



The Gargunnock Bugle



Issue 71 September 2022

THE GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW RETURNS!



After 2 years missed due to covid restrictions, there was some doubt in the minds of the flower show committee as to how things would go after such a long time. They needn't have worried!! It was as if we had never been away. The weather over the past months hasn't been the best for flowers but entries were of the high standard expected for quality and colour. Fruit and vegetables were also plentiful and the baking was mouth watering. Thanks mainly to the Primary School, the children's section was well represented, and bodes well for the future.

Best exhibit in the children's section was by Lachlan Manzor, most points was earned by Fergus Hanson and there were joint runners up in Peter Fleming and William Fraser. (Let's hope they can agree to share the trophy for 6 months each!)

A Novices section was introduced this year for the first time but the uptake for this was disappointing, although some new participants had entered via the main sections.

The overall winner for most points accumulated was Bill Nicol, and the runner-up was Anne Christie.

Many thanks to the committee members for all their hard work in making the event such a success, but grateful thanks is also due to the young(er) men who turned up to carry out the heavy lifting of the staging props - Paul, Craig, Jamesie and others. Many thanks indeed. Hope to see you next year.

Words and Photos courtesy of Maitland Clark



Editorial

Welcome to September's Bugle. It has been a busy summer with the return of some of the events that were cancelled due to Covid restrictions over the previous two years, including the Gargunnock Show, the Flower Show, and Bite and Blether. Fingers crossed we see the recovery continue with the return of the Gala next year?

We have a new editor set to take over the reins in December, so this is my last issue doing the duties. As I have said before, the contributions you provide make the job relatively straight

forward—the hardest bit is fitting it all in! Thanks to all those who have contributed whether it be content, distributing the finished Bugle, or helping with the general logistics like organising printers or sourcing adverts

Contributions and adverts are always welcome and can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, as can any feedback you may have (good or bad!). The deadline for the next issue is 13th November 2022.

Jon Park, August 2022

Contents

Gargunnock Flower Show	1
Editorial	2
Scrap-arama	2
Walking Group Update	3
Marathon for Charity	3
Rest Garden Bee Beds	4
Guides	4
Kirk Welcome Team	6
Brownies	6
A Thankyou	6
Playgroup	7
Local History	8/9
Community Council	10
Community Trust	11
Bite & Blether	11
Gargunnock Primary School	12
Glebe Ponds	13
Bees	13
Gargunnock WI	14
A find in the burn	14
Windfarm Panel	15
Along at Old Leckie	16

Dates for the Diary

Windfarm Fund Panel Deadline

19th September

www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications

Earlsburn Windfarm Extension Exhibition
Wednesday 21st September @ 11am to 3pm
At Kippen Village Hall

Community Council Meetings:
3rd October @ 19:30
At the Community Centre and via Zoom

Bite & Blether:
5th October & 2nd November @ 11am to 2pm
At the Community Centre

Gargunnock Community Trust AGM
27th October @ 19:30
At the Community Centre

Halloween Duck Race
Saturday 29th October
At the Bridge by the shop

Scrap-arama

Scrap-arama was a new competition, instigated by the Flower Show, following on from the Potaramas of previous years. The idea was simple – check your garage/loft/shed for something which is ready for the scrap heap, add a few flowers or plants and display it at your house or somewhere safe in the Village. There were 26 entries in this year's competition, perhaps a bit disappointing in numbers but not in quality. The entries were independently judged and after some serious thought, the winner was declared to be Tina Peek with her old bbq and lovely floral display. Three others were deemed good enough to be awarded honorary mentions.

The Flower Show Committee would like to thank all competitors for taking part and helping to brighten up the village.

Words and Photos courtesy of Maitland Clark



Gargunnock Walking Group - August 2022

The Gargunnock Walking Group has recently enjoyed some further excellent walks including the circuit at Cambus along the shore of the River Forth to the old Alloa to Throsk railway bridge and back to Cambus, and the walk round the four lochs at Devilla Forest. As usual we had excellent lunches after the walks at the Inn at Cambus and the Red Lion at Culross.

The next walk is on Thursday 25th August but this will have taken place by the time the Bugle is distributed. This walk is beside the River Knaik from Braco to Braco castle and its splendid Gardens.



The walk leader is lost again!

Further walks are planned as follows:

- Tuesday 6th September – Upper Glen Lednock.
- Thursday 22nd September – Dollar Glen.

Possibilities for further walks include return visits to the Dukes Trail, Glen Lednock, and Cashell Forest Park. New walks might include Dumgoyne, around Auchterarder, and Dalmeny. I would expect to do repeat visits to favourite Autumn walks such as the Birks of Aberfeldy and Glen Artney.

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



A good thing someone had a map

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, August 2022



The last train went this way in 1970

Halloween Duck Race!

Raising money for Gargunnock Playgroup.



Saturday 29th October 2021

Watch the chaos as hundreds of ducks race down Gargunnock Burn and be in for a range of prizes!

The race will be followed by tea, coffee and cakes (as well as a kid's Halloween Party) at the Gargunnock Community Centre. Plenty of village fun and chaos for the weekend!

Watch out for posters around the village with more info on how you can buy your duck.

Marathon for Charity

I'm Naomi, you might see me running about the village, sometimes in my very practical-but-not-fashionable hi-vis bib! Last year I completed a massive challenge to run from Gargunnock to Dumgoyne and back, 60km/37mi in total.

This year, I'm running the London Marathon to raise money for New College Worcester, a school for blind and vision impaired young people. Schoolwork is tailored to each student's needs, and all through the day the students learn the skills they need to live independently. All money raised helps to provide students with facilities, opportunities and experiences that are fully accessible to them.

If you'd like to sponsor me, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/naomi-russell-marathon>

*Massive thanks in advance,
Naomi Ruissell*



Rest Garden Bee Bed

At the end of May the perennials funded by RePollinate arrived and volunteers kindly gave up their time to help plant them in the Bee Bed in the Rest Garden.



snapdragon and borage and last year's self-seeded annuals, the bee bed has been a colourful and pollinator filled addition to the village.

Barbara Linklater, August 2022



The plants have been chosen to give as long a season as possible for our endangered pollinators. First to flower are the pulmonaria (lungwort) in early spring, following on with centaurea montana and cynoglossum nervosum (Himalayan hound's tooth, brilliant blue flowers). Over the summer there are cephalaria gigantea (lovely pale yellow scabious), heuchera villosa, campanula, geranium, stachys officinalis and nepeta. Late summer and early autumn the rudbeckia, sedalcea, leucanthemella serotina (autumn oxeye) and veronia put on their display. Together with annuals like cosmos,

UPDATE FROM GARGUNNOCK GUIDES & APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As the summer holiday draws to a close we are looking forward to welcoming our Guides back. Gargunnoch Guides has been going strong for well over fifty years giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. Our current unit team have a collective volunteering time of a whopping 35 years, but due to new work commitments and two leaders retiring we are looking for the following new volunteers:



Unit helper

Lots of new volunteers start out as a helper at a weekly unit meeting. You'll work alongside other volunteers to give girls fun, friendship, challenge and adventure. There's no responsibility for planning in this role but you'll be the extra pair of hands needed to make unit meetings happen.

Unit leader

Be an inspiring role model to girls and young women – and have a lot of fun in the process. As unit leader, you'll run the unit, lead a team of volunteers, and plan and deliver a programme of amazing activities. If you'd like to become a leader you'll be supported to complete our Leadership Qualification. You'll have training on everything from planning your programme to child safety.

Assistant leader

Have plenty of fun as an assistant leader while giving essential support to your unit leader. You'll help to plan and deliver meetings, events and activities.

Three simple steps to becoming a volunteer

Register your interest – fill out our form and give your details. We need to know where you are based and how we can contact you.

We'll be in touch – someone from the Girlguiding team in your area will contact you for a chat, usually within seven days.

Tell us what you want to do - during this chat let us know about your skills and how much time you have to spare. This will help us find the right volunteer role for you and start our recruitment check process.

If you would like to volunteer please register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk. Or, if you prefer, please email us directly at gargunnochguides@gmail.com

Margaret Johnston, Gargunnoch Guide Leader



Recycling at the Community Centre—If the bins are full please take your recycling home, don't leave waste on the ground by the bins as it won't be collected by the council creating work for the Community Centre staff and volunteers who have to deal with resulting mess.



**From
£895***
for a fully
fitted electric
garage door.

Gotta get a Garolla.

WHAT'S INCLUDED WITH EVERY DOOR:

- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 2 REMOTE CONTROLS
- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- FREE DISPOSAL OF YOUR OLD DOOR
- AVAILABLE IN 21 COLOURS



Garolla garage doors are expertly made to measure in our own UK factories, they're strong and solidly built. The electric Garolla door rolls up vertically, taking up only 8 inches inside your garage, maximising valuable space. Our expert local installers will fit your new door and they'll take away the old one too, so there's no mess.

Give us a call today and we'll come and measure up completely FREE of charge.

GAROLLA
ROLLER
SHUTTER
DOORS

www.garolla.co.uk

CALL US TODAY ON:

01786 340 068

MOBILE:

07537 149 128

LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

*Offer valid for openings up to 2.4m wide & including 2 remote controls, 55mm white slats, internal manual override.



Andrew Anderson & Sons Funeral Directors

Est. 1969

"Stand Sure we will look after you & your family"

We are proud to offer a 24 hour caring and professional service to the local community.

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

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

STIRLING, 90 Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1RN, Tel: 01786 237480



Email: info@andersonfunerals.co.uk • www.andersonfunerals.co.uk

The WELCOME TEAM OF Gargunnoch Kirk

We've had another recent change in members as Lynne Mack left the group and Jean O'Connor accepted our invitation to join us. She's a church elder and we look forward to her contributions.

So, we are Douglas Barr, Hannah Vallance Emma King, Mark Dixon, Jean O'Connor and myself, Helen Rowell.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! The next Kirk Open Day is on Saturday 24th September from 10am to 4pm. There will be Kirkyard tours and the always popular refreshments with home baking, a Jacobite poster display and war memorial information. We are developing other ideas too, watch this space! We have registered with Stirling Open Doors weekend and Archaeology month.

Plans to install permanent wooden planters at the gate of the Kirk are complete. We took delivery of them, made by Stirling Reuse Hub - <https://www.transitionstirling.org.uk/reuse-hub>. We hope that Green Routes will plant them and look after them as a way of the Kirk working with charities.

We are still hoping to be able to install a notice board near the bench, dedicated to the Welcome Team work. Hopefully that will happen this year!

The old Kirkyard tours began again at the beginning of May and are continuing throughout the summer, every Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm. There have been 3 so far. Emma will lead the Wednesday ones and Douglas Barr and Helen Rowell will take it in turn for the Saturday ones. Each tour can take up to 8 people, last about 45 minutes and have to be booked in advance. The booking email is gkwelcometeam@gmail.com or telephone 860630.

We are planning a Kirkyard tidy up before then which will involve weeding and scraping moss and general sweeping to make the Kirkyard more presentable. The date is Monday September 5th and we will be looking for volunteers nearer the time.

For any more information about the Welcome Team and its work, please call Helen on 860630

Helen Rowell, August 2022



After a collective 80 years volunteering for Girlguiding

Mrs B, Karen, Jackie & Jolanda will be stepping down in June 2023.

If you want these groups to continue to provide the fun and learning that they do for girls aged 4-10 then new volunteers are needed.

Brownies and Rainbows do not need to continue at their current locations and on the nights and time they currently run, this can be changed to suit new volunteers and it works out well to have a good number of volunteers so that duties can be shared out.

If you are interested in becoming a Unit Leader, Assistant Leader or Helper please contact any of the current leaders or email jackie_campbe11@yahoo.co.uk

More information about volunteering can be found at <https://www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/become-a-volunteer/>



Parkison's UK Fundraiser

Elizabeth Mansion and Sheena Ogg would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone in the village and beyond who very kindly supported their Parkinson's Fundraiser held on 26th June. Along with the sale of Sheena's 'Walk and Wonder' tea towels celebrating Gargunnoch's abundant wildlife, generous donations were received through Justgiving and at the event itself. An astounding £2,832.30 was raised for Parkinson's UK!

Elizabeth and Sheena would also like to thank the Community Trust for its help and all those individuals who donated wonderful baking, supplied equipment and gave their help on the day. Despite the rather changeable weather, there was a great turnout and everyone who came along certainly seemed to enjoy the cakes, tea and coffee as well as the opportunity for a good blether.





Playgroup in Gargunnock

Term-time Monday and Thursday
9:30 AM to 12.00PM

Community Centre Gargunnock
For all kids from 2 years old
£10 per session/ £5 for sibling

We have places available,
for more details email:
gargunnockplaygroup@gmail.com

Toddlers

Every Wednesday
10.00 AM to 11.30AM

Community Centre Gargunnock
From 0 - 5 Years
£2 per session/£0,50 for sibling

for more details email:
markardickson@gmail.com



Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

We are a community led group providing a safe, fun and engaging environment for children to meet, learn and play. As well as fun for the kids it is a great way to meet other parents in the area. All children (and parents!) are welcome. We currently have spaces available for both Playgroup and Toddlers so please get in touch if you're interested or have any questions! We can be contacted on either: gargunnockplaygroup@gmail.com, or markardickson@gmail.com.

This Autumn...

Friday 02 September – 'Back to School Pub Quiz!' at 1930 in the Gargunnock Inn. Teams of 4, £10 for a table. Prizes to be won!

Saturday 29 October – The Annual village Halloween Duck Race is back! Watch out for posters around the village so you can buy your duck, watch the chaos as hundreds of ducks race down Gargunnock Burn and be in for a range of prizes! The race will be followed by tea, coffee and cakes (as well as a kid's Halloween Party) at the Gargunnock Community Centre. Plenty of village fun and chaos for the weekend!

We are hiring...

PLAYGROUP MANAGER

Gargunnock Playgroup is currently looking for a caring, committed and enthusiastic person with previous experience working with children aged 2-5 years to join our team. This is a permanent, paid post.

Applicants must have previous experience in a relevant childcare environment, and either hold or be willing to work towards a qualification accepted by the SSSC for registration as a Manager (e.g. BA in Childhood Practice, or PDA level 9).

Please get in touch for the full job description. If you, or anybody you know, is interested and has the necessary experience and professional qualifications please contact us at: mccgregor_nina@yahoo.co.uk



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dean LOCKHART

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Mid Scotland and Fife Region



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

-  Dean.lockhart.msp@parliament.scot
-  0131 348 5993
-  www.deanlockhart.com
-  @DeanLockhartMSP
-  The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

The cost of this publication has been met out of parliamentary resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of other internet sites. Printed by Paramount Printers Limited, 12A Bonnington Road Lane, Edinburgh EH6 5BJ. Tel. 0131 667 4441

Hand Painted Pet Portraits by Gay Burt



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

For further information, please email Gay at
gib44@btinternet.com

The Square Explained

Once more, for the newer members of our community an explanation of another corner of the village.

The village Square is now the meeting place of 4 roads but wasn't always so. Until the construction of Leckie Road in the late 1700s it was only 3, viz: Manse Brae & Main St (part of the old Kings Highway) and what we now know as Station Road but was then the road to the Fleuchams branching left there to Kepdarroch and right to Dasherhead and not much further. The houses in the Square itself all date from around the late 1700s onwards.

McNair House & Glenfoyle Cottage

On the north side, west of Trelawney Cottage on the left of the photo, McNair and Glenfoyle Cottages were built in the early 1830s. As the name suggests McNair Cottage was in the hands of the McNair family for many years from then until the 1960s. Some of their sons emigrated to Australia then onwards to New Zealand where their descendants remain, returning occasionally to see the old place. The last McNair to occupy the house was Elsie Coultts McNair who married local man James Harvie, Session Clerk in the church for many years. Both cottages were improved visually around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries by the raising of the upper windows into the roof-line.

Glenfoyle was reputedly named after the old distillery opposite Dasherhead Farm and certainly housed its manager for many years.

Trelawney Cottage

Trelawney Cottage became the subject of a book written by its then owner, Ian McCallum, around the millennium. It was built about 1798 by John Murdoch, son of a tenant farmer in the Bield of Leckie, who may have intended to occupy it with his new bride except that his father died and he took over the Bield tenancy instead. John eventually sold the property around



1819 and from then on it had a succession of owners/tenants and to this day few children have been raised in it. For a time it was a drinking establishment where it is thought Gargunnock's only recorded murder took place.

In 1830 the landlord Robert Dykes died due to the mortification of a wound to the head received in a quarrel over a pair of socks with a Robert Ferguson 8 days previously. Owing to the want of sufficient evidence Ferguson escaped punishment!



The Guest House (later Trelawney) in the early 1900s

In 1857, Charlie Forsyth, the first local Postmaster in Belton Cottage, Main St. bought the Inn as an investment but sold it on in 1866 to a John Brown, Publican. From then on it became known as Brown's Inn (or Broon's Pub) It remained so until the end of the century when it came on the market again and the local minister, Rev Stevenson, with an associate, took the opportunity to purchase it and close it down.

They converted it into a Temperance Club and Coffee House known as The Guest House, a name it would bear for the following 60 years or so. It became a centre for the more genteel activities of reading, singing, music and discussion for the young men of the village.

The Guest House thrived until the first World War then declined. It was eventually sold in 1927, the year Stevenson retired. The name



Oak-spale baskets were produced at the White House for 60 years by the Travis family

Trelawney Cottage came from Gordon and Doris Matthews from south west England who bought the property in the 60s. Gordon

became Postmaster for a time in the eastern end of the property and is fondly remembered.

The White House

This property also was an Inn at one time and the metal bracket for its sign can still be seen on the south-west corner of the building, although the Ordnance Survey map of 1861 appears to

indicate that the Inn was in the north end of the building. It became the centre of the village's oak-spale basket making industry in the final quarter of the 19th century. It had 2 long basket-making shops in what is now its garden and employed a number of local men. The business eventually closed in the early 1930s

The Rest Garden

This feu once contained a house named Klondyke but sometime in the 1930s that was removed and the area converted into a small public park or Rest-Garden. The gates with 1953 on them

were added at the time of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation 69 years ago.

Rhone Cottage

Rhone Cottage may have originally been a stable for fresh horses supplying through coaches travelling to and from Stirling & Dumbarton. Certainly it had a hay-loft as can be seen in old photos but now is a private dwelling. It is very well known now as the locus from where Rays delicious baking etc can be purchased at the end of each week. The door from where this is done once gave access into a small shop in Arnlea, next door.

Arnlea

Arnlea was once in the hands of the McGregor family one of whom, "wee Mrs McGregor", ran a sweetie shop here up to the 1940s. It was also the home for a while of Lilius Graham of the Lilius Graham Trust at Braendam near Thornhill.

Tigh Ealasaid

**Nae spot can compare wi' thee, flowery Gargunnoch,
For braw strapping lassies and canty auld men ;
Like douce Willie Stewart, and blyth Sandy Connell, (1)
And Robin, (2) wha keeps the Inn, near the kirk en'.
I trope we'll be a' spaired to see ane anither,
And hae a bit saunter through sweet Leckie Glen ; (3)
Syne arm in arm tae Robin's thegither,
And clip aff the tail o' the auld tappit hen.**

This excerpt from an old poem identifies "Robin" as the landlord of the White House Inn "near the Kirk en'" Sandy was the local poet. The tappit hen was an old Scottish pewter quart measure.



Many prominent guests from the area and beyond assembled in 1910 for the inauguration of the drinking fountain as well as villagers.

Behind the Post Box is the car-port for Tigh Ealasaid. This is the last remnant of the Free Church School which once stood here, the outline of the gable end being visible on the adjacent house. The Free Church was formed when a group of Church of Scotland Ministers split from the parent church in 1843. In the village they had this school, a manse (Carseview at the top of Main St) and a church down Station Road which later became the Church of Scotland Hall, now a private dwelling.

Drinking Fountain

Finally the drinking fountain in the Square was placed there in 1910 after Rev Stevenson had personally financed the installation of a piped fresh water supply to the village after the

District Water Board had decided that to do so was economically unfeasible for the size of the population. It commemorates his mother who had lived in the community for some time after he came here in 1888. Until then villagers had relied on garden wells for their drinking water, only one of which is known to have survived.

Rev Stevenson, a distant relative of Robert Louis Stevenson the author, was truly a generous benefactor to our village in his time.

John McLaren

Community Council Update

Station Rd A811 - Improvements

The Gargunnoch Community Council has been in consultation with Stirling Council (SC) regarding making improvements at the Station Road junction with the A811 near Dasherhead Farm. Stirling Council's Environment and Housing Committee have indicated verbally that they will support an option which will entail the removal of a high masonry wall, diverted BT apparatus and removal of vegetation. This option would require the consent of land, property and public utility owners and/or land acquisition.

The project would include:

- 1) Removing a high masonry wall to improve visibility to the west of Station Road's junction with the A811
- 2) Removing vegetation to improve visibility to the west and east of Station Road's junction with the A811
- 3) Diverting BT infrastructure to improve visibility to the west and east of Station Road's junction with the A811.
- 4) Relocation of the roadside fence line to the east of Station Road's junction with the A811, approximately 2m south of its current position.

This would create greater visual access onto the A811 from Station Road and thus significantly reduce the risk of near accidents and incidents.

Stirling Council officers have procured the services of a consultancy to carry out topographical investigations and provide design layouts. These drawings will be used by Stirling Council officers to undertake consultations with landowners. Estimated cost: £50-100k depending on costs associated with land acquisition and diverting utility infrastructure.

Speeding Within the Village

Several years ago, the Gargunnoch Community Council put forward a proposal to the Community Council for the installation of Radar Speed Signs to better control speeding drivers through the village. At the time this was not approved by the CC.

However, speeding continues to be an inherent problem in the village, so the GCC are proposing a sign at each point coming into the village i.e. Manse Brae, Leckie Road and Station Road.

Unfortunately, Stirling Council's budget for this financial year was already fully committed and that it would be next financial year (commencing in April 2023) before budget would become available. Stirling Council receive requests of this nature from many Community Council's and therefore the budget available for this is in demand and that Gargunnoch CC's request would be considered along with all other requests received. It is with the hope that funding can be secured from the Community Trust.

Lovat MacGregor



Village Shop Working Group

At the open public meeting in May 2022, there were a number of actions for the Shop working group to take forward-please see below the actions that have taken place.

- 1) Shop required to be professionally valued in order for the Shop working group to make applications for funding:
 - Shop working group applied to the Windfarm panel for a grant for a commercial shop valuation-we are deeply grateful for the award of £810
 - Shop was valued on 9th August, valued at £100,000
- 2) An application has been made to the UK Community Ownership Fund, incorporating the commercial shop valuation. This is to raise funds to allow a potential shop purchase. A decision is expected approximately Oct 2022
- 3) Gargunnoch Community Council shop working group has formed a Community Benefit Society (CBS). This is a legal entity that allows us to apply for funding, be awarded funding and to raise funds via a community shop share issue. It will also allow us to buy the shop, employ staff, manage the shop, and its finances.

All of these activities are needed to raise enough money to potentially buy the shop from the current owners. More information on all of the above and opportunities to join the CBS will follow later in 2022.

Please contact any of GCC councillors to discuss any of the above. A list of GCC councillors and contact details is available on the village noticeboard, Facebook page and on the noticeboard in the Gargunnoch Inn

SAVING LIVES - DEFIBRILLATORS

You can save a life! We have the technology!

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who's in cardiac arrest. A defibrillator may also be called a defib, an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) or a PAD (Public Access Defibrillator).



We've got two in the village – one is in the old phone box by the shop. The other one is on the wall of the Community Centre.

They are fabulous bits of kit – and easy to use. The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed and if so, it will tell you to press the shock button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the patient without prompt. Don't touch the patient while they are being shocked.

But hey – do you fancy the chance to get "hands on" and actually practise using one? In conjunction with Trossachs Search & Rescue, Gargunnoch Community Council has arranged a training session to let you do just that.

- It's at the Community Centre, 19:00 to 21:00 on **Thursday, 22 September.**
- To note your interest, please get in touch with Lorna Rodger by phone on 07733 227965 or by Email on lornarodger@gmail.com



It's free – but we'll take any donations folk might care to make for them that evening. Any queries, let me know by email mb_ji@btinternet.com or phone 07967 830144.

Mike Buckley

Gargunnock Community Trust Update

Over the warm summer that we have all enjoyed the Trust, or more specifically the trustees have been working hard on your behalf. Lots of activities have been progressed and support given to other volunteers to take forward projects which are all benefitting the village.

We have seen tremendous progress at the Glebe Park with new hives being installed by the Bee Group thanks to funding from the Windfarm Fund Panel. The Pond Group has made real progress establishing the new ponds, installing a dipping platform and completing the associated planting. Those who regularly walk across the Park will have noticed that wildlife is already being attracted.

The Shop Group has been supported to seek ways in which this facility can be retained; the Trust's Paths Group has been

progressing the Gargunnock to Stirling path to unlock the next phase of Sustrans funding. This follows the successful open day at the Community Centre and survey. Additionally, plans have been drawn up to secure funding to ensure the Community Centre is more energy and cost efficient.

These are just a few of the Trust's activities. The Trust has its next Annual General Meeting on Thursday 27 October at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. We would love to see you. You will hear more about what the Trust has been doing and able to discuss what else can be done. We are looking for new trustees so if you are interested in helping to further improve the village, please make sure you come or drop a note to gargunnocktrust@gmail.com Finally, the Trust would like to record its sincere thanks to Dave and Issy King who are moving in September. Both have contributed enormously to village life in so many ways and we wish them all the very best for the future.



Gargunnock Community Trust Ltd.

A registered company in Scotland
(SC285574)

www.gargunnock.org



Gargunnock Community Trust Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 27 October @ 7.30pm
Gargunnock Community Centre Garden Room

Come along to hear what the Trust has been doing on your behalf.

We will have three vacancies on the Board so we are also looking for new volunteers to become actively involved in the work of the Trust.

Interested? Please drop an email to: Gargunnocktrust@gmail.com



BITE & BLETHER IS BACK!

In the Community Centre
1st Wednesday of the month
11:00—2:00

Come along for soup and bread,
cakes and hot drink, and of course a
blether!

All are welcome!



News From Gargunnock Primary School

We are all delighted to be back for the new term at Gargunnock Primary. We welcomed 11 new pupils into P1, Harriet, Disa, Joseph, Lachlan, Fraser, Brodie, Callie, Emily Alexander, Noah & Jack. We also welcomed Fearne to P2, Raana and Seth to P4 & P6 and Cillian (who joined us just before the summer) to P3. We hope that they love being part of Gargunnock Primary as much as we love having them here.

On the staffing front we have Miss Baker who will be teaching in P5/6/7 and a new admin worker Siane Lutomski who will be with us Mon-Thursday up until 12noon and up until 3pm on a Tuesday.

Well done to the Wildcats who won the House Trophy by collecting the most housepoints throughout the year.

Pupil Council & House Captains

The start of a school year always provides opportunities for pupils to put themselves in a leadership role and this is something that we are always keen to encourage at Gargunnock Primary. The P7s are preparing for their House Captain speeches and each class will choose a representative for the Pupil Council. Our P6/7 buddies are already set up and have done a brilliant job so far in welcoming in our new pupils to the school.

Volunteers

With restrictions in schools lifting I am keen to engage as much as possible with the local community. If you have any skills or talents please get in touch.

It's all about the pollinators!

Pupils and staff had a great day towards the end of last term working with Gargunnock Beekeepers and 'The Good Bee project'. We learned about the process of making honey and the importance of bees as pollinators. All pupils got to decant honey to their own jar and some pupils even got to visit the Gargunnock hives to look at these first hand.



This linked in nicely with an Art Beat project where the P6/7 pupils worked with local artist Jessica Langford to study and create pictures of pollinators that can be found on Flanders Moss. Their artwork is currently displayed in the viewing tower if anyone is interested in visiting this site.

Gargunnock Primary School Jubilee Garden

This garden was started by the School Gardening Club. The idea of creating a Jubilee garden came from children in Primary 4, now Primary 5s. Different species of Rowan, Crab Apple and Maple trees were planted by the children to provide flowers for bees and berries for birds. A Snake Bark Maple was selected to be the "Queen tree" for its crown shaped leaves. In 2022 the school population was just shy of the Queen's reign, at 61 children. By starting with planting trees the garden looks forward to the next 65 years, with the hope that it grows and provides new places for pupils to sit and study, explore and run about.



Football Tournament

We were delighted to host a football tournament in the last week before the summer holidays. It was a real measure of how things are starting to get back to normal. We welcomed teams from Allans Primary, Kippen and Fintry/Drymen and a great afternoon was had by all.

School Sports Day

The sun shone and we had a great turnout for sports day with families, friends and our new P1s joining pupils for a family picnic. The races were competed for in good spirits and it was the Red Foxes who were victorious and winning the trophy at the end of the day. Well done also to Isla Buchanan and Finlay Campbell our sports champions for the next year.

Gillian Orr, August 2022



Glebe Park Pond Project Update

As those of you who walk through the Glebe Park will have noticed, there has been quite a lot of work going on there on the pond project this spring and summer.

Two ponds and a bog garden have been dug out, lined, filled and planted. A dipping platform has been constructed between the bigger pond and the path. A hibemaculum was built behind the larger pond during the Wildlife Gardening Workshop run by FrogLife. This was all done by volunteer labour, and we would like to thank all of those who participated. Particular thanks are due to Ian Watt; one hour with a digger saved us many hours with spades!

There is still some work to be done to finish the project, including installing a bench, noticeboard, bench and hedge, tidying up the left hand side of the larger pond and planting the area behind the ponds. This will start in late August.

In the meantime, we have seen the first signs of colonisation of the pond by wildlife. Pond skaters, great diving beetle larvae and a frog have been seen in the pond. A few people have seen a male Southern Hawker dragonfly around the pond (see photos on the village Facebook page), and another



hawk (probably a male Common Hawker) was seen hunting over the pond and among the trees behind it. We hope that these will be the first of many welcome inhabitants adding to the biodiversity in the Glebe Park.

David Penman, Ian Young and Barbara Linklater



Bee News – Autumn 2022

Time flies, and we find ourselves heading into autumn in our second year of beekeeping in Gargunnock.

We were fortunate to receive grant funding this year from Gargunnock Windfarm Fund and Stirling Council Community Fund with the objectives of working towards self-sustainability and engaging with young people in the village.

With the funds we purchased additional hives, equipment and bees, increasing the number of colonies from three to six. We established a second apiary near to the water works on the hill road to Downie's Loup. This allowed us to avoid overcrowding at the Glebe (for the comfort of the bees and passers by) and gain access to other varieties of forage (potentially including heather) for the bees on the hill.

We were also able to cover the cost of a bee experience day at the Primary School in June, using the expertise of Wade from Bee Friendly Schools who brought along a demonstration hive and honey extraction equipment for everyone to have a go at spinning honey from the comb. The P6/7 class were then invited to the Glebe hives for a closer look and the opportunity to handle the bees. Some of the teachers had a go too! We were really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and knowledge about honey bees and had positive feedback from all who took part. This is something we hope to repeat annually.

We have also been working to establish a scheme to offer places for skill development and/or volunteering for two young people in the village who are working on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. This was trialled successfully over the summer, with our volunteer young people helping with activities such as hive inspections, rendering beeswax, painting hives and jarring honey to name but a few.

If you are planning to work on your DofE award over the next year and would be interested in using Gargunnock Beekeepers for the skill or volunteering sections please get in touch with us gargunnockbees@gmail.com

Last year we were very fortunate to see a lot of textbook bee behaviour which was encouraging for us as novices. This was nicely rounded off with a mild winter and another confidence boost of successfully keeping the girls alive through to spring! This year has been more of a challenge and we have regularly found ourselves completely bamboozled by what we saw when inspecting the hives! Of course there is always the risk of bees swarming which can be managed to a degree, however this time round we have had other mixed signals about the queens – vanishing queens, workers attempting to create new queens (supersedure), feisty bees suggesting the need to “re-queen” to improve temperament and so on...it would be nice to say that these experiences have taught us a lot but in truth sometimes there is no rhyme or reason for colony behaviour and the only way forward is through trial and error.

We recently had a sale of honey from the first extraction of the year, and the recent warm spell has encouraged the bees to refill the supers with honey so we expect to have a second reasonable haul. The bees will also be left their fair share, after all they should be rewarded for their hard work making it.

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

Gargunnock Beekeepers, September 2022.



Gargunock WI

At 11.00am on Saturday 6th August it was raining heavily, but by 12.00pm the sun broke through to help us have a fantastic fundraising afternoon in aid of Dementia UK and our own funds. Thanks to our members generous donations together with all our family and friends who attended the event we raised a fantastic

£1,200 which will be split 50/50 between Dementia UK and our W.I.

Special thanks to Grace Smellie for holding this event in her garden and allowing us to enjoy the model railway, jigsaw puzzles and Giant Jenga throughout the afternoon.

Everyone appears to enjoy themselves, whether catching up with friends over a cup of tea, winning on the tombola or just watching the trains.

The W.I. meetings will begin again on Tuesday 20th September at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. After 2 years of COVID restrictions

preventing us from holding regular meetings and relying on zoom, we have organised a wide and varied programme for the coming session of which some of the upcoming meetings will be;



September 20th is a welcome back meeting with fun activities and of course tea, coffee and home baking.

October 18th will be a cake decorating demonstration by Stacey McFarlane who is a brilliant professional cake designer.

November 15th it an all hands on with card making and other Christmas crafts event. There will be something for everyone to have a bash at.

December will be our traditional Christmas meal at the Gargunock Inn.

The Christmas windows will again be on throughout the village for everyone to discover and enjoy. Also in early December we will hold a cake and craft sale

Next year, Lois Simpson from Move It Fitness will get us all active, Heartstart will attach us how to use a Defibrillator and there will also be flower arranging and other craft demonstrations.

As well as our regular monthly evening meetings we will have an informal drop in tea and coffee on the 4th Tuesday of every month between 2pm - 4pm, the first of which will be held on Tuesday 27th September. All W.I. members and friends are invited. 27th. It was felt many of our members have really missed seeing friends over the last couple of years so we are hoping it provides a much needed social activity.

If you would like any further information about Gargunock W.I. please contact me on 07815522247 or email mountford31@gmail.com. Or Anne Muirhead, Secretary on 01786 860657 email mrshamish@outlook.com. New members are very welcome.

Beverley Mountford—President Gargunock W.I.

A find in the burn

Some folks have been wondering why there have been roadworks outside the Old Church Hall for such a long time. The short answer is there is lead piping running under the road and through the Burn. The long answer is a road closure is needed and Scottish Water is awaiting permission from Stirling Council.

On the Summer Solstice I was preparing a new channel through Gargunock Burn for the replacement water supply. I found myself pulling a sharp piece of metal out from amongst the stones, 1 foot beneath the bed of the Burn. Maybe finding a strange sharp object on the Solstice was a spiritual experience. Finding "the Excalibur of Gargunock". Maybe the Solstice is just a long, long day with lots of sunlight for lots of hard manual labour. Who knows...

But the piece of metal piqued my interest (pardon the pun to any crossword players out there). It is clearly an axe and it is clearly old. But old in Gargunock could date back to the 1700s. It could even go back to the Iron Age settlement at Kier Hill (behind the rest garden).

What I found most odd is that the axe is tiny! It's the same size as a 12x6cm luggage label. It is dwarfed by my hand. The head (the cheek or bit to be precise) has been hammered very thin and very flat in comparison

to a normal hatchet. The head of the axe is only 2cm, which does not give much room to fit a handle. If it was not so small, perhaps I would have not given it further thought.

Dating it from its context is impossible. There were no other artifacts, and an ever-changing Burn means there's no dating material. Looking under an old school microscope shows signs of a shaft hole that has filled with concretions

(presumably a mix of rust and pebbles from the bed of the Burn).

So, I tried some contacts at the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA). Photos weaved their way through MOLA, eventually landing on the desk of the guy who "wrote the book on iron tools". The consensus from MOLA was that it was probably more than 50 years old, and was probably made in the last 1,000 years, but it could date back to the Iron Age. So, that places it at some time between the end of the stone/bronze age and the opening of the first B&Q. Insightful!



I shared it with a group of friends with a mutual interest in Tudor living history. An intriguing suggestion from a thatcher was that its thin head might be for splitting slates for roofing tiles. That gives it a potential tie, albeit incredibly tenuous, to 1930s construction work at the Old Church Hall. But a traditional roofer hadn't seen

anything like it. A museum curator shared her experiences. She said that, whenever an old man turns up with a random piece of rusty metal, she goes and hides upstairs. I empathise and appreciate that I am now that man. She did confirm that the correct archaeological classification for it is "broken object, probably part of something".

A few weeks later I met up with her father. An interesting and wonderful chap. Ex-SAS (not that he would admit it), ex head of Snowdonia Mountain Rescue. His experiences have taken him as far as Antarctica to undertake preservation on Shackleton's Cape Royd base, and Scott's outposts on Cape Evans and Hut Point.

He gave me the closest bit to a break that I have had (again pardon the pun). Its style is very similar to asymmetric "Kent pattern axes". The history of these is not terribly clear. They were common in Saxon times and particularly common across the whole of the UK in 18th and 19th century, so consistent with industrial activity in the village. Variations in design reflect different blacksmiths and different uses rather than different areas. Kent pattern axes were available in sizes as small as ½ lb (200g). This axe weighs less than 6 oz (170g). Its shape and size of the blade is consistent with basketry work to make sharp cuts through willow rods. That gives it another potential tie to the village, albeit incredibly tenuous, to the basket factory that is now the White House.

Usually a V-shaped piece of steel was fire welded onto the iron cutting edge to give a tough, sharp cutting edge. Once that had worn away, the relatively cheap iron head was often thrown away. Perhaps that's why it ended up in the bottom of the Burn.

So, if anyone has any bright ideas, local knowledge, access to a scanning electron microscope and radiocarbon dating, or is just curious, please come and knock on the door.

Aston Goundry (The Old Church Hall).





the Woodhouse

Thursday evenings open until 8pm.
Farm Shop & Café.

Always featuring fantastic and innovative Woodhouse specials*.
And 'Base Pizza' every second and last Thursday of the month.

To book email woodhousekippen@gmail.com

**See facebook for menu details.*

Windfarm Fund Update



The next deadline date of applications is **19th September 2022**. Since our last Bugle update the Windfarm Panel has only made one award - £810 to the Village Shop Group to appoint a commercial valuation of the shop building which was required for external funding applications. The Village Shop group will be attending the next Panel meeting in October to provide a fuller update of progress and next steps.

Whilst applications have been slow Panel members have used the opportunity to review the application process to ensure that it is as easy and streamlined as possible. There have been a couple of key changes agreed that folks should be aware of with the Quotes required:

- Small Grants under £300 – none required
- Small Grants over £300 – 1 required
- Large/ Major Grants under £300 – none required
- Large/ Major Grants between £300 - £999 – 1 required
- Large / Major Grants £1000 and above – 3 required unless reasonable justification provided

We have also been looking at whether an annual allocation from the yearly fund (approx. £25,000 p.a.) should be invested somewhere to grow a legacy fund which could be drawn on in the future for either large scale strategic projects, or to be utilised once the current funding commitment by FALK concludes. Any future proposal to undertake such an approach would be put out for community consultation.

The Panel is comprised of community based volunteers and we have recently said thanks to Fiona McCartney and David King who are stepping down from the Panel. Lorna Rodger will replace David (who was on the Panel as a representative of the Community Council), and a replacement for Fiona is underway.

Contact: windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

Alison Younger, August 2022



Gargunnock Village Noticeboard

The noticeboard, which is situated in the middle of the village, is there for anyone who wishes to publicise their events, news or other information which will be of interest to Gargunnock residents. Being able to catch up with what's new is particularly important for those who may not have access to an electronic device such as a laptop or smartphone. So, please consider using the noticeboard.

If you have anything you want to display on the noticeboard, please contact Lorna Rodger on:

- ⇒ Mob 07733 227965
- ⇒ Email lornarodger@gmail.com
- ⇒ Via Facebook

The next issue of The Bugle will be published in early December 2022. If you have any pictures, articles, letters, puzzles, or adverts that you would like to be included please submit them to

gargunnockbugle@gmail.com by the 13th November 2022.



Along at the farm—update from Old Leckie

The late summer rain has been warmly received on the farm – a final push for some extra grass growth before temperatures drop later in the Autumn. We have been lucky here – the summer has been sunny and dry enough to give us stress free haymaking but enough rain to avoid the drought conditions seen further south. Harvesting our Charlotte tatties in dry soil is also a real treat.

The heat of the summer has however been challenging for the salad crop which was subject to bolting – adding to the low yields already felt due to pesky flea beetle damage. If you're walking through the farm you'll see a field of Kale below the woods – this is both a winter fodder crop for our sheep, but also useful to help prepare the ground for re-seeding next year without the need for ploughing. It also provides great habitat and cover for birds through the winter. Although seeded just in time to catch some heavy rain at the end of July the subsequent dry spell, pigeons and

slugs have meant we've had to re-seed over the patchy bits!

We've had a few instances recently of folks with headphones on that haven't heard animals or vehicles approaching. If you are out walking, running or cycling through the farm please remember you are passing through a place of work and turn down the volume both for your own safety and that of other people.

Our Leckie Layers were relieved (as were we) to be back outside after a really prolonged housing period due to Government Avian flu restrictions. Its had been a hard slog for them -with avian flu now endemic without the UK wild bird population for the first time. We await with interest to see what the strategic response will be and the impact on free range flocks. August – October will see us retiring our current ladies and bringing in new young hens – we will be using Corrie Mains Free Range Eggs from Ayrshire to help us meet

orders over this period until our new hens are laying. They're also a family run farm and have very high standards of housing and feed so its great to partner with them again through our changeover cycle.

The next couple of months will be busy with our scheduled butchery – we will have Highland Beef and Outdoor Reared Pork boxes available to order. The popular boxes are a great way to stock up the freezer for the Autumn and get a discount from our usual pack prices. I'm really looking forward to the next Pork boxes in particular – we're calling them the 'Hill Edition' as will come from the group that have been hanging out above the Knock O Ronald tree line all summer.

Alison Younger, August 2022



- 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 four times a year 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:

gargunnochbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue

Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including

13th November 2022.

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.



The Bugle accepts no responsibility for the return or condition of any unsolicited manuscripts, art, or photographs. Whilst reasonable care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of information contained in The Bugle, the Editor, Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd (the Trust), and their agents cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

Content and views in letters or articles published in The Bugle are held by the contributor, and are not necessarily those of the Trust or The Editor.

Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd and The Bugle are not responsible for the content of advertisements or for inaccuracies in advertisement, nor any consequences arising. Readers should verify details or obtain advice before taking action as a result of any information in this publication. However, where possible please support our advertisers who help make The Bugle possible.

Distribution:

The Bugle is distributed to around 350 homes in the village by volunteers (thank you) and is also available on the village website (www.gargunnoch.org).

If you would like to help with distribution, please contact the editor (gargunnochbugle@gmail.com).

Compliments or Complaints:

Contact the Trust at gargunnochtrust@gmail.com

Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd. Is a registered company in Scotland (SC285574), and a registered charity (SC036793). The Trust is run by volunteers for the benefit of the Gargunnoch community.