £2453.28. Adverts still to pay -£100, £45 still to bank. PB money of £1000 will be spent in the next week.</p>	ACTION	DATE

6.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: All electronic mail has been passed to councillors.</p>	ACTION	DATE

7.	<p>MUIRKIRK NEWS: There was a meeting yesterday(4th) .At present ordering 280 copies and receiving 300. There have been more requests for copies. It was agreed to place a sheet in shops for people to add their address for delivery.</p> <p>It was discussed to have a booklet of some kind for new comers to village with information about organisations. H Moorhead will check with organisations for inclusion.</p> <p>Agreed to meet with new head teacher to include the school in activities within the News.</p> <p>Suggested to have a list of organisations included in News every 3 months</p>	ACTION	DATE
		TB DMcL	

8.	<p>PUBLIC INPUT: Victory Park – MEG is still awaiting confirmation as to ownership of ground where drain is overflowing.</p> <p>There is still no school crossing person</p>	ACTION	DATE
		CL	

9.	<p>A.O.C.B. PB on Sunday 25th March at Cumnock Town Hall and Drongan. There are 22 group applications entered.Need as many</p>		
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<p>villagers as possible to go and vote for the 5 applications from Muirkirk. Could transport be arranged?</p> <p>Defibrillators – Suggested to have one in an accessible public area. After discussion it was agreed that this was not feasible, it was also pointed out that the fire service will be providing a first response service in rural areas.</p> <p>Dux Board – Suggestion of placing at pupil's entrance was another suggestion. It was decided to discuss with head teacher and public discussion to be deferred to a later date.</p> <p>Bouncy castle for 29th- If money has to be spent on hire it was agreed by all to pay up to £150.</p> <p>Wheelie bin at day centre not emptied yet</p> <p>Bin at chip shop on Smallburn Rd not emptied</p> <p>Lapraik meeting to be held on Thursday at 7.30pm in Coach House.</p>	DMcL CL	
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NEXT MEETING
Date: TUESDAY 3rd APRIL 2018
Time: 7pm
Location: COMMUNITY ROOMS.

<u>MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB</u>				
<u>COMPETITION RESULTS</u>				
<u>OPENING DAY TROPHY</u>				
	24/03/2018 (Stableford)		H/cp	Points
1st	Mark Hamilton		8	21
2nd	Stewart Murphy		12	19
3rd	Derek Davidson		9	19
4th	Alex Patrick		7	16
5th	Craig Menzies		5	15
	Entry 19 (9 hole competition at half handicap)			
<u>WINTER LEAGUE TROPHY</u>				
	31/03/2018 (Stroke Play)	Gross	H/cp	Nett
1st	Craig Menzies	81	9	72
2nd	Mark Hamilton	88	16	72
3rd	Douglas Peacock	92	19	73
4th	Lawrence Pollin	90	16	74
5th	Derek Davidson	94	18	76
	Entry 16, CSS 70 (Reductions Only)			



MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB
OPENING DAY – SATURDAY 24th MARCH



New Captain for 2018 Season – Eric Sanderson



Eric tees up ready for the start of the new season.
Members wait in anticipation of a good first drive.



Eric drives the first ball of the new season.
The ball flies safely down the first fairway.

Daffodils in Muirkirk

The daffodils are blooming well all over the village and looking very nice, a big thanks to the people who volunteered with the planting, your help is appreciated.



Photo by David Agnew



Photo by Jared Earle

Litter pick**Day one**

“40 Blue bags were ordered and filled in a matter of no time. We didn’t count the Black bags but there are many. These photos are of Miller’s Road, Muirkirk. More litter was collected coming into the village from the Strathaven side also.”

Day two

“Day 2 litter picking and these (video on Facebook) are only a fraction of the bags filled today. There are a few sitting aside and another 31 at the Strathaven side alone and we’ve only managed to dent it. It would take teams coming from each entrance of the village a fortnight or more to clean the place up. So far we’ve managed Miller’s Road, the majority of Smallburn, the Heritage Park and along Hawkshaw Terrace, the two pads between Miller’s Road and the Victory Park, parts of the Kirk Plantation and working our way in from the Strathaven side. We’ve had everything; nappies, condoms, Sanders, bikes, milk bottles, linoleum, you name it, it’s been picked up. Respect to every single person out there over the last two days and the locals who pick up litter 365 days a year round here.”

Lemon Drizzle Cake**Ingredients**

225g unsalted butter
 225g caster sugar
 4 eggs
 25g S.R flour
 Grated lemon zest
 Lemon juice

Method

1. Beat together sugar, butter and eggs
2. Slowly add flour and zest
3. Pour into a lined cake tin and bake for 40-50 mins.
4. Mix 1 ½ lemon juice with 85g caster sugar.
5. Skewer top of ready loaf and pour lemon and sugar mixture over.
6. Leave to cool.

From one of June Bark’s recipes.

Zumba Kids – Muirkirk

Zumba Kids take place on a Monday evening every week, the kids take part in Zumba routines and games. This encourages motivation, promotes social interaction and healthy lifestyle, the kids enjoy expressing their individuality and working together as part of a team.

We are looking for funding or sponsorship to buy uniforms and equipment for the kids, this will be used weekly and also at Muirkirk Gala Day where the kids are doing a demonstration.

If you would like to make a donation or sponsor the Zumba Kids please contact Sheree Mullen.

Muirkirk Juniors Football Club

Kirk were beaten 1-0 in a keenly fought match with promotion chasing Craigmark on Saturday 14th April at Burnside Park. The big decision by referee O'Reilly to send off Kirk's Jay Burns was the defining point of the game, there was no doubt it was a foul but a red card seemed scandalous to most fair minded observers. To be fair to the ref the Mark player went down as if he'd been shot by a sniper and ominously continued the game after the red card without any treatment from the physio, which says a lot. Another game where the lads put in loads and came out with nothing but we're confident things will turn around sooner rather than later.

Lotto

14.4.18 Jackpot not won and now stands at £600. 3 numbers no winners three numbers share £60 this week.

Race Night

The club ran a very successful event on Saturday 24th March at the club and we would like to thank all the Race and horse sponsors for their support. A big thank you to all who attended and help make it a very successful fund raiser for the club.

Golf Day

The club are once again holding a golf day at the local course on Sunday 27th May. The format will be a Texas scramble (3 players) with an entry fee of £75 per team, this includes a breakfast roll and buffet lunch after the event. For further details contact Billy Tait, Secretary or through our social media pages.

The club were saddened to hear last week about the passing of former President Jimmy Robertson and we would like to pass on condolences to his family.

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Lapraik Festival - 15th June 2018

I am pleased to report we are up and running for this years Lapraik Festival. We have a few new faces and have a committee of 10 folk now. They have some fresh ideas about how we run it.

Sadly there is no Adult Competition this year, but hope to have it running next year. Good news is the childrens competition is on, we had a meeting with Mrs McLean the new headmistress of Muirkirk Primary School and she is delighted for the chance to take part in the festival. As like last year it will be held in the parish church and then over to St Thomas' Hall for a Buffet and the children will be entertained by two great singers and a poetry reader.

The concert is in St Thomas' Hall, and we have fantastic line up of performers again this year for Friday CRAMBO JINGLE & CONCERT. Thanks again to Jim and Marjorie Currie, Douglas McKenzie, John Morran, and the rest of the group who kept it going for the last 10 years.

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East Ayrshire Car Club/Kames Motorsport Complex

The Scottish speed season gets under way on April 7th and 8th when East Ayrshire Car Club will be organising the opening two rounds of the 2018 Guyson Scottish Sprint Championship at Kames Motorsport Complex, Muirkirk.

Entries are expected to be down slightly on last April due to car preparation getting behind schedule because of the severe winter, but there is no doubting the quality of the entry the local club have attracted.

Heading the field is runner-up in the prestigious 2017 British Hillclimb Championship Wallace Menzies who holds the track record for both the clockwise and anti-clockwise courses at Kames. The Stirling driver once clocked an incredible 129mph on this tight track and local enthusiasts will not want to miss the opportunity of seeing this spectacular driver as he will be spending the rest of 2018 racing at top venues between Jersey and Belfast. Wallace is highly popular with galleries all over the country with his aggressive style, but he faces talented opposition at this warm-up meeting from Midlander Dave Uren who was ninth in the British Championship and Wallace's wife, Nicola Menzies, both in big V8 singleseater racing cars similar to Wallace's Gould. A possible late entry could be former British Sprint Champion Stewart Robb in his big V8 Pilbeam, another regular at Kames.

St Thomas' Hall

The St Patrick's Day Lunch went very well and it was good to welcome Monsignor Sheridan back to the village as he celebrated the 62nd year since his ordination.

Maureen and the Staff and service users from Riverside Cumnock would like to thank everyone who donated and supported the afternoon Tea in aid of "Create a Smile Scotland" a fantastic sum of £1080 was raised

Muirkirk St Thomas' Celtic Supporters Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance takes place this month. The monthly Sunday Breakfast takes place on Sunday 15th and the parish church are holding a lunch on April 29th all welcome.

McMillan

Precious memories of Alex, much loved Son, Brother, Dad & Uncle who died on 14th April 1997.

Years pass by but memories stay
Loved and remembered every day

Love Mum, Keith, Helen Jane and Partner, Jonathon, Kieran and Darren



Q. Christmas always leaves me with a financial crisis in the Spring. How can I avoid it happening every year?

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Saturday 5th May

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Sunday 6th May

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Saturday 19th May

Pat & Neil Charity Night @ 8pm

Saturday 2nd June

Young at Heart @ 9pm

MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

MEETING OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
8th MAY 2018, AT 7pm IN COMMUNITY ROOMS, BURNS AVENUE.

BUSINESS

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. LAPRAIK UPDATE
 9. INPUT FROM PUBLIC
 10. A.O.C.B.
 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
-

Professor Tom Symington

Tom Symington was just one of many Muirkirk sons that graduated to professorship and made a name for himself in medical research. He excelled as a pathologist and was a popular academic researcher and teacher. He was born at the top of the town in 1915, and passed away in April 2007, here is one of the tributes to him.

Tom Symington was one of the giants of Morbid Anatomy in the 20th century. He carried out ground breaking research into the function of the adrenal gland that continues to affect the practice of medicine to this day. In the 50s and 60s he developed new techniques of morphological and chemical studies of the adrenal cortex to provide an understanding of its complicated structure, he also explained the roll of Hormone production played by cells in different zones of cortex. This research opened up an understanding of adrenal disease and paved the way for a treatment.

A great leader and communicator, he headed a department of pathology at Glasgow Royal Infirmary that was renowned internationally as a centre of excellence. It produced 11 future professors of pathology in the UK, CANADA and USA. Tom Symington was just one of the people who grew up in Muirkirk and contributed a great deal to the society of the world we know today.

Extract from Cairn Table Reflections by James Taylor, The Style, Muirkirk.

Quiz Answers

- 1 Robinson Crusoe.
- 2 Aberdeen.
- 3 Broughty Ferry.
- 4 Tarquair
- 5 The Bell Rock Lighthouse.
- 6 Ailsa Craig.
- 7 South Queensferry.
- 8 Lathalmond, by Dunfermline.
- 9 Perth.

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Update on Ponesk & Powharnal Restoration Projects

As we emerge from a prolonged winter, Mines Restoration Limited would like to update the local community on progress and future plans for the sites at Ponesk and Powharnal.

PONESK

The focus of operations at Ponesk has moved eastwards into the Spireslack zone. Banks Mining has been concentrating on implementing slope stabilisation measures in the vicinity of Glenbuck (Area B) and reshaping the main overburden mound at the Galawhistle end of the site.

In Area B, an undercut face has been buttressed to prevent sudden collapse, with the buttress to be soiled and landscaped later this year as weather conditions improve.

The landform work on Ponesk is largely complete with only limited soiling and seeding operations remaining.

Related activities include tree-felling operations on Grasshill Forest, construction of a new stream overflow channel for Area C void and recovery of sized stone for path and track construction.



Plate 1: View towards Muirkirk, showing re-grading operations in the foreground, with tree-felling operations in the distance

GLENBUCK

We have always stated that any work to restore the village or football pitch at Glenbuck was always dependent upon us securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We were therefore very disappointed to learn that our Heritage Lottery Fund application was met with a refusal on the basis of lack of community support (with no substantiation of that view being stated) and concerns over sustainability.

Notwithstanding the outcome of the application, we continue to review options for retaining and augmenting the village and mining heritage, with the current focus being on –

- (i) enabling safe access to the village site and its surroundings
- (ii) establishing improved light vehicle access, an informal picnic area and a parking facility
- (iii) working with East Ayrshire Council (EAC) to review prospects for heritage and geo-diversity explanatory boards (similar to those planned by EAC for the Lethanhill project on the hillside near Patna)
- (iv) working with Forest Enterprise to examine the prospects for extending planned amenity and commercial woodland (across both Ponesk and Spireslack, as part of the restocking options for Grasshill).

Under the auspices of EAC we have attended compliance and technical meetings to ensure

contract delivery to the required standards, and we have also hosted community liaison group meetings where members of the community council and local residents have had the opportunity to examine progress and be kept apprised of future plans.

POWHARNAL

At Powharnal, the recent focus of MRL operations has been muck-shift and soils recovery on the northern face of the former workings, together with infilling voids in and around the eastern end of the site.

The Gasswater section has been reshaped, fully soiled and seeded, and a new agricultural track which permits access to a new viewpoint, has been added.

Going forward into our second full year of activity, we plan to complete soiling of the landform adjacent to the A70, and finish all soiling and planting work in and around the eastern extremity of the site.

The edges around the residual water body have been designed following a risk assessment aimed at classifying the treatment of slopes and margins to various standards consistent with safe countryside access requirements.

The next key step is to finalise the updated landscape plan and, following consultation with stakeholders (which include Muirkirk community council), submit the plan for approval by EAC. We expect to be able to circulate a draft plan next month.

Other works planned for this year include the reinstatement of various burn corridors at Welltrees and Gasswater, designed to eliminate flood potential. Tracks, paths and bridges are also planned for later this year to facilitate public access around the water body and linking it to the River Ayr walkway. In the fullness of time, a new parking area is to be established in the vicinity of the current site amenity yard.

In the wider area of MRL landholdings, the mitigation plan designed to bring the moorland back to full SPA status is now well established, with much work being carried out on drain blocking, rush management and fencing.

The Powharnal Management Committee, chaired by EAC, oversees that work and meets regularly to ensure delivery and compliance.

Terms have also been provisionally agreed with the RSPB to eventually allow it to take full ownership and control over Airds Moss east and associated land, thus meeting the provisions

as envisaged in the section 75 planning agreement for the site.

MRL remains committed to and has attended all liaison meetings, and has also hosted a series of site visits aimed at keeping the community informed. These have been well attended and are viewed as productive by MRL in terms of bringing forth ideas for land use.

Plate 2: Excavation and re-grade operations on the slopes above the A70



Open Studios Ayrshire

Last night was The Open Studios Ayrshire Launch at The Dick Institute.

All attending had a wonderful evening of discovery. Many of the artists were meeting each other for the first time and were thrilled by the interest shown in their work from other artists and the guest. Artists who are not yet members of OSA came along to see if they would like to join us. Many commented on the friendliness of the OSA artists. The joining process will be open later this year. Lots of photographers from the press turned up to help spread the word about this group of artists who will be opening their studios on 27th April to 30th April 2018. Open Studios Ayrshire is an annual Art Trail, historically a four day long art trail during the last weekend of April.



All the OSA artists are looking forward to meeting more guests when they open their studios. They are preparing original works, affordable prints, cards and home wares to delight the public. There is something for all tastes.

To find where OSA artists and makers are located please pick up a brochure at The Dick Institute, The Wellington Gallery, Rozelle House, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Many Thanks Gift Shop, and many other cafes. If you can't find one please see the OSA Website for an online version of the brochure at www.openstudiosayrshire.com, which is where you will also find information about joining OSA, becoming a friend of OSA and you will be able to find out more information about your favourite artists and makers.



Muirkirk Gala

The Gala Day has had a very busy wee month trying to kick start everything for our Gala this year (Saturday 9th June 2018) so we thought we would give you a wee update on what we have been up to:

Gala Court

Our Gala Court has been selected this year and we are so pleased to announce that they are:

Gala Queen - Louise Ward
 Herald - Kyle Sharp
 Lady In Waiting - Rianna Russell
 Page Boy - James Wyllie
 Junior Page - Sam Wallace
 Junior Maid - Kaelah Lockwood

We are very excited for our court as we know all the kids are and their families

Funding

The Gala Day along with Kames Motorsport Complex recently came together as Kames Connections to try and win votes at the Health and Social Care Public Budgetary Funding event in Cumnock and Drongan. We had to be at both venues on the same day and had to rely on votes from people from the community to stand any chance on getting extra funds. After a lot of hard work and some great feedback we were delighted to see that the community voted for us and, along with the Kames Motorsport Complex, received a grant of £2000 which will be split equally between the Kames and ourselves. This is a much needed boost to our funds this year. To everyone who took the time to go to Cumnock or Drongan to vote for us that day, we thank you all!

Easter Hunt

The Gala Committee held their first ever Easter hunt on Sunday 1st April at the Kirk Plantation. Can honestly say we had such a great time with all the kids and their families who attended! We had no idea that the kiddies in our village would be so fast in finding all the eggs, to the point we were running around re-hiding them (although some of the kids noticed this and started to follow us around to get to the eggs first!). Was a great wee morning and we had such a good time with the kids and the families. We will definitely be bringing this back next year (only with more eggs!!) A massive thank you to the MEG group for the donation of the Kirk Plantation, it was perfect for the hunt and the larger eggs as donations. A thank you also to Cheryl Hynd and Kerry Crawford for their donations. Also, again to Cheryl Hynd for her fantastic drawings in the woods, it really did brighten the place up and make it look

like spring even though it was freezing and starting to snow at one point!

Tombola Stall

Our Tombola stall will be back at the Gala Day this year, if anyone has any donations they would like to hand in for this please see Linda Scotland or Rosemary Mullen.

Stalls at the Gala Day

We are trying to secure our final numbers for stalls at the Gala Day and there won't be much availability left soon, if you are interested in having a stall please contact Margo McLay or Morag Dempster for more information or availability.

Upcoming Events

We have some upcoming events that we would love to tell you about, some of the dates are yet to be confirmed but this is what we have in the pipeline in the next month or so. For more updates on these events please see the Muirkirk Gala Day Facebook page (or keep a look out in shop windows for posters).

One of our newest events (even though it used to be a Gala golden oldie!) is the Beetle Drive! We are really looking forward to this event and it sounds like a great laugh. Tickets are available for this event from Cheryl Shepherd, Margo McLay, Morag Dempster or Rosemary Mullen. Come along to a night with a wee bit of a difference and play the game, roll the dice and see if you will win!

Our Scheduled events

Night with Isobel Cree – Muirkirk Bowling Green Friday 20th April 2018 – Tickets £6 available now from Margaret Campbell (please note tickets need to be picked up prior to the night)

Beetle drive Friday 25th May 2018 – Muirkirk Bowling Green Tickets £5

Gala Court Disco - Friday 1st June 2018 6pm to 8pm – St Thomas Hall, Entry £1.50 with tuck shop on the night

Kids Summer Bike Ride TBC (and when it actually turns to summer!)

Tea Bingo TBC

Many thanks

The Gala Committee

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Newsletter

The next date for submission of articles for the May newsletter is Friday 11th May 2018. 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 outlying areas.

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