



# MUIRKIRK NEWS

ISSUE 20 - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

PRINTED ON BEHALF OF MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
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## Quiz

1. Who was the king of Prussia and Emperor of Germany during World War 1?
2. The 1st World war was sparked off following the assassination of which Austrian archduke?
3. What was the name of the man whose face was on recruiting posters asking for volunteers for World War 1?
4. Which British Monarch was on the throne during World War 1?
5. Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles was scene of one of the battles of World War 1, what country is that in?
6. The battles fought on Flanders field was fought in which country?
7. The Battleships of Britain and Germany fought a famous Sea Battle in 1915 where many ships were sunk in the North Sea, what was the name of the battle?
8. Who was the British Prime Minister of the Coalition government, at the back end of World War 1?
9. What was the name of the Ocean liner that was sunk by a German U-boat in 1917 with 1198 passengers and crew being drowned?
10. If laid end to end, the trenches of World War 1 would stretch approximately how many miles, 5,000, 15,000 or 25,000??

How did you do? Find the answers on page 30

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

Ambulance	01292 265061 or (Emergency 999)
Police	101 or (Emergency 999)
Fire Brigade	999
NHS 24	111
East Ayrshire Council	01563 576000
Social Work Standby	0800 811505
The Samaritans	01563 531313
Woman's Aid	01290 423434
Doctor's Surgery	01290 661286
Chemist	01290 661280
Help to Hear	01563 639900 or 0141 3415330
Sensory Impaired Support Group	01292 266791
Ayr Hospital	01292 610555
Crosshouse Hospital	01563 521133

**IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999**

## **Chairman's Update**

We apologise for the delay in the November issue which was due to an unexpected increase in the workload of the person who puts it all together. Because of the delay we made a decision to combine November and December which makes it a bumper edition which we trust you will enjoy.

A big thank you to all who were involved in the Remembrance Sunday Event. It was very well attended and the reading out of the roll of honour and the installation of the crosses was very poignant.

This is a time of reflection and over the past year we have seen the daffodils that we planted last autumn putting on a great display in the spring, we have seen the opencast restoration works continue apace, we have seen major improvements in the our local roads network, we have seen a very well organised and well attended Gala & Classic Car weekend.

We have held a very successful Lapraik Festival which involved the children from six local primary schools and by the time you read this we would envisage that the Hub deal is finalised and a grand opening date has been agreed. We would also hope that the Astro Turf at Pagan Walk contract has been awarded and a completion date for the works has been made known to the Community.

Following on from the successful Participatory Budget Event in October we can confirm that the Galawhistle Windfarm monies will be made available next year for another round of PB for Muirkirk & Glenbuck.

You will see an article from Drew Mackin who has just completed the Corbett's which are hills over 2000ft. This is in addition to the many other exploits that he has done. Drew was born and brought up in Muirkirk and now lives in Irvine.

We received a letter from Andy Dunbar from New Zealand who is looking for relatives still living in the area so hopefully someone will be able to assist.

We take this opportunity to give a big thank all of our readers, volunteers and the advertisers for your unstinting support over the past year. Without you we would not be able to produce the Newsletter.

We wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year and hope you are able to take a welcome break from which you come back refreshed and raring to go.

Finally, we wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year and hope you are able to take a welcome break from which you come back refreshed and raring to go

*David McLatchie, Chairman, Muirkirk Community Council*



### **Intimation - Jamieson**

In loving memory of Peter, passed away on 12th November 2014

Dear Son, Brother, Uncle and Cousin

Gone but not forgotten

Inserted by Rab for the family

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### **Intimation - Mackin**

Peacefully at home in Elgin on 14th November 2018, David Mackin, aged 79 years formerly of Muirkirk.

Husband of the late Margaret, Beloved Dad to Mary, David and Anne, much loved Grandad and great Grandad of all the Family.

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### **Acknowledgment - Mackin**

The family of the late David Mackin would like thank all the Family and Friends in Muirkirk for Sympathy Cards and kind messages received.

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### **Christmas Cards**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents for buying the Community Christmas Cards, we have sold five hundred and made a profit of £150, which will be going back into the community to help other groups and projects. The cards have gone far and wide from Monifieth, East Calder, Saltcoats, Irvine, Cumnock, which will then be winging their way round the world. Also a huge thank you to Craig McComb for allowing us to use his photos free of charge and to Hazel Elder for helping with the delivery and organisation, to Stevie at the Caravan Park and the Charity shop for selling them for us.

A great Community effort Thank You one and all.

Judith Linton, Community Council.

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## **Christmas Greetings**

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### **Higgins**

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Jim and Elizabeth Higgins would like to take this opportunity to wish Family, Friends and Neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

### **Images Beauty and Gifts**

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Mhairi, Morag and Margaret would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support throughout the year, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and aw ra best for 2019.

### **Jamieson**

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To family, friends, neighbours and everybody who knows me  
A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it comes  
All the best

Inserted by Rab Jamieson

### **Davidson**

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Isobel Davidson wishes friends and neighbours a very Happy Xmas and best wishes for an extra kind New Year.

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## **Lapraik Report**

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Lapraik Group have had one meeting so far for next year's Lapraik Festival.

Our group has 9 members. Harry Murray – Chairman, Judith Linton - Treasurer,

David McLatchie – Minute Secretary. Other members are George Brady, Heather Morrison, Bob Norman, Maureen Drennan, Hazel Elder and David Agnew.

The concert will take place on the 7th of June 2019 in St Thomas' Hall and the Children's competition will take place on the 8th June 2019 in the Church.

Our current funds are £1,261.

The only person booked so far is Bobby McCallum, our MC.

New guidelines for sub-committees within the Community Council, will be discussed at our next meeting in November.

## **Nearly New Shop**

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The countdown to Christmas is upon us once again.

This year there has been countless items on the TV and in the newspapers about saving the environment, as we have become such a throw-away society. So it's good to know we can all do our bit by recycling and that is precisely what we are all doing by supporting the Nearly New Shop.

We have lots of clothes that are new or have only been worn once (the posh shops call them pre loved or vintage clothes). Toys that children will love that cost a fraction of what you would pay normally. Children's books to fire their imaginations and with luck keep them quiet for a while before and after Christmas.

Please though think about what you are handing in to the shop, is it broken or badly marked, would you buy it? We are grateful for all donations and some items can be given a makeover, so just ask if you aren't sure.

Upholstered furniture must have the fire safety labels attached or we can't sell them on.

So to everyone who donates and to those who buy, we send our grateful thanks and wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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## **Muirkirk WI**

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Margaret Robertson, Vice President, chaired the November meeting of the Muirkirk WI which was our Visitors Night held in St Thomas' Hall. Margaret welcomed two visitors from the Ayrshire Federation, Kay Young and Janette Harvey, along with representatives from area Institutes and members of village organisations.

After supper, which was supplied by the Committee, everyone was entertained by a display of Line Dancing performed by the Diamonds and Dust Group. Before the dancing ended members of the audience were invited onto the floor to learn a few line dancing steps, needless to say this made for a very amusing time – all taken in good part even by some unwilling participants.

Kay and Janette judged the competitions, with the results being as follows;

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Baby's Hat            | - 1st Sheila Kelly     |
|                       | - 2nd Susann Hillditch |
|                       | - 3rd Susann Hillditch |
| Three Butterfly Cakes | - 1st Jenny Blackwood  |

Agnes Johnstone proposed the vote of thanks from Muirkirk with Kay Young thanking on behalf of the visitors.



# 'IMAGES OF MUIRKIRK'



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**OPENING HOURS SHALL VARY IN RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS**

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## East Ayrshire Car Club

East Ayrshire Car Club have announced one of their Junior members has won one of the twenty sought-after places in the inaugural Scottish Motor Sport Academy at Knockhill racing circuit in Fife.

The Academy will be delivered by qualified Motor Sport Association coaches and will offer members support in all aspects of their development, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to maximise their performance.

The coaches will deliver sessions on a range of topics such as fitness and nutrition, sponsorship, media skills, technical driving theory, career planning and much more.



Sixteen-year-old Amy McCubbin from Muirkirk has competed in car rallies all over Scotland in the last two years, taking advantage of the Ecosse Formula 1000 Championship which coaches 14-17 year olds and organizes a series of rallies specially for them using cars limited to engines of 1,000 cc capacity. Amy is a pupil at Auchinleck Academy.

The inaugural Scottish Road Car Series came to a spectacular finale at Kames Motorsport Complex at Muirkirk on Sunday 21st October when East Ayrshire Car Club held a highly competitive autotest.

On a day of incessant drizzle, a surprisingly large crowd of spectators were treated to outstanding examples of car control at speed in the confined spaces of the track's roads and paddocks. Of the many superb performances by some of Scotland's top autotest, rally

and drifting competitors the more powerful machines made the most impact with onlookers, smoking tyres being the order of the day. However, it was a disciplined drive by George Orr from Linlithgow in his Audi TT which won the day with local man Marc McCubbin runner-up in his Ford Focus rally car.

Guest of honour for the day was former British Touring Car Champion John Cleland, still a big name in British and Australian saloon car racing. The Galashiels man accepted an invitation to share a drive in a Citroen C1 and thoroughly enjoyed his day out.

On Saturday 3rd November local motorsport fans as well as film buffs were glued to the Quest TV channel to see Scottish rally legend Jimmy McRae introduce international film and TV pin-up Idris Elba to the torrid world of rally driving. The opening scenes were shot at Kames Motorsport Complex Muirkirk where the actor, tipped by many to be the next James Bond, found the tight corners a steep learning curve. Later in the programme he underwent more advanced tuition at Knockhill Racing Circuit in Fife before travelling across the North Channel to compete in the arduous Circuit of Ireland.

During his visit he took time to be photographed with the East Ayrshire Car Club Chairman, Russell Fair from Stewarton.



### **Muirkirk Enterprise Group**

The Muirkirk Hub is progressing towards opening, the delays so far have been caused by Legal issues which our Lawyer is addressing.

The Kitchen at the Hub have successfully negotiated the securing of a refurbished industrial cooker. At present the club is operating from a private address and has already had some people come along and the food produced has been distributed to a number of individuals who have been very satisfied. Thanks very much to Davida and Janie Trotter for their tireless efforts in this endeavour.

The Charity shop volunteers continue to do great work raising funds to support all the activities of MEG including the maintenance of existing projects such as the Skateboard Park and providing the means for MEG to meet the ever increasing insurance burdens in respect of the facilities which everybody uses.

Although only the Cookery project was successful at the Participatory Budget event, the Group were pleased to see such a large turn-out. MEG have also agreed to support the Bus for the Blind, which helps the visually impaired members of our community enjoy some leisure activities. The donation was agreed in part to offset the unsuccessful attempt by the Cumnock support group that runs the bus that serves Muirkirk to successfully enter the PB process. This donation like last year's donation to the Help to Hear group shows how the funds raised in the shop not only support MEG and our activities but also the wider community.

## **100 Years Ago**

### **Glenbuck Hero - Major J Rodger**

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A public ceremony took place recently to give Major Rodger a presentation of a Handsome drawing room Clock. A mark of appreciation by Glenbuck community, for having gained The Military Cross for devotion to duty and bravery on the battlefield.

This gallant Glenbuck Doctor was in the RAMC he was the first native of the village to gain this honour.

Captain Macintosh called on Mr James Crosby one of the oldest inhabitants in the village to make the presentation.

He was one of the people dealing with the casualties from the horrific scenes on the battlefield, and he would have to live with these visions all his days.

Initially in 1914 there were 21 Glenbuck men volunteered to serve in the forces, others later joined as the war went on, there had been 5 lost their lives with others sustaining injuries both physically and mentally.

### **Former Muirkirk School Teacher Captain William Pirrie**

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Sergeant Pirrie left Muirkirk in 1914 with men from Muirkirk who volunteered and made up a company in the R.S.F. In 1915 they were shipped to try and take Golipali Peninsula from the Turkish soldiers, along with the other British, Australian and men from all over the British Empire, after horrific casualties the men bravely trying to take the high rocky hills around the peninsula with the Turks well-fortified they never managed to make much impression and did not gain much ground. After 9 months taking thousands of casualties, the hierarchy of the British army finally decided to evacuate. Some were shipped to Egypt and many went to Flanders in the Western Front.

The Ayrshire battalion was singled out, by their Brigadier for its steadiness in the face of battle. Sergeant Pirrie was promoted to Lieutenant then later for outstanding leadership was made a Captain. Sadly, he was killed in the Palestine Campaign in 1917.

Other men from Muirkirk to distinguish themselves were:

Sergeant John Halliday, the Military Medal in France.

Sergeant Andrew Ross, the Distinguished Medal.

Major J Rodger, a doctor from Glenbuck won The Military Cross

They were not the only soldiers to distinguish themselves, but we cannot name them all.

The war carried until on November 1918 with the men suffering unimaginable conditions in the trenches

There was a tremendous effort by the Muirkirk community, running various committees to generate goods to make the soldiers lives a wee bit more tolerable. But everybody was thankful it was all over on 11-11-1918. The men who survived came home, but none would ever forget, many men scarred both fiscally and mentally.

*Our thanks to Jimmy Taylor - Cairntable Reflections & Echoes.*

## **St THOMAS' HALL**

The Halloween party season went very well in the Hall with the Gala Day Committee's Party hosting a full house followed by the Hall's Party two days later. A Big thank you to the Gala committee for leaving their decorations in place saving the Hall a lot of work. A good example of two local organisations looking out for each other.

There are plenty of Christmas events planned, please keep an eye in local shops for information.

It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Annemarie Brady. Annemarie was a member of our Committee for over 30 years and helped to establish some of our favourite events.

We pass on our condolences to Jim and his Family, ensuring him of our continued support in the months ahead.

All Hall events will be advertised locally as well as the Community News.

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## **St Thomas the Apostle Church, Muirkirk**

The parish invited Rev Mgr John (Jack) Sheridan to the St Patrick's Day lunch which coincided with the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on 17th March. He was delighted to be back in Muirkirk and catch up with old friends.

On 30 June 2018 Bishop William Nolan ordained Robert Mackie to the Permanent Diaconate. Fr Phillip had been mentoring Robert in the lead up to his ordination and the Bishop has appointed Robert to the parishes of St John the Evangelist, Cumnock, Our Lady and St Patrick's, Auchinleck and we are delighted that he has also been appointed to St Thomas the Apostle to assist Fr Phillip in his ministry here in Muirkirk.

Rev. Fr Phillip Kitchen celebrated the 10th Anniversary of his Ordination on the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle in July with a meal in the hall afterwards. His sister and brother-in-law from Canada made the trip and joined him for the celebration with other members of his family.

Also in July the first meeting of the "Friendship First" group took place which is a joint initiative between the Parish Church and St Thomas' Church. It is open to men and women of all ages to come along for a light lunch and perhaps a game of dominoes/ cards/ draughts or even a blether with old and new friends. Transport is available on request.

The parish is currently preparing for Remembrance Sunday and looking forward to Advent and the Christmas celebrations. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new parishioners who have moved into the community this year.

*Gemma Stoppard on behalf of St Thomas the Apostle Church, Muirkirk*

## Muirkirk Golf Club

The golf competitions have now finished for the 2018 season, although the course remains open for play, weather permitting.

The past season was successful, with the competitions fairly well attended although entries tailed off near the end of the season.



The Dinner Dance and presentation of prizes was held in St Thomas' Hall on the 20th of October with approximately 65 in attendance.

The committee would like to thank the St Thomas' Hall committee for use of the hall and the lovely dinner provided.

Captain Eric Sanderson gave a review of the past season and the trophies were presented to the winners of the competitions.

Eric also thanked our sponsors for their contribution during the past season.

Over the winter months' work will be carried out on various parts of the course. The committee would appreciate help from members with this work and details of the work days will be displayed on a noticeboard at the golf clubhouse.

The AGM of the golf club will be held in the golf clubhouse in February 2019. The new Captain and officials for season 2019 will be elected and the fees for the season will be agreed upon.





## **MUIRKIRK GOLF CLUB**

### **2018 PRIZE WINNERS**

#### **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP** **MATT JAMIESON TROPHY**

**WINNER:** - Craig Menzies

**RUNNER-UP:** - Tommy Keddie

#### **MEDAL WINNERS**

##### **APRIL**

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Young

##### **MAY**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies

##### **JUNE**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies

##### **JULY**

1<sup>st</sup> David Murphy

##### **AUGUST**

1<sup>st</sup> Billy Frew

##### **SEPTEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> David Murphy

##### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> John Jackson

#### **TROPHY WINNERS**

##### **WINTER LEAGUE TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies

##### **OPENING DAY TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Hamilton

##### **PRESIDENT'S CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> John Jackson

##### **THE WALLACE CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Graeme Walker

##### **MARION CASAGRANDA CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Iain Girvan

##### **MOORHEAD TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> John Arlow

##### **SRINGHILL CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Burns

##### **TOM STEVEN TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Graeme Walker

##### **DAVIDSON CUP (Texas Scramble)**

1<sup>st</sup> Derek Davidson, Jim Stitt & David Murphy

##### **GEORGE ROSS TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence Pollin

##### **DENISE BROWN TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> John Wilson

##### **LONGEST DAY TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Hamilton

##### **J & E HIGGINS TROPHY (Over 50's)**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **ALEX WALKER TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> David Murphy

##### **J & E HIGGINS TROPHY (Over 50's)**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **ALEX WALKER TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> David Murphy

##### **AYRSHIRE PRECISION ENGINEERING CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Billy Frew

##### **BILLY BURNS TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Stewart Murphy

##### **TAYLOR PRINTERS TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Stitt

##### **DREW CUNNING TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **JIMMY MENZIES TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies

##### **JOHN KENNEDY CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> John Arlow

##### **BRIAN YOUNG TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Burns

##### **COACH HOUSE INN TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **MEDALS FINAL**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **ANNIVERSARY TROPHY**

1<sup>st</sup> Derek Davidson

##### **CENTENARY CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> Hugh Moorhead

##### **ELEANOR MILLER TROPHY (Closing Day)**

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Kane

##### **WILMA GIRVAN CUP (Birdie League)**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies

##### **CAPTAIN'S PRIZE**

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Stitt                      2<sup>nd</sup> Graeme Walker

##### **FRASER ORDER OF MERIT TROPHY**

(Most Points from all Competitions)

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Menzies              2<sup>nd</sup> Graeme Walker

##### **ANDREW DODDS TROPHY**

(Best Nett Eclectic over Seven Monthly Medals)

1<sup>st</sup> John Wilson              2<sup>nd</sup> Craig Burns

#### **MATCH PLAY COMPETITIONS**

##### **MAUCHLINE COLLIERIES ROSEBOWL**

1<sup>st</sup> Craig Burns & David Murphy

2<sup>nd</sup> Iain Girvan & Stuart Angus

##### **I. T. LOW CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> John Renwick              2<sup>nd</sup> Iain Girvan

##### **MAUCHLINE COLLIERIES CUP**

1<sup>st</sup> David Murphy              2<sup>nd</sup> Rhett Dodds

##### **ST THOMAS' HALL INVITATION DAY**

1<sup>st</sup> Iain Girvan & David Muir

#### **MUIRKIRK OPEN COMPETITION**

##### **THE GEORGE ROWEMEMORIALTROPHY**

Best Scratch Score: - David Hughes

##### **THE JAMES MILLAR MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Best Nett Score: - Douglas Ross

## LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

ORGANISATION	CONTACT	WHERE & WHEN
<b>Muirkirk Juniors FC</b>	Billy Tait 01290 425377 07596 089828	Burnside Park, Furnace Road
<b>Golf Club</b>	Hugh Moorhead 01290 661789 07900 470658	Southside Golf Course
<b>Bowling Club</b>	Philip Mackin 01290 661701	Park Avenue
<b>Learners Group (Photo Group)</b>	Marj Whelan 01290 661504	Information Office - 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm
<b>Learners Group (Craft Group)</b>	Annie Williams 01290 660033	Garan House - Monday 10.15-12.15
<b>Learners Group (Drop In)</b>	Marj Whelan 01290 661504	Information Office – Monday & Thursday 10.00-2.00
<b>East Ayrshire Car Club</b>		Car Track
<b>Cancer Support Group</b>	Stephanie Essex 01290 661566	
<b>Lodge St Thomas</b>	Joe Timmins 01290 661114	Coach House Inn – Times as Advertised
<b>Angling Club</b>	Scott Hogg	River Ayr & Greenock Water
<b>Boys Brigade</b>	Stuart Griffin 07793 008213	Community Centre
<b>Gala Day Committee</b>	Cheryl Shepherd 07793 233225	
<b>Zumba Class</b>	Sheree Mullen 07939 586066	St Thomas' Hall, Kirk Green – Monday 4.00-7.00 Kids, 7.00-8.00 Adults, Thursday – 7.00-8.00 Adults
<b>St Thomas Hall Committee</b>	Wilma Brady 01290 661377	St Thomas' Hall, Kirk Green
<b>St Thomas Church</b>	Gemma Stoppard 01290 660079	St Thomas' Church, Wellwood Street
<b>Parish Church</b>	Sylvia McGlynn 01290 661203 07815985786	Muirkirk Parish Church of Scotland, Kirk Green Sunday Service – 12.00 noon
<b>Enterprise Group</b>	Andy Young 01290 660173	Garan House, 26-28 Main Street
<b>YIP World</b>	Sandra Jedrysko 01290 422364	Barrhill Road, Cumnock
<b>Woman's Institute</b>		Community Centre - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm
<b>Craft Group (Knitting)</b>	Morag Dempster 01290 661681 07870 405956	Community Centre - Wednesday 10.00-12.00
<b>Community Association</b>	Cheryl Hynd 07543 721697	Community Centre
<b>Community Association (Hall Lets)</b>	Tom Bark 01290 661954	Community Centre
<b>Community Council</b>	David McLatchie 01290 661506	Community Centre
<b>Community Council (Muirkirk News Magazine)</b>	Lisa Macmillan 07732 102226	Garan House
<b>Community Council (Lapraik Group)</b>	Harry Murray 01290 661719	
<b>Kickback Martial Arts</b>	Nancy 07798 725813	Community Centre – Friday 5.30-7.30pm

MEG would like to acknowledge the effort made by village to stage a truly memorable Remembrance event. MEG would especially like to thank all those individuals whose hard-work and creativity made the day so special.

MEG thanks all the workers in the second-hand shop and all the customers of the shop for their respective hard work and patronage, without the efforts of workers and the spending of the customers the village of Muirkirk would be unrecognisable, the money raised in the shop is MEG's only source of income and this income sustains all the activities of MEG, including the insurances at around £2,500 p.a. required to maintain the two plantations which add beauty to the village and the skateboard park which provides a much needed leisure facility for the young of the village.

On the subject of leisure, MEG would like to clarify some matters in relation to the recent activity at the Astro-Turf. People are probably aware that MEG were instrumental in raising the finance that allowed the creation and installation of the Astro-Turf facility, but people might not be aware that the facility was never owned by MEG, instead it remained the property of East Ayrshire Council. When the Games Hall closed MEG along with the rest of the village were assured that the facility would remain open supported by free flood-lighting. As it turned out these assurances proved to be worthless, EAC decided, without any consultation to lift the playing surface. The resulting tide of protest appears to have persuaded EAC to reinstall the surface, but only time will tell if this commitment will be fulfilled.

It is however the case that the recent experience in relation to the Astro-Turf explains why MEG have engaged a solicitor to ensure that the proposed transfer of the Muirkirk Hub with its gym, kitchen and library space is undertaken in such a way as to protect the interests of MEG and the village. We recognise that this action has added some delay to the opening of the facility but as is clear from recent events it is important that any asset transfer or acquisition is done in such a way as to protect the interests of the village. Nevertheless, MEG expect the facility to open soon and we will be looking for volunteers to help run both the Gym and the proposed community library.

Andy Young, Chairman MEG

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## **Gardening Competition**

Two locals done well in East Ayrshire's best garden competition.

Gary Hogg, formerly from Muirkirk won The Westfield Nursery Rosebowl for the best overall garden in the district. Gary now lives in Oakbank Drive, Cumnock.

Runner up in the competition was Morag Weir, Glasgow Road, Muirkirk.

We never managed to see Gary's garden but Morag's was beautifully set out, a credit to her.

Well done to both gardeners, the rest of us should 'take a leaf out their book'.

## **MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Meeting held on Monday 1st October 2018 in Community Rooms.

1. PRESENT: D McLatchie, T Bark, J Linton, K Hignett, D Agnew, H Murray, D Norman, G McGuire, J Dempster, L Macmillan

IN ATTENDANCE: J Higgins, S McGlynn, N Beck, K Clifford, W Kirk, A Young, R Smith, J McLauchlin, J McIlwain, cllr C Leitch, P McKenzie, L McMillan, A Brown, C Hynd, H Morrison

APOLOGIES: L Dunlop, D Crews, A Simmons, J Roberts

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: The previous minutes were proposed by G McGuire and seconded by H Murray

2.1 MATTERS ARISING: Will be discussed as meeting progresses.

3.1 POLICE: Smallburn Road- one male- road traffic offences, Pagan Walk- vandalism-enquiries ongoing, Meanlour Drive- theft- housebreaking- enquiries ongoing, Glenbuck A70- theft- housebreaking-enquiries ongoing.

3.2 ELECTED MEMBERS: C Leitch—River Ayr walk – fallen trees reported – will be removed, signage still to be decided. Ongoing for 2 years. Rubbish still at Furnace Road – left by travellers- no action as yet, G Crockett is checking issues. Bridge at Crossflat to be inspected due to wall cracking. Caravan abandoned on Strathaven Road.

Alan Brown – Spokesperson for energy and transport infrastructure. Ayrshire growth deal - £350 million package – Scottish government will support but Westminster not answered yet. This is supposed to cover rural areas for transport and employment.

3.3 MEG: The Hub is still ongoing, the lawyer has been instructed to go ahead with investigations.

FRIENDSHIP FIRST: Have withdrawn application for PB funding.

KAMES CAR CLUB: Varied programme in September. One member has won rally at Castle Douglas. Sunday will be the last championship sprints. 21st October National auto test. Club house work not yet completed. Hopefully it will be operational next season.

ASSOCIATION – The lets in community wing are going well. Meeting on Wednesday. PB event on Saturday. The Association has three projects entered.

DOG FOULING GROUP- Has

3133 in funds. Primary school has set up an environmental group. G McGuire suggested giving funds to the school as both groups have the same agenda. This was agreed as long as reports were provided as to how monies are being used.

STEP- P McKenzie gave a brief report. Will be contacting people who need help with employment issues and put them in touch with relevant organisation. James is dealing mainly with benefits and will be in place for at least a year. He is also arranging for Sovereign Credit Union to come to Muirkirk. John dealing with Money Smart which will help people maximise income, help with debt issues and help plan budgets.

YIPWORLD – New project starting this Thursday.

3.4 FACEBOOK: Pages being well viewed.

4. PLANNING: Tardoes Farm – prior notification for farm related building works

5. TREASURERS REPORT: Total balance - £2850.92

£133 reserved for dog fouling campaign. £1261.73 held in reserve for Lapraik group.

Community Council balance £1456.19

CORRESPONDENCE: All electronic mail has been passed to councillors. A Simmons passed on details of complaint in Garronhill.

7. MUIRKIRK NEWS : Still being delivered to McColls. 285 deliveries – 20 shops – 7 postal. Looking to increase numbers printed. Sylvia has purchased stamps for postals. Will approach head teacher to submit a report regularly. There were a couple of addresses who didn't receive their copy this month. List will be checked. Deadline Friday 5th October. Next meet TBA

8. LAPRAIK : Meeting tomorrow 2nd at 7pm in Community rooms. It will be worth keeping the event going.

9. PB GALAWHISTLE : Saturday 6th October is voting day. There are 22 bids going through with £29000 being applied for. The total to be distributed is £17500. Voting will be from 11am to 3pm.

Penbreck is looking to come on stream 2021 with £51000 yearly for village. Three turbines to be made bigger ( drawings at information office )

10.INPUT : Street sweeper not cleaning all areas. There is a blocked drain at bus stop at Coch House ( CL)

Is winter gritting plan in place?

Tree maintenance is totally inadequate. Back yards at sheltered housing on Main Street badly needing cleaned. Chemo clinics being moved from Ayr hospital to Crosshouse hospital.

Dawson the butcher is looking to provide a de fib unit at their shop.

Empty buildings on Main street are an eyesore.

EAC looking to fence off factory units on Furnace Road.

Muirkirk website not updated yet. It was suggested that Jared Earle be approached to do this with all organisations paying a share of the costs.

Fence at Hub still to be put right.

Road closures – no work is being done when the roads are supposed to be closed. All these roadworks are causing confusion.

11. A.O.C.B. : Still waiting for bins at Games Hall.

Minerals Trust – legacy projects are priority.

SMRT – In talks for Glenbuck and Powharnel walks and pathways. It is not feasible to empty water holes. The water is being monitored by SEPA. The surrounding areas are looking a lot better.

Cheryl Hynd has resigned from the Community Council. D McLatchie thanked her and wished her well on behalf of all councillors.

NEXT MEETING : MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7PM IN COMMUNITY ROOMS.

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## **Muirkirk Craft Club**

The Craft Club has had a busy first term of the year. We have been engaged in knitting and crocheting “Twiddle Muffs” for Alzheimer Patients who are undergoing surgery in Hairmyers Hospital, East Kilbride and knitting and crocheting poppies for decorating the village as we near the centenary of the end of the First World War. On that note we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have given of their time and talent to help us to remember all those who have fought and died for our freedom. A special note of thanks to Mr Sean McGuire, Skian Mhor, for the use of his premises, for donating the materials to make the poppies which can be seen around the village, to his team of workers for their time and patience in helping us achieve our objective. A special thanks also to the volunteers who came along to draw and cut out the poppies and put them together. Thanks also to Murkier Community Association for the donation given to the Club to purchase wool.

We made 50 leaf poppies and have sent £100 to the Earl Haig fund.

We meet each Wednesday from 10.00 - 12.00 during school term in the Community Rooms. New members are welcome and if you would like to learn to knit, crochet or machine knit this is the place for you.

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## **Youth Group**

Welcome to the Youth Group section of the Muirkirk News. At present we are still running under the Muirkirk Boys Brigade.

Our Halloween party was a great night had by the kids and adults alike. Everyone looked amazing in their costumes. Thanks again to everyone who donated items for this.

Remembrance Sunday one of our leaders, Stuart Griffin, was asked to read out the names of our fallen heroes. Three of our girls done us proud by laying a wreath from Muirkirk 1st Boys Brigade and Youth Group. Well done Amber, Millie and Rianna.

On Friday 16th November our older youth group payed a visit to Skian Mhor. Big thanks to Sèan and Andy. All the kids had a great time.

Youth group is on a Tuesday night for P1 to P7, 6pm till 7.30pm in the clubrooms all welcome. Older youth group is on a Friday night, 6pm till 8pm, it's for P7 to 4th year. New members are welcome along with helpers. £2 entry per child. Free snack and a tuck shop is also available.

At the PB funding we were rewarded funds to get new equipment for the kitchen, funds for some arts and crafts and also money to do some renovation work within the building. Big thanks to everyone who voted for us. The Christmas party will be held on the 18th December.

We have a Facebook page give us a wee like. Any questions please get in touch with one of the helpers. We would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Muirkirk Gala Events**

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Hi folks, we are back after a fantastic run up to our Gala Day 2018 and back to host great new and different, and not forgetting some old favourite events. On Friday 26th October we held our annual Halloween party for the kids in the village and WOW what a brilliant party! We had brilliant attendance and every kid looked amazing! We hope all the kids that came had a fantastic evening! A special thank you to St Thomas Hall, Sanny McCann and Cheryl Hynd for your support of this event.

Just a reminder the committee is as follows:

Cheryl Shepherd, Margo McLay, Cheryl Hynd, Morag Dempster, Rosemary Mullen, Linda Scotland, Sheree Mullen, Kerry Crawford, Debbie Fulton, Penny Skoglund, Paul Finch, Tannis Kingston.

Please talk to us about any events we have upcoming or regarding tickets and we will get them to you asap. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The Gala Committee xx

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## **Muirkirk Juniors FC**

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**18.11.18:** Kirk travelled to Campbell Park Saltcoats on Saturday, hot favourites to take the 3 points but after an anaemic performance where in the end fortunate to scramble a draw. Manager Kevin Muirhead was far from happy with his team's performance and will be looking for a marked improvement when the clubs meet again.

**11.11.18:** Kirk disposed of Championship side Larkhall Thistle at Gasworks Park 3-2 on Saturday. Goals came from Michael Howie, David Edwards & Keenan McVey. We now meet Carlisle Rovers in the next round.

Special mention to our recently boosted vocal away support who have been giving the team great backing and it's well appreciated by the players.

**Lotto:** Jackpot not won now stands at £2075 with a reserve jackpot of £75. Six people matched 3 numbers winning £5 each. Why not support our club and join our lotto from only 50p per line.

**Last Man Standing:** Allana Roberts scooped the £1150 prize when Newcastle won on Saturday the 13th October, the date proved lucky for her.

**Merchandise:** New Club hats are available priced £8. Contact Billy Tait.

**Christmas card delivery:** Wee reminder the club will be once again doing our local Christmas card delivery service in the village. Contact any committee member and we can even uplift and deliver your card (suggested donation 20p per card).

## **Community Vision for Muirkirk & Glenbuck**

### **Participatory Budget Event, Saturday 6th October**

The PB event which took place on Saturday 6th October was highly successful and well attended.

The list of successful groups who were awarded funding on the day are as follows;

1st Muirkirk Boys Brigade	Club Room Renovation	£2000
Muirkirk Youth Group	Craft Sessions	£126
Muirkirk Youth Group	Kitchen Equipment	£580
Muirkirk Learners Group	Craft Sessions	£600
Muirkirk Juniors FC	New Boiler	£2000
Muirkirk Juniors FC	Toilets within Park	£1500
Muirkirk Parish Church	Update Kitchen Equipment	£1221
Zumba Kids	Classwear / Equipment	£1900
Muirkirk Enterprise Group	The Kitchen @ The Hub	£2000
Muirkirk Community Association	Christmas Lights	£2000
Muirkirk Bowling Club	New Equipment – Liquid Sprayer	£1104
Muirkirk Gala Committee	Muirkirk Bunting	£500
Muirkirk Gala Committee	Gala Day 2019	£2000

### **Muirkirk Community Association**

Tying in with Year of the Young Person, it's been a positive response for the village with Yipworld services using the community rooms for family and group activities. You can join them on a Thursday between 2pm-6pm. In addition we are looking forward to working alongside Muirkirk Youth Group who will help us with upcoming community projects. In addition, some of the youths took part in the Community Visions Public Budgetary event, going along to support community projects.

On the 11th November we will have joined the community in paying our respects to the fallen of WW1. The response from the community in working together to mark one hundred years of such an important event in our history has been something to have pride in.

We had a day of Christmas celebrations on the 1st December, leading up to the Christmas lights switch on in the Miners Memorial Park. Following on, the 5th December will see the Christmas lights switch on along the Main Street and Smallburn Road. We have the community to thank for supporting our application for funding towards repairing existing lights and changing their sockets to allow their compatibility with the new lamp posts. Unfortunately, time has not been on our side for this year but come next year the village will see them in full display.

Come the 17th December we will welcome the children, young people and staff from Hillside School to their annual Christmas party.

For further updates check out our Facebook page and message boards around the village.

If you are interested in booking the hall, kitchen and/or rooms please contact Tom Bark on 01290 661954 or 07796 113844 for information and availability.

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### **Letter - Drew Mackin**

As I took a celebratory sip from the small bottle of Prosecco, I looked out at the scene before me. All around were snow capped mountains as far as the eye could see, from Glencoe in the south to the islands of Rhum and Skye, the Glen Shiel hills in the north and eastwards to the huge bulk of Ben Nevis, the biggest of them all.

I was standing on Streap, near Glenfinnan, and had just completed a round of all of Scotland's Corbetts (223 mountains between 2,500 and 3,000 feet). Of all the mountains I could see before me I had stood on every summit, a lifetime of sheer enjoyment.

As I made my way back to the car I began to reflect - how did all this come about and why had it taken me so long to get here?

The answer lies in the past.

I joined Muirkirk Boys Brigade as a raw eleven year old. We boys were very fortunate at that time to have excellent leaders, and two in particular, the late Jim Currie and a certain Mr Jim Ramage encouraged us, as youngsters, to take part in as much sport as possible.

Although I liked football, it was the hill walking competitions I enjoyed the most and after taking part in the inaugural West Lowland Hike, I was smitten. I loved the challenge, competition, camping, camaraderie and all that goes with the outdoor life.

I took part in as many hikes as possible and although I managed somehow to break a leg at the Cleveland Hike in Yorkshire at fifteen years of age, this still didn't put me off.

As I grew older I explored further afield and, after a chance meeting with another local, Bobby Ward, we started venturing into the Highlands (with a battered old Hillman Avenger.) Along with three other good friends we became 'Munro Baggers' and set about climbing the 284 mountains in Scotland over 3,500 feet. Eight years and many adventures later, Bobby and I climbed our final summit, Ben More on Mull in 1987.

My work took me away from the village and we settled in Castle Douglas. I joined the local running club and it contained a number of serious fell runners. I had never previously thought about running up and over mountains but I decided to give it a go and this proved to be a game changer in my life. I had to increase my overall fitness to a new level just to keep up with these guys and I entered every race in the Lake District that I could. Langdale, Grasmere, Blencathra and many more.

In 1991 a club mate and I were asked to take part in the Scottish Islands Peak race a sailing/fell running challenge from Oban to Troon via the islands of Mull, Jura and Arran. We runners had to run from the boat over the highest hills in each of the three islands namely Ben More, Ben an Oir and Goat Fell, a combined distance of 64 miles.

Coming in at twenty fourth out of a total of fifty yachts wasn't too bad a performance for a first attempt.

However, my greatest challenge was still to come.

It is every fell runners dream to complete the Bob Graham Round. This is a brutal run starting in the town of Keswick. The route is circuitous and takes in 42 of

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Lakelands highest mountains with a total distance of 72 miles and 27,000 feet of climbing. The only caveat is that the runner has to complete the round in under 24 hours. I spent hours running in the Galloway hills training for the big day, and after a failed attempt in 1996 (25 hours 15 minutes) I finally ran up Keswick high street on 5th July 1997 having completed the round in 22 hours 50 minutes. Good weather and excellent pacers helped me along the way but this was the hardest physical challenge I have ever done before or since.

I continued my fell running after moving to Inverness in 2003 and competed in the Highland Cross (50 miles), the Caledonian Challenge (54 miles) and the Great Wilderness (26 miles).

I've also been very fortunate to have walked and trekked overseas in the Alps, Dolomites, Slovenia, Picos de Europa, Corsica, Arctic Sweden and even the Karakorams in Pakistan. During family holidays I even managed some time to climb some peaks in Mallorca and Tuscany (there is always a hill out there somewhere)

But Scotland remains my favourite, so after retirement 6 years ago I set about completing the Corbetts. Many of these hills are remote and pathless so I would recommend a good mountain bike to get into the foot of them. My long suffering wife, Margaret, has spent many an hour in our camper van waiting for me to return from some remote glen in the back of beyond.

So what now? I'll just keep going as long as I am fit and able and if any young person from Muirkirk happens to read the above, I hope it has inspired you in some small way just like the two Jim's inspired me.

Scotland is the most beautiful small country in the world. Your next adventure starts here, so go out and find it for yourselves.

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### **Letter - Andy Dunbar**

I am the grandson of David Hamilton Dunbar who was born in Muirkirk in 1869 and lived there with his family until about 1890 when he migrated to New Zealand. He died in Christchurch, NZ in 1951.

I would be very interested to know if there are any Dunbar descendants still living in or around Muirkirk now and wonder if it would be possible to put something in your Muirkirk Newsletter in the hope that someone might be interested to communicate about shared family?

I would be happy to provide you with more details if that would help. I have information about David's family at that time, and also about the NZ branch of the family once he arrived in this country, but would love to know about what happened



to the Dunbars, particularly the siblings that he left behind.

I have visited Muirkirk twice in the last 4 years, but have never been lucky enough to locate any relatives, except for those that live in the 2 cemeteries there!

If you have any information regarding the above you can contact me at:  
[andyandjan@windowslive.com](mailto:andyandjan@windowslive.com)

Yours sincerely, Andy Dunbar

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**Merry Christmas to all our readers!**





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Saturday 15th December	-	Bad Boy Boogie @ 9pm
Saturday 22nd December	-	The Frontiers (TBC) @ 9pm
Sunday 23rd December	-	Darts Double Tournament @ 1pm
Sunday 23rd December	-	Taboo @ 5pm
Wednesday 26th December	-	Pub Championship @ 4pm
Thursday 27th December	-	Quiz Evening @ 7pm
Friday 28th December	-	Open Darts Competition (TBC) @ 6.30pm
Saturday 29th December	-	Rangers vs Celtic @ 12noon
Sunday 30th December	-	Poker Tournament @ 2pm
Tuesday 1st January	-	Billy Hamilton @ 2.30pm

Please check our Facebook page for entertainment details.

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

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## **Newsletter**

The next date for submission of articles for the February newsletter is Friday 1st February 2019. Please send any correspondence to **[news@muirkirk.org.uk](mailto: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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## **Quiz Answers**

1. Kaizer Wilhelm
  2. Franz Ferdinand
  3. Lord Kitchener
  4. George V
  5. Turkey
  6. Belgium
  7. The Battle of Jutland
  8. David Lloyd George,
  9. RMS Lusitania
  10. 25,000 miles
- 

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