



# The Gargunnock Bugle



Issue 69 March 2022

## Gargunnock Walking Group

The Gargunnock Walking Group has picked up momentum with nine members meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February for a rather challenging local walk. We walked from Gargunnock along the road side and across muddy fields to the Garshealach Forest Path, and then up the track to the fork where we took the lower track and then a path through trees to Hillhead Farm and back to Gargunnock. The path through the trees required some clambering over wind-blown timber which proved challenging for some of the older members of the group, but the weather was fine and the views to the north were stunning as ever. Lunch was taken at the Smiddy.

The previous walk round Gartmorn Dam was also on a clear day with fine views to the Ochils. Lunch was taken at the excellent Muircot Farm Shop.

Further walks are planned as follows:

- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Alloa and Clackmannan Towers led by Peter Rickard.
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Glen Sherup and Ben Shee.
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Balloch Country Park.

Other walks to be scheduled include:

- Pitcairn Den at Dunning; a stunning walk up a wooded glen.
- Under the Crags local circuit.

- Devilla Forest Four Lochs; this is a fairly level walk of some six miles on forest tracks and takes in a number of lochs in the Devilla Forest.



*Crumbling Ruins at Mugdock Country Park  
(That's the edifice behind)  
Thanks to Steve for the picture.*

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](mailto: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, February 2022*



*Sunny Day at Gartmorn Dam  
Thanks to Issy for the picture*

## Editorial

Welcome to the first Bugle of 2022! There is a quite a lot in this issue including an update on the village shop (pg 11), an update on the Alternative Village Christmas Card (pg 9) plus the usual regular items.

You may notice that this issue is a bit thinner than previous ones, this is deliberate as we try to manage costs with the Bugle making a significant loss every issue and, as with all things at the moment, printing prices are only going-up! We rely on advertising to cover our costs and the Bugle is a

great way to both reach almost 400 households whilst supporting this important community asset/service. So if you, or someone you know, would be interested in taking out an advert and supporting the Bugle please get in touch with me at the email below. And once again, many thanks to our existing advertisers and those who contribute articles, photos, or their time to make the Bugle happen.

Contributions are always welcome and can be sent to [gargunnochbugle@gmail.com](mailto:gargunnochbugle@gmail.com), as can any feedback you may have (good or bad!). The deadline for the next issue is 22nd May 2022.

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## Dates for the Diary

### Community Council Meetings:

4th April & 6th June @ 19:30

At the Community Centre and via Zoom

### Playgroup Quiz Night

Friday 18th March @ 7:30pm

At the Gargunnoch Inn

### Gargunnoch Flower Show Quiz Night

Friday 25th March @ 7:30pm

At the Community Centre

### Windfarm Fund Panel Deadlines

23rd May and 19th September

### Gargunnoch Village Flower Show

Friday 28th August

At the Community Centre

### Playgroup Ceilidh

Saturday 18th June

At the Community Centre

## THE WORLD-RENOWNED GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW QUIZ NIGHT IS BACK!!!

Date for your diary : Friday 25th March at 7.30pm

Where: At the Community Centre

After two disappointing years, the Flower Show Quiz is BACK. The well known format 10 rounds of 10 questions with (very) valuable prizes to be won (!) .

Cup of tea/coffee and biscuits at half-time.

Bring your own refreshments and nibbles.

Raffle.

Cost is £3 per person in teams of 4.

As this is the Flower Show's only fund raiser of the year, please come and support the event and help keep the annual Flower Show going. It has been a feature of village life for over 30 years

Please note: This is a General Knowledge Quiz, not a garden knowledge quiz.





## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR: DOUGLAS COUPAITHWAITE

### How long have you lived here?

I've been here since 1984, I moved from Essex although I was originally born in Clydebank. I find it hard to believe that was 38 years ago.

### What brought you here?

Shell! It was a work move, I was taking over the running of their Road Distribution Terminal at Grangemouth.

### What do you like about living in Gargunnoch?

I think we are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful area in a pleasant friendly community. We have the benefits of being in the countryside but we are still close enough to town which has all the amenities you might need.

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

It has gotten slightly bigger. I think that, happily, it hasn't lost any of its character.

### What is your present occupation?

I'm retired now but latterly managed Shells' Distribution network in Scotland (lots of tankers) at Terminals the length and breadth of the country. It was a very varied job which meant a lot of travelling but I enjoyed it. However... If anyone told me I had to go back to work nowadays I'd tell them I'm far far too busy doing picture framing and building radio controlled model boats.

### What is your favourite part of the village?

Where I live, in McLaren's Park. The view across the village and over the Carse to Ben Ledi is stunning. My old friend John Craigen used to say "You know, people pay lots of money to come here for a holiday".

### Have you been involved in any of the village groups?

Over the years I've been part of the original committee that looked after the community centre, helped run the youth club, was secretary, then chair of the community council, helped with the Galas, helped to found the Gargunnoch Community Trust and redeveloped the centre. For a bit of light relief while all of these other things were going on, and along with my late friend John Craigen we put up Gala bunting, Christmas lights and trees, erected the flagpole and installed the noticeboard. We had good fun. So, I have stepped back now from my involvement in these groups as I feel that it is important that they evolve and that new talent gets a chance to show what they can contribute. Although, I still look after our flagpole and try to keep up with which flags need to be flown on which dates.

### How has the Covid-19 situation affected you and yours?

We've been lucky as my family and I have been healthy throughout and during lockdown(s). We were helped a lot by how easy it is here to get out into the great outdoors. We did have to cancel a holiday abroad and learned to our cost that not all travel insurance is reliable. Caveat emptor!



### What is your next challenge?

Keeping up with my two granddaughters (6 and 3) who are full of energy and like many small persons, full of questions.

### Who would you wish to nominate for the next issue of the Bugle? And why?

Claire Hart, whom I have known since she was very young and will be a good representative of a younger generation.

*Interview & Photo: by Jenna Smith*

### GARGUNNOCK BRIDGE CLUB

Former Members of the Club will be sorry to learn the the Club is no longer operational. As one Member said "Covid and Age have finished us". We tried to resurrect interest in October, but lack of support led to our demise.

The Club had been founded over forty years ago and had been an enjoyable Thursday night activity for many people over these years. Initially it was primarily Village folk and locals who played, however of recent years the greater proportion of the membership travelled from Stirling to enjoy a sociable evening of cards in the comfortable setting of our Community Rooms.

In finalising our affairs we were able to give a donation to Strathcarron, Maggie's Centre, and to Gargunnoch Community Trust. The latter was a sincere thanks to those involved with the Community Centre over all our years with them. All such organisations have been badly hit by loss of income over the last two years, and it is essential to our Village to ensure that we continue to support our community facilities now at this difficult time.

*Jannette Wilson, January 2022*



*A Nuthatch in the winter sunshine (Photo courtesy of Anne-Marie Stewart)*



## STILL LOOKING OUT...

...for the brand new Village Summer Event??

Previously the Flower Show ran very successful Pot-oramas. So moving on from that, this year there will be a...

## SCRAP-arama!

The idea is simple. Look in your loft/shed/garage and find something you are ready to throw out or re-cycle eg an old bike, stepladder, bucket or anything at all. Then decorate it with any odds and ends you have and include a few flowers/plants/trees with your decorations.

Then put your item outside your house or somewhere suitable and safe for all the Village to admire while out walking. Starting 1st June, so plenty time to look out your scrap.

This event is open to EVERYONE whether you are interested in gardening or not. Just as an example the photograph shows what can be done. This one took 5 minutes and includes a fire pit and an old suitcase, with a few plants. So get your thinking caps on, use your imagination, and come up with something a lot better.



### Office Space Available for Rent

There is office space at the Community Centre available to rent. If you are interested please contact the us at [gargunnockCC@gmail.com](mailto:gargunnockCC@gmail.com)



## Gargunnock Community Trust Update

Following the AGM in December the Trust's January meeting saw the allocation of roles. During the past year it became very clear that one or two directors were responsible for multiple tasks so now the Trust has agreed to define a range of different roles so that these are shared more equally across the Directors. As a consequence of the decisions taken in January, for the next 12 months the following Directors will have these responsibilities:

- Gavin Fleming – Treasurer
- Gill Bell - Company Secretary
- Jill Patrick - Membership Secretary
- Stuart Ogg - Meetings Secretary
- Chris Blackstock - Community Centre Manager (Chris will work with Lee (Caretaker) and Debbie (Bookings administrator) as well as Margaret (Cleaner) to help promote the use of the Community Centre and ensure it is well maintained).
- Douglas Johnston – Douglas will be responsible for drawing up and managing the implementation of capital investment plans for the Community Centre with the ultimate aim of making it carbon neutral.
- Geoff Peart - Path Development Manager
- Crawford Gordon – Land Manager
- Jon Park – Communications (Jon will support Carol in her website support role and he has also agreed to cover the production of the Bugle until a new administrator has been found).

For the time being the Trust will operate without a Chair. As we still have one vacancy on the Board the Trust is looking for a nominee director who is willing and interested in making a contribution to the local community. If you are interested please speak to one of the existing directors or email [gargunnocktrust@gmail.com](mailto:gargunnocktrust@gmail.com), to see if your skills, knowledge and experience will help fill the gaps on the Board.

In addition to standard items on the agenda, other matters considered in January included:

- the progress with the initial stages of the design process for



- the Gargunnock to Stirling path
- the follow up to the unsuccessful bid for Scottish Government funding to upgrade the Beeches path
- the Village Shop with the Trust working closely with the Community Council and the Shop Sub-Group. Following discussion the Trust agreed to be the nominated Community Body (CB) for the purposes of registering an interest in the shop and on future funding applications such as Scottish Land Fund and the UK Community Ownership Fund.
- capital projects for the community centre which are all designed to reduce costs and its carbon footprint, they include replacing all the lights with LEDs, linking the hot water to the heating system to avoid using immersion heater and installing solar panels after roof repairs have been carried out. These are all subject to tendering and raising the necessary funding.
- the village newsletter, The Bugle and how it might be funded in future as advertising only covers around 50% of the cost of production. Options for reducing this cost are also being examined.

*Stuart Ogg, February 2021*

### Green Routes in the Walled Garden

Green Routes is coming to the Walled Garden of Gargunnock House.

We are delighted that Green Routes has been able to secure a lease for the Walled Garden at Gargunnock House and look forward very much to becoming established there.

We are a social enterprise and charity with the aim of nurturing and encouraging young adults with additional support needs through horticulture, rural skills and animal husbandry. Our students are involved in every aspect of the work we do as part of their training through the Royal Horticultural Society's Grow and Learn programme and they are looking forward to working in the Garden.

To begin with, we plan to tidy up, cut back plants which have become overgrown and most importantly, to see what is already growing in the Garden. It is hoped that our work in Gargunnock will complement the work we already do in Gartmore and offer further scope for learning for our students.

If you would like to know more about Green Routes and are interested in volunteering opportunities, please contact our development manager, Gillian Forster on 01877 389082 or [gillianforster@greenroutes.org.uk](mailto:gillianforster@greenroutes.org.uk)



### GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW

Will happen this year....

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022**

Some things to do in your garden over the next few months (in preparation for the Flower Show!!)

#### March

- Prune climbing and bush roses
- Plant shallots, onions and early potatoes
- Plant Summer-flowering bulbs
- Split up snowdrops for next year's display
- Prepare the vegetable plot
- Cut back dead foliage from ornamental grasses

#### April

- If you have a greenhouse, buy bedding plants & plant them in it
- Prune Hydrangea, Buddleia and Lavender
- Sow and plant out sweet peas
- Fertilize your shrubs
- Sow a wildflower patch
- Plant second early potatoes, beetroot, carrots, leeks, turnip and onions

#### May

- Thin out carrot & lettuce seedlings
- Fill hanging baskets
- Plant tomatoes Keep an eye open for a late frost and cover delicate plants Carry on weeding. The more that is done now the less there is to do later in Summer!
- Earth up potatoes, to protect early shoots from frost damage.



### Paid Minute Taker Required...

Gargunnock Community Council looking for a Minute Taker! The role pays £40 a meeting + £10 for the AGM. We normally hold 6 meetings a year. Interested, or know of someone who would be interested? Please drop a note of interest to [gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or contact the Christine Phillips, Vice Chair, on 07919 917792



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## Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

### News

Gargunnock Playgroup & Toddlers are run by volunteer parents, we are currently looking for a Chairperson, Treasurer and some new committee members to join us and help with the running of Playgroup and Toddlers. We

are a very friendly bunch and we generally meet every couple of months. The Committee is a great way to get to know other parents and children in the village. Our AGM is in June so if you would like to join but have some questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Debbie Masson on 07779727209 or [debstarmasson74@gmail.com](mailto:debstarmasson74@gmail.com)

### Dates for your diary

**The Pub Quiz** is back on **Friday 18th March, 8pm** kick off. Teams of 4 £10, with Heads or Tails games and a raffle.

We are also organising a **Easter Egg Hunt** for Playgroup and Toddler children on **Wednesday 13th April** at the Yew Trees in Gargunnock House grounds 11am.

Finally we are hoping to organise a **Ceilidh** at the Community Centre on **Saturday 18th June** - so save the date!

*Debbie Masson, February 2022*



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:markardickson@gmail.com)



## GARGUNNOCK PARISH CHURCH

### CHURCH SERVICES

We continue with fortnightly in person services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. These are led by Val Rose, our Interim Moderator, Ian Roy and Douglas Barr. Services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays are held at both of our sister churches - Kincardine-in-Menteith at 9.30am and Kilmadock at 10.30am to which we are invited. (Contact Audrey for availability, particularly for the Kilmadock service.)

Weekly Reflections are provided by Ian Roy or Douglas Barr via email. Those who are unable to attend in-person services are asked to contact Audrey on 01786 860321 to arrange receipt of these.

The Kirk Session are grateful to all who provide Pulpit Supply and Reflections.

### 3F GROUP

The 3F group has restarted and meets at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month at Kilmadock Church - 43 Balkerach Street – the main street through Doune. Each month there is a speaker or activity, followed by time to chat over a cup of tea or coffee but being mindful of social distancing and face covering use.

All WELCOME £3 per evening and bring your own cup

### PROGRAMME TO MAY 2022

Tues 22nd February: An illustrated talk from Gargunnock's Helen Hyland on her love of photography

Tues 29th March: A talk from Anna Antczak, who designs and makes theatre costumes.

Tues 26th April: A talk from Stirling's Makar, Laura Fyve.

*Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk, November 2021*

## Hamish's Fantastic Fundraising

Over the past few months Hamish has raised an amazing £520 for Erskine Veterans Charity by selling kindling.

Hamish would like to say a big thank you to all who have bought kindling and supported him in this effort.

It is not too late to help as there is still plenty of kindling left at £4 per bag with all proceeds going to Erskine charity.

Phone on 01786 860657, or contact Seonaid Muirhead on Facebook.

## Update from Dean Lockhart, MSP for Mid Scotland & Fife.

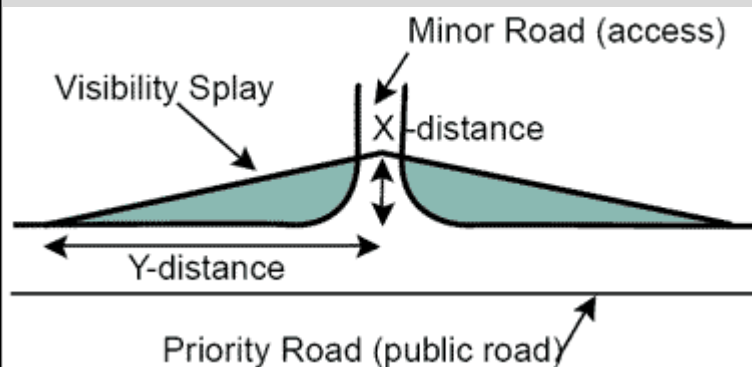
Recently I took part in a debate at the Scottish Parliament on the impacts and response to Storm Arwen late last year. Severe weather events are predicted to become more frequent as our climate changes and how communities are enabled and supported to cope with them is vitally important.

The ferocity and impact of Storm Arwen on that Friday evening in late November isolated many communities across the Stirling region, plunging them into a prolonged period without power, water or any means of communication. At times like these, the strength of our communities' shine through. I have heard of countless individual selfless acts across communities to assist those most in need. Many local businesses stepped up to help as did volunteer organisations. There were many instances - where, without this urgent assistance, consequences for some could have been incredibly serious. The experiences of these communities clearly demonstrate that the support offered by Councils, Scottish Government and other organisations can be improved.

When communications are down the only way to assess a situation is getting people from the Council, Police and others into the communities effected immediately and not rely on over optimistic estimates being provided for when the power will be reconnected. Decision making needs to be streamlined and resources prioritised. For example, mobile generators being available and installed at the most critical facilities quickly. How government and councils use the capacity that exists within our communities needs to change. A more positive approach would recognise this resource that can bring huge added capacity at a time when official services are unable to cope.

Since the last edition of the Bugle I have been asking for an update regarding what work is taking place to improve the A811 Station Rd Junction. A petition from the community was originally lodged in 2018. Although there was an agreement to improve road markings, signage and add some bollards these measures fell far short of what is needed to improve safety as it is hard to see traffic on the A811 as one attempts to join the trunk road. I have continued to support your local Councillors in their efforts to ensure the petition was not closed and more work carried out to identify improvements to the junction layout.

Council officers have recently advised that they have engaged the services of a consultancy to carry out the work to design possible new layouts. There are sightline distances laid down in the regulations that should be met. The





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](mailto:Dean.lockhart.msp@parliament.scot)
-  [0131 348 5993](tel:01313485993)
-  [www.deanlockhart.com](http://www.deanlockhart.com)
-  [@DeanLockhartMSP](https://twitter.com/DeanLockhartMSP)
-  The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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consultants will investigate what changes would be needed to achieve these. Once Council officers have potential layout options they will be used to support consultations with the landowners involved. I have been advised that a report will be presented to the next Environment Committee. That should be taking place shortly after the council elections in late May or early June. I am pleased this work is being carried out to properly investigate options that would improve road safety. I have asked to be kept informed as this progresses.

The diagram below shows the two distances needing to be met. The Y distance is set at 215metres. The X distance can be either 4.5m or reduced to 2.4m in difficult circumstances. Plans on how both could be achieved will be produced..

## Paths Group Update.

### Charlie's loan

Work commenced on this project in November after Stirling Council kindly undertook the ground works for us with the scraping out of the path base, especially the tricky area of the slope down to the old school field. Eight work parties later you should be able to see our progress so far. The path base is constructed with the sides in place and a base stone covering the whole 51metres of path. Some additional drainage works was undertaken to divert a land drain away from the route of the path. We now have the next phase of stone arriving in early February so we can now complete the surface layers and profile the finish to aid the water drainage off the path. There is still volunteer work to undertake so look out for the adverts and support us as best you can, especially if you have a wheelbarrow and shovel. One of the final actions will be to landscape the soil around the path and seed with a grass and wild flower mix to attract bees & butterflies.

### Watson House

The priority for us is the completion of Charlie's Loan before we progress to this project. We need to deliver 16 tonnes of stone to site

to rectify the sunken boggy parts in the existing path. This stone will be brought in over the fields but will have to wait until a dry period in the spring otherwise we will be digging out the Manitou loader and our stone from the field. We can be getting on with some of the digging out of the mud on the existing path in readiness of this spring drought!

### Ladies walk .

This project will commence after the Watson House project is complete. As stone will be transported over a field by farm vehicle then the same access issues apply and a spring delivery after a dry period of weather is anticipated. A kind person has placed some concrete slabs in the wet parts of this route. The works proposed will remove these and install a short section of path to the current standards delivered on our other projects.

### Volunteering opportunity

Volunteering has many benefits to both you the individual and your community around you. Drop an email back to us ([p.c.rowell@btinternet.com](mailto:p.c.rowell@btinternet.com)) we will add you to the list of potential volunteers and we will email out advance details of these paths projects we are undertaking in our community.



## Bee News – Spring 2022

We are continuing to keep a close eye on the bees' food stores over the winter months, mindful of the fact that they may well venture out of the hive if they feel the warmth of the sun or decide to start collecting fresh pollen because the queen has started laying eggs. These foraging missions require a lot of energy for little reward so it's important to keep topping up the fondant feed.

Digressing slightly, I recently watched a film called "Tell it to the Bees" as I knew it had been filmed locally in Stirlingshire and involved bees! The film itself is ok (not a family watch – you have been warned!) however the scenes involving the child character sitting by the hives telling the bees his worries is very poignant and got me thinking about the connection between humans and bees, past and present. Bees in one form or another have been in existence for millions of years so it makes sense that they are embedded in our myths and legends and have held symbolic importance for many cultures and civilisations through the ages.

Talking to the bees is mentioned in the Rudyard Kipling poem The Bee-Boy's Song (1906):

*Bees! Bees! Hark to your bees!*

*"Hide from your neighbours as much as you please,*

*But all that has happened, to us you must tell,*

*Or else we will give you no honey to sell!"*

The poem goes on to say that the bees should be told of important events in the family e.g. births, deaths and marriages or else they will leave, stop making honey or even die. This tradition was common across Europe and North America, with tales of families draping black cloths on the hives if they were in mourning, or white lace for a wedding with a slice of cake being left as an offering to keep the bees happy! A lovely painting by Charles Napier Hemy (1841-1971) depicts a widow and her son telling the bees of a death in the family.

Honey was found in pots in the tomb of deceased pharaoh King Tut to keep him happy on his celestial journey to the afterlife. Ancient Egyptians believed that honey bees had been generated from the tears of Ra the Sun God, which had fallen to earth becoming his messengers between him and humanity.

The ancient Greeks and Romans also believed that bees were the messengers and servants of the gods. Romans would avoid a flying swarm of bees not to avoid being stung but so as not to impede them in their work bearing messages of the gods. The Celts also felt that the bee was a messenger between our world and the spirit realm.

In addition to its spiritual symbolism the bee represents hard work and team work – the bees on the coat of arms of the City of Manchester represent the 19<sup>th</sup> century workers who grafted in the cotton industry that made the city rich. Bees still appear all over the city as emblems on buildings, pavements and even tattooed on the arms of proud Mancunians!

Nowadays, we know that bees are crucial to food production, and that their survival is at risk due to the effects of climate change and the use of pesticides. Our ancestors may not have had such scientific knowledge, but they clearly felt an affinity to these creatures and recognised that they should be cherished and revered. Perhaps we'll read some of the articles in this Bugle to the Gargunnock Bees to keep them informed of the village news, and hopefully in return they will stay put, work hard and make lots of honey!

Sources:

[www.kiplingsociety.co.uk](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk)

[www.beehiveshoppe.com](http://www.beehiveshoppe.com)

[www.moraybeedinosaurs.co.uk](http://www.moraybeedinosaurs.co.uk)

[www.visitmanchester.com](http://www.visitmanchester.com)

Gargunnock Beekeepers, November 2021.

## Don't get in a tangle with your project....



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developing in your project.

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and the savings we negotiate within the individual  
sections of work required.

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# Gargunnock's Alternative Village Christmas Card 2021

This year's Gargunnock Christmas card raised the fantastic sum of £1666.33! Funds this year were raised for the Food Train, a registered charity which makes daily life easier for older people, providing vital services to those who are no longer able to manage independently, through age, ill health, frailty or disability. Food Train makes hundreds of grocery deliveries every week, ensuring those most in need have access to fresh groceries. Teams of dedicated local volunteers across the regions also go that extra mile by helping with household jobs, delivering books through their library service and providing much needed friendly social contact and meals through our Meal Makers and befriending services.



Many thanks to Jane Milne for once again organising the Christmas card, it really is a great idea. Jane received the lovely message to you all from Stuart, the Regional Manager of Food Train, in response to the village's Alternative Christmas Card donations: "I would like to thank everybody involved in Gargunnock's 'Alternative Christmas Card' 2021. This came as such a wonderful surprise to us when we became aware of the campaign near the beginning of December. The 'Alternative Christmas Card' is such a wonderful idea that truly captures the spirit of Christmas giving. We are so thankful that you chose Food Train as the charity for this most recent campaign, and we were all absolutely stunned when we saw the final figure of £1666.33 which, when adding Gift Aid, comes to a total donation of £1988.83. As a charity we rely on such generosity to support us to continue to deliver our services for older adults throughout Stirling and Clackmannanshire and we are so grateful for the kindness you have showed us through this campaign. I speak for everyone at Food Train Stirling and Clackmannanshire when I say you really made our Christmas this year!"

## MERRY CHRISTMAS GARGUNNOCK

Residents and friends of Gargunnock have raised the magnificent sum of **£1666.33** for THE FOOD TRAIN.

Sandra Anderson; Corinne & Jonathan Anderson; Nathan, Brianna & Iona Anderton; Helen Bennett; The Blackwood Family; Hugh & Martin Bonner; Janene, Kevin, Hope & Niamh Brodie; Gilly, Gav, Amy & Chloé Bruce; Jean Buchanan; Bob & Dorothy Burman; Gay & Harry Burt; Chris, Jackie & Heather Campbell; John, Diane & Julie Christie; Ann Christie & Maitland Clark; Brian & Bernadette Corbett; Naomi Russell & Adam Cottis; Scott, Julie, Andrew & Alexander Coubrough; Douglas & Moira Coupethwaite; Bryan, Shona, Ella, Daniel & Louise Crawford; Marshall, Jo, Andrew & Eva Dallas; Eric & Alice Dempster; Graham, Helen, Rachel & Cameron Dingley; Iona & Norman Donaldson; Max & Barbara Drummond; Helen & David Fallow; The Fisher Family; Mike, Sue, Jamie, Andrew & Gregor Fitches; The Fleming Family; Andy, Hilary, Max & Archie Flett; Shelley, Zoe, Luke, Adam & Joe; Gargunnock Carol Singers; Peter, Claire, Grace & Madeleine Gill;

Ali MacLachlan, Sam & Hollie Goldie; Crawford & Liz Gordon; Hannah & Mikey Gray; Stuart, Helen, Fraser, Fergus & Hughie Hansom; The Bird & Hay Family; Elaine & Russell Hendry; Louise, Craig, Kyle & Innes Heron; Jane & Ewan Hunter; David & Helen Hyland; Philip, Ruth & Naomi Irvine; Caroline, Paul & Ross James; Eadie McCallum & Tom Jenkins; Ian & Fiona Johnston; Martin & Fiona Johnstone; David & Issy King; Karen, Duncan, Stewart & Megan Leask; Cindy & Peter Lee; Ian, Sandra, Katherine & Hamish Lewis; Gordon, Claire, Alix & James Lindsay; Martin & Barbara Linklater; Jan & Johnny Loudon; Robin, Alison & Finlay Lunn; Gordon, Hilary, Duncan, Lynsey & Scott MacArthur; Lindsay, Gregor, Struan & Bryce MacCallum; Joy & Peter MacFarlane; Anne Malone; Edmond & Elizabeth Mansion; Iain, Jaime, Cara & Evie Gulland Marriott; The McEwan Family; The McGlynn Family; Eric & Suzanne McKeich; John & Helen McLaren; Zoe & Allister McLean;

The McPhee Family; Linda Carson, Kenny & Family; The Milne Family; Fiona, Billy, Helen, Catherine & Alison Mitchell; Hugh, Jean & David O'Connor; The Ogg Family; Boyd, Sally, Sarah & Fraser Park; Morag, Jon, Matthew & Angus Park; The Parkin Family; Jill & Rockie Patrick; Derek, Vanessa, Kate, Anna & Ben Paynton; Team Peddie; Tina Peek; Hector, Trish, Darren & Alistair Petrie; Pete & Helen Rowell; Lois, Andrew, Tom & Finn Simpson; Claire, Doug & Bryony Smith; Matt & Jackie Stevenson; Wilma Stewart; Jon, Jacqueline, Miller & Kara Sutherland; Sarah, Ally, Euan & Ava Thomson; The Tinto Family; Catriona, Kirsty & Eilidh Vass Payne; Mark, Lorraine & Steven Welsh; Elizabeth, Iain, Chris, Fidan, Gemma, Laura & James Whyte; Ian, Margaret, Gordon & Catriona Young; The Youngs at Glenfoyle; Alison, Fergus, Katie, Ellen & Nelleke Younger.

## The A811 Dumbarton Road and Gargunnoch Main St Bridge

I have often wondered how and when the first 10 miles of the Dumbarton road came to be built so straight and true from the town out to Stewiebank near Kippen but never quite got around to finding out until one man's opinion on both that and our Main St bridge landed in my lap recently and provided food for thought on that subject.



Roy's c1750 military map, left, showing the Main St as a through route and John Grassom's 1817 map, below, showing the Leckie Road diversion.

Note that what we now call Station Rd, then split 3 ways at the Fleuchams, going left to Kepdarroch, straight on to North Fleuchams and right to Dasherhead Farm



An old letter from a former Council Archivist, George Dixon, outlined his thoughts on the road and the bridge as follows.

Roy's military map of c1750 shows the old King's Highway running from Stirling via Cambusbarron, Gargunnoch (via the Main St), passing by the mills at Leckie then onwards to Burton and through Boquhan Estate to Kippen etc.

By 1817 John Grassom's map of the County tells a different story. In the wake of the first Turnpike Act of 1794, the Dumbarton Road in the town was formed and extended across the carseland from the Clay Toll (where the Kings Knot roundabout is) out to a Toll House at Touch road end thus by-passing steep gradients through Cambusbarron.

From Touch Road end it rejoined the line of the old road running through what is now a picnic lay-by and along past West Carse Cottages then south of Redhall Farm etc. In the village a similar reason would be behind the creation of the Leckie Road bypass of the steep Main St. sometime after 1777, that being the latest creation date of one of the feus sliced through in the process.

After the implementation of the 1827 Turnpike Act the long diversion from West Carse via the southern end of the Kirk Lane road then westwards to Stewiebank north of Kippen was created.

As a turnpike road its use was subject to toll charges, the money raised being spent on its upkeep and improvement. In general that worked well and year round wheeled transport of heavy goods benefited, contributing to general prosperity. The growth of railways in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of course, took a lot of heavy goods off roads although the



internal combustion engine reversed that process later.

Until the late 1960s/early 70s that 10 mile length had neat whinstone kerbing on both sides and cast iron gullies to positively collect surface water but was about a metre in width narrower. It was widened in the early 70s and various realignments as far as Drymen were carried out to suit modern traffic requirements.

On the subject of the Main St bridge Dixon thought that from its appearance with its neatly dressed voussoirs (arch stones) and central pier and the relatively wide distance (15ft between parapets) that it was neither a pre-45 bridge nor a military road bridge of the 1770-1790s period. He thought it was probably the turnpike trustees who built Leckie Road and the predecessor of the 1964 bridge although he thought it unlikely that the new bridge would have been a turnpike bridge.

He thought it probable that the initiator of any Georgian reconstruction of the Main St bridge around 1800 would have been the local land-owner and in this view was encouraged by the appearance of similar voussoirs in the small bridge, dated 1811, giving access to the old Glenfoyle distillery opposite Dasherhead Farm. During this period the Laird of Gargunnoch Estate was Colonel Eidington who carried out substantial building works to add a Georgian facade to Gargunnoch House.

Unfortunately there are no surviving early turnpike trust records to confirm or otherwise George Dixon's thoughts but he suggested a perusal of Gargunnoch Estate records might throw some more light on the subject. That has still to be done.

John McLaren, February 2022



## UPDATE ON THE GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE SHOP

Following the fire in July 2021, Gargunnoch Community Council formed a small working group to help provide a voice for the village with regards to the future of the village shop. Group members include representatives from GCC, Gargunnoch Community Trust, Windfarm Panel, and Residents (2 previous owners). We developed and launched a village survey to understand what the community wants for a shop. The full survey is included in the minutes of the GCC meeting of 17 January, downloadable from the GCC webpage at <https://www.gargunnoch.org/the-trust-community-council>. Copies are also available in the Gargunnoch Inn, or just ask any GCC member.

The key highlights from the survey are:

1. 254 of 395 households completed the survey giving a response rate from the village of 64%
2. 99% see a village shop as a necessity
3. Shop location
  - 1st choice is current shop location
  - 2nd choice is the Drop-in at the Community Centre
  - 3rd choice is the Gargunnoch Inn
4. 90% support placing a "Note of Interest" on the shop with the Community Right to Buy team of the Scottish Government

It may be possible for the community to lodge a 'Community Interest' and purchase the shop as a community asset. Lodging a community interest does not mean that the community would have to make a purchase, but it establishes a right to be given the option. To register a Community Interest, more than 10% of the community would need to support this.

Would you support the community lodging a Community Interest in the shop should it be sold in the future?

Yes	224
No	19
Other	5



5. 91% support the use of Wind Farm panel funds towards the cost of investigating or setting up a Village shop.

**So what's happening now?** Given the results of the survey and the lack of communication from the current owners, we believe it would be worthwhile to proceed with registration under the \*Scottish Government's Community Right to Buy scheme with the potential for application to the \*Scottish Land Fund, the \*UK Community Ownership Fund. Together with a range of other organisations this would allow us to bring the shop into community ownership.

To be able to complete these applications\* we have now accessed professional expertise to examine the options available to the community, the feasibility of community ownership and the long-term viability of a Village shop. For example, not only do we need to understand the economics of the business, but we also need insight into the options to be considered once the shop is refurbished and in community ownership.

To access professional Business consultancy we applied to the Wind farm panel for funding and are delighted that our application has been approved. GCC thank both the Wind farm panel and Gargunnoch Community Trust for their support.

This means we can now move forward to address the following:

The Business analysis will:

- Address issues of sustainability
- Identify social benefit
- Identify economic and environmental benefits

A Business plan will be developed, in three sections:

1. Pre-operation, bringing the building up to a modern operational and where possible, a carbon neutral standard
2. Setting up and first year operating costs
3. A five-year cash flow setting out assumptions for income/expenditure including staff costs and profit potential.

Other options to consider:

Should it be leased to a commercial enterprise at a negotiated rent? Leased to an independent social enterprise with retail experience? Managed as a social enterprise by the village? Are there other appropriate recommendations?

We will appoint a Business consultant, experienced with Community shops in rural areas and with retail expertise, as soon as practicable with a completion date for the completion of a business analysis and production of a Business plan in April 2022. One of the outcomes of this will be an opportunity for residents to meet with the consultant at an open public meeting and hear what the suggestions and recommendations are. We'll continue to update progress via Facebook, the village noticeboard and Bugle.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the GCC councillors (names and contact details are posted in the Community centre, Church, Gargunnoch Inn and on the notice board), as well as Facebook or by email to [gargunnochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:gargunnochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

You are also welcome to join or dial-in to the regular GCC meetings. The next one is on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30. Details will be on Facebook and the notice board.



## News From Gargunnoch Primary School

### School Nativity

Although it seems a while ago now it is worth highlighting the amazing job that P1/2 did in their nativity performance. This was a full production that we recorded and shared online with our parents to watch at home. The pupils performed with confidence and entertained us throughout with their beautiful singing, acting and percussion skills. The nativity was coupled with a concert featuring songs and instrumental performances from the other two classes. A special thanks to Mr Webster for all the hours of preparation that it took to put on this performance.



### Burns Supper

The school had a Scottish focus fortnight in January with all classes looking at Scots language, stories and culture. All pupils learned a Scots poem and we held our annual Scots poetry recital on Burns day with representatives from each class giving very accomplished performances virtually to the whole school. Votes were counted with the results as follows:

#### **P1/2**

- 1st – Amber Dunn
- 2nd – Sophie Coy
- 3rd – Tavish Millar

#### **P3/4/5**

- 1st - SC
- 2nd - Andrew Dunn
- 3rd - Esme Fraser

#### **P6/7**

- 1st - Maisie Campbell
- 2nd - Peter Fleming
- 2nd - Ruari Peddie



P6/7 also organised and participated in a Burn's Supper. Their leadership skills were on show with pupils taking responsibility for all aspects of the event from decorating the hall and setting the table to delivering speeches, toasts, piano playing and performing Scottish dances. It was a fantastic afternoon with the pupils really demonstrating their great enthusiasm and participation.

### Enterprising Pupils

P3/4/5 developed products to market as part of their topic in December. You were perhaps fortunate enough to have received some hot chocolate, reindeer dust or a decoration for your tree. The class were inundated with orders and after their own expenses managed to make a profit of £136 which they plan to use towards a trip to Dynamic Earth later in the year to support their learning around Planet Earth and the Solar System.



*Gillian Orr, February 2022*



### **The Rest Garden**

Last year, the four flowerbeds in the Rest Garden were sown with annual wildflower seeds. This year, with continuing support from Stirling City Council and On the Verge (the Stirling based wildflower charity), three beds are again going to be sown with annual wildflower seeds. The fourth bed will be planted with pollinator friendly perennials. This is thanks to sponsorship from the charity RePollinate, whose purpose is to protect and improve the UK's threatened pollinator population.

If the perennial bed is successful, it is hoped to attract additional funding in future years to plant the other three beds with perennials.

*Barbara Linklater, February 2022*



## Parent Council Update

Thank you to all those that contributed towards the Christmas Raffle and 200 Club. Funds raised paid for the all-important snacks and transport to the cinema for a Christmas film (no pantomime due to the Covid situation).

We are currently underway with looking to repair the playground equipment and get that back into action as quick as possible. Nina McGregor has come on board to help coordinate this, so thank you. Later in the year there is a high possibility that we will be organising a large fundraiser to replace/upgrade the playground.

There is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Fund that is being applied for by Pauline Evans, on behalf of the Parent Council, so thank you. The deadline is mid-February and ideas such as a music club, gardening club, outdoor learning and teambuilding are being discussed.

We wish Mrs Gillilands all the best in her retirement having been Catering Supervisor at Gargunnoch for 22 years. Good luck to Lara in this role.

The objectives of the Parent Council are:

- To promote a partnership between the school, all its pupils and parents.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of all the pupils.

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
- To raise funds for the school which support the education and welfare of all the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education that is provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of all the pupils.

The Parent Council meets once a term and consists of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraiser, Class Representatives and parents that do not have a specific role. Meetings are open to all those who wish to attend. The next meeting is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

Parent Council: Jacquelyn Marshall (Chairperson), Alison Younger (Secretary), Grania Watson (Treasurer), Nicola Brodie, Aston Goundry (P1 to P2), Jacqui Sutherland, Ali Tunnah (P6 to P7) and Mrs Orr.

A thank you to Ali Tunnah for all her work as Chairperson and to Jacquelyn Marshall for taking the roll on.

We are still looking for a Fundraiser Co-ordinator and a Class Representative for P3 to P5, (Kat Hansra has moved away) so if anyone is interested, please contact Alison Younger on 07825 241196 [alisonyounger472@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonyounger472@btinternet.com).

*Grania Watson*

STIRLING FOR  
UK CITY  
OF CULTURE  
2025

**WE BACK  
THE BID!**

[www.stirling2025.com](http://www.stirling2025.com)

You'll hopefully have heard that Stirling has been announced as the sole Scottish bid to make the longlist for UK City of Culture 2025. Following a record 20 expressions of interest, the Stirling area will now compete with seven other cities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the next stage of the process.

Stirling is already famed for its world-class heritage offering but this bid is also about widening participation through celebrating the rich local culture and creative spirit in our communities across the Stirling area. Our ambition for City of Culture stems from the groundswell of support and passion for culture that flows from its grassroots communities, artists and residents.

Cultural activity and creativity can act as a catalyst for the regeneration of an area, attracting investment and tourism, bringing people together and reaffirming a sense of place and pride. It can also deliver a wider range of social benefits, enhancing learning, health and wellbeing.

The ambition of all the cultural partners behind this bid is to collaborate, connect and celebrate what we do to make the arts, culture and heritage central to Stirling's already impressive identity.

Our outline programme will be inclusive and appeal to a wide range of audiences. We will also aim to celebrate and add support to events that already take place in communities like Gargunnoch, and ultimately make the very most of what we've got.

The winner will be announced in spring 2022 and will follow Coventry's tenure as UK City of Culture 2021 to take the lead on culture in the UK in 2025.

You can keep up to date with the latest news about the bid on our official [website](#) or by following Stirling: Alive with Culture on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

## The Kings' Highway Project

The Kings Highway is an old Military Road which forms part of a route from Stirling Castle to Dumbarton Castle via Cambusbarron, Gargunnoch, Kippen, Arnprior, Buchlyvie Balfour, Killearn and Drymen dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, or possibly earlier. The new project is an ambitious proposal to develop a new active travel route between Stirling and Dumbarton, which as far as practicable recreates the historic highway between these two centres. The route, which partly uses old drove/military roads and partly requires new links, will connect all the village centres, places of historic and landscape interest and link in to National Cycle Route 7 at Drymen. Consequently, it is a major new strategic component of the Central Scotland walking/cycling network. It will provide greatly enhanced walking and cycling opportunities, not only for local residents but for many visitors as well, giving a major boost to the tourist industry. In addition, the existing A811 is not very safe for cyclists and is obviously totally unsuitable for walkers and wheelchair users so there will be clear health and safety benefits.

The proposal was identified in an SNH report of 2011 as a "missing link" in the Central Scotland network. It also has the support of Stirling Council [set out in the City Region Plan] and early development work has been carried out by local community organisations along the route with grant assistance from Sustrans, the national cycleway development organisation. There is also strong support from all local and national politicians.

Following a recent meeting of the communities on the route [Gargunnoch, Kippen, Buchlyvie, Balfour and Killearn], Stirling Council and Sustrans, a Kings Highway Development Group has been formed, and work to identify route options further along the Carse is underway. Another important element of the ongoing work will be an assessment of the economic impact of the new route, which it is hoped might be externally commissioned.

Gargunnoch Community Trust has commissioned feasibility studies and more detailed design work on the first leg of the route from Stirling to Gargunnoch. There have been preliminary discussions with the landowners and farmers along this route and a number of changes have been made to initial proposals to take on board comments and concerns from an agricultural perspective with a view to securing agreement early in 2022. It is hoped that construction work on this leg could then begin in 2023/4.

Work on other legs of the route are at different stages of development but there is now some momentum behind the aspiration to link all the Carse communities together in an integrated, safe off-road route network.

## Gargunnock WI

Happy New Year to you all, here's to a happy healthy start to the year.

We welcome two new members to Gargunnock WI Sue Hunt from Dinning House and retired GP Fiona Johnston from Ardfarn Leckie Road.

We had our first meeting in the Community Centre in October with Margaret Crawford from Polmont giving a very interesting talk on making gift tags, completing a different one each week using lots of different themes. Margaret had a bag of materials for each member to make their own Christmas Gift Tag.

Our thanks go to those who ventured out on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December when we had our Craft and Bake Sale at the Garden Room in the Community Centre. Members provided an array of crafts and baking, with a Tombola stall, and thanks go to those who donated and manned the tables. Despite the awful weather we made £420 for WI funds which helped renew the Zoom licence.

We managed to have our Christmas Dinner at the Inn with 26 members attending. Our thanks go to Paul and his team for a lovely Christmas dinner. There was lots of fun and laughter with pass the parcel and a visit from Santa and the Rural Twelve Days of Christmas. Santa arrived complete with mask to give out the presents. This year members were encouraged to get their secret Santa gift from a local charity shop.

Following on from last year's Advent Windows each member decorated their window with a STAR. Lots of villagers took part with a STAR in their windows.

With the spread of Omicron it was decided by the committee we would return to Zoom meetings for the next few months. For our January meeting, we had a members' slot with Anne Muirhead

telling of her experiences as a Telephone Operator when bills were manually calculated and how things have changed since people had to work out your telephone bill. Our Vice President Beverley Mountford gave a brief outline of her travels round the country and her time teaching and other jobs she had done. She is presently looking after her grandchildren and dog sitting for the family as well as working at the Chest Heart and Stroke Charity shop in Bridge Of Allan. Each member told us what they had been up to over Christmas and how nice it was to share in the Festivities with family and friends.

February will see another Zoom Meeting with a talk from James Hainnes from the FABB Children's Charity and we look forward to hearing from him.

March meeting will be a talk on Patchwork from Kaleidoscope Boquhan.

April meeting will be a talk from Elizabeth Brewer on the power of Music and how it can help Dementia sufferers.

The Easter Project from last year was a resounding success and we hope that it will become an Annual Event. Everyone in the village is encouraged to decorate a tree/window for Easter during April. Gargunnock WI will decorate the trees in the Square and the Church.

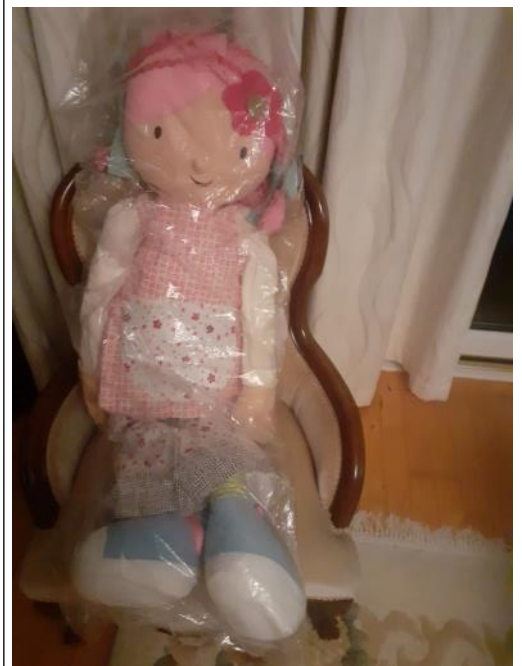
If you wish further information on Gargunnock WI, we meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, normally at the Community Centre. Please contact me on 07877441108 [annechristie1958@gmail.com](mailto:annechristie1958@gmail.com) or Anne Muirhead, Secretary on 07902731512 [mrshamish@outlook.com](mailto:mrshamish@outlook.com).

*Anne Christie President Gargunnock WI*

### NAME THE DOLL COMPETITION

Heather MCPhee donated a large patchwork doll which we decided to use to raise funds for Mercy Ships, the WI chosen charity. We used the doll for our competition at the Cake/Bake stalls in July and December to raise £81. Heather had chosen the name Sylvia but no one had chosen that name so it was decided for Heather to pick a number from 1 to 81 and she picked out Anne Muirhead as the winner. Congratulations to Anne and a big thank you to those in the village who contributed to such a worthwhile cause.

*Anne Christie President Gargunnock WI*



*Pictures from top to bottom: A Christmas Star; WI Christmas Meal; and Cake Sale*





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*\*See facebook for menu details.*

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**Individuals can apply for up to £250**

**Groups can apply for up to £500  
(including un-constituted groups)**

**Constituted groups can apply for over £500**

**Deadline for Applications in 2022**

**23rd May & 19th September**

Fund Guidelines and Application forms can be found at  
<https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications>



### **Windfarm Fund Update**

New email address [windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org](mailto:windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org)

Deadline dates for 2022 – 21 st Feb, 23 rd May, 19 th September

The Windfarm Panel consider applications for funding provided to our community from the FALCK renewables Windfarm Fund at least 3 times a year. No awards have been made since the last edition of the Bugle, but we have a number of applications for consideration at our next meeting on 7 th March.

During 2021 a total of £9,285.58 was allocated from the Windfarm funds to a range of different community initiatives – helping to secure total project spend of £36,905.63 across 15 successful applications. With an annual income of approx. £25,000 there is still plenty of funds available to apply for – a range of grants are available for individuals, groups and larger projects. In response to the recent community survey about the village shop a priority area for consideration this year will be how the windfarm fund can be used to enable community thinking about future provision.

The voluntary Panel is made up of mix of community representatives and is supported with administration by the Gargunnock Development Trust. At our March meeting we look forward to having both David King and David Millar join us as Community Council representatives and Jonathan Park join us a Trust representative.

If you have an idea, would like more information, or wish to put in an application please drop us an email, or have a look online at the [Gargunnock.org](https://www.gargunnock.org) community website.

## Down at the farm—update from Old Leckie

Along at Old Leckie the snowdrops are out, the weather is variously freezing / wet/ windy /sunny. A pretty typical February, though we are yet to have much snow on the ground and the kids are getting nostalgic for some quad bike sledging. The cattle are munching away in the sheds on the summer made feed and the sheep strip grazing up fields planted with Kale. The Leckie Layers remain under lock down due to avian flu restrictions but we're all hoping this wont last for too much longer.

The wintry weather still brings some respite from the workload really ramping up. Whilst the polytunnel has been cleared and prepped for this years salad planting we haven't started seeding. I get a real thrill when you feel the first warmth of soil on your hands but at the moment it remains resolutely cold. I reckon by the end of February though we will have the first trays germinating for an April cropping. The garlic crop - which needed the cold spell is coming on nicely – their scapes now a good few inches above ground. In due course these will be cut back – they can be eaten raw or cooked – but the main reason is to

focus the garlic's energy into bulb growth.

Our sheep were scanned at the end of January and with well over 700 lambs due come April we are trying to get fit for this busy period. From end of March onwards all the sheep will be either in the main sheds or in the adjacent fields so we can keep a close eye on everything. Please keep being sensible with your dogs when out and about - it's really important at any time of year but with pregnant ewes in the fields the impact of worrying can be devastating. On a lighter note can the green bag dog poo fairy stop leaving us presents to collect on branches and posts – we have enough now!

We have not yet been approached but have been following the Kings Highway cycle path campaign in the local press. Country wide the pandemic and the resultant lockdown has demonstrated that a mass access route running through the middle of any busy farm is not practical or sensible. An existing farm track currently utilised by locals on foot, horse or bike alongside HGV's and animals is an entirely

different scenario to a promoted national cycle route utilised by strangers. Seeing the value in a safe route to cycle and in the potential for cycling to form part of the solution to sustainable travel, we are in principle supportive of dedicated cycle paths. Experience from elsewhere shows that cycle routes following farm boundaries have a less negative impact on day to day farm activities and conflict with existing users. Rather than being forced upon good practice shows that early dialogue is a must to achieving a practical solution that works for everyone.

On the subject of green transport, we are really really excited to have taken delivery of a fully electric van to use as our regular delivery vehicle. With it charging through the farm's 100% certified renewable electricity supply you can now enjoy our home delivery service and produce even more – you will definitely see us before you hear us anyway! To join our regular weekly delivery, or just order on an ad hoc basis head to the online shop at [www.oldleckie.co.uk](http://www.oldleckie.co.uk)

*Alison Younger, February 2022*



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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](mailto:gargunnochbugle@gmail.com)

#### Deadline of next issue

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

**22 May 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.



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