

Photo Credit: The Kilted Photographer

Back in September, Elizabeth Whyte posted this lovely drone shot of the village on the Gargunnock Facebook page. The photo shot from the top of the town by the Kilted Photographer shows the outline of the highland boundary fault. Elizabeth has composed the top section of the photo with an outline of the hills you can see, all named.

John McLaren has pulled together a feature article which can be found in the centre pages, based around Elizabeth's composition.

GARGUNNOCK'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD 2023

Gargunnock's 'Alternative Christmas Card' has raised over £21,000 for various local charities over the years and this year our chosen charity is Start Up Stirling.

Start Up Stirling helps those in hardship throughout Stirlingshire by providing starter packs to help make a house a home. The charity also delivers crisis food support through their food banks and also a mobile delivery service for rural clients. Support is also offered to help address long-term causes of financial difficulty. This isn't the first time we've chosen Start Up for our Alternative Christmas Card donations, but I'm sure you'll agree that this vital service is a very worthy recipient of our support.

The 'alternative card' has become a bit of a village institution and its beauty lies in its simplicity! It's really just a poster wishing everyone in Gargunnock a very Merry Christmas from everyone who has donated. It's pinned to the notice board on Christmas Eve and will be included in the first edition of The Bugle in 2024. Donations are made online at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/gargunnock-xmas-card> - and do remember when you leave your message on the JustGiving page to include all of the names from your family that you'd like mentioned on the Village Christmas Card.

Many thanks for your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely festive season when it comes.

Jane Milne

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/gargunnock-xmas-card>
(Please tick the Gift Aid box if applicable)

Editorial

This was supposed to be the late November edition of the Bugle, but by the time it is dropping through letterboxes it will likely be December, and in no time at all we will be celebrating Christmas. Issue 76 of the Bugle is a bumper edition, stretching to 20 pages, with lots of content from contributors throughout the village.

I have tried to accommodate everything sent in, and I hope I have added everything correctly - there were many late submissions this time round, and multiple changes to some of the content. And, lots of photos too, which I have mostly been able to include.

Also thank you to the distributors who go out of their way to distribute the Bugle, and this time the Gargunnock Church Christmas card too.

All contributions can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, please send feedback for this Bugle edition. The deadline for the next issue is 11th February 2024.

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Louise Crawford, November 2023

New Year At The Square

Why not see in the New Year at the Square. Come along about 10 minutes to midnight, celebrate the arrival of the New Year, and enjoy some camaraderie for a half hour or so before going off to do your first-footing, or go to the pub.

The Church bell will toll at midnight along with fireworks,

COME ALONG AND WEAR YOUR FLASHING LIGHTS

There is no formal programme, it all depends on the weather and who turns up on the night. But something **will** happen.

Oh! And Bring Your First-Footing Bottle!! (Newbies to the Village particularly welcome).

Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband for the Village - Update from Gregor McCallum

Gargunnock is not presently in Openreach's plans to deliver Ultrafast broadband speeds via Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), however Openreach will consider upgrading the village if we enter into a Fibre Community Partnership with them. Grant support is available from the UK government to upgrade to FTTP and every household and business in the village is eligible.

There is sufficient interest and I have started the partnership process with Openreach. Currently Openreach are preparing indicative costs that will take into account the UK Government voucher scheme that will contribute towards the cost of our community getting Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband.

If sufficient households and businesses in the village were to pledge to upgrade to an Ultrafast connection when its available then the upgrade cost could be zero.

Openreach would also have to complete the upgrade within 12 months which would be earlier than some of the other local rural communities that are in scope.

Costs from ISP's to upgrade existing broadband packages to full fibre connections are not too expensive.

The upgrade involves the installation of a new fibre cable, either through existing underground ducts or via new overhead cables to your home of business

Most existing ISP's already offer Full fibre packages , (Sky, BT, Vodafone, PlusNet etc etc) therefore there is no requirement to change your existing provider

As I get more details from Openreach and an idea of how many households would need to pledge I will post on the Gargunnock Facebook site and will do a mail drop in the village (volunteers to help with this are appreciated).

Update Just Before Publication

Openreach has advised that we only need 150 properties / businesses to pledge to take a FTTP connection once it's available and they will carry out the FTTP upgrade to the entire village at no other cost.

(Obviously your ISP may charge to move to a Ultrafast connection).

Openreach are now seeking approval from the UK Government to progress under the Gigabit Voucher Scheme but are confident approval will be given as our village "ticks all the boxes" for what the scheme was intended for.

GARGUNNOCK PARISH CHURCH

Kirk Open Day: As part of the Open Day on Saturday 23rd September, donated Food Items were collected for STARTUP Stirling Foodbank and displayed at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday. The Charity was delighted to receive the generous donation of £310. 93 and 148.22 Kg of Food. The Kirk Session thanks all who donated towards the marvellous total.

Remembrance Service: Val Rose, our Interim Moderator, and the Kirk Session thank all who attended the Remembrance Day Service, when we remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. Val, Helen McLaren and Janette Wilson all participated in the service during which Alison Birrell, the Senior Elder, laid a Poppy Wreath at the Village War Memorial, within the church. Following the main Service a short Act of Remembrance took place at the Square and John McLaren laid another wreath, on behalf of the Residents of the village, at the Gate into the Fountain Area.

GARGUNNOCK CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS

There are special events and services during December in and around Gargunnock Parish Church, which are open to all, and we invite you to attend one, some or all of them! .

From 3rd to 24th December there will be Sunday worship at 10.30am in Gargunnock as we await the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sun 3rd December: the First Sunday of Advent; Douglas Barr will lead Worship.

Sun 10th December: Val Rose will lead Worship.

Sun 17th December: Family Service led by Rev Beverley Stevenson.

Sun 24th December: Christmas Eve is special so plan to visit Gargunnock Kirk. This year we have two services:

- 10.30am Rev Beverley Stevenson will conduct the morning service.
- 11.00pm there will be Singing of Carols before the Watchnight Service at 11.30pm, led by the Elders, to welcome the first moments of Christmas morning.

Mon 25th December: Christmas Day - There will be **NO** Service in Gargunnock but we hope to join a service in a neighbouring Church to continue the celebration of Christmas.

Sun 31st December: New Year's Eve – Douglas Barr will lead worship when we will give thanks for 2023 and seek God's blessing for 2024.

Wishing All God's blessings for the Christmas season and the coming year. God's peace to you all!

Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk

The Welcome Team of Gargunnock

Kirk have had a successful year!

The KIRK OPEN DAY in September was slightly different this year. Mike Kay came with his silver jewellery for sale and the Gargunnock Bee Keepers came with their honey to sell.

Thank you to all who came to the 4 TALKS IN THE KIRK in September and October and to the 4 speakers, which raised £818 split between 4 different charities, all chosen by the speakers. There has only been 1 person for the weekly TOURS OF THE OLD GRAVEYARD this year. If you've never done it and fancy it then call Helen on 860630 and we'll try and fit you in, weather permitting.

By the time you read this, we should have installed our long awaited WT notice board near the bench. This will enable us to display posters about future events, a graveyard map, information about the history of the building and who we all are with contact numbers and more. Thanks to the Windfarm Trust for funding this and to Pete Rowell, one of our speakers, who gave £38, part of his talk donations, to help finance the installation of the board.

Bite and Bletch

If you can remember back to Wednesday 1st November, it was a horrible day - cold and extremely wet. I don't think the rain stopped all day! We didn't think many people would venture out but you did. Thank you everyone who braved the elements and came to enjoy hot soup and tasty bakes. We didn't have much left when we closed the doors at 2:00pm.

As usual, none of this would be possible without our wonderful band of volunteer soup makers and bakers so thank you all. Also, Stuart and Steve come every time and help us set up the tables, chairs, tablecloths, crockery, cutlery and that heavy sign outside (Steve) and then come back to help put it all away again. Thanks must also go to "the kitchen staff" Barbara, Lorna and Moira (and Sandra who filled in when Barbara was away).

This year (up to November) you have helped us raise just over £2,200 for the Community Centre so thank you everyone for another successful year.

Dates for 2024

The first Wednesday of the month except January - (3rd is too close to New Year!)

10th January
7th February
6th March
10th April
7th May
5th June
4th September
2nd October
6th November
4th December



Update from Gargunnoch Primary School Parent Council

Dear Readers – the Parent Council needs a little bit of your help.

One of the Parent Council's roles is to help the school provide opportunities to children that fall outside of Stirling Council's budget.

Last year activities that we helped to make happen included subsidising a whole-school trip to a Christmas Pantomime, funding Tapsalteerie Theatre Company to produce with the children the excellent performance of "The Great Gargunnoch Story" and purchasing a stage and lighting for the school to use. The Parent Council donated to Gargunnoch Village Childcare to help it launch a before and after school club. In September we held a school maintenance day to tidy the grounds, restore existing play equipment and prepare the grounds for new play equipment. More eagle-eyed readers might have noticed that the school now has a wonderful new polytunnel which is being project managed by a group of children.

Gargunnoch is a rural school and attending events is becoming prohibitively expensive, with the price of transport almost doubling from last year. This year's funding priority for the Parent Council is therefore transport. If you are able to contribute to towards the Parent Council's funding targets then please see our posters in this issue of the Bugle for this year's "200 Club competition" and our village ceilidh on 27th January.

Thanks from all on the Parent Council and from the pupils at the Primary School.



Saturday 27th January

Gargunnoch Community Centre

8pm - Midnight

Carse Ceilidh Band

Tickets £8 each (over 18s only)

**Tickets available via Parent Pay
and from Nic Stewart 07808 886520
and Nicola Brodie 07709 420569
Must be bought in advance**

BYOB and snacks
Bottle tombola and coin slide

Fundraiser for Gargunnoch Primary School





Parent Council

200 Club Fundraiser

Please help us raise funds for extra curricular activities for Gargunnoch Primary School. For a donation of £10 you can buy a lucky number in the Gargunnoch 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 Gargunnoch 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 please contact:

**Special
Christmas
Draw of
£50**

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

Or Gargunnoch 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 Gargunnoch 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.

Gargunnoch Flower Show

This year's Show was the 40th time this event has been staged (other than Covid cancellation!) and the feed back from it has been very favourable indeed. In spite of the very hot Spring and the very wet Summer there was a great display of plants, flowers, vegetables, handiwork and children's entries.

The committee is already starting to plan the 2024 event in a bid to keep the Show an integral part of village life. **HOWEVER.....** The numbers of committee members has dwindled due to retirements etc so these vacancies need to be filled and the committee is appealing to **YOU** to volunteer.

To be on the committee you do not have to be an expert gardener, only to have an interest. It is not an onerous position. There are 3 committee meetings per year – February, July and November – and 2 events – the fund-raising Quiz in March and the Show itself on the last Sunday of August. If you feel you are unable to commit to that, it may be that you could help out at the Show, by assisting to set up the hall or by helping in the tea room. There is always something you could become involved in. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact:

Maitland 07763098247 President | Sandra 07488303365 Vice President
Anne 07977441109 Secretary | or any member of the committee.

You will be made most welcome.



Gargunnoch Primary School

We are well into the academic year but as we missed the last edition I wanted to recognise the valuable contribution our outgoing primary 7's made to the school and to wish them well as they continue their journey through High School. I also wanted to welcome our new learners into primary 1, Brodie, Aisling, Kaitlyn, Angus, Evie, Olivia, Fergus, Innes & Hannah. We hope that they love being part of Gargunnoch Primary as much as we love having them here.

Pupil Council & House Captains

We elected new Captains and Vice Captains to lead their Houses during term 1. Having prepared and given their speeches to the school at assembly it was all down to a whole school vote. The successful candidates were as follows.

Red Foxes – Captain Ewan Jackson & Vice Captain Kayleigh Clifford

Wildcats – Captain Myrtle Watson & Vice Captains Seth Johnstone / Hamish Stewart

Eagles – Captain Innes Heron & Vice Captains Eva Rennie / Nelleke Younger.

The house leaders have been busy with their duties so far including taking House Meetings and organising a new logo design competition as a house challenge. The children designed the logos and with the help of Digital Stirling we got them digitised. Our winning designs are showcased below.



Beth Brodie P5



Sophie Edwards P7



Louise Buchanan P7

A Christmas Invite

For the older residents in the community (anyone who is retired) to the dress rehearsal of our school nativity 'A Wiggly Nativity' and Christmas concert. Our senior pupils will have the hall looking lovely and will serve you tea/coffee and mincemeat pies while the rest of the children entertain you. Please phone 01786 860291 or email us on gargps@stirling.gov.uk to let us know that you are coming so that we know how many to set up for. It is on Monday 11th December @2pm and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

New Polytunnel

We have a very enthusiastic gardening team at Gargunnoch so they were delighted when we got a new polytunnel installed over the October break. This will give us scope to grow a wider range of plants, to learn about the importance of good soil and irrigation as well as experimenting with different growing methods.

The gardening team are at the stage of designing raised beds for inside the tunnel and visited Green Routes who will build them for us. Once the beds are in place there will be no stopping us and we are really excited to get started. Watch out Gargunnoch Flower Show!



Gargunnoch Village Shop

Major progress has been made in returning the shop to the village. The Community Council and Trust have worked together to establish a new organisation, a Community Benefit Society, Gargunnoch Community Shop Ltd., that will eventually own the shop. The Community Benefit Society (CBS) is a cooperative entity where the shareholders are members of the community and so far, 119 people have registered an interest in becoming shareholders.

The work to bring the shop up to a modern standard is extensive and requires major investment. It is intended that the building will be as sustainable as possible. We have already received enabling grants from Gargunnoch Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, Gargunnoch Estate Trust and the Scottish Land Fund that have enabled us to apply for planning permission and building warrant and produce detailed architect's drawings and costs. So far, we have received an offer of grant from the UK Community Ownership Fund of £224,032 towards the renovation of the shop and have applied to the Scottish Land Fund for a further £156,000 to purchase the shop and project manage the renovation. Although we cannot say anything at the moment we are extremely optimistic that we will be able to make an announcement before Christmas.

We have also received strong indications of support from John Scott and the Gargunnoch Estate Trust to contribute to the match funding any shortfall that is anticipated. We would also like to thank John Scott for purchasing the shop and taking it off the market so that it can be secured for the community in future. Progress looks good and hopefully next year we will be reporting on the successful reopening of the shop.

The Gargunnoch Community Shop Ltd (CBS) AGM will be held in the Community Centre 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th December. All welcome, come along and get an update on what is happening. A special welcome to all those that have pledged to become shop shareholder. We will be recruiting members to act as part of the Management Committee (Directors of the Community Benefit Society) and would welcome nominations from anyone in the village who has pledged to become a shareholder.

Activities for example include:

- Helping to prepare a plan to renovate the shop, identify trade businesses and get quotes and timescales
- Advertise and interview potential tenants, agree type of stock, help the tenant become embedded positively in the community
- Shop opening event and communications plan for the village and wider environs
- Be financially stable - who can help with being a Treasurer

Douglas Johnston – djohnston@thehaven.eu | Christine Phillips- cpPhillips16@gmail.com
Julie Cole juliecole67@googlemail.com | Mike Buckley mb_j@btinternet.com | Douglas Barr barr747@btinternet.com

| Bootcamp | Online | PT | Group PT | Yoga Coming 2024 |

Suitable for all levels of fitness. Something for everyone!

Text: 0776 421 2813

Email: lois.spn24@gmail.com





We may have been a bit quiet here and on Facebook, however that doesn't mean we haven't been busy! This is our third year of beekeeping and the saying "every day is a school day" very much still applies.

We carried out the first inspection of the year in late April – the general rule is that you should only inspect when you can work comfortably outside in shirt sleeves – perhaps a bit optimistic in our location but you get the idea – bees do not appreciate the hive being chilled as they then have to work hard to raise the temperature back to the optimum 35 degrees centigrade again. This is always a nerve-wracking time as it's not uncommon to lose a colony over winter, regardless of how well you have "tucked them in". We were relieved to find all 5 colonies still alive and preparing to replenish their winter reserves and increase their numbers. In spring, worker bees will be out finding food for their colony as soon as the first source of pollen emerges. In these early days you can help them along by leaving dandelions to grow as they are often the first source of food after the long winter.

Within only a month we were starting to see signs in some of the colonies of their preparations to swarm – a natural impulse to reproduce which results in the loss of the queen and many of her workers as they depart the hive to find a new home elsewhere. This is a problem for several reasons – for the beekeeper they have lost a productive workforce and must wait until the new queen emerges, gets mated and starts to lay – inevitably resulting in a reduced honey crop and placing the remaining bees in a vulnerable position while they grow their numbers again. For the general population it can be alarming if a swarm of bees alights in their back garden or on the washing line in a cluster. There are many reasons why bees are more likely to swarm, including lack of space in the hive and aging queens sending mixed pheromone signals, however there are measures that can be taken to minimise the chances. This is a busy time for us as we have to carefully inspect each hive weekly looking for signals of intention to swarm. At this time we made the decision to split a few burgeoning colonies which is a common method of swarm control.



Over the summer we tried some experiments:

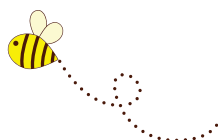
Two members of the group set up "bait hives" in their own gardens – these are simply empty hives placed at a height to present as an attractive new home for a swarm of bees – luckily a swarm did move in to one of the bait hives in June, increasing our numbers. Some of the group had attended a Queen Rearing course, and took the opportunity to try out raising new queens with some success. In August we took one hive up onto the moor to encourage the bees to forage on the blooming heather. The girls did really well and with the aid of a borrowed heather press we extracted approx. 40lbs of delicious heather honey! Now winter is almost upon us we can relax a bit, however the bees still need to be checked regularly to make sure they have enough food (we top up their stores with fondant) and the hives aren't damaged. We can gauge the amount of stores they have by hefting – gently lifting the hive slightly from the base to feel its weight. Winter is also the time to clean and maintain equipment, reflect on the past year and make plans for the next one and try out activities like candle making using wax scrapings collected through the year.

Are you interested in hands on beekeeping with us, and are either experienced in beekeeping or willing to attend a beginner's course?

We are looking for two new group members to join us in 2024 – please contact us to discuss. We hope you understand that we are unable to teach beginners yet as we simply don't have sufficient experience – hopefully in time this will change.

We continue to offer two places for skill development or volunteering for local young people working on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award – please contact us to discuss.

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



Email: gargunnockbees@gmail.com

Gargunnock Beekeepers, November 2023



Windfarm Fund

Our community council area benefits from approx. £25,000 of funding every year from Renantis (previously FALCK Renewables fund). The Windfarm Panel is responsible for considering grant applications and making awards. The Panel is made up of community based volunteers including representatives from the Development Trust and the Community Council.

There's lots to report on from both our May and October meetings, with the following applications being successful in securing funding:



£6,500 towards upgrade of Beeches Path
£250 to Anne-Marie Stewart to cover Community Centre rent for Chat/Craft/Create class
£874 to Kirk Welcome Team for a new noticeboard
£1,000 for two new toys in the sand pit at the park
£922.40 for 2023 Gargunnock Gala
£5,872.67 towards new village Christmas lights including electrical work that needed to be carried out
£8,144.88 towards supporting Gargunnock Village Childcare group in their first year
£1,924.19 for additional work at Community Centre for their Zero Carbon project
£500 to Gargunnock Primary School to purchase a Maker Space Trolley



As this is being written the Beeches Path is tantalising close to being finished. Hopefully by time of publication the new improved route has been positively received and able to be used once more by a wide range of our community without risk of tripping or falling down the bank! Hopefully also the new Christmas lights will be adding a fabulous additional twinkle to the village as we head into the festive season.

The Panel were pleased to support the new Village Childcare Group towards their Year 1 costs. This new group offers a streamlined approach to wrap around childcare and brings together the three previous committees that oversaw Playgroup and Toddlers, Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club. Having local childcare for all ages is important to attracting and retaining young families within the village and the Panel were impressed by this strategic approach to provide a more sustainable footing for the future.

Whether its larger projects like these, or smaller awards towards clubs, infrastructure and events they all contribute to making Gargunnock a great place to live and work. Thanks to all those individuals who have given up their time and energies pulling the projects and activities together.

Do you have an idea to help improve Gargunnock? Download the latest form from <https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications>. If you want to submit a time critical application before then please email: windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

We need you!

Membership on the Panel is time limited which means that there is a regular rotation of Panel members. We have recently welcomed Carolyn Johnston and Mike Buckley as Community Council representatives and said goodbye to Mike Fitches. We are now looking for a new community representative and we still have a position available for a Youth Rep aged 16-25yrs. Also leaving after 2 terms as Chair is Alison Younger, this position will be taken up in the New Year by Ashley Fleming. There are also some paid hours available if you think you could provide some admin support. If you would like more info, or know of someone who you think would be interested please get in touch: windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

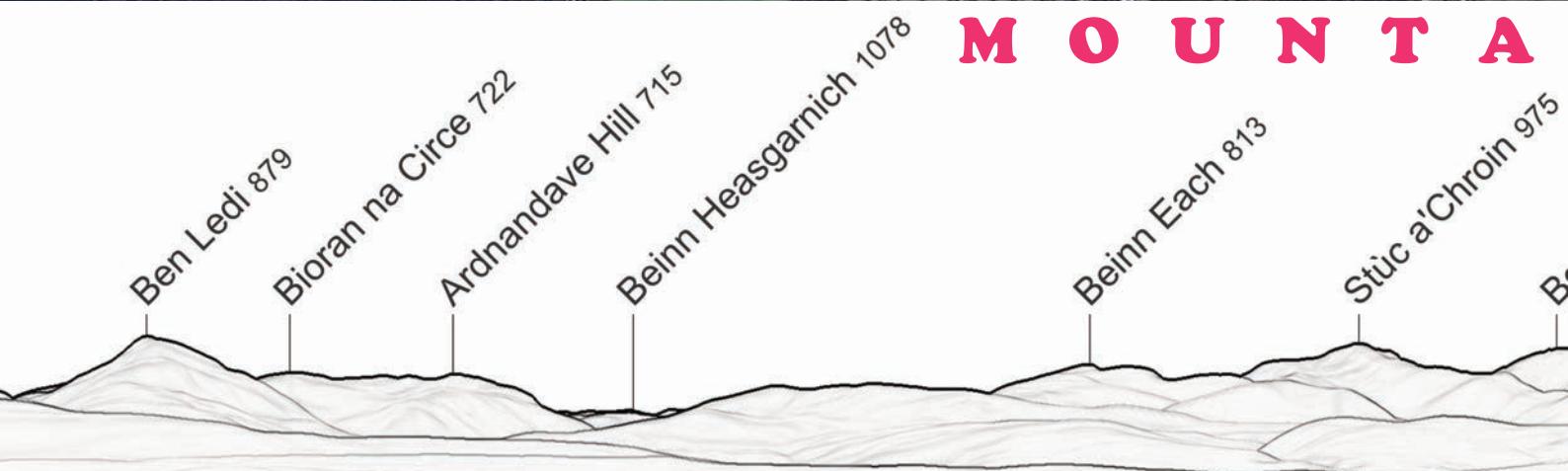
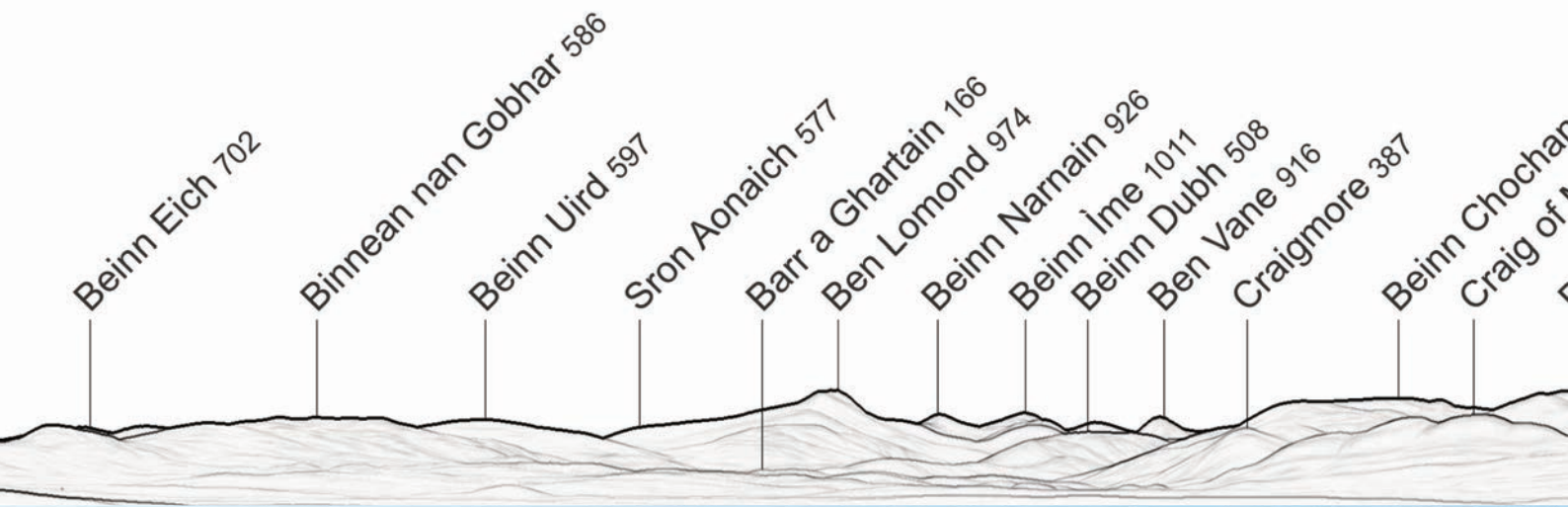
ALEXANDER STEWART MSP

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



It was Elisabeth Whyte who posted on Gargunnoch Facebook a mountainscape created using an app called Peakfinder which cleverly drew the skyline looking westwards from Stirling and named all the mountains and hills.

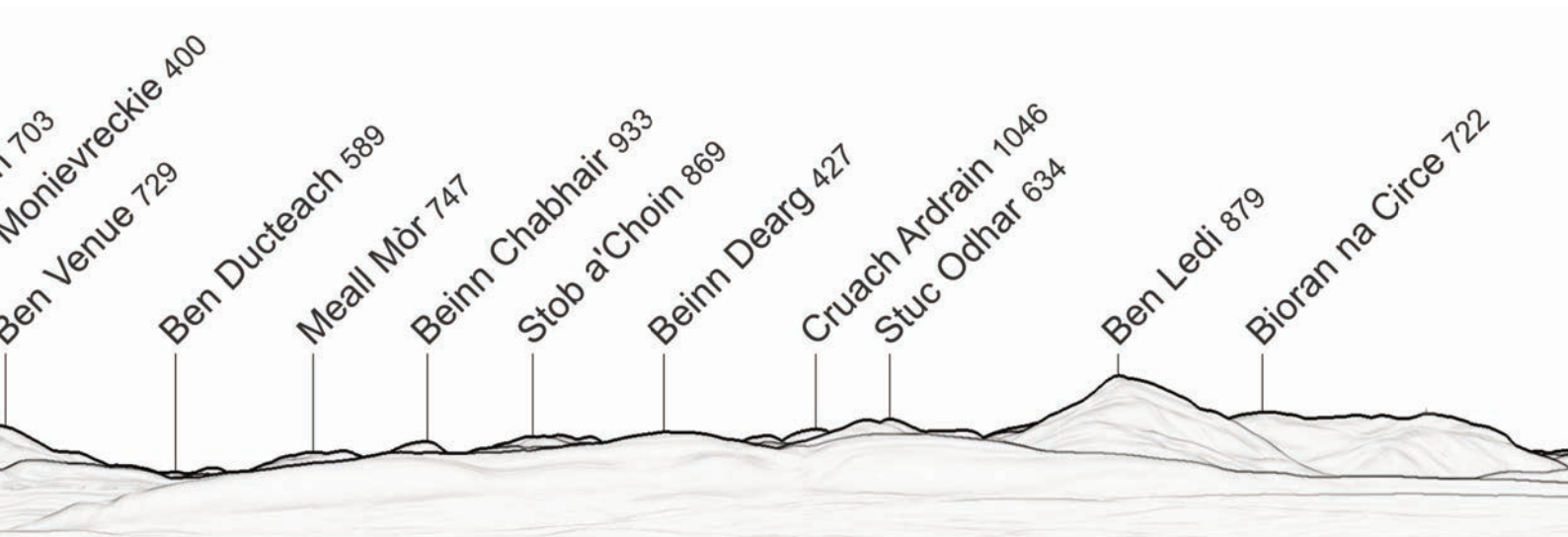
I volunteered to do a similar thing from the village as I had some panoramic drone photos taken from above the Beild Farm last year (not, I hasten to add, the drone that's been bothering folks by buzzing over the village during the summer). After a few software hiccups it all worked out eventually and the diagrams here should help to settle a few arguments about which peak is which I reckon.

The viewpoint of the photos is about 400 feet above the carse so they show slightly more peaks than you

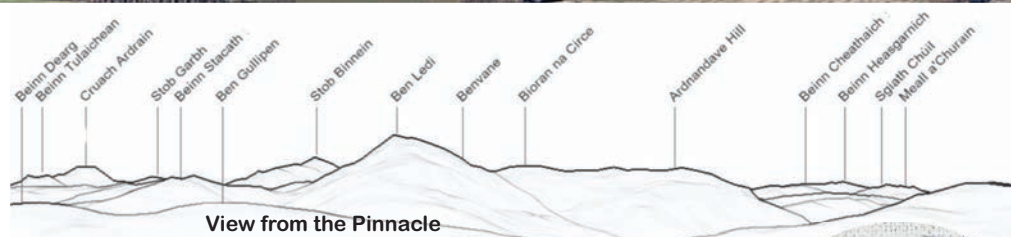
can see at ground level although not as many as I expected. Viewing distance was set at 27 miles which is about double the distance to Ben Ledi, (about 13 miles).

Peakfinder is a handy app to have on your phone as it can superimpose the drawing and names on the view you see when pointing your camera at the skyline. Heights shown are in metres because for some reason the file wouldn't export in feet. A 3000 ft Monroe would therefore be 914 meters.

If you rise higher, up to the Pinnacle for instance, you can see on the right that many more peaks and hills begin to reveal themselves, always providing it's a good clear day of course!



I N S C A P E



View from the Pinnacle

While on the subject of the Pinnacle I attended the funeral, earlier this year, of 94 years old Alexander McNair, Grangemouth, last remaining descendant and namesake of Alexander McNair, Gamekeeper in Gargunnock in the late 19th century, who is reputed to have been responsible for placing the original wee stone cairn up on the hill. Alex & I climbed to the Pinnacle via the direct route when he was a fit, almost 80 year old.



Gargunnock Walking Group – November 2023

The Gargunnock Walking Group has managed to continued activity in spite of some of the recent severe weather with some excellent walks. We recently walked at Lendrick Hill and Glen Finglas near to Brig o'Turk, and in Kirkton Glen at Balquhider. In both walks we managed to avoid severe rain and got away with some fair weather and fine atmospheric views through the mist. During the later walk we also had the benefit of enjoying the fine autumn colours which are a feature of this time of year.

In September we also had a very fine walk to Abyssinia Bothy in Glen Kinglas. The weather was fair which allowed for delightful views of the Glen, though regrettably no sighting of the eagles which live there. The approach to the bothy can involve a difficult river crossing if there has been rain, but we were fortunate that there had been little rain and the river was low. In spite of this a regular member of the walking group did manage to fall into the river and became rather wet. The photographic evidence of this has for now been censored in the interests of maintaining harmony within the Walking Group!

The walks for November and December will be:

Thursday 30th November – Walk in the vicinity of Dunning

Tuesday 12th December - Local walk to be decided.

Possibilities for further walks include visits to Dumgoyne, walks around Auchterarder, and repeat walks may be made to the Whangie and Loch Ard Forest.

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 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.

Edmond Mansion



Photo Credit: Anne Marie



Chat, Craft, Create

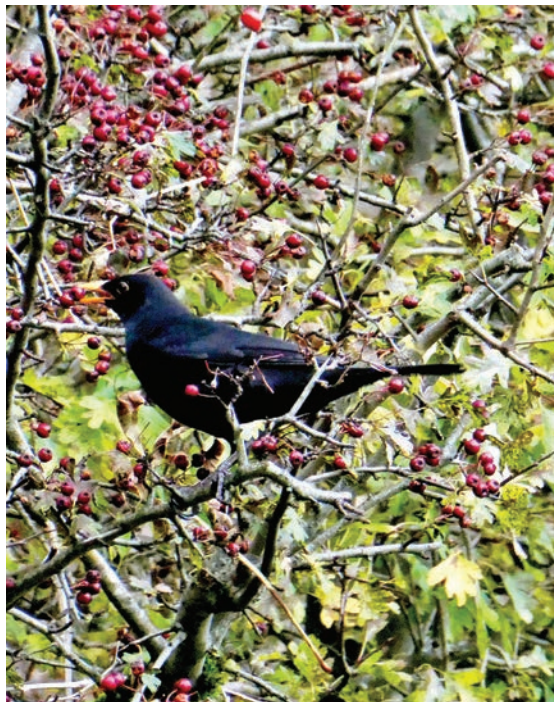
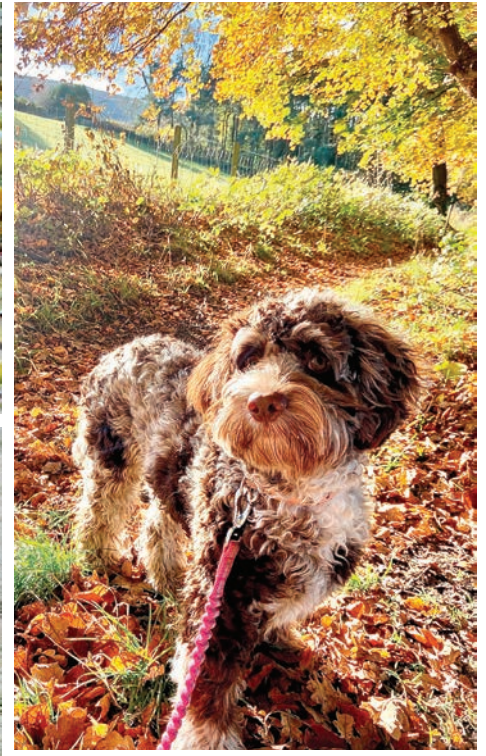
Chat/ craft /create at the Community Centre in the Garden Room.
November 26th from 2pm to 5 pm.

Making Christmas decorations let's try out paint /pyrography / beadwork make something nice for your Christmas tree or as a gift.

Look forward to seeing you there soon .
Free to attend .



Anne Marie MacGregor is always kind enough to share some of the beautiful photos she takes when she is out and about in the village. There often isn't enough room to include them all, or they are very small. However, as this is a bumper edition at 20 pages, there is space for everyone to enjoy Anne Marie's photos (with one sneaking onto the previous page).





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Christmas 2023



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Wed to
Sun

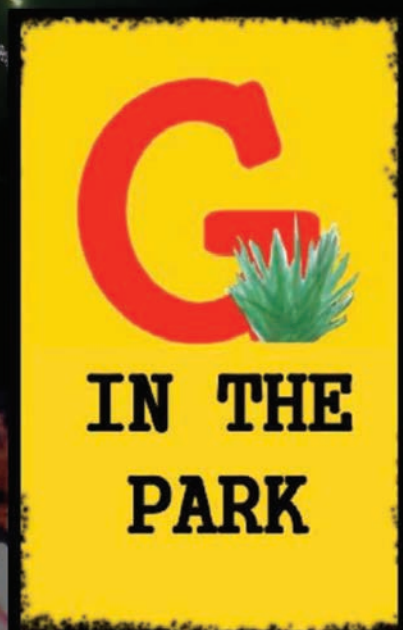
Christmas Quiz
29th December

Live
Music
8th Dec

Festive Menu
1st - 24th December

Call 01786860333 to reserve

Gargunnock Gala 2024



15th June 2024

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At Gargunnock Primary School

Mon-Thurs 8am - 9am

Mon-Thurs 3.15pm - 5.15pm

£3.50 per child Before and £7 After School

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Kingsburn Community
Fund administered by the
Gargunnock Community
Trust'



 Renantis

For bookings and information email:
gargunnockvillagechildcare@gmail.com

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 SWI

The Rural had a great start in September to the 2023-24 session with a talk from Jayne Wilson about the Body Shop. This included a little self-pampering for hands and samples of various lotions and potions to sample. Games were played and prizes won. We even managed to raise some funds for the Rural through the sale of Body Shop items.

At October's meeting the speaker was Ally Logan a livestock auctioneer from Caledonia Market. We heard about his colourful life auctioneering a huge range of things both living and inanimate. We also heard about his charity auctioneering and the millions it has raised. He had everyone roaring with laughter with the stories he told. Four of our members were selected to be a cow, pig, horse and sheep. These had a picture of their animal around their necks and pretended to be their animal. Ally then had a fun auction. It was a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Our November meeting is an activity night with five Christmas crafts including making a Highland Coo decoration, Star and even a snowman made from a sock! As usual our meeting will finish with competitions: Lift - Christmas Candle Make - A Christmas Tree decoration, a raffle, refreshments and homemade cake delights.

December we change venues to the Gargunnock Inn for our annual Christmas Meal with games, secret Santa present and the man himself putting in an appearance.

In September the National SWI Conference in Perth. Some of our members entered the Vaughan Nash competition with a Christmas theme. Although they did not win their beautiful handicrafts scored well with favourable comments. The card was made by Maureen McLaughlin, the embroidered box by Jane Currie, knitted teapot cosy by Johan Mailer, picture by Fiona Campbell and the runner by Janet Iffla.

In November the SC&WP Federation Annual Business Meeting was held at Bridge of Allan. Our talented ladies from Gargunnock did very well. In the McLay Trophy a limerick Cathy Rowley received a Very Highly Commended. In the West Lothian Trophy which was 3 gift tags of different crafts Janet Iffla was 2nd, Mary Finlay 3rd, Fiona Campbell a Very Highly Commended and Jane Currie a Highly Commended. In the Cath McBryne Trophy - best use of a fabric fat ¼ - Mary Finlay was 2nd with a make up bag and Janet Iffla 3rd with a tissue holder. These were excellent results competing against the 13 other institutes in the area.

New members and visitors to Gargunnock SWI are always welcome. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in the Gargunnock Community Centre. If you would like more information or are interested in joining please contact me on 07815 522 247 or email bmountford31@gmail.com.

All our members would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful healthy 2024.

Beverley Mountford – President Gargunnock SWI



Gargunnock Community Trust

New Beeches Path Improvement Project

Having completed the funding package, thanks to Paths for All (Ian Findlay Fund), the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust and Renantis (through the Windfarm Fund Panel), work on the Beeches Path Improvement Project began on 23 October. Progress has been very good especially as the weather has helped. At the time of writing the team are slightly ahead of schedule. Again, thanks to John More for allowing the contractors to store their materials in his yard and for the use of the track at the side of the field which has been used to deliver materials to the site.

Recently we had a visit from SWECO representatives, a company which is very closely involved in the work the Trust has been doing to develop a path between Gargunnock and Stirling.

A few images showing the work on the path. Tree roots have been given special treatment and where sections were sloping into the adjoining field these have been levelled and will have post and rails installed. It will take a bit of time for the new surface, once finished to bed in completely. Having said that we will ensure that the path is open again as soon as soon as we can. Some vegetation will be cut back once the path has been completed as the Paths for All funding is to ensure it is a safe Active Travel Route.



Gargunnock Windfarm Panel changes

The Trust is indebted to Alison Younger, who after four years in the role of Windfarm Panel Chair is stepping down. During her tenure she has guided the overhaul of the documentation and processes associated with the work of the Panel, improving its efficiency and effectiveness. These changes have been helped by Jackie Campbell who is also standing down as the Panel's administrator. Both have made a significant contribution to the Panel's operation, often showing considerable flexibility helping local groups secure funding while ensuring that good governance was always applied. We wish Alison and Jackie all the very best in their future endeavours. The Trust is very pleased to welcome Ashley Fleming to the role of Windfarm Panel Chair and look forward to working with her. Ashley has held various volunteer roles in the village and further afield, alongside her professional career and family commitments. As yet we have not found a replacement for Jackie so if anyone is interested in the Panel administrator role, please email gargunnocktrust@gmail.com. A small honorarium is attached to this role.

CycleShare Scheme

The Trust has been successful in its expression of interest application which is the first step, in securing funding from the CycleShare scheme. The funding application can now be submitted and if that is successful it will allow the Trust to purchase a range of different cycles for use by the community.

Bite and Blether

On the first Wednesday of the month Bite and Blether continues to attract a good number of the local community for a get together and to savour wonderful soups, cakes and other delights. If you haven't been its worth a try.

Community Centre

Over the past few months, thankfully we have seen a growing number of bookings for the community centre, this is helping the Trust cover the costs of running the centre, a core community asset. The solar panels have now all been successfully installed and are helping to generate power for the centre. We also welcomed a new business tenant in the Drop-In centre, bringing the number of businesses operating out of the Centre to five. One of the very early ambitions of the Trust, when it took ownership of the Centre from Stirling Council, was to create space for local businesses and this is now very much the case.

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Scotland's Gardens Scheme 2023/2024

Garden lovers have had a good summer visiting Open Gardens in our area this year. The dry spell in May and June was a bonus and owners report the money raised for charity was excellent. Open Gardens at Gargunnock House has raised money for Green Routes who work in and look after the walled garden at Gargunnock House, Gargunnock Community Trust Ltd., and the Rhododendron Species Conservation Group which has propagation facilities at the house as well as the planting area in the East Glen. Each of them was given almost £200.00 from the money raised, while the rest went to SGS charities.

Thanks go to local people who have donated to this through the collection box.

Next year SGS Opening at Gargunnock House Gardens will only be by arrangement with the former gardener Willie Campbell. Gargunnock residents are still welcome to walk through the estate along the access drive and woodland paths to the village as usual.

The Stirlingshire committee have now drawn up the list for next year 2024 and are pleased to have some new gardens opening along with a few old favourites.

The Buchany garden of John and Sarah Burrows will open in May for spring bulbs and to see the early vegetable crops, and then again in July allowing them a chance to see the changes that take place and admire the vegetables and flowers being made ready for local flower shows.

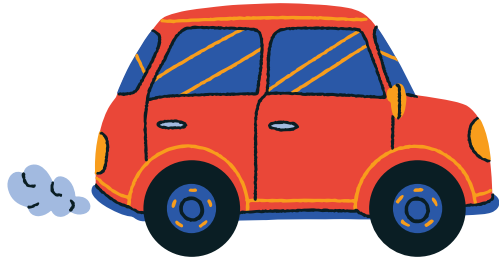
Another new garden to open will be at Oakmore, Blairhoyle near Port of Menteith. This is a 3 acre garden newly developed by Rachel Nunn and can be an inspiration to others who may be starting out with a new property.

A little further away is Braehead Community Garden in Stirling which started in 2014 with the help of lottery funding. 100 residents in the area have their planting beds and polytunnels to work in and grow their own delicious fruit and vegetables. There you will also see beehives, an orchard and hens, and there is a polytunnel where folk gather and events are held. This is a very worthwhile community initiative which can be visited next summer.

Local garden Coldoch at Blair Drummond will have a Sunday opening next year as does Kilbryde Castle and Thorntree at Arnprior. Kilbryde and Thorntree also continue to encourage visitors from the early spring to see snowdrops and to visit throughout the year by arrangement.

Look out for details of all next year's gardens in the Bugle and the SGS Yellow Book.

Fiona Campbell
(Media Officer Stirlingshire SGS committee)



Reminder

We're a 20mph Village

Please be considerate of our village and remember to observe the speed limit.

And please remember to be considerate when parking too!



Hamish's Erskine Kindling Fundraising

Hamish would like to thank everyone for their continued support of Erskine. Hamish and Anne were at Erskine on 7th November to hand over a cheque for £885.00. Erskine need to raise £12m a year to support Forces Personnel, this is a £2m increase since 2021.

Hamish has been busy prepping more bags of kindling for the coming cold months. Each bag costs £5.00 and is not only cheaper than you might find in other retail shops, but also hold more kindling.

Hamish normally puts up notices on the Gargunnock FB page via his daughters, but for those not in FB, please pop along to 1 Stark Street, if the blue van is parked outside he's about and happy to help you out with kindling and to continue fundraising for Erskine.

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Name: Mr & Mrs Muirhead Date: 7/11/2023
Organisation Name:
Title: (e.g. President, Treasurer)
Address: 1 Stark St Gargunnock FK8 3BU
Email: Telephone:
Amount Donated £ 885.00 Is this donation eligible for Gift Aid? No
Raised as a result of: Sale of Kindling Benefactor
For use as General/Appeal funds: (*please state appeal)
(Collector's Signature) [Signature] has received this donation on behalf of Erskine.

Erskine, Bishopton, Renfrewshire PA7 5PU Tel: 0141 812 1100
Email: fundraising@erskine.org.uk Web: www.erskine.org.uk

Guess what I found in the Burn part three

Last issue (page 15 of the September 2023 Issue 75) I wrote an article on two unusual objects, an axe head and a carved stone, that had been washed down Gargunnock Burn to the Old Church Hall and my research into their unknown history.

With the article I hoped to include a picture of the oldest axe found in Scotland, a neolithic antler beam mattock found on the Meiklewood estate. I also hoped to include a picture of the carved stone I found in hope that someone in the village recognised it.

Sadly, my article coincided with the 40th anniversary of Gargunnock Flower Show and photographs of spectacularly large marrows and onions. It also coincided with perhaps a once in a lifetime event – the glorious World Cycling championships time trial events passing through the heart of Gargunnock. So, there was no room for my photographs.

So now I am turning to the village again in hope that someone can help me work out where this stone came from. If anyone has any photos, remembers a garden in the village with a baluster that this could have come from, or if anyone has any other ideas, I'd love to hear them.

Aston at the Old Church Hall



Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance
PC Graeme McNulty and PC Matt McCammon are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact however should not be used for crime reporting. Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice.

Fraud

Fraud is still very prevalent and many people are still being caught out. There are various ways in which fraud is being committed. Online fraud is a common way people are being caught out.

Advice for Drivers

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing. Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse. All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working.



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

Editor: Louise Crawford
gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue: Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including 11th February 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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Distribution: The Bugle is distributed to around 400 homes in the village by volunteers (thank you) and is also available on the village website (www.gargunnock.org). If you would like to help with distribution, please contact the editor (gargunnockbugle@gmail.com).

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