



The Gargunnock Bugle



Issue 66 June 2021



Gargunnock Easter Festival

was a resounding success - thanks in no small part to these ladies of the W.I. (pictured) and their hard-working President Anne Christie.

The village was busy with people walking round and looking at all the decorations, focusing on the special Thankfulness Tree and Memorial Tree situated at the Church. Members Anne Muirhead, Grace Smellie and Jessie Wyllie also picked bunches of daffodils for villagers to take and enjoy, placed at the Church and the Village Square. The Flower Show Committee decorated their whisky barrels, strategically placed round the village and the residents of Charles Street decorated their "Island". Thanks to all who in any way contributed to the undoubtedly success of the festival.

Composite image taken socially distanced and brought together in Photoshop by Helen Hyland

Energetic Eight reach their goal...

One of life's landmarks is the leaving of primary school. This year has been a little bit different for the current P7 class - otherwise known as The Energetic Eight - shown here celebrating the end of their sponsored walking achievement. They richly deserve a Front Page mention. This is their account.

"We have had a good year and still have lots of exciting things to look forward to! In the last week of term, on Monday and Tuesday, the P7s are going to an activity centre called Dounans in Aberfoyle. We will take part in lots of activities like bush craft, canoeing and raft making. Then we are heading off for a morning of orienteering and an afternoon of bowling - lucky us!

On the last day of term we have organised for Alpacas to come into school for each class to take them for a walk and then after, each class will get some ice cream from an ice cream van!



We have used our new digital skills to help us take part in high school transitions via Google classrooms with the high schools that we are going to. There have been tasks in the classrooms for us to complete and we have had virtual tours and met the teachers through videos and google meets. We have enjoyed P7 and will miss primary school but we are looking forward to new adventures at High School."

Local News.... Clubs and Groups.... Meet your Neighbour.... Unsung Hero....
Photography..... Saying Goodbye...
School News.... Wildlife Farmlife..... Charity Fundraising
Local History...

Editorial

So many changes in such a short period of time. Lots of comings and goings to report upon, and (as you'll see from the front cover) some very big events in peoples lives that must be celebrated.

For every departure, there is a new beginning. There is now a new 'Laird' of the Leckie Estate with whom early contacts have been most promising. He is reported as having said that never has he bought a property that was BETTER than the particulars in real life before. Welcome to Gargunnock! We look forward to reporting on future plans in future issues.

On the flip side of the coin, saying goodbye is never easy. The village has witnessed more than its fair share of departures recently. At the end of April, the village lost one of its oldest members, Nancy McIntyre of Stevenson Street, and the beginning of May saw the passing before his time of Archie Stirling of Garden, Trustee of the Gargunnock Estate Trust. Our thoughts go to their families at this time.

And there are or will be other departures too. We have yet to receive any indication of how Wendy Pizey's gardener

post will be filled, but in the meantime, we take this opportunity to tell you a little more about the Gargunnock Estate and the work that we know still to be going on there.

I'm saying 'Goodbye' too. Not leaving the village, just the job. Not because I didn't love doing it, but because I was forced to realise that I simply hadn't the skillsets to fulfil it all. The Trust has, I think sensibly, decided that the role might henceforth be split, and I sincerely hope that suitable candidates will come forward in the coming weeks.

Some months ago, I began exploring how I might mark the end of my photography course. Thanks to Covid, and other associated issues, our College was unable to mount anything other than a virtual exhibition. You can see my work and that of the other Art and Design students at www.fvcshowcase.co.uk.

But that didn't feel enough. Some of my wilder ideas included a walking exhibition around the village... but then the WI stepped forward and offered me a perfect project - creating a body of work that represented our community in one moment in time - Easter 2021. With too many restrictions still in place for a physical exhibition, the Trust generously



Helen Hyland Editor

came to my rescue and has kindly allowed me instead to 'exhibit' a number of the images here (in the centre pages) instead. All the images were taken in that wonderful Easter week when the village came alive with Easter decorations and fun.

Finally, **thank you** to everyone for their kind words, help, and support during my short time as Trust Administrator, and good luck to my successor(s).

An Apology to Julia Anderson



for omitting her contact details from her Tutoring Services advert in the last issue.

jpd.anderson23@gmail.com

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Vacancy/Vacancies

Interested in helping your community and Community Trust?

We would like to hear from anyone interested in supporting their local community by taking on *one or more* of the following tasks for the Trust and Windfarm Fund Panel.

The four main tasks are:

1. Providing administrative support for the Windfarm Fund Panel working closely with its Chair
2. Managing community centre bookings and invoicing, providing financial information to the Trust's treasurer and liaising with the caretaker about community centre user requirements, etc.
3. Keeping the Trust website/Facebook page updated
4. Arranging collation of articles/adverts and publication of the Bugle

You may feel that you can tackle all these or you may fancy taking on just one of them. Either way you will be working as part of a team including the volunteers who serve on the Community Trust and the Windfarm Fund Panel as well as the community centre caretaker.

Modest fees are available to pay for these tasks and we are happy to discuss these if you are interested.

If you feel you can help then please make contact with one of the following:

Dave King Chair Gargunnock Community Trust on 860339 or dgkking@aol.com

Alison Younger Chair Windfarm Panel Chair on 07825241196 or alisonyounger472@btinternet.com

Stuart Ogg Community Trust Minutes Secretary on 07715160751 or stuartogg54@gmail.com

Meet your neighbours - Allister and Zoe McLean

How long have you lived here?

Zoe writes: "It's only been two years but we've definitely settled into the area much quicker than expected. We had lived in military housing in Stirling City Centre for two years prior to moving into The Glebe."

What brought you here?

Allister is in the Army so we moved to Stirling on a posting to HQ Scotland, which was based in Springkerse, a few days after our wedding in Mull. Once we decided to have a permanent home to always come back to, the search around Stirling started! We both loved this house, but it was further out than we planned on looking, so it was serendipitous that The Glebe appeared when comparing our searches. We agreed to look and fell in love with it and the surrounding area. The meal in The Gargunnock Inn after viewing the house was a deciding factor.

What do you like about living in Gargunnock?

There are many things but having so many beautiful walks, both short and long distance, starting at our doorstep is amazing. The view of the hills when driving into the village is beautiful and one that friends and family frequently comment on, back when they were allowed to visit. The proximity of Gargunnock Inn: it is lovely to be able to pop there for a meal or drink without worrying about travelling home. Most of all the people; I can honestly say I have never lived in a friendlier, more welcoming place. Although lockdown was not a great time, I found I spoke to more neighbours (socially distanced) than I had ever done before. The Scarecrow Festival, Advent Calendar Windows and Easter Trees have been lovely and exciting to see. Perhaps a controversial one but we also love the pheasant who visits us in the garden. We've convinced ourselves it's the same one each day with such a goofy personality. We've named him Fez.

How has the village changed in the time you have been here?

Haha, probably a question

for the more experienced residents but there are a few new houses in our short time here and it's great that Manse Brae has been resurfaced! My car is very thankful for it.

What are your present occupations?

Zoe is an audiologist at The Hearing Clinic, an independent audiology

it really sets you up for the weekend. I'm not sure that the Beer Festival counts as a village group but it certainly was fun to attend in 2019.

How has the current situation affected you and yours?

We missed the chance for a lot of the social events, especially the beer festivals and gala! Despite Allister being overseas



©HRH Photo

clinic working in Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh and also participates in TV and film extra work. Allister is an Ammunition Technical Officer with the British Army. It means we do travel (separately) quite a bit but it's lovely to have the village to return to.

What is your favourite part of the village?

The view from the flags at The Pinnacle. It's a lovely walk to the top and can be managed in most weathers. The photo shows another great spot on the circular walk past Watson House, down by the old mill.

Have you been involved with any of the village groups? Tell us a bit about your experiences

Helping out for a day on the Glebe Park walking path was great fun organised by the Community Trust. Hopefully there'll be more chances this summer but we're both back at work full time.

The 2020 Street bingo organised by the Fletts was a lot of fun during lockdown and Allister seemed slightly envious of it (and the chocolates that I won) whilst he was spending lockdown in Iraq. I take part in Lois's bootcamp when possible,

for most of 2020, we feel very fortunate for being in a rural area. I was furloughed for a few months so was able to enjoy

the brilliant summer resulting in my best tan ever and a chance to finally work my way through my reading list. With family and friends spread around the four nations, we are eagerly waiting for travel to open up again so we are able to visit them and vice versa.

What's your next challenge?

We have a few changes we'd like to make to our home which has been made more difficult with restrictions but hopefully some movement soon. I am steadily working away at my Masters but more fun challenges will be attempting more hiking routes in the Gargunnock and the surrounding areas. When lockdown eases we aim to complete the West Highland Way.

Who would you like to nominate to answer this questionnaire for the next issue of Bugle? And why?

Audrey Birrell. When we first viewed the house in December, we popped into the church and signed the visitor book after chatting to Audrey. She then very kindly posted us a Christmas card to the address in which we were living at the time. That was the start of the warm welcome to Gargunnock.

Unsung Hero?

No-one specific to be named this time - for fear that I'd miss out someone. This issue, we're thanking the gardeners who have selflessly given their time and resources to make our village a prettier place.

Sadly, the current Friends of Gargunnock Gardens Group ends with Wendy's tenure, but perhaps another might appear to replace it in due course.

The Flower Show Committee's tubs have been a joy to see - all very different but packed full of surprises throughout the Spring.

Bulbs don't get planted by themselves, but we've seen an array of them, along the vergeside on Leckie Road, and in and in front of the churchyard.

And the close mowing and detailed weeding of the ground beside Albert Place (and last summer the grass areas beside Main Street) owe little to Council input .

Thank you, to one and all.



Daffodils along Leckie Road
by John McLaren

Gargunnock Community Trust

David King writes

Some 20 years ago now I was a newcomer to the village. In common with most newcomers, I had a full-time job which kept me fully occupied during the day and, by the time weekends came round, family arrangements probably came top of my "to do" list.

Around 10 years ago I was approached and asked if I would like to join the Community Trust. Up until then I had no idea what the Trust was or what it did.

Like a lot of people I was not sure of the difference between The Trust and The Community Council. Maybe in the next issue my colleague Jon Sutherland, Chair of the Community Council, could explain its purpose.

What is The Community Trust?

The Trust was formed in 2005 to work on behalf of the residents of the Gargunnock Council Area to provide a vehicle for fund-raising and managing projects of a charitable nature for the benefit of the village of Gargunnock

What does the Trust do now?

- Owns and manages The Community Centre and Glebe Park and its associated beehives and mini orchard
- Administers The Windfarm Fund. Some £25,000 per year is distributed on behalf of Falck Renewables, the owners of Kingsburn windfarm located on the Gargunnock hills to the south of the village.
- Publishes and distributes The Bugle newsletter
- Manages the Flagpole in The Square
- Manages The "Bite and Blether" lunchtime café in the Community Centre
- Supports the development and improvement of walking and cycling paths in the Gargunnock area
- Holds a lottery licence that is available for groups in the village
- Maintains the village website

Membership

Anyone residing or working in Gargunnock can become a member for a one-off payment of £1. Membership of the Trust is critical to its success. When applying for funding for things such as the Community Centre or improvements to The Beeches Path or creation of the Pathway to Stirling one of the things asked by funders is how the Trust can demonstrate community support.

Membership forms can be found on the website, www.gargunnock.org. Fill it in and together with your £1 hand it over personally to one of the Directors listed on the website or pop it through their door, whichever is easier.

Thanks

In closing I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Directors past and present.

They are an extremely dedicated, hardworking and talented group of volunteers, committing a considerable amount of their time to help the Gargunnock community.

I would also like to thank Helen Hyland, who is standing down as Trust Administrator. We really appreciate the enthusiasm and professionalism she brought to the role, especially the upgrade to the Bugle, and wish her well in the future. You will see a notice in this edition of the Bugle inviting those who are interested in taking on one or more of the administrative tasks. There are modest fees to pay for these tasks.

AGM

All being well, we hope to have an AGM later in the year. This will give us the opportunity to update everyone and allow you to comment on what we currently plan for the future. We are keen to ensure we are working on the right things that reflect the community's views and are within our remit.



Community Centre

Douglas Johnston writes

Things are gradually returning to normal at the Community Centre with some classes and groups already running sessions in a COVID-19 safe way. The centre is fully equipped with everything needed for safe operation and there will be more groups starting as restrictions ease. To find out what is happening keep an eye on the Community Centre diary on the website

www.gargunnock.org

Community Council Update

Jon Sutherland writes

The 2021 AGM of the Community Council was held on 26th April. Jeremy Wilkinson and Helen Rowell stepped down from the Council as Chair and Facebook Administrator respectively. Their contribution to the group will be greatly missed. The Community Council thank them for their work.

The current representatives are:-

Chair: Jon Sutherland

Vice-Chair: Christine Phillips

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Douglas Barr

Planning & Licensing Representative:

Julie Cole

Roads & Transport Representative:

Lovat MacGregor

Defibrillator Representative:

Charlie Fitches

Facebook Administrator: OPEN

David King

The Community Council is allowed nine representatives. As of writing two members of the village have applied to join.

The main issue currently being discussed between the Community Council and Stirling Council is road safety at the Station Road junction with the A811. Stirling Council Roads Group has proposed some options going from:-

- no action,
- one way on Station Road
- increasing the field of view at the junction by removing the wall, vegetation and BT post at the junction.

The last option was the one supported by the group as it provided the safest solution. However, Stirling Council has decided that since there have been no major accidents at the junction, no action will be taken at present. We ask that any near misses that are observed be reported to the Police on the non-emergency 101 line.

The Community Council has also started working with the Community Trust in their work for creating a safe cycle link from Stirling to the Village and onwards. We are seeking the council's active support to this.

The Community Council and Community Trust met with new Manager of Leckie Estate on May 4th to update what the Estate plans are under new ownership. Their plans are to undertake ecological restoration led by science to add more native tree species to the estate. It was an interesting and informative discussion.

If you would like to raise any issues, or are interested in the current work, please come along to the next meeting, on Monday 2nd August at 19.30pm in the Community Centre (if restrictions have been lifted). Meeting Agenda and other information will be posted on the Community Noticeboard and the GCC Facebook page.

Windfarm Fund Update

Alison Younger writes

The volunteer Windfarm Panel is responsible for directing awards from approx. £25,000 p.a. received from FALCK Renewables. Since May 2017 our community has received a total of £131,924.65 of funds through the windfarm funding, of which £118,857.61 has to date been allocated through applications to the panel.

At our March and June meetings, the Panel considered a number of applications – awards are listed below. To be eligible for an award an application must be for the benefit of residents of Gargunnock. Full details of the fund and how to make an application can be found on the Gargunnock Community Trust website. It's an easy process – we'd love to hear from you if you have an idea! We meet again at the end of September.

A big thanks to Chloe Bruce and Ewan Hunter who are stepping down from the Panel. We wish Chloe every success as she starts her teaching career further east.

Awards made March - June 2021

Applicant	Detail	Award
Callander Young Farmers	Purchase of tug of war boots	£319.36
Paths sub group Community Trust	Improvements to Ladies Walk Path	£497
Paths sub group Community Trust	Improvements to Watson House Path	£920
Paths sub group Community Trust	Consultants study into potential improvements to hill paths and access to inform discussions with key stakeholders and community	£1200
Gargunnock Playgroup	Contribution towards outdoor play equipment in Community Centre Garden (part of a larger project valued at £17,200)	£1700

Subsequently we are currently looking for a young person (aged 16 – 25yrs) to join the Panel from September. We have 4 meetings a year so the role does not require too much time – but it's a great way to build some experience of communication, community service and leadership for important CV's or Personal Statements. For more info please get in touch with

Chair, Alison Younger
0782541196 /
alisonyoungert472@btinternet.com
or
Stuart Ogg, Gargunnock Trust
07715 160751
stuartogg54@gmail.com



Photograph by Michael Gotz

Paths Group Update

David King writes

In the two months since the last update, plans continue to make progress on all of the projects under consideration.

We were ready to proceed on running repairs to both the **Ladies' Walk** and the path to the South of **Watson House** when news of a shortage of wood reached us. We now believe this will delay the work at Watson House until September.

An IPA application is in the process of being submitted for grant funding for the upgrade to the **Beeches Path**. We believe we now have clarity as to the ownership of the various sections of this core path. Thanks to John More and Cala Homes for providing the necessary consents to proceed with the improvement grant application. Stirling Council have confirmed that Planning Permission is not required.

Charlie's Loan.

Match Funding for this project has been approved by the Windfarm Panel and we now await further communications from Stirling Council, who are providing materials and equipment to allow this project to proceed.

It has been reported to the Paths Group that gates have been taken off their hinges on one of the hillside paths resulting in loss of valuable livestock. This behaviour is unacceptable. We really need the cooperation of the landowners and tenants and are investigating the desirability of self-closing gates for both farmers and walkers.

Detailed discussions are ongoing on the proposed **cycle/footpath between Gargunnock and Stirling**,

involving landowners and tenant farmers, Sustrans, our principal consultants and Stirling Council. Following the recent elections, letters were sent to our new representatives in the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments and Stirling Council. Strong support for what could become an integral part of The Kings Highway from Stirling to Dumbarton has been expressed by representatives in all three bodies.

Jeremy has decided to relocate from Gargunnock. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in the village, not least his leadership in the creation of The Glebe Park. We shall miss his drive and inspiration. Quite big boots to fill. However feel free to step forward and join Edmond, Pete, Geoff and Gavin in coordinating these projects, which aim to add to the quality of life in our vibrant village community.

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

Clare Rolley writes

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers runs sessions weekly throughout the year for all children up to school age. If you are new to the village and have young children or are expecting a baby, please do get in touch.

Gargunnock Playgroup runs every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-12pm during the school term in the Community Centre. Our qualified staff run a varied set of activities suiting all ages and interests. We are an independent Playgroup, registered with the Care Inspectorate, managed by parents and we welcome children from 2½ yrs, to pre-school. Please contact playgroup@gargunnock.com for more details.

Gargunnock Toddlers provides lots of toys, snack time and a warm welcome for parents-to-be, parents and children from 0-5, or their grandparents/child-minders etc. Every Wednesday morning (10-11.30am) in the Community Centre. Sessions are £2 + 50p for siblings. Why not come along and see for yourself?

We are following all regulation and guidelines around Covid-19. At time of writing, playgroup is up and running and the toddler group is meeting inside (!) and outside at the Community Centre. Please contact us for the latest information!

We are currently looking to employ relief play assistants for playgroup –

please contact Debbie Masson for more information and an application form.

Our AGM is on 30 June 730pm in Community Centre – all welcome!

If you want to get in touch at any time please contact;

Rea Gourlay (Playgroup Leader)
07851175815, playgroup@gargunnock.com,
Debbie Masson (Chairperson)
07779727209, debstar masson74@gmail.com,
Carmel Cawley (Toddler Representative) 07971482408, carmelcawley@yahoo.co.uk

Along at Old Leckie Farm

Alison Younger writes

June is such a lovely time of year on the farm. This year when spring finally arrived, grass grew thick and lush, tree buds seemed to explode overnight into a canopy of green and all around flowering plants are adding bursts of colour. Swifts and housemartins scud around, roe deer are tempted out, hiding their new-born kids in the long grass of the hay/silage fields, and the dawn chorus provides a spirit-lifting soundtrack to early morning rounds.

In the fields we're rotating sheep and cattle through the fields, moving stock on to the best, fresh grass. Folks walking through the farm may have clocked some wooden structures appearing – we've been selecting the best of the self-seeded

oak tree seedlings which we want to protect from livestock grazing to grow into mature park trees. We are grateful to those who previously managed the land and planted the huge Oaks, Sycamores and Limes that we enjoy as parkland trees today and are conscious that we must continuously add more trees as the mature ones reach the end of their natural lives. Luckily 2020 was a "mast year" for acorns and consequently there is a carpet of seedlings to choose from.

Usually we make tree guards out of posts and netting, but to save time have been trialling using some recycled garden fences to protect the tiny seedlings (the jury is out!). They look a bit out of place, but need to withstand an 700kg cow

rubbing against it to have any chance of surviving. It takes 20+ years for parkland trees to get established, and for a long time they can look quite scrawny, before surprising you one day as they develop a large canopy and fill out.

Our new flock of Leckie layers are settling in well and it won't be long until they are out onto the reseeded grass enjoying the sun on their backs. Some of our pigs that have been in the walled garden clearing up the leftover potatoes through the spring and are due back from the butchers – there will soon be pork chops, roasts and sausages back in the freezers for sale through our online shop <https://shop.oldleckie.co.uk>.



- Leckie Free Range Eggs
- Leckie Meat: Beef, Lamb, Outdoor reared pork
- Leckie Leaves and Tatties
- Self catering accommodation
- Farm tours

Order online at www.oldleckie.co.uk

Local delivery every Friday

Callander & District YFC

Eilidh Graham reports

Things are on the up for Callander & District YFC in 2021! We welcomed our new committee back in March and they've been busy planning a fun-filled summer syllabus for everyone. We also got a final total for our 1000 miles in March challenge... 1400 miles and £600 donated to 'It's Good 2 Give'. Well done to all members who walked, ran or cycled to contribute to our final mileage and to all our supporters who kindly donated money. We also received funding from the Falck Renewables Kingsburn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust to put towards buying some club clothing, which members were very excited to receive (thank you).

We were able to hold our first in-person

event on 23/05 (woohoo!) which was our new members afternoon. We held two separate socially-distant sessions and had 7 new members attending – we hope they enjoyed themselves and that we will see them again at some of our upcoming events! We have also started up Tug-o-War training again, which we have seen lots of members keen to participate in this year. There is a competition planned for July and we are aiming to get a girls' team and a boys' team along to it.

Summer Syllabus

- 18/06 Car Treasure Hunt
- 28/06 Kinlochard Watersports
- 12/07 Mock Auction
- 26/07 Charity Duck Race
- 09/08 Fergal's Sheepdog Trial
- 23/08 Mini Field Day/Meet another club
- 06/09 Club Day Trip

20/08 Dance

These are provisional dates - to be confirmed closer to the time.

Tug-o-War training runs every Tuesday and Thursday at Balgair Farm, Fintry.

If you are aged 14-30 and interested in any of these events or wish to join our club find us on Facebook or speak to one of our office bearers:

Chairman: Jan Duncan 07557509475

Vice Chairman: Angus Bryce

07402903317

Secretary: Tara Brisbane 07794942983

Assistant Secretary: Eilidh Graham

07957867779

Treasurer: Angus McMillan

07548768470

Assistant Treasurer: Rebecca Duncan

07796952383

WI Easter Event Summary

Anne Christie writes

Gargunnock SWI's recent Easter Festival proved to be a resounding success and embraced by the village.

Easter Monday was a difficult day for judges Allison and Audrey Birrell and Primary School head teacher Janine Rushton (pictured below), who had the challenging task of judging the Toddlers, Primary and Family sections plus two additional categories of Best Decorated Window and Best Decorated Tree.

The village was busy with people walking round and looking at all the decorations, focusing on the special Thankfulness Tree and Memorial Tree situated at the Church.

Members Anne Muirhead, Grace Smellie and Jessie Wyllie also picked bunches of daffodils for villagers to take and enjoy, placed at the Church and the Village Square.

Thanks go to all in the village who took part in decorating a tree or window, helping to raise a smile as folk walked round the village during the month of April.

Hopefully this may become the first of many annual Easter events.

Congratulations to all the prize winners

Toddlers

Kaitlyn Steele, McLaren's Park

Primary

Hamish Webber, Hillhead Cottage

Family

The Hay Family, The Glebe

Decorated Window

Sylvia Bedwell, Drummond Place.

Decorated Tree

The Sutherland Family, Mill Brae

Special Mention 1

The Flower Show committee decorated their whisky barrels, strategically placed round the village

Special Mention 2

The residents of Charles Street decorated their "Island" which was well worthy of a Special mention from the judges

Special Mentions 3 & 4

The fresh eggshell decorations from the Muirhead family in Stark street and Kathleen Sinclair of Mill Brae for her decorated tree and window.



Judges' Comments

Audrey Birrell writes

All three judges found it a real joy to be part of the Easter Event. The (almost 4 hour) walk around the village was a delightful one with so many beautiful windows and trees to admire. Choosing winners was an incredibly difficult task as there was so much creativity on display. (Janine's mobile phone was an asset at the judging stage.)

In particular we noticed how many of the trees and window displays had beautifully handcrafted decorations; crocheted flowers, papier mache eggs, decorated egg shells, clay pendants, foam animals, pom poms and

knitted baskets are just some of the ones that we remember. Gargunnock certainly showed itself to be a village of very talented and creative individuals!

It was also lovely to chat with many of the household members, including new people to the village, who said how pleased they were to be able to take part in such a lovely community project.

Well done to the WI for organising such a thoughtful event, which brought extra colour and cheer to the village over the Easter holidays. It was a privilege for us to have been able to play a small part in a very successful event.

FORTH VALLEY artbeat GRAD
in GARGUNNOCK
10+11 July Artist Open Studios/Gardens Weekend
2021 5-25 July 'ArtCycle' Commissions + Events
ART CYCLE



Patricia Griffin Dyed & Felted Silks
9 Inchcape Place
Broughty Ferry
Dundee DD5 2LP
07710599912

Silver Jewellery

07570977277

Michael Kay
Bridgend
Main Street
Gargunnock
Stirling FK8 3BW



Ros Macdonald Prints & Acrylics
Steading House Studio
Emmock Farm
Tealing,
by Dundee DD3 0QA 07767 267449

at BRIDGEND, 10th & 11th JULY 2021
CARD FACILITIES <https://www.facebook.com/emmockfarm>

Are you a young person living in Gargunnock?

Want to do something for your local community?

We have a vacancy on the Gargunnock Windfarm Fund Panel for a young person (between 16 and 25). Participation on the Panel offers great experience to add to any CV when applying for jobs!

The Panel is independent of the Trust and responsible for deciding how to distribute funding received each year from the Kingsburn Wind Energy Ltd Community Benefit Fund.

The Panel decides on how the funding is distributed in consultation with the Trust, and considers and approves applications for funding. The Fund is used to benefit the Gargunnock community.

The role involves attending four meetings a year to consider applications from local groups and organisations seeking funding for different types of projects.

The Panel has a Chair, up to 6 members from the Gargunnock community, two members from the Community Council and two Trust directors/trustees.

Interested? Then please contact one of the following:

Alison Younger Chair Windfarm Fund Panel Chair on 07825241196 or alisonyoung472@btinternet.com

Stuart Ogg Community Trust Meeting Secretary on 07715160751 or stuartogg54@gmail.com

A Walk Through Gargunnock Estate

John McLaren writes

We begin our ramble at the main entrance to the estate. If you have arrived by car there's a car park on the right just through the gate and a donation box at its entrance. Also if you have kids with you there is a short steep walk across the road called the East Glen walk which can be an ideal adventure walk for younger kids.

The road that you followed from the east to arrive at the lodge is an ancient one connecting Stirling and Dumbarton castles, known as the Kings Highway. Having now entered the estate we are actually still following the line of that old road. It was not until the 1700s, in the time of Sir James Campbell of Ardkinlass, who resided chiefly here, that the Back Road into the village (or Old Dumbarton Road) was given its present line by him to remove passing traffic from the vicinity of Gargunnock House.

The drive you are on now is flanked by many tall Sequoia trees and other plants of interest to the horticulturalist. This is mainly due to the activities of the Stirling family who took over the estate in the 1830s from Col Eidington, who succeeded the Campbells c1790.

At various times of the year the drive is flanked by a riot of colour, from the whites and yellows of a succession of



snowdrops then daffodils followed by rhododendrons etc. The drive in Summer contains every shade of green, while autumn brings glorious displays of coloured leaves as winter approaches. It is also full of wildlife, including deer and red squirrels, and our community here is kept fully up to date on their presence via many excellent photos/videos posted on Facebook by Anne Marie, our resident version of David Attenborough.

Gargunnock House is soon seen on our right. It was Col Eidington, who owned the estate until 1825, who gave the house



its Georgian facade to hide the collection of evolutionary additions made over hundreds of years to the original tower-like structure. He also cleared the area in front of the house of a defensive wall and gardens in favour of constructing a large walled garden that we shall encounter later.

At the end of the main portion of the drive is a gate where a road heads off to the left, providing a short cut to the Back Road, emerging at the Ghost Brig where, it is said the ghost of a horse-drawn carriage said to have been involved in an accident

here appears at times.

Our road rises a little here past the main entrance to the house before veering left past the entrance to the rear of the house and the stables. The octagonal structure in the field is a Doocot, built to house hundreds of pigeons in such a manner that they could

easily be harvested for food. Pigeon pie for dinner anyone? The interior is divided into hundreds of nesting compartments, while a ladder mounted on a central axle enables access to them all at will.

Nearby lies the remains of a large tree trunk of ancient vintage with other trees growing from it. Obviously of some importance in the past, as an old postcard depicted perhaps that same tree during its lifetime.

Continuing our walk, we encounter the large walled garden with Gardeners Cottage. Old photos show this garden to have been formally laid out in its day and no doubt very productive.

Passing the high walled garden, we have a view to the north across the fields of the old Glenfoyle Distillery at Dasherhead Farm, which once produced 30,000 Gallons of pure malt annually in its 19th century heyday.

At the western end of the walled garden we find Millthread Cottage, once an Inn. In 1746, after Prince Charlie and his army had passed through, it featured in a story long told here according to a 19th century report in a local newspaper.

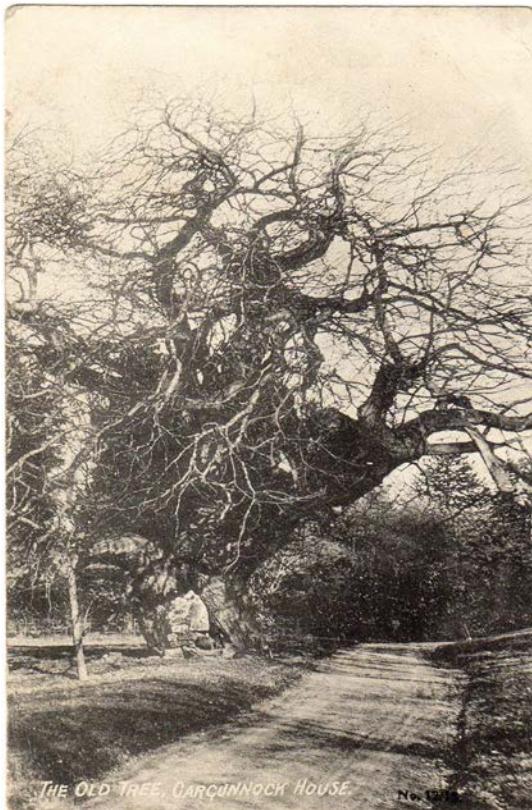
"On the Sunday morning when "Butcher" Cumberland and the Royal Army arrived in Gargunnock on their way to Culloden, the whole congregation was assembled for public worship in the Parish Church. Prince Charlie and his Highlanders had left a few days earlier so you can imagine the excitement in the church that solemn Sabbath morning when the elder at the door saw the Duke's men approaching."

He told told the man at the end of the back pew, who told his wife, who told her neighbour and, within a couple of minutes the congregation was on its feet making for the door. All except the minister and young Paul Doug who was in the act of offering his baby son John for baptism. John lived to a ripe old age in the village.

A man who put up at the Mill Thread, the local public house was arrested as a spy and hanged from a lamp-post in Broad Street Stirling. One Highlander flying with booty from the Battle of Falkirk fell over a cliff at Downie's Loag near the village and was killed. His two companions carried his body to the church. It is also on record that the Jacobites helped themselves to almost every horse in the parish for their luggage trains"

Opposite Millthread Cottage a signed footpath follows a track round the south side of the walled garden before climbing steeply up the eastern margin of a field and over a ridge before dropping down to near the fore-mentioned Ghost Bridge. The views North and South from its highest point and a conveniently positioned bench are well worth the climb.

From Millthread we are now joining what was the Ladies Walk, taken by the ladies from the big house going



to church on a Sunday, (although as a boy I recall the path being on the north side of Millthread).

In fact, 160 years ago the old road we have been following, as opposed to the path we are about to follow, carried on into the steep field to the west of Millthread, climbing obliquely to reach Manse Brae a short distance uphill from the entrance to Dinning House, the old Manse.

The path, although level to begin with, ends in a short, steep climb up to a pedestrian gate opposite the entrance to Dinning House and not far from the church, although there is the option of branching off to the right before then through a recently developed open space with picnic tables and benches via Charles Street to Station Road opposite the Old Church Hall.

The red sandstone old church hall was originally the Free Church in Gargunnock, built in the 19th century. Eventually it ceased to operate as a church and in the late 1930s was converted into a Church of Scotland hall, opening in 1939 just as war broke out. Until then the only public hall available for large meetings, dances etc had been the school in Leckie Road with all the attendant difficulties of clearing out desks beforehand. The Church hall served the community well for 60 years before it was sold and converted for private use.



The curious old tree trunk with other trees growing out of it. In the postcard, which may show the same tree in its final years, its trunk is being supported by masonry



Where is it?
Maitland Clark challenges you to find one of these....



Hope you enjoy the walk.

www.gargunnockvillagehistory.co.uk

Photographs and illustrations sourced/taken by
John McLaren unless otherwise stated.



East Glen Rhododendron Sanctuary

Willie Campbell writes

You may have noticed some planting going on in the East Glen opposite the main gates to Gargunnock House. The planting of rhododendrons as a conservation project is a collaboration between Gargunnock Estate Trustees and the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group (R.S.C.G.) in Scotland.

There are some 1100 species of rhododendrons in the world mainly coming from the Sino-Himalaya and the Islands of South East Asia, with Europe and North America also having a few species. Around 400 can grow here in Scotland with many of the more tender growing on the West Coast. Scotland has particularly good growing conditions for rhododendrons with having acidic soil in most areas. At this time of year in May the



© H.H. Hyland

gardens around Gargunnock House are awash with colour from the many species and hybrid rhododendrons.

Why do we need a conservation area here? One would have thought that they would be best 'conserved' where they are growing, in the wild's high mountain ranges and plains of Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, Bhutan, Northern India, Burma, Vietnam and the vast mountain ranges in China. But having been to these regions, it's clear that Progress stands in the way of meaningful conservation.

Many areas of forests are being felled, rhododendrons make good timber for household fire, hillsides are being quarried, and in China they think nothing of running a motorway over mountains, just clearing everything in the way.

I will never forget a sign in Sichuan pointing to a new international airport at 7,500 feet above sea level. A whole mountain side was cleared and levelled with motorway links to it. Leisure is another concern. India and China have vast numbers of tourists seeking the wild mountain countryside retreat experience. Some rhododendron species are endemic to only a small patch of mountain range

and in some areas only a few plants survive today.

Some of you will read that those "rhododendrons" are taking over many areas in Scotland and it's costing a lot of money to clear them. Rhododendron ponticum was introduced from the Caucasus Mountains (that area between Black Sea and the Caspian Sea) initially for game cover and also shelter from the elements in the island because they survive the salt spray.

When I arrived at Gargunnock in 1999 the East Glen was covered with 15-foot-high rhododendron ponticum but it was cut down, chipped and burned. The new growth was treated and after a few years we had some good planting areas. Let me

make it clear: rhododendron ponticum is the only species that spreads and causes any problems. Walk through the Estate today and you will see growing there are over 700 rhododendrons and they are all behaving themselves.

In Scotland, the R.S.C.G. has some five areas that are being planted up with endangered species of rhododendron, three on the west coast, one in the Highlands and one in Central Scotland here at the East Glen. The RSCG have links to the Botanic Gardens and other Conservation Groups across the globe. The group are delighted to be in partnership with the Trustees.

The area will be open to view with most plants named for your interest. If anyone feels they could help in this project, with planting or just pulling out saplings growing in the woods, please contact myself, Willie Campbell, via the Bugle.

Photograph of Willie and Fiona Campbell in the East Glen by Helen Hyland.

Bee News! Gargunnock Beekeepers

Our first colony of bees took up residence in the Glebe Park Apiary in early April, and as expected it has been all go ever since.

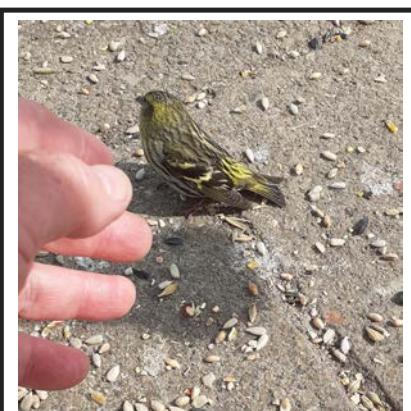
After a day or so to re-set their satnav, the girls got to work exploring their new surroundings and finding the best sources of pollen and nectar in the local area. They were very patient with us beginners as we learned to inspect the hive, identify the elements that indicate a healthy colony and keep tabs on pests and diseases. It soon became apparent that honey bees prefer warm calm weather, with the hive frames filling up with brood of all stages, pollen, nectar and the honey supers getting heavy! Conversely, a cold wet week would have the opposite effect with little progress visible.

The recent warm spell has seen increased activity and we have been giving the bees more room to manoeuvre in the form of additional brood boxes and honey supers – extra "storeys" which are great for the bees but not so great for the shorter members of the group when lifting! We are still in swarm season, which is a natural part of the bees' reproductive process with the aim of finding a new home and multiplying colonies. Beekeepers will use various means to try to prevent swarming. However none are 100% successful so it is inevitable that swarming can and does occur. We recently carried out a swarm prevention exercise on our hive to attempt to switch off the swarming drive and so far, so good.

We will welcome an additional "nuc" of bees to the apiary soon – this is a starter colony with a new 2021 queen which gives us additional opportunities to gain experience in our first year as beekeepers.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing the honey label designs that the children at Gargunnock Primary School have been creating for our honey jars. All going well, we hope to have a honey harvest this year, which is very exciting.

For regular updates and photos, join our Facebook page Gargunnock Beekeepers.



Not quite a bird in the hand.....
Photograph sent in by Maitland Clark

Gargunnock Easter Festival

Photographs by Helen Hyland



Gargunnock Easter Festival

Photographs by Helen Hyland





Gargunnock Easter Festival

Photographs by Helen Hyland



Gargunnock Walking Group

Edmond Mansion writes



The Gargunnock Walking group has now had three outings since the relaxation of regulations. First of all we had a local walk along the old Military Road and through Boquhan Estate to the Woodhouse where we had our customary lunch. The next walk was a circular route through Loch Ard Forest followed by lunch in one of the Aberfoyle pubs. The last walk was a very scenic route in the Cashel Forest Park on Loch Lomond side. As you climb through the trees you find superb views across Loch Lomond to the West Coast, North to Ben Lomond and South to Conic Hill and the surrounding countryside. An excellent lunch was had in the Oak Tree Inn at Balmaha.

By the time this is published we should have done a repeat walk to the Whangie. This is a curious geological feature across the moorland to the west of the A809 and north of Milngavie.

The second June walk will be to Glen Lednock, north of Comrie. This is a fine scenic woodland walk up this very picturesque glen. This will be on 24th June.

The first July walk on 8th July will be a visit to the Falkirk Wheel and a walk along the Forth and Clyde Canal to Bonnybridge and returning by the Antonine Wall. This is a very well-preserved stretch of the Antonine Wall and has proved to be of great interest on previous visits.

The second July walk on 22nd July will be to Glen Tarken. This is a less well known walk on the north side of Loch Earn near to St Fillans. As you climb into the glen there are fine scenic views to the south of Loch Earn and to the north and east side of Ben Vorlich.

We have already done a number of interesting walks, but we are always on the look out for new walks within easy access of Gargunnock.

We normally gather at 10:00

a.m. in the pub car park prior to starting our walk. At present most people prefer to travel in their own cars, but as regulations are further relaxed we should be able to resume car sharing.

If you are interested in participating in our walks, call me on 01786 860608 or drop me an email to edmond.mansion@btinternet.com and I will put you on the circulation list for meets and send a copy of the Guidance Notes. Please note that one of the few rules that we have is no dogs. The primary reason for this is that we occasionally walk through areas where livestock graze and I would not wish to be associated with anyone's dog, however well disciplined, whilst in the vicinity of cattle. We also expect participants to be responsible for their own wellbeing and capable of going the distance of the walk.

Thanks to Steve and Issy for the photos of the two recent walks.



The Poppy Challenge

Claire Gill writes

The red poppy is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

At the beginning of March, an invitation for a virtual group walking challenge popped up on my Facebook page. Now many of you know I'm a talker, but a walker I am not and the 1921 mile target alarmed me, so I hastily put this in the "ignore" file and left it there. Several posts later, I thought I'd return to investigate the group challenge further, and thought what's the harm in trying? So April 1-16 May was pencilled in the diary.

The Wrens in Scotland group is a mixture of current and ex-WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service) either based in, or with links to, Scotland. Seventeen of us decided to embark on the Poppy Pledge Challenge to mark 100 years of the first Remembrance Poppy. We individually walked around Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Rosyth, Glamis, Musselburgh, Livingston, Keith and Gargunnock. We formed a WhatsApp group affectionately known as the Poppy Girls where we shared photos, activities and, most importantly, encouraging words.

I decided to do an activity for each day of the challenge instead of a mileage target, a decision that would be less intimidating for me. The weather was good as I started the challenge, so shorts and t-shirts were my "uniform" of

choice and remained so for the whole challenge, regardless of the weather. After a week, I started to have issues with one knee which I managed to control by wearing sturdy shoes (and not walking sandals) as well as liberal amounts of muscle rub and painkillers.

As the weather conditions



continued to be good, I began to look forward to my walks, enjoying meeting people around the village, some of whom I hadn't seen since my time at the village shop. Slowly and steadily, I was clocking up a few miles under my belt.

Half way into the challenge, on a beautiful day, I met with Helen for a photoshoot and a game of chase the

stick with Neo. By this point I was dog sitting for a couple of days so was walking at least twice a day, which aggravated my knee, but I was determined to keep going, helped by several offers of company encouraging me to get out more.

At the start week 4, thankfully my knee was improving - but the rest of my body was starting to get tired! Only 21 days to go: this was just mind-over-matter, wasn't it? Then the weather turned wet, making my shorts and top attire less suitable, so out came the rain jacket.

By the end of April, we had reached our target of 1921 miles and still had 16 days to go, so our target became simply "as many miles as we could manage".

I accepted more offers of company and would like to thank Gilly, Fiona, Helen, and Bridget. All but two of my walks were around the village; the loch at Stirling University was my alternate venue with Christine, who supplied croissants as a treat.

The weeks seemed to fly by and soon I had reached our final week of activity. My companion for this week was Bonnie, a Romanian rescue dog. My final total of 150 miles was definitely helped with walking her twice a day.

As a group we achieved a grand total of 2807 miles over the 6 weeks. I'd like to thank everyone who kindly supported us in raising a fantastic total of £2105. Thanks to many from Gargunnock who kindly supported our fundraising through JustGiving.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/scottishwrvns>

Returning to Health and Fitness

The air turned blue a couple of weeks ago as one husband, who shall remain nameless, returned from his first post-lockdown football training session having overdone things and cracked a rib! He insists it was a *wonderful* save, but that doesn't really make up for the following weeks of moans and groans that the household had to endure.... But that got me thinking that there could well be others who might have been tempted to throw themselves back into fitness regimes rather too quickly, as we come out of lockdown.... This section is devoted to you all...

Hip Hip Hooray!

Sandra Anderson writes



At the age of 42 while on a hillwalking holiday in the Lake District I started to feel a slight ache in my right hip. I didn't think too much of it – just assumed I had overdone it on one of the big ridge walks.

However, over the next couple of years, the pain got worse and I was back and forward to the doctor's and taking daily painkillers (never a good idea). I was diagnosed with osteoarthritis but told I was too young to get an operation.

Eventually, due to constant pain and little sleep (anyone who has had the need for a hip or knee replacement will know what I mean!) at the age of 50 I was referred to the specialist at the hospital and finally given a date for my hip resurfacing when I was 52.

Two weeks before the operation, my surgeon was involved in a car accident (thankfully he was not badly injured) but I was informed that I would have to go back to the bottom of the waiting list and a new date could take 2 years! A very nice lady from the Health Trust suggested I write to them with a full account of all I had gone through, listing appointments, dates and symptoms, which I did. Three days later I had a phone call giving me a date within a fortnight to have the hip resurfacing at Kings Park – result! It was the same procedure Andy Murray went through recently.

The operation went without a hitch and recovery included daily exercises and three walks – the earliest of these was to the nearest lamppost and back! I did these religiously: 6 weeks later I was told I could get rid of my sticks and get back to driving and ten weeks later I was back to teaching.

I gave up road running to prolong the life of the resurfacing but I still do long distance walks and climb the hills. I put my quick recovery down to being pretty fit and following the exercise regime – I must have done something right as I had my 15-year check up last week!

Peloton Wellbeing's Positivity Prescription

Jane Milne, our local Women's Wellbeing Coach writes

Here are a few simple, but powerful, things we can all do to improve our wellbeing and help us live in a more positive way through all of the changes and challenges of these unpredictable times:

Pause: We function so much better when we take some time to pause. While you're reading this, unclench around your eyes, forehead, jaw and shoulders. Now take a nice deep breath. Breathe in to the count of four and out to the count of eight. Repeat. Keep going for as long as you have the time. Smile. There, that's better.

Put your screens down: when we use our phones and computers mindfully they're great - in fact they're pretty essential nowadays. But most of us are losing way too much time to mindlessly scrolling, especially on social media, and it really isn't good for our health. As well as losing hours, our levels of concentration, our sleep and our anxiety levels have all been shown to be impacted. Try to break your screen time habits. Don't have your phone beside you all the time; if it's not within reach, you're much less likely to pick it up. Set yourself a time limit for scrolling on social media each day, and stick to it! Switch off notifications from everything except the important things. And do try to encourage everyone in your house to leave their phones off the dinner table.

Put pen to paper: keeping a diary, or journaling, is something that many of us did when we were young but not so much now (possibly due to those pesky screens...!) Writing down our thoughts is such a brilliant wellbeing tool – it's sort of like having a pocket therapist! If you've never journalled before and you're not sure how to start, simply write down three things that you're feeling grateful for, or appreciate, every day. You might only write a few words, or long paragraphs, as long as you show up and write. Try to stick to the same sort of time, I prefer early morning - a mind dump in my journal is a great way to kick-start my day, scribbling down some of the stuff that's floating around in my head and helping me see things from a different, and usually more positive, perspective.

Potter around outside: Being out in nature is so very good for our souls and we're lucky to live in such a beautiful village that gives us so many opportunities to do that. Spend as much time as you can outdoors, whether it's pottering in your garden, plodding round Watson House, picking some wild garlic, pausing to watch the deer, pounding the trails, or plodding up by the waterfall. Embrace being out to play. Remember, we don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing. And, also remember, there's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothes...

<https://www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/life-coaches/jane-milne>

Modelling for Professional Photographers

Some of our own have been models for professional photographers over the last few months. Jo Dallas was asked by Julie Howden to feature in her Food Heroes Exhibition at the Tolbooth in Stirling. And The Gargoyles, dressed in their period costumes, were photographed for a forthcoming book and exhibition about Bannockburn House. I asked them to tell us about their experiences.

A Food Hero?

By Jo Dallas

I started volunteering for the Scottish charity 'Food Train' at the start of lockdown as a 'phone friend' – checking in on Food Train customers who live alone to see how they were coping and to have a friendly blether. 14 months on I'm still volunteering and making the weekly calls, every Thursday.

Towards the end of that summer, photographer Julie Howden approached me about being photographed. She explained how she'd been documenting stories in her 'Food Heroes' project (including Alison Younger at Old Leckie Farm) and had gained some press coverage in The Herald. I thought it sounded a worthwhile thing to be involved in and we fixed a date for her to come over to Gargunnock. I wasn't aware I might end up in a public exhibition, but I was delighted to be photographed

On the day of the 'photo shoot' (sounds glamorous doesn't it?!) Julie came to the house with her camera and equipment and asked me questions about my role with Food Train; and we also chatted about my current job (media officer for Christian Aid) and about how life had been in Gargunnock through lockdown. She wanted to capture pictures of me talking on the phone, and emphasised she wanted 'natural and not posed shots'. So I sat at the kitchen table with an old fashioned red phone she'd brought along as a prop. I don't think I'm particularly

photogenic, but Julie made me feel at ease and she snapped away while I chatted into the phone.

I really like the picture that was selected



© Julie Howden

for Julie's exhibition, even though I'm a teeny bit embarrassed to have been featured. Julie is a such a talented photographer and when I went to see the exhibition at the Tolbooth I was so impressed with her photos – both

the images and the uplifting stories behind them. What she has managed to capture is some stunning portraits of people in and around Stirling who, despite lockdown and the anxieties of a pandemic, just kept going: making sure fresh locally sourced food was being produced, free range eggs collected and boxed, fresh bread and cakes baked. Crucially, there's a big element of sustainability to all the stories she featured - local, seasonal produce with a lower carbon footprint.

I do hope Julie will curate more exhibitions like this. Documenting a moment in time through the camera lens is so important and I've no doubt there are many more positive local stories waiting to be told.

Julie added, "Jo got immediately what I was trying to do and so was a natural in front of the camera. She was very supportive of my project and very helpful with suggesting ideas.

"She is clearly a very empathetic person and the time she gives over to the Food Train is very impressive. It is people like Jo giving back to their communities who make the biggest difference in this world."

You can see more of Julie's work on her website (www.juliehowden.com) and there is also an excellent article on Food Heroes on The HeraldScotland website.

The Gargoyles of Gargunnock

Helen Rowell writes

We (myself, Liz and Zoe), were back at Bannockburn House again at the end of April for two more photoshoots with Mark Leslie, the semi-professional and brilliant photographer (look him up on Google). This time we were together and we went inside the House, but it was



perishing inside too! It's the first time that we've been together as the Gargoyles since Christmas 2019 so it felt wonderful! We have only seen a couple of his photo

portraits ourselves, which are works of art. He is not releasing them until the exhibition but he has allowed us to show you some photos that I took of him working. It looks like our only booking this year will be at the book launch and exhibition of his work at the House at the end of August or early September. He's been photographing all the volunteers. There's some talk of a medieval encampment too. So if it all happens it'll be an exciting event to visit!

For those of you who were thinking of going to the Traquair House Medieval Fayre at the end of May, it has unfortunately been cancelled. Not a surprise really, but disappointing nevertheless.

Meanwhile, we are desperate to meet for socially distanced, garden practices again! The first Tuesday we could have got together, we were being photographed, and the second, it was pouring with rain so we haven't managed it yet! Let's hope the weather warms up soon because Zoom practices have definitely lost the novelty factor!



P.S. These are just some snaps that I took of the maestro at work and he's given permission to share them for the Bugle. He gave us a sneak preview of a few of his own images and they are wonderful!. They will be officially published in the Autumn's through a book launch and exhibition.

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MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

Dean Lockhart MSP writes

It is a huge privilege to have been re-elected to serve as an MSP in the Scottish Parliament.

My sincere thanks to all those that supported me throughout the recent campaign. I will continue to represent constituents across the region, including Stirling and Gargunnock, on the many issues both individual and collective that demand attention.

There are an increasing number of concerns that I have been raising with Stirling Council in the recent months. Stirling has one of the highest council taxes in Scotland and the most expensive waste collection service. The Council decision to cut grey and blue bin collections to monthly – starting in July – without any prior consultation is appalling and I know has caused a great deal of opposition. I will continue to campaign for this severe cut to such a fundamental service to be stopped.

Another important issue is the Station Road junction with the busy A811 that has been raised with the Council's Environment Committee. I know the Community Council remains involved and I would support any measures being introduced that help make this junction safer to use.

In Stirling, I have been involved in the long running campaign to have the unnecessary, expensive (£3.5million) and environmentally damaging Viewforth Link Road removed from all strategic plans to ensure it never gets built. This road was never a good idea but it is now ,even more important that councils do not waste any of their taxpayer's money on such projects. They will need every penny to support communities and businesses as we emerge from the public health crisis.

I also expect the Scottish Government to be doing everything possible to ensure our economy , education, Health and other crucial services are properly funded and managed to meet the unprecedented demands upon them in the coming months and years as we deal with impacts of Covid 19. Thanks to the exceptionally successful UK vaccination programme we have an opportunity now to begin to rebuild better, stronger, and healthier. As we make these steps back to normality, my thoughts are with all those that have suffered the loss of friends and family. During these difficult times, our communities have grown closer and stronger, bringing out the very best in our society. Let us make sure that we do not forget this and maintain that 'coming together' spirit in the difficult times ahead.

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Dean
LOCKHART**

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

Please contact me below with any issues you feel I may be able to help with

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The Kirk re-opens!

Audrey Birrell writes

On Sunday 30th May 2021, the Sunday after Pentecost, the sound of the Church Bell was heard by many, a signal that the church buildings had re-opened for in-person services, after 14 months. Yes *re-opened*, but with Covid 19 protocol to be followed:

- Hands sanitised on entry and exit;
- Masks worn during the service;
- Physical distancing of 2 metres which restricts the numbers attending;
- Contact details taken for Track and Trace.

Due to the reduced numbers you are asked to reserve a place by contacting the Session Clerk on aualbirrell@btinternet.com or 01786 860321.

A worship programme from now until the end of September has been prepared which allows for services at Gargunnock on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Kincardine-in- Menteith church has a service on the 1st Sunday of the month to which we are invited. (Contact Audrey for availability).

If anyone is unsure as to whether they should return to gathered worship at this stage, please contact the District Elder



Photograph (above) of the Church Welcome Team work party provided by Helen Rowell

or the Session Clerk so that an alternative can be provided.

We have been fortunate to have had the services of Ian Roy and Douglas Barr as they collaborated on the weekly Reflections to provide for our spiritual needs via Email. They are willing to continue to provide these particularly for those unable to attend in-person services.

A warm Welcome awaits you at the in-person services.



Silhouette sheep -photograph by Hamish Whiteford



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CALLANDER, Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB, Tel: 01877 330398

BALFRON, 64B Buchanan Street, Balfron, Glasgow, G63 0TW, Tel: 01360 441023

Golden Charter Funeral Plans  **STIRLING**, 90 Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1RW, Tel: 01786 237480 

Email: info@anderson-funerals.co.uk • www.anderson-funerals.co.uk

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Wildlife in June

Anne Marie Stewart writes

July is a wonderful month for spotting lots of young wildlife.

- Baby froglets and toddlers will be emerging from ponds .
- Dragonfly and damselflies are spotted easily now.
- Brambles will be flowering, attracting bees and butterflies galore .
- Painted lady butterflies can be spotted on thistles and ragwort.
- Common birds-foot trefoil is in flower attracting Common Blue butterflies.
- Buddleia, honeysuckle and lavender will be flowering too.
- Garden tiger moths can be found in your garden, a hidden beauty.
- and cuckoo spit will be visible on plants.



Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham is based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. For useful information and updates on road closures and crime prevention advice see pages on facebook, and twitter.

Bogus Traders

This time of year brings the risk of bogus traders attending at your house and touting for work on your house or garden. These very often carry out substandard work at inflated prices and state that work requires to be done when it is not actually required. Please take heed of the following:

1. Don't deal with cold callers - find local traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards at <https://approvedtrader.scot/>
2. Don't feel obliged

to answer the door to a cold caller - it is your home and you should not let anyone in unless you feel comfortable

3. Take time to think before making a decision - don't let them pressure you into a decision, and don't let an uninvited trader start work straight away
4. Don't take their word that work needs to be done. Always get a second opinion from someone you trust and get at least 3 quotes before having any work carried out.
5. Report suspicious behaviour to policescotland & scams to @advisedotsctot

Useful Links

Call 101 to report any suspicious activity
Call 999 and ask for the police if you feel scared or threatened
To report doorstep scams to Trading Standards call Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000 or visit scamwatch.scot
For free localised alerts from key information providers regarding incidents and crime prevention, go to www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

Seeing Double!

Anne Marie Stewart reports on her rare sighting...

While out walking my dog Corrie I was delighted to spot not one but TWO baby roe deer.

Baby roe deer are called fawns or kids . Born in May and June, they are completely covered in spots, to provide camouflage from predators. The young will stay with their mother for 12 months . After this time their father will drive out any males . The rut occurs between mid-July and

mid-August. The bucks will defend their territory and fight off any other bucks . The most fascinating fact is after mating, the fertilised egg in the doe doesn't implant until January, so that the deer avoid having babies in the winter.

The roe deer's coat is a beautiful rusty red in spring, somewhat different to the slate grey in winter . A truly native deer of Britain dating back to the Mesolithic period 6000 to 10000 years BC.



Images by local wildlife
photographer
Anne-Marie Stewart



Get advice on consumer rights from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or by calling the Advice Direct Scotland Helpline on 0808 164 6000

Bike theft

More than 500,000 bikes are stolen in the UK each year because they're poorly secured or not secured at all. More than half of all bikes stolen are taken from the owner's property. Due to the lockdown, bikes have become more popular and thus have become more of a target for theft. Help protect your bike by following these guidelines:

What can I do before I set off?

- Photograph your bike and record all of your bike's details and distinguishing features and keep in a safe place. The serial number can be found on the bottom bracket.

- Register your bicycle securely online at the National Cycle Database, www.bikeregister.com. Doing this may help to recover your bike if it goes missing. On registering, you can also download a bike logbook where you can record your bike's details to keep at hand.

- Security mark your bike's frame with a UV pen or other method - the mark should include your home postcode and house number.

- Insure your bike, either on contents insurance or separately if required.

How can I secure my bike if it's kept in common close or stairwell?

- Always keep your bike out of sight as best you can.
- Lock your bike with two locks to a secure banister or ground anchor.

What if I store my bicycle in a garage or a shed?

- For tips on garage and shed security see here <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/securing-your-garden-outbuildings/>
- Lock your bike with two locks to a ground anchor.

How should I secure my bike and its accessories when out and about?

- Lock your bike up every time you leave it using secure locks (i.e. D-locks or thick cable locks).
- Ideally, use two different types of lock - a thief will need more tools to steal it.
- Locks are considered more vulnerable when close to the ground, so keep them off the floor.
- Fasten your bike through the frame and wheel to a fixed object.
- Lock your bike in a busy, well-lit place, in view of people or CCTV cameras.
- Lock the bike closely to the object it's attached to so it is difficult to manoeuvre.
- Lock the wheels and remove small parts / accessories that cannot be readily secured, such as lights, pumps, water

bottles, saddles etc.

•Vary your routine - lock up your bike in different ways & place.

Pedal and motorbike identification forms

The downloadable forms at the bottom of this page are a handy guide for you to record information about your bike or motorbike. These forms can be used as your own personal record about your property for the duration of time you own it. Every bike or motorbike will be unique to its owner through the serial/chassis/VIN numbers but these are not the only ways to identify your property. Modifications, stickers, repairs, damage also can be used to help identify your bike and the more information you record about your property throughout its time with you, the greater possible chance we have of reuniting you with your property if unfortunately lost or stolen. If you keep these forms up to date and in a place you remember, if you ever have to report your bike lost or stolen, you will have the perfect reference tool for making your report.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/d4jfj4i/pedal-cycle-identification-form.pdf>

We also have bike marking kits so if anyone wishes their bike marked in order to try and identify it if it gets stolen then please get in touch.



This great catch was sent in by Michael Gotz

WRI news

**Gargunnock WI President,
Anne Christie, writes**

We managed to secure funding to pay for the Zoom licence, assist in providing craft materials for the Easter Project for members and to secure expenses for speakers for future meetings. This has been partly funded by the Falck Renewables Kingsburn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust.

The Zoom meetings in February and March concentrated on making items for the Easter Project. Janet Iffla showed members how to make flowers made from wool. Anne Muirhead utilised plastic bags from Sainsbury's in order to make plastic flowers. We had surprise guests join us for the March meeting with Anne Kerr, National President of SWI, from Ayrshire and Elizabeth Farr, President Cambusbarron WI.

Our April Zoom meeting had 27 attending with our speaker Linda Retson, Past National President SWI, who gave an overview of the background to the SWI and her time as National President over her three year tenure. Linda had a hip operation recently and had been on crutches, so Zoom meetings made the evening possible. Linda gave a great talk and slide show on her highlights as National

President visiting most of Scotland, putting on 20,000 miles on her trusty Mini. I'm sure Fergus the Care Bear, the WI Mascot could have told a few stories too!! One of the highlights was visiting Australia at the ACWW Conference. That evening we had visitors from the SCWP Federation with President Ray McLeod, Vice President Elizabeth Farr, Secretary Alice Kilgour, Liz Hay, National HH Representative, Anne Artis, President of Ruskie, Liz Black, Secretary Ruskie and Ruskie members Noreen Minton, Margaret Robb, Liz Dykes.

May saw the first Zoom AGM which had our three new Committee members, Sandra Anderson, Seonaid Muirhead and



Marion Gray ratified. Our thanks go to Kirsty Lamond who counted the Voting papers which were distributed by Anne Muirhead. I would like to thank the existing committee

for their help and assistance over the last year with a special thank you to Grace Smellie, Treasurer, Cathy Rowley and Tina Peek, who have come off the Committee. We had our first Zoom Bingo Night with myself as Bingo caller, I had a sore throat at the end of the night!! We even had Heather McPhee

and her Mum joining in from up North.

Gargunnock won the SCWP

Federation Rurallympics in 2019 with the winning team of Kathleen Sinclair, Seonaid Muirhead, Kimberley Hay, Natalie Kane. We will represent SCWP at the Rural Olympics on the 5th September in Perth as there was no Rural Olympics last year.

We will be having a break over the summer but hope to have a Craft and Bake Stall in July as a fundraiser. More details to follow. We will await government guidelines for meeting up face to face for the new syllabus. Hopefully, with the rollout of the vaccines for everyone, we look forward to returning to meeting up in the Community Centre in September.



Fiona Johnston, Drummond Place is recovering from her heart operation. Dee Guidery, Charles Street is recovering from a stroke and pneumonia. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to them both.

Stay safe, take care.

Images of craftwork by
Heather Wisemen (rabbit),
Dee Guidery (cartoon cat)


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Your editor, Helen R. Hyland, has just finished her course - photography HND at Forth Valley College. Where next is anybody's guess, although my dream is to work combining photography and writing skills in creating photo-biographies to mark special occasions or events. If you have something coming up, please do bear me in mind - village rates available for first few commissions.

If you would like to see more of my work, please see my website - hrphphoto.co.uk - or follow my social media pages. To order a copy of any images, or a pack of village Christmas cards showing the Advent Window, please contact me for prices. hrphphoto@outlook.com. Thank you.

p.s. If you share my images through social media, please credit me.

Lands End to John O'Groats - virtually

Strathcarron Hospice had a special birthday - it celebrated its 40th birthday in April. With no access to its usual fundraising sources, the Hospice instead launched its Land's End to John O'Groats Challenge as its 40th Anniversary fund-raiser – in an effort to help keep its services running for local people living with, and dying from, a terminal illness.

Many staff, including Sharon, were among those who signed up to cover a total distance of 874 miles between 1st May and 1st October.

Sharon Taylor writes:

To continue help raise funds for the hospice, I have signed up to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats virtually. I started on the 1st of May and have until 1st of October to complete. We can walk, cycle or run but I am choosing to walk. I've done 270miles so far, mainly around our beautiful village. I am pleased to be currently placed 19th out of 71 participants, particularly since many are cyclists not walkers.

I have chosen to do this to give something back to the Hospice. During the

last year when working has been more challenging than ever, the Hospice has been there for the staff as well as the patients and families.

If you would like to support me and my loyal collie Vic to raise much needed funds for Strathcarron the link is
strathcarronhospice.enthuse.com/pf/sharon-taylor

©HRH Photo



Parent Council update

Alison Younger writes

After another difficult and trying year, the Parent Council would like to extend their thanks to the school and staff team for ongoing efforts to support the return of pupils to school. Whilst it has been far from a normal set up with class bubbles and limited access, the pupils have been delighted to be back since Easter time.

Thanks also to our local community, friends and family for their awesome support of our 200 Club fundraiser and Christmas raffle. Along with money raised through some workplace schemes (RBS / Diageo) the Parent Council was able to cover the cost of the purchase of range of additional equipment and materials to help the school and pupils e.g. additional chrome books, chrome book covers, batches of novels and picnic table.

The P7 leavers also undertook their own fundraising challenge to raise money to support a programme of fun leavers activities in light of the limitations in what the school can facilitate this year. After a massive effort the 8 leavers walked the equivalent of Gargunnock – Paris, raising £1190 which has been put, amongst other things, towards leavers' hoodies, high wire courses, bowling and some really really good fun things for the whole school in the last week of term. Thanks to all those who helped support them add their own bit of sparkle to a challenging year. We would like to say a massive well done to all the P7's and wish them well in the next stage of high school.

Our key fundraising priority though is the replacement of the wooden

climbing equipment which is located in the school grounds and is a bit worse for wear.

We have been advised that replacement rather than repair looks like the best value for money and so have started the process of getting quotes – though this will need to form the basis of a larger fundraising effort over the next year or two.

Looking forward to August, we are delighted to be welcoming 6 new P1s to the school - fingers crossed that next year will be an easier one all round!



Well done Anne-Marie!



Advertising

The Gargunnock Bugle needs advertising income to cover its costs.

Advertising rates are competitive - from just £15 per issue - for a newsletter that reaches nearly 350 homes in the village of Gargunnock plus its worldwide digital audience. Deadline for booking space in the Autumn Issue is **28 August 2021**.



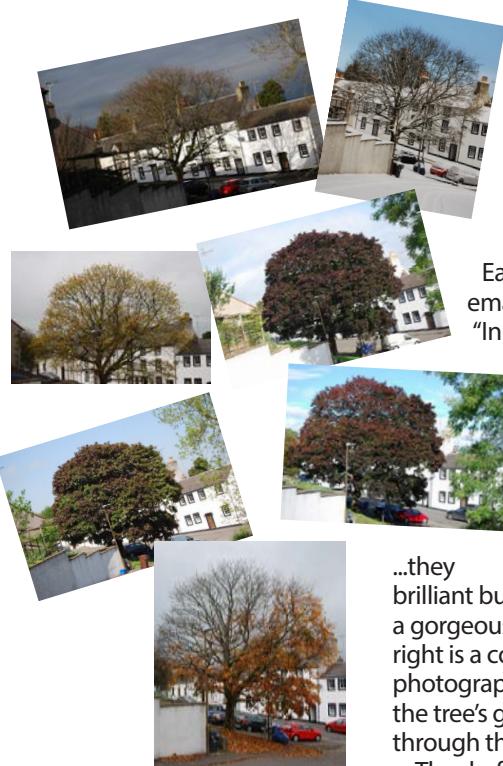
To advertise in The Bugle, please contact gargunnockbugle@gmail.com.

Advertising rates per issue are:

Full page - £45

Half page - £25

Quarter page - only £15



What's with the Tree?

Early in April, I received an email from Steve Barnet saying, "In 2018, I took almost weekly photographs of the copper sycamore at the bottom of McNeill Crescent at the shop and they show the tree's progression through the year. There are 57 photos

...they aren't photographically brilliant but could it be of interest? It is a gorgeous tree." So, the image to the right is a composite of many of those photographs, trying to capture both the tree's grandeur, but also its changes through the seasons.

Thanks for the challenge Steve!



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Thank you for your warm
welcome and support
Alistair and Violet

The Bugle
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Its aim is to provide news, views, information and
entertainment for the residents and friends of
Gargunnock and the surrounding area.

Editor:
Helen Hyland
gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue
Photographs, letters, articles, adverts & submissions
may be made at any time before
27th August 2021

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