



Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

Issue 77
February 2024
www.gargunnock.org



Gargunnock Walking Group – February 2024

The Gargunnock Walking Group has continued to go on walks in spite of the varied weather. Most recent walks have been around Mugdock Country Park north of Glasgow, and more recently a circuit of Gartmorn Dam near to Sauchie. On both occasions we had fine cold winter weather followed by excellent lunches in nearby eateries. At the time of writing the next walk will be a circuit at Bochastle and Pass of Leny, followed by lunch in the Lade Inn.

The dates and possible walks in February, March and April will be:

Thursday 29th February – Walk in the vicinity of Dunning
Tuesday 12th March – Walk in Carron Valley
Thursday 28th March – Walk in Devilla Forest
Tuesday 9th April – Cashel Forest park, Loch Lomond
Thursday 25th April – Kinnoul Hill, Perth

As usual these walks will depend up on the weather on the day. We want to maintain the tradition of walking on fine clear days when we expect to have stunning views of the surrounding countryside. And we are always on the look-out for new and interesting walks within easy access of Gargunnock.

We normally gather at 9:30a.m. in the pub car park prior to starting our walk, and we always try to minimise the number of cars by 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 though 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.

Edmond Mansion

Chat, Craft, Create

Will be in the Garden Room Community Centre
2-5pm on 25th of February
24th March, 28th April .

Will be making Easter decorations, wreaths and Easter Cards.

Free to attend. Look forward to seeing you.



Editorial

Welcome to the first Bugle of 2024, and it's another busy edition, with lots of news to share.

I had lots of content, more than 16 pages, but not enough for 20 pages, so I had to make some decisions on content to not add this time round. That means no space for the Police Report, and quite a few photos that I haven't managed to include.

All contributions can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, please send feedback for this Bugle edition. The deadline for the next issue is 5th May 2024.

Louise Crawford, February 2024



Spring

Astronomically spring starts on the 20th March. Meteorologists say spring starts on 1st March. Our clocks will spring back on the 31st of March. Lots of signs spring has arrived will be visible. Carpets of snowdrops in our woods. Daffodils certainly brighten up our gardens. Spring blossoms will be visible on hawk thorns and cherry trees. Bluebells, wood anemones and lesser celandine will be appearing too. Wild Garlic will appear a foragers delight for fresh pesto. Trees will be bursting into bud on Ash /Beech/Oak and Rowan. Blossom on crab apples. New leaves appear on the Alder and Silver birch. Longer days and lighter nights. Woodpeckers drumming in the trees. The dawn chorus worth rising early to hear. Migratory birds will be returning Black caps and chiff chaffs. Later on the Swallows too. Emerging from hibernation are our hedgehogs and Bats. Boxing Hares in our fields. Queen bees take to the air to locate new nesting sites. Butterflies to look out for are Peacocks, Brimstone and Red admirals. Spawn from our frogs and toads will start to appear in our ponds. Looking forward to seeing them all.

Anne Marie MacGregor

Ultra-Fast Broadband Update - Great News

We have been successful in securing access to the UK Government Gigabit voucher scheme to fully fund the Ultrafast upgrade to the village. If we can get 144 pledges by the 1st May then Openreach will deliver Ultrafast broadband to the village with no other outlay.

Openreach has built a scheme on their pledging portal which will allow eligible members of our community to pledge their vouchers towards the scheme. The pledge link is www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunity.

The pledging site will be open for around three months to reach the pledge target. Reaching the target is not a commitment to build, this is just the first step. Each voucher applicant will need to validate their details with the Government by responding to their emails. Only when there are enough validated voucher pledges (144) can Openreach check their delivery timelines and confirm a delivery date for an Ultrafast Full Fibre network.

Things to note:

A voucher pledge is a commitment to order an Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband service when it is live. Openreach build an open network, so you can choose whichever provider you wish assuming they sell in your area. (Sky, EE, BT, Vodafone, Zen, etc etc).

It's not just a voucher pledge, it's a process. Each home or business who pledges a voucher will need to look out for emails from the Government to validate their details. Then, when the network is built, get connected within two months. The Government will ask you to confirm you have a service in place.

PLEDGE -> VALIDATE YOUR DETAILS -> ORDER A FULL FIBRE SERVICE -> CONFIRM

<https://www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunity>

Gregor McCallum

A Thank You From Gargunock Primary School Parent Council

We would like to commence this update with a thank you to all those who were able to come to the nativity and participate in our raffle. Over two fabulous performances the raffle raised £350. For context, with costs of transport rapidly increasing this was about two thirds of the fundraising needed to support last year's school wide Christmas Pantomime trip.

Each Friday the pupils participate in a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) lesson. With support of the Windfarm Trust we have purchased a new tool station and set of tools. These have already been put to use by the pupils in the construction of wooden storage boxes for their new outdoor loose parts play garden. We have also purchased two induction hobs for baking (once home economics).

Unfortunately, our main fundraiser of the year, a village ceilidh, had to be cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales. This leaves a significant dent in our annual budget, meaning funding for transport for pupils to attend events will likely need to come from emergency reserves this year.

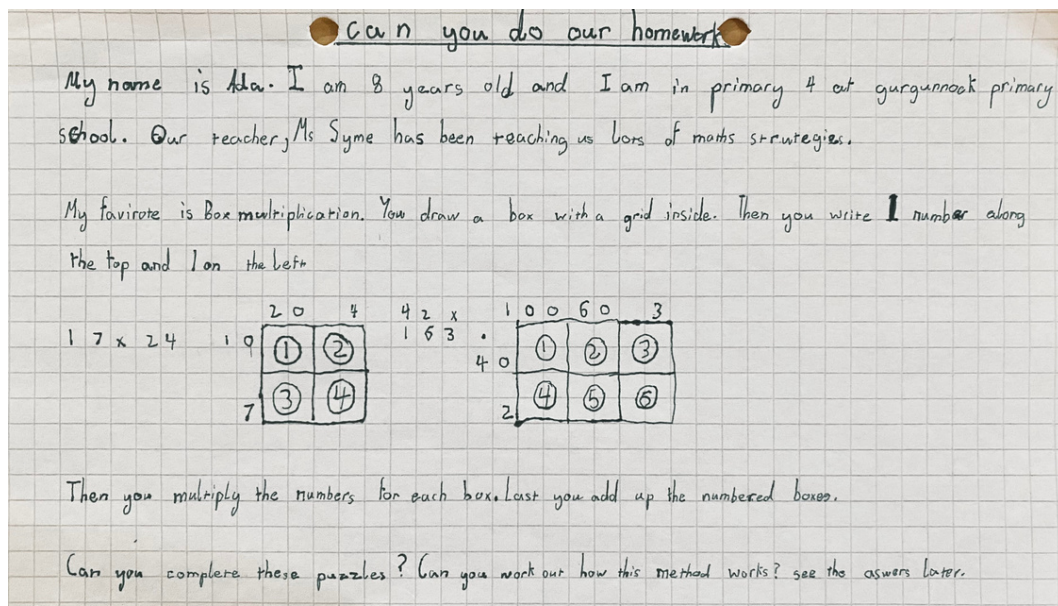
Our '200 club' fundraiser remains open to anyone who would like to participate. Please see the included poster. Tickets can be preferably purchased through the School's ParentPay, or in cash from Parent Council or School Reception. We have also set up a new (very basic) website so Grandparents, neighbours, or anyone else who wishes to help can purchase their tickets: <https://gpsparentcouncil.square.site/>

Our engagement with the school extends beyond fundraising. This term the Parent Council has also been involved in a parental engagement and feedback meeting as part of the School's 'Validated Self Evaluation' process.

Parent Council meets 4 times a year and doesn't require significant commitment. Our meetings are also open to all parents of pupils at Gargunock Primary School, and they are a great way of being involved and improving the pupil's experiences at primary school. Please look out for dates of the next meeting in the School's weekly newsletters and class WhatsApp groups.

Thank you from all on the Parent Council.

Aston Goundry (Treasurer)



ALEXANDER STEWART MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Mid Scotland and Fife Region



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

- ✉ Regional Office: 31 Canmore Street, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 5NU
- ✉ Holyrood Office: Room M2.15, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
- ☎ Regional Office: 01383 720 530
- ☎ Holyrood Office: 0131 348 6134
- ✉ Alexander.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot
- 📘 www.facebook.com/alexanderstewartmsp

Gargunnock Parent Council 200 Club Fundraiser

Please help us raise funds for extra curricular activities for Gargunnock Primary School. For a donation of £10 you can buy a lucky number in the Gargunnock Primary School 200 Club. This will get your lucky number entered into monthly draws for a prize of £25. There is no limit on how many numbers you can buy and it's open to extended family, friends and Gargunnock Residents too.

1. Ask your friends and family to help by purchasing numbers for £10 for each number.
2. Don't forget to choose a lucky number or numbers for yourself!
3. If you are a parent, then go onto Parent Pay and pay for your numbers – list details of names and any lucky numbers that you would like - you can request this in the Parent Pay notes section. www.parentpay.com
4. If you are not a parent from the school and would like to buy a number, or numbers, and join the 200 Club then tickets can be purchased from our new sales website <https://gpsparentcouncil.square.site/> . Alternatively, please contact:

Aston Goundry: 07762 204274 or treasurer.gargps.parentcouncil@gmail.com

Or Gargunnock Primary School directly (Monday and Tuesday only): 01786 860291 or gargps@stirling.gov.uk

A HUGE THANK you to Leckie Farm, Rùn Dog Food, Touch Business Centre and GCM Services Scotland Ltd for sponsoring our first 4 prize draws.

If you or someone you know owns a local business and are keen to support us by sponsoring one of our draws we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Aston or the School (details above).

The small print: The 200 Club is organised by the Gargunnock PS Parent Council to support fundraising for the school. Numbers can be bought at any time through the year and will be entered into all outstanding draws until the end of June. Draws are done by the School House Captains at the end of each month. Winning numbers will be posted in the school newsletter, with each individual receiving their prize by cheque via the school. All money paid is non-refundable. For further details please speak to any member of the Parent Council.

Scotland's Gardens Scheme, Stirlingshire - 2024

Gardens open for charity this year in Stirlingshire for Scotland's Gardens Scheme are: -



Sunday 28 th April	3, Southfield Gardens, Stirling
Sunday 5 th May	Bridge of Allan Gardens, Bridge of Allan
Sunday 26 th May	Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane
Sunday 2 nd June	Coldoch, Blairdrummond
Sunday 9 th June	Thorntree, Arnprior
Sunday 23 rd June	Tiny Farm, St Modan's High School, Stirling
Sunday 14 th July	Oakmore, Blairhoyle, Port of Monteith
Sunday 21 st July	18, Buchany, Doune
Sunday 4 th August	Braehead Community Garden, Broom Rd, Stirling
Sunday 25 th August	Bannockburn House Gardens, Stirling

By Appointment Only	
<u>Gargunnock House Garden, Gargunnock</u>	1 st Feb to 30 th Sept
<u>Duntreath Castle, Blanefield</u>	1 st Feb to 30 th Sept
<u>Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane</u>	1 st Feb to 30 th Sept
<u>Thorntree, Arnprior</u>	1 st May to 1 st Sept
<u>Milseybank, Bridge of Allan</u>	1 st May to 31 st May
<u>Arndean, by Dollar</u>	6 th May to 7 th June
<u>St. Blane's House, High Street, Dunblane</u>	6 th May to 28 th June
<u>Gardener's Cottage Walled Garden, Ballochruin Road, Killearn</u>	15 th June to 15 th Oct

New this year are 18 Buchany, Oakmore, Tiny Farm, Braehead Community Garden and Bannockburn House. Returning to the Open days after a gap of several years is 3, Southfield Gardens.

Scotland's Gardens Scheme YELLOW BOOK has all the details and directions to reach the gardens. Look out for YELLOW posters with information on gardens in your area. These details can also be found on the website scotlandsgardens.org

There is a charge for entry with 60% going to charities nominated by garden owners.

The garden openers and the district teams work hard all year to prepare these wonderful gardens for people to visit. Many have plant sales and teas and coffees available too.

Whatever the weather, why not visit some of these Open Gardens and enjoy the pleasure of walks in pleasant surroundings, and admire the wonderful flowers and foliage found growing in our part of Scotland.

MOVEMBER

Maitland would like to thank everyone for supporting his fund-raising during November. The sum of £470 was raised and this has been presented to the charity Movember to assist in the fight against Prostate Cancer. This is a men's health charity and it encourages all men over 50 to see their GP regarding them getting a PSA test to check for early diagnosis. This is a simple blood test. The earlier it is caught, the better. Even King Charles has had treatment for this!!

Also, grateful thanks to Josh, a young bartender in Gargunock Inn who also raised over £100 among his friends and relations.



Bite and Blether

Wednesday 7th February was another successful Bite and Blether at the community centre with lots of chat and laughter. If you haven't been before please come and join us. All ages are very welcome and our soups and home baking are really worth sampling. This time we had not one but two delicious cream sponges which disappeared quickly! Thank you to all of you who came and also to our lovely team of soup makers and bakers. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the community centre.

GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 22nd March at 7.30pm
At the Community Centre

£3 per person, teams of 4



RAFFLE



BYOB and Nibbles

As this is the Flower Show's only fund raiser of the year please come and support the event and help keep the annual Flower Show going.

This is a General Knowledge Quiz

"The Professor" will be setting the questions and attempting to keep control. And the PA system will be working!!!

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Gargunnock Village Childcare News Update

Gargunnock Village Childcare (GVC) looks after Gargunnock Toddlers, Playgroup at the Community Centre and the Before School and After School Activity Clubs at Gargunnock Primary School.

Toddlers on a Tuesday (10-11.30am) and Friday (9.30am - 11.30am) morning continues to go from strength to strength and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports and helps out at these sessions - a lovely way to meet parents/carers in the village and for the wee ones to have a play! For more info please contact Hannah on hcm22moore@gmail.com

We are delighted to announce that Playgroup now has space for children aged 2 years + on both a Monday and a Thursday morning. Playgroup runs from 930am - 12pm led by our fantastic Playgroup Manager Rabia and Assistant Hazel. It is a brilliant environment for children to meet their peers and have a play, and it is excellent for parents/carers as they can drop and go! Meaning a full 2.5hrs to look after younger children, rest :), work, play, and even time for a wee adventure! We are incredibly unfortunate to host the sessions at the Gargunnock Community Centre which has a great indoor space for crafting / games and easy access into the garden to play outside with various outdoor play equipment (water tables, bikes, scooters, tractors etc) and the wooden multi activity towers. For more information please email gargunnockplaygroup@gmail.com

The Before School and After School Activity Clubs have a wide range of exciting new equipment for the students to engage with - including table tennis tables in the Outdoor Learning Zone, new iPads, loose parts play, as well as a host of soft furnishings to really make the space their own. The clubs operate between 8am - 9am and 3.15pm - 5.15pm Monday - Thursday. Ideal for parents / carers who work, or if you need a bit of extra time to get jobs done, and if students want to join in with our activity sessions. For more information please email gargunnockvillagechildcare@gmail.com

All of these groups would not be able to continue without the amazing support of folk in the village (and nearby!) including the Renantis Kingsburn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust - so on behalf of everyone on the Committee a huge thank you for your support.

Last don't forget, if anyone is interested in a space at Playgroup please do get in touch soon as they won't be around for long!

Many thanks
Nina, (Co-Secretary) at GVC.

COME JOIN US

GARGUNNOCK TODDLERS

At Gargunnock Community Centre
Tuesdays 10am - 11:30am
Fridays 9:30am - 11:30am



THINGS TO NOTE:

- For children age 0-5 years old
- Snacks and a hot drink provided
- £2 per child and 50p for each extra sibling

The group is a great opportunity for kids to play and parents to meet and chat - everyone is very welcome!

For more information please contact:
hcm22moore@gmail.com

COME JOIN THE

GARGUNNOCK PLAYGROUP

At Gargunnock Community Centre
Term time Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am-12pm



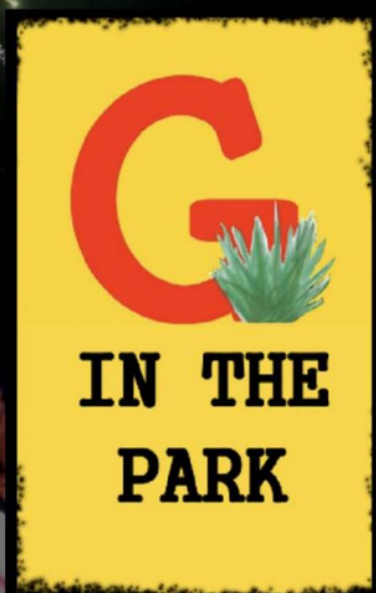
THINGS TO NOTE:

- For children aged 2 years and above - You can drop and go!
- Snacks provided
- £10 per session, £5 for sibling

For further information please contact:
GARGUNNOCKPLAYGROUP@GMAIL.COM



Gargunnock Gala 2024



15th June 2024

ACTIVITY CLUBS AFTER MIND THE GAP BEFORE



At Gargunnock Primary School

Mon-Thurs 8am - 9am

Mon-Thurs 3.15pm - 5.15pm

£3.50 per child Before and £7 After School

Sibling discounts available

'Funded by the Renantis
Kingsburn Community
Fund administered by the
Gargunnock Community
Trust'



 Renantis

For bookings and information email:
gargunnockvillagechildcare@gmail.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS GARGUNNOCK



Residents and friends of Gargunnock have raised the magnificent sum of **£1858.00** for START UP STIRLING.
We'd all like to wish **EVERYONE** in the village a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024!

Best Wishes from:

Corinne & Jonathan Anderson; Sandra Anderson; Nathan, Brianna & Iona Anderton; Sylvia & Jim Bedwell; Gill Bell; The Bennett Family; The Blackwood Family; Martin Bonner; Janene, Kevin, Hope & Niamh Brodie; Gilly, Gav, Amy & Chloé Bruce; Gay & Harry Burt; Chris, Jackie & Heather Campbell; John, Diane, Julie & Luke Christie; Ann & Maitland Clark; Brian & Bernadette Corbett; Scott & Julie Coubrough; Douglas & Moira Coupethwaite; Bryan, Shona, Ella, Daniel, Louise, Meera & Marley Crawford; Marshall, Jo, Andrew & Eva Dallas; Eric & Alice Dempster; Graham, Helen, Rachel & Cameron Dingley; Norman & Iona Donaldson; Max & Barbara Drummond; Paul Marshall & Jean Duffy; Mike, Sue, Jamie, Andrew & Gregor Fitches; The Flett Family; Zoe, Shelley, Luke, Adam & Joe Fouracre; Peter, Claire, Grace & Madeleine Gill;

Ali MacLachlan, Sam & Hollie Goldie; Crawford & Liz Gordon; Stuart, Helen, Fraser, Fergus & Hughie Hansom; Craig Coull & Becky Hay; Rowena Boome & Tony Heath; Elaine & Russell Hendry; Louise, Craig, Kyle & Innes Heron; David & Helen Hyland; Philip, Ruth & Naomi Irvine; Caroline, Paul & Ross James; Tom, Fiona, Anna & William Jamieson; Ian & Fiona Johnston; Martin & Fiona Johnstone & Family; Alison & Michael Kay; David & Issy King; The Leask Family; Ian, Sandra, Katherine & Hamish Lewis; Gordon, Claire, Alix & James Lindsay; Martin & Barbara Linklater; Jan & Johnny Loudon; Robin, Alison & Finlay Lunn; Hilary & Gordon MacArthur & Family; Lindsay, Gregor, Skye & Bryce MacCallum; Edmond Mansion; Manzor; The Mayer-Bell Family; Tina Peek & Charlie McAllister; Ewan, Louise, Amy, Frazer & Freddie McCabe; Tom, Mairi, Carolyn & Finlay McEwan; Kirsty, Mike & Alex McGirr; Cath &

Paul McGlynn, Cara & Jack, Kieran & Cayla; Eric & Suzanne McKeich; John & Helen McLaren; Zoe & Allister McLean; The Milne Family; The Mitchell Family; Anne, Hamish, Jane & Seonaid Muirhead; Hugh, Jean & David O'Connor; Sheena & Stuart Ogg; Sally, Sarah & Fraser Park; Morag, Jon, Matthew & Angus Park; Carmel, Robin, Joseph & Kia Patel; Jill Patrick; Kate & Geoff Peart; The Penman Family; Pauline Perry; Hector, Trish, Darren & Alistair Petrie; Lorna & John Rodger; The Scotts of Culbeg; Lois, Andrew, Tom & Finn Simpson; Claire, Doug & Bryony Smith; Bill Shankie & Lindsey Stevenson; The Sutherland Family; Sarah, Ally, Euan & Ava Thomson; Colin, Morna, Freya & Andrew Tinto; Catriona, Kirsty & Eilidh Vass Payne; Elaine & Hamish Whiteford; The Young Family; The Youngs at Glenfoyle; Alison, Fergus, Katie, Ellen & Nelleke Younger



Gargunnock Church An update on restructuring

Dear Friends,

It seems appropriate with the coming of Spring that I bring you news of changes for Gargunnock Parish Church and the rest of the linked charge.

It has been almost six years since Andy Campbell retired as Parish Minister and during that time there has been a major re-shaping of parishes across Scotland. We have at last come to the point, in this area, where years of planning and consultation have come to fruition.

At the beginning of March the members of the congregations will vote on the new relationships between our neighbouring parishes. This will be the severing of the linkage with the Churches of Kincardine in Menteith and Kilmadock, the building of a new linkage with Kippen, Norrieston and Port of Menteith, and the adoption of the Rev Ellen Larson Davidson as the Minister of the new charge. It is planned that the Churches of Kincardine in Menteith and Kilmadock will join in a new union with Dunblane Cathedral.

If all goes well, then the new structure will become a reality on the 2nd of May 2024.

At that time, I am released from my duties as an Interim Moderator. It has been a delight and a privilege to be part of the journey the congregations have undertaken these last six years and my hope and prayers are that God will add his blessing to the future plans and that the new relationships will flourish and grow.

Yours Val Rose, Interim Moderator.



Cosy Cat Sitting Service

Cats are creatures of routine and find it much less stressful to remain at home whilst owners are away.



I am a local, professional and reliable cat sitter with a Disclosure Scotland (Police) check and will look after your cat as though my own.

Automatic feeders can fail and your cat should have fresh food and water daily. Keep them happy and healthy.



Typical features of my cat sitting service involve not just putting down food, water and seeing to litter trays but some play time as well.

Your home security is also paramount and I can put out bins and close and open blinds daily to give the impression that you are home.

Daily rate is £12 per visit for 1-2 cats.

Contact Lisa on 07306 035649 or cosycat2@outlook.com



THE LADY GARDENER

I founded my gardening business in 2021 and love spending my days outside with a diverse range of gardens to work in.

The best thing about a garden is watching something blossom, or planting bulbs and waiting for them to grow, or the first shoots.

Let me do the work for you so that you can enjoy all of the things you love about your garden.

Whether you want ad-hoc or regular bookings, contact me on 07306 035 649

My hourly rate is £25.

Recent Developments in the Glebe Park

Recent Bugle articles have focused on the bees and ponds in the Glebe Park. Here, we, explain what's happening with the trees and wildflower meadow project.

When the Trust took over the Park in January 2017 there were 60-80 young oaks growing. Lower branches were removed to encourage height growth. Planting 420 saplings supplied by the Woodland Trust took place in early 2018. These included hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, holly and goat willow, all ideally suited to exposed and wet ground. The tree guards were removed after 5 years as recommended by the Woodland Trust.

Growth has varied, some are still stick-like, others are over 3m high. This probably reflects the ground conditions. The willow has been especially affected, with many leaning over. These have been reduced in size with weight being taken off the canopy and are now developing interesting shapes. Normally 30% of tree saplings fail; however, our failure rate has been less than expected.

Each winter tree supports are checked, and any broken trees (usually the birch) cut down low to regrow as multi-stem (like coppicing). In future, we will assess tree spacing and remove any that are too close together. Some oak groves will be kept as a feature.

The Glebe Park school orchard of 9 apple and pear trees has its winter pruning in February. This reduces the height and opens the centers to give a cup shape for better fruit development and easier picking. The orchard and 3 walnut trees will keep their tree guards to avoid deer damage.

In November 2022 a group of volunteers planted 50 rowan and 50 bird cherry saplings, kindly donated by TreeLink Stirling. Both species are valuable to wildlife. The spring blossom provides pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects, the caterpillars of various moth species feed on the foliage, and autumnal berries and cherries will be a feast for birds.

A "new" woodland like the Glebe Park is missing some essential components of a woodland ecosystem, including dead wood, woodland flowers and herbs. Some 20% of biodiversity in a mature woodland lives in dead wood, so small piles of dead wood are being built and covered with the turf lifted from what will be the wildflower meadow (see below). This will help breakdown the wood into a suitable environment for beetle larvae, fungi, etc. As potential hibernaculae, amphibians, hedgehogs and other organisms may also overwinter in them.

A Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) representative has agreed to conduct a botanical survey of the Glebe Park this spring. We know that many of the plants under the trees are typical of ex-agricultural land (brambles, dock plants, creeping buttercup, etc), so it will be interesting to see what else a botanist can find! We will then draw up a strategy to introduce typical woodland plants (bluebells, primroses and more) – which are not good at finding their own way to a new woodland.

Funding secured in January from the Renantis Kingsburn Community Fund (the "Windfarm Fund") will allow a small wildflower meadow to be developed, in the triangular area of grass next to the path between the Glebe and Charles Street. Some turf has been lifted in preparation for planting wildflowers this spring, and the hope is that these will be enjoyed by humans and various insect pollinators!

Jane Arneil, Douglas Johnston, Barbara Linklater, Dave Penman and Ian Young



Volunteers planting crab apple and rowan trees in the Glebe Park



Hazel nuts growing in summer 2023



A bird's nest (dove or pigeon?) built in one of the oaks in 2023

Gargunnoch SWI

Our November meeting had five Christmas crafts for our members to try. One table Seonaid Muirhead had members creating snowmen from socks a simple idea but very effective. Another table with Janet Iffla had members creating troll decorations. Rowena Barnet had ladies creating beautiful hand sewn star decorations. Anne Marie Stewart's table crafted cheeky Highland coos. Finally Judith McMillian had members making impressive paper flowers. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their crafting evening and a huge thanks went to our guests Rowena, Anne Marie and Judith for sharing their skills. In turn a few of us shared our knowledge of 'Making a Snowman' with the students at Green Routes in Gargunnoch House's walled garden who loved creating snowmen.

Our Christmas meal is always great fun and this year did not disappoint. The Gargunnoch Inn was host to our 36 members who enjoyed games and a super meal. Santa put in an appearance handing out secret Santa presents. It was a great way to start the festive season for everyone.

Unfortunately after weeks of planning our Burns evening was cancelled in January due to the predicted weather forecast. However we will now hold our Burns evening on Tuesday 20th February. The committee will be serving a Haggis supper and there will be Scottish entertainment. The competitions will be Lift - a tartan item Make - A Scottish Verse. The Mary Hill Quaich will be awarded to the winner of the Scottish Verse.

In March the speaker will be David Methven - the Queens Piper which I am sure will be highly interesting. As it is near Easter the competitions will be Lift - an egg cup and Make - decorate an egg.

Congratulations go to Helen Hyland for winning the SWI National Photographic Competition with a photo entitled "Angela's Roses". She also won the president's choice with a photo entitled "Canine friends".

In the coming months there will be members preparing for the SC&WP Federation competitions which include the Morton Pairs 3 fabric flowers and 2 lemon tarts. Also the New Forge Trophy which involves crocheting a baby's hat. We are very fortunate to have some very talented members in our group who do extremely well in these competitions.

New members and visitors to Gargunnoch SWI are always welcome. Every meeting apart from the speaker or craft we always have delicious cakes and teas / coffees as well as little competitions and a raffle. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month September to May at 7.30 in the Gargunnoch Community Centre. If you would like more information or are interested in joining please contact me on 07815522247 or email bmountford31@gmail.com.



Beverley Mountford - President Gargunnoch SWI



Gargunock Primary School What Amazing Performances!

Christmas came and went in a flash with lots of fun and laughter, school parties, Christmas lunch and of course our visit to the pantomime. A highlight was our P1/2 Nativity, which was enjoyed by all our families, and this year we invited the old folks to enjoy a cup of tea and a mincemeat pie at our dress rehearsal.

We invited David and Jackie Smith back to school at the start of this term to help the P5-7 pupils put on a play in a day, 'Tam O'Shanter', as part of our Scottish focus weeks. It was amazing to see what they could achieve in a day and we were all treated to a fantastic and entertaining performance.

Each class learned a Scots poem and selected representatives from their classes to perform in front of the whole school at assembly. Well done to Jack Buchanan, Amber Dunn and Louise Buchanan who were their class winners, but also to everyone else who participated. Finally P5-7 held a traditional Burn's Supper with dancing, singing, poems and speeches galore. A special thanks to former pupil Archie Evans for piping in the haggis.

School Grounds

We have seen a few structural changes in our playground this year and our latest additions are new play equipment, a fire pit, cycle shelter and loose parts play area. We have also had the basketball court re-lined and added three short tennis courts to support our PE curriculum. The pupils were very excited when two outdoor table tennis tables appeared in the Outdoor Learning Zone and these have been very popular additions at lunchtime.

Our grounds are for the whole community to enjoy and as such we wanted to extend the use of the table tennis tables to the community. They are situated in our Outdoor Learning Zone with covers on. Please feel free to use them at weekends or on summer evenings. Someone could even set up a community table tennis club if they wanted! The tables should however stay under the cover of the OLZ, should be treated respectfully and put back as they were found with covers on. There are a couple of nets in the storage bench beside the tables but we would advise that you bring along your own bats and balls. Hopefully you can have as much fun as we have been having.

STEM Focus

This term we are all studying a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) topic with P1/2 looking at inventions, P3/4/5 The Science of Sound and P5/6/7 Bridges. P1/2 launched their topic with a visit to the inventors hall at the National Museum of Scotland, whilst P5/6/7 worked with a Civil Engineer at the Forth Bridges Education Centre. P3/4/5 are enjoying Samba drumming lessons and will be working with a musician Dave Trouton to make their own musical instrument to be installed in our wooded area. We will all showcase our learning at the end of this term with an open afternoon.



Gargunnock Community Council - Update

Village Shop

The shop group, now called the "Gargunnock Community Benefit Society (GCBS)" was formed in 2023, with the aim to reopen the Village shop hopefully in Q4, 2024 or Q1, 2025.

There have been a few changes since our last update. We have been successful in our 2 major grant applications:

Community Ownership (Lottery) fund - £ 253,032

- £224,032 capital funding
- £29,000 for revenue funding

Scottish Land Fund award (SLF) - £ 154,759



John Scott, a former Gargunnock resident, paid £ 90,000 for the shop, and is now conveying the shop into the ownership of GCBS. We will then be in a position to repay him.

As a condition of the funding awards, we are required to raise matched funding, this will be approximately £56,000. A way the community can help is to buy shares in the shop and a share prospectus and share issue will become available later this year. We have also asked Gargunnock Estates Trust if they can consider helping us and we will approach the Windfarm Panel as well.

We will be appointing a Development Officer (funded by SLF award) to support the work of the Management Committee; early priorities will be to create a Community share prospectus and share offer, so villagers can become part of GCBS. More to follow.

We have an advert on the Scottish Procurement website, inviting companies to indicate they are interested in doing the required building works. The advert closed on 29/1/24 and we will work with the architect to send out a detailed tender of works to select a contractor to start as soon as Planning approval is in place. Once a contractor is in place, work to the building except the roof will commence.

A positive meeting was held with the Planning department in Jan 2024. A wildlife report is currently being commissioned to establish if there are any roosting Bats. Bats are a protected species under law in the UK, and if Bats are found, we are required to have them moved by a licensed practitioner before building works can commence. So, works on the roof cannot commence until at least June 2024. However, works can commence in other areas of the shop under "permitted development". The next step is to appoint a Building contractor - more on this will follow.

Ultimately, we will advertise the shop as a commercial retail property, for lease by an experienced retailer.

The Management Committee is:

Name	Email	Position
Christine Phillips	cpphillips16@gmail.com	Chair
Julie Cole	juliecole67@gmail.com	Vice-Chair
Hannah Vallance	vallance616@hotmail.com	Treasurer
David Millar	dwjmillar@gmail.com	Secretary
Mike Buckley	mb_j@btinternet.com	Media
Maitland Clark	maitlandclark@btinternet.com	Member
Grant Henderson	Hends3671@gmail.com	Member
Allan MacMillan	Allanmac10@googlemail.com	Member

Douglas Johnston has stepped down from the GCBS, he was an integral part of the team as we made applications for grant awards, and we sincerely thank him for his contribution.

Please feel free to contact any of us and attend Gargunnock Community Council meetings for updates.

Continued on next page

Gargunnoch Community Council - Update cont'd.

Station Road / A811 Junction

The Station Road exit from the village onto the A811 continues to be a dangerous junction. For the last two and half years we have been trying to get Stirling City Council to take action.

An option was agreed with the council that would remove the obstruction at either side of the junction and we were informed the budget was allocated – this was over a year ago.



We have now engaged Gargunnoch Estate who own the land and buildings around the junction to get their support to make the necessary changes to improve visibility and safety at this junction.

With the support of our Ward Councillors we continue to push Stirling City Council to prioritise this work.

Our advice to all residents is to avoid using this junction as an exit point onto the A811 and utilise the other two safer exits at Back Road and Leckie Road.

Local Place Plan Surveys

Everyone should have received a survey from Gargunnoch Community Council and Gargunnoch Community trust asking for initial input for the development of our Local Place Plan.

This survey is the first of several opportunities to have your say on the contents of our Local Place Plan (LPP). Our LPP sets out our vision and improvement activities for the next 10 years - to make our Gargunnoch Community an amazing place to live and visit.

Please take the time to complete the survey via hard copy or online. Scan the QR code or visit Gargunnoch.org / Gargunnoch Facebook page.



Stirling City Council Budget Cuts – “The Big Conversation”

Stirling Council is facing a budget shortfall of £13 million and have embarked on a consultation - The Big Conversation - to outline what potential cuts to service provision they might embark on to address the shortfall. No specific detail about any cuts has been announced.

The proposed broad areas being considered for cuts affecting rural communities, range as follows:

- Land Services
 - Verge cutting
 - Flood prevention
- Local Transport
- Bus services (X10)
- Education Cuts
- Transport to schools
- Music and Physical Education provision
- Nurseries,
- Primary school swimming lessons
- Community Centre grants
- Public Library services
- Public toilets.
- Bin Collections on Unadopted Roads



Each of the rural Community Councils, including Gargunnoch, has responded to Stirling City Council with questions and comments about the proposed cuts for 2024 - 25. Overall, the responses received from Stirling City Council lacked any specific detail and have not answered the questions asked. A joint approach has now been made to Stirling City Council to further raise concerns that the potential cuts would have a disproportionate impact on rural areas. Stirling City Council will decide on the budget and any cuts at the full Council meeting in February 2024.

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY TRUST NEWS

Clubs and Activities Day

The Trust's Clubs and Activities event on 18 November attracted 20 different clubs and organisations (pictures below). Although the number of residents who managed along was not as high as had been hoped, those who attended found it helpful and most club/organisations with stalls have said they would attend a similar future event.



Trust AGM

A well-attended AGM was held on 30 November. The audience heard about the Trust's work. Optimistically, the treasurer reported that Community Centre usage was growing after Covid; hopefully this trend will continue. Louise and Shona Crawford were thanked for their excellent service in producing the Bugle as was Alison Younger and Jackson Campbell for their contributions to the Windfarm Panel. The Trustees appointed were Steve Barnet, Jill Patrick, Gill Bell, Crawford Gordon, Geoff Peart, Mairi Jackson, Dan Williams, Nathan Anderton, Gavin Fleming, John Steel and Stuart Ogg. As Douglas Johnston stood down there is a vacancy for a new trustee. Interested in helping your local community then please speak to one of the trustees or email gargunnocktrust@gmail.com. Similarly, if you would like to become the Windfarm Panel administrator to take over from Jackie let us know through the same channels. There is an honorarium attached to this role.



Following a positive response to its initial expression of interest, the Trust successfully secured funding to establish a local bike library. This comes from a £1m Cycling UK, CycleShare Fund and enables organisations to purchase cycles and equipment to offer access to a bike to people that do not own one.

We are now in the process of purchasing around 15 bikes including balance bikes, children's bikes, adult e-bikes and an e-cargo bike, plus helmets and locks. Once everything is set up, Gargunnock residents will be able to use these bikes. Initially, they will be available for people to borrow for 1-2 weeks to see if they are interested in purchasing one. Ultimately, they will be available for longer term hire at reasonable rates. We also envisage that the shop, once up and running, might use the e-cargo bike for deliveries in the village. When everything is in place updates will be posted on the Gargunnock website and Facebook page to let you know when and how bikes can be borrowed.

Should Stirling Council help make it a reality, the cycle track from Gargunnock to Stirling, will allow residents to use the bikes to commute to Stirling. With this in mind, two e-bikes will fold up which can then be taken on a train, opening up other travel opportunities.

Douglas Johnston

At the AGM the extensive and highly valuable contribution made by Douglas was acknowledged. A trustee for over a decade he achieved much. Amongst many other things, he served as the treasurer; managed the Community Centre's long term development plan; and raised funding and managed various actions to help give the Community Centre zero carbon status. Earlier he was involved in the development of the Community Centre including raising funding for a new sound system and until recently he made an invaluable contribution to the work of the Shop Group. He and Jane have also helped clear vegetation on the Glebe path and continue to help manage the Glebe Park. The Gargunnock Trust records its enormous gratitude to Douglas and Jane for their previous and ongoing contribution to the quality of life in the village. They have already left a significant legacy and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Windfarm Fund

Since the last issue there have been two successful grants awarded by the Windfarm Panel: £804.40 awarded to the pond group for a wildflower meadow, and £500 awarded to Gargunock Primary School for a MakerSpace trolley and worktools to support STEM learning.

The Windfarm Panel is made up of community based volunteers including representatives from the Community Trust and the Community Council. The Panel is responsible for making awards within the Gargunock Community Council area from Renantis (previously FALCK) Renewables fund.

The role of chair of the Windfarm Panel has changed, with Alison Younger coming to the end of her term in post. The panel would like to thank Alison for her commitment, enthusiasm and expertise whilst in post and for the support given to the community under her tenure.

Ashley Fleming has taken on the role of chair, and we are delighted to also have three new panel members - Niamh Brodie as youth rep and Jane Arneil and Suzie Galloway as village reps. This brings the panel up to a full complement of members with six from the village (including our youth member), two village trust and two community council members.

The first meeting of 2024 will be on 4th March and we will report on successful applications in the next addition of the Bugle.

Future deadline dates for applications are 29th August and 11th November. If you would like to submit an application for something that is time critical before 29th August then please email us at windfarmpanel@gargunock.org

Grant application forms can be found on the village website along with our fund guidelines.

<https://www.gargunock.org/wind-farm-applications>

Hand Painted Pet Portraits by Gay Burt



For that special forever gift, perfect for birthdays and anniversaries. Spoil yourself, or other, with a long-lasting keepsake artwork of a well loved pet.

For further information, please email Gay at glb44@btinternet.com



Homework answers

10	20	4
1	2	4
7	14	28

100	200	400
10	20	40
1	2	4

Homework explanation

You can use multiplication for calculating the size of rectangles. You can chop big rectangles into smaller ones that are easier to measure. You can draw the rectangles accurately to see how the method works.

10	20	40
10	20	40
2	20	12

If you enjoyed My puzzles please think about donating to the puzzles council. See club in the magazine.

The Welcome Team of Gargunnoch Kirk

Here's our new notice board, with thanks to the Renantis Kingsburn Community Fund, administered by the Gargunnoch Community Trust for funding it and Pete Rowell for erecting it for us. Keep checking it for posters about upcoming events, organised by the Welcome Team.



- 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

The Bugle is a free Community Newsletter published quarterly by Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd. Its aim is to provide news, views, information and entertainment for the residents and friends of Gargunnoch and the surrounding area.

Editor: Louise Crawford
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Deadline of next issue: Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including 5th May 2024.

Contributions: Letters & submissions may be made to the Editor (deadlines are shown elsewhere in the newsletter). We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted.

We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted. Contributions will be attributed to the author. However, at the Editor's discretion, a contribution may be printed anonymously but the author's name, address, and phone number must be supplied to the Editor.



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