

# The Bugle

Magazine for Gargunnock  
and the surrounding area

Issue 54  
December 2018

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## Community Carol Singing for the Eilidh Brown Memorial Fund



Come and join us singing carols, or to just listen, for The Eilidh Brown Memorial Fund on Wednesday 19th December. Let me know if you want to join the singers this year.

There will be 2 opportunities to hear us and/ or join in:

7.30pm to 8pm Carols around the Christmas Tree in Gargunnock Kirk.

A warm invitation to all the village! As there were so many children last year, we will include more carols that they will enjoy and even join in. Doors open at 7.15pm.

Then from 9.15pm to 9.45pm, singing in the Gargunnock Inn, for whoever wants to come and join in or just listen.

Please let me know if you have a favourite carol or Christmas song (not Fairy Tale of New York!!) and we'll include it if possible.

Our charity this year is The Eilidh Brown Memorial Fund. Eilidh sadly lost her fight against cancer at just 15 years of age on 25th March 2010. Since then Eilidh's family have been working tirelessly to build a stunning countryside respite holiday home in the Stirling area for young people and their families who are going through, went through or sadly like them lost a child to cancer. We will also be singing at 2 private functions that evening to add to the fund raising:

Meiklewood House (by kind invitation of Helen and Willie Scott)

Bridgend (by kind invitation of Alison and Mike Kay)

The carollers are anyone who wants to join in and are a mix of members of local choirs, including Songsters, the Gargoyles, Stirling City Choir, friends, spouses, neighbours, relatives – but it isn't a choir event, it's just old fashioned traditional unaccompanied carolling! We don't use any instruments, except jingle bells and enthusiasm!

Telephone **Helen Rowell on 860630** for further information.



## Blair Drummond Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre takes place on Friday 30th November, from 7pm till 9pm, in the Blair Drummond Community Hall.

We have over 20 stalls coming along, including -

The Wee Cake Shop; Judes Jewels; Neals Yard Remedies; Vedauwoo Spices; Art by the Loch; Flamingo Paperie; Arbonne; Riverside Reflexology; Kincardine in Menteith Primary School & Parent Council; Blair Drummond Youth Club as well as many of the regular stallholders who have been coming along every year.

Again we will have a Charity Raffle which will be drawn on the night – the prizes being donated by the stallholders.

We hope you will be able to come along and support us, as well as buying some unique Christmas gifts.

Admission is - £1 for adults; Children 50p; this includes tea/juice and mince pie/shortbread.

For more details email [bdgrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:bdgrapevine@gmail.com)

## Christmas Trees For Sale



Gargunnock Primary School have teamed up with Will Muir and The Smiddy at Blairdrummond to offer the community, parents, family and friends the opportunity to buy their Christmas trees and have them delivered to the school for collection on Friday 7th December. The trees are grown locally in Doune and are renowned for their excellent needle retention. The school will get a small donation for every tree sold. Trees can be ordered online from:

<https://trees-for-schools.myshopify.com/collections/gargunnock-primary-school>

## The Gargunnock Inn

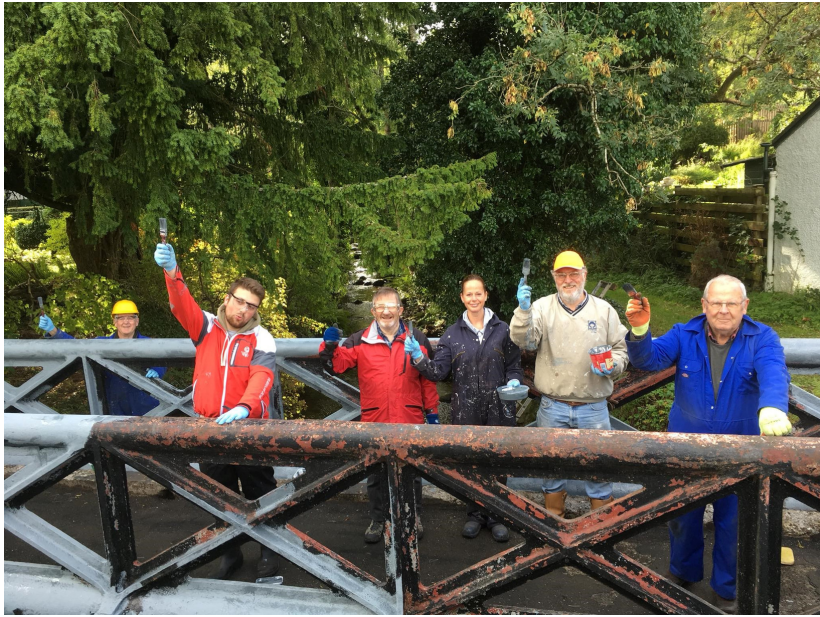
### Christmas Events Planner

- **1<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December** – **Festive Yuletide Menu available** (booking required) 3 Courses £21.95
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** – **Party Night** – Prosecco and canapes on arrival, buffet festive Meal in the restaurant followed by Karaoke in the Bar (7.30pm arrival). £21.50 per person
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup>** – **Quiz Night** in the Lounge and Bar. Playgroup and Toddlers fundraising quiz
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Carol singing** join local carol singers in the bar and lounge for a sing along, come and help them raise money for a worthy cause. (Approx 9pm)
- **Christmas Eve** – **Christmas Catch up** Catch up with old friends, while requesting your favourite songs to be played
- **Christmas Day** – Bar and Restaurant closed
- **Boxing Day** – Bar open from 12 noon, restaurant closed
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** – **Boardgame Night** Come along and enjoy playing some classic boardgames.
- **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** – **Pool Tournament** – Our yearly Pool tournament, starts 4pm
- **Hogmanay** – Hogmanay Menu, Bar open until 2am, party music from 9pm
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>** – **THE BAR IS OPEN** for all you first footers!! Come and visit us from 5pm
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Poker Evening. From 9pm.



# Gargunnock Community Trust - Wind Farm Grant supported projects update

## Gargunnock Footbridge Update



### *Some of the volunteers with their paint brushes at the ready....*

The bridge painting is now complete. Fourteen volunteers from the local community gave 130 hours of their valuable time to this project. Refreshments were provided by an additional four volunteers to help keep them going. Some of the programmed days were cancelled, or had delayed starts, due to the wet or cold conditions forming condensation on the metal bridge.

On removing the layers of paint, the original colour of the bridge could be seen. This was a light pink colour and would have been the colour when it was a road bridge at Gartmore.

From what I have ascertained from many conversations held over this project the history of the bridge is roughly this:

Up to the 1960's there was no footbridge at this site. The village was much smaller than it is now with fewer houses and there were not many vehicles in the community so crossing the bridge by foot was not a problem. There was also a gap in the bridge wall, approximately 2/3 of the way across that allowed you to exit the bridge by foot before the end and access the footpath along the side of the burn towards Bridgend Cottage. As vehicles became more abundant in the village Stirling Council decided to install a footbridge at this location. They purchased some land of the garden of the cottage, Tigh Ealasaid, and constructed a wooden footbridge in the early 1960's. This was replaced with the current footbridge around 1975 when it became available from the decommissioned road bridge at Gartmore over the Keltie water. The current footbridge is a scaled down version of the road bridge, hence the over engineered look of it.

The bridge has been providing a good service to the community since its installation and will soon be reaching its 200 years of service, considering its former life as a road bridge. The cast iron structure is unique in Scottish bridge structures due to the method of casting the hollow horizontal strength members.

Many thanks to the Volunteers who gave their valuable time to this project, the Gargunnock Windfarm Fund Panel and the Gargunnock Community Trust in granting the funds to support this community project on behalf of FALCK Renewables.

If you enjoyed volunteering on this project keep a look out for the footpath projects that are being developed at various locations around the village and donate a bit more of your time to these worthwhile community projects.

## Wind Farm Funding



**Funds  
Available!**

Did you know that our village receives £22,000 per annum from the wind farm at the back of the Gargunnock hills? These funds are available for you or your group to apply for if it will benefit the village and the community. Next round of applications must be submitted by Friday 25th January 2019. Full details at [www.gargunnock.org](http://www.gargunnock.org)

## OLZ Update

We had a terrific opening ceremony last week. Thanks to all that were able to attend to hear some excellent piping and singing from past and present pupils. It was also good to see many people there who have been with us along the entire journey, FALCK Renewables, Pupils, Gargunnock Community, Parent Council, Gargunnock Community Trust, Stirling Council, Idom Engineering, and JML construction. It was a time for all to reflect on a successful community project.

The unit is now operational with the school making use of it to good effect and positive feedback from our pupils and staff. Outdoor lessons around "Telling the time", Mandarin, reading and art are all taking place!

Remember that this is a unit for all of our community to use. If you want to make use of it please let the school know so that we can avoid calendar clashes and disappointment.



## Bus Changes

Good news - the C11/C12 Cambusbarron detour has been resolved. From 7th January 2019 all Balfron C12 evening buses will revert to the daytime route via Dumbarton Road. There will be a slight difference in departure times from the bus station.

Stirling to Balfron evening buses will leave at 18.44. 19.10 (Friday/Saturday only) 20.42. 22.59.

There may also be minor changes to services coming from Balfron, not yet available, so please check times prior to your journey. We hope the return to this route will encourage more people to go to Stirling in the evening, as access to restaurants, the Albert Halls and The Smith Gallery will now be much easier.

Resolving the above issue has merely taken us back to where we originally were some years ago so there is still a lot to do to improve public transport. The campaign for Sunday Transport is now top of the list and we hope the newly elected Community Councils in the surrounding villages will join together and help support these efforts. There has also been some improvement with regards to the heating on a few of the Balfron buses. We hope this improves further and continues throughout the winter. Please continue to report these and any other issues including water ingress and dirty buses. Passengers should also remember to check bus stop information leading up to Christmas as First often run extra Saturday Services during this period.

**Valerie Brand**

## Senior Citizens Christmas Welfare Vouchers

Within the next few days the Senior Citizens (over 65s) in the village should be receiving their Christmas Gift Vouchers. The continued generosity of the Gala Committee, together with a grant from the Wind Farm Trust has allowed us to continue with this village tradition for another year. The scheme was initiated by the late Miss Stirling, Gargunnoch House, in 1965 and has continued, unbroken, each year since then. The early committees contained representatives from all of the village organisations, (e.g. school, 'Rural', farmers' club, church etc) and were originally set up to organise the newly introduced 'Meals on Wheels' service. Miss Stirling felt that they could, and should, be doing more to acknowledge the contribution made by our seniors to the life and work of the village, so the scheme was set up. It is interesting to note that our Gift Voucher Scheme has outlasted the Council's Meals on Wheels!

The scheme is open to everyone over 65, and is a gift from the village. We would like you to accept it as such and enjoy using it. The only rule we must apply is that each voucher is spent in a single transaction. If you fulfil the criteria but have not received a voucher, please accept our apologies and contact Anne on 860657 who will make sure you are added to our 'list'. It is increasingly difficult to keep track of birthdays, you all look so young!



## DRT

### Rural Public Transport Service

Did you know that if you wish to journey in rural Stirlingshire, you can make use of the public rural taxi service Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), which links rural areas where there are few or no conventional bus services, for around the cost of a bus fare rather than a taxi fare? Anyone can use this service, you do not have to be a resident.

DRT operates in the following areas:

- Auchengillan, Blanefield & Carbeth
- Balquhiddie
- Carron Valley
- Croftamie & Drymen
- Fintry
- Killin & Strathfillan
- Strathard & Trossachs
- Thornhill & Doune

...and reaches as far as Blair Drummond and the Kippen Cross.

Full information available at:

[www.stirling.gov.uk/drt](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/drt)



**Aged 16-18? Use your Young Scot card to get 1/3 off bus travel in Stirlingshire.**



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## THE GARGOYLES OF GARGUNNOCK

The Gargoyles of Gargunnoch are singing for charity as usual this Christmas. Our charity this year is The Eilidh Brown Memorial Fund. Eilidh sadly lost her fight against cancer aged just 15 years of age on 25th March 2010. Since then Eilidh's family have been working tirelessly to build a stunning countryside respite holiday home in the Stirling area for young people and their families who are going through, went through or sadly like them, lost a child to cancer. So, if you're interested in hearing us and, more importantly supporting the charity, put these dates in your busy diaries:

**Sunday 2nd, 11am to 1pm, at The Woodhouse Café, Kippen**

**Saturday 8th, 10am to noon, at Stirling Farmers' Christmas Market on Port Street**

**Tuesday 11th, 11am to 12 then 1pm to 2pm, in the Thistle Centre**

**Saturday 15th, 11am to 1pm, at The Woodhouse Café, Kippen**



## Local Irish Dancers heading for World Championships

Big congratulations to Sophie, Heather, Hope, Holly, Stella and May for winning bronze when they danced recently at the WIDA (World Irish Dance Association) British Open in London.

Sophie, Heather, Holly and May won their bronze medals dancing as a 4 hand Ceili team. Hope and Stella danced as part of an 8 hand Ceili team, also winning bronze.

All girls dance for the Miller-Ellis Academy of Irish Dance and are now looking forward to competing in the World Championships in Eindhoven next April.



## Save the Dates! Upcoming Events at the Community Centre



**Playgroup & Toddler Christmas Disco  
Sunday 9th December, 4-6pm**

**Songsters Christmas Concert  
Friday 14th December, 7.30pm**

**Ceilidh Fundraiser with light supper, bar, band and raffle.**

**Saturday 23rd February 2019, 7 'til midnight**

**RVS Digital Workshop  
14/1/2019 10am-12pm**

**Playgroup & Toddler  
Family Ceilidh  
Sat 26th Jan 2019, 7pm -12pm**

**Ceilidh Fundraiser with light supper, bar, band and raffle.**

**Sat 23rd Feb 2019, 7pm 'til midnight**

*Diary of events and how to book the Community Centre can be found at [www.gargunnoch.org](http://www.gargunnoch.org)*

**Proud to be sponsoring Callander Cricket Club again in 2018**

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## THE STIRLING MEMBERS' CENTRE - NTS

The Stirling Members' Centre numbers about 220 people and membership is £5 per annum for individuals or £8 per annum for a complete household at one address. When joining you will enjoy membership rates immediately but there will be no membership charge until the start of the financial year in October 2019 and you only pay for the talks.

We welcome new members who are also members of the National Trust for Scotland, but anyone who is not a member of the NTS will be welcome to any of our talks subject to places being available. The current rates for winter talks are £5pp for members or £6pp for guests. Please come along – we are a friendly bunch!!

Our programme of talks held in the St Ninian's church hall from December 2018 to March 2019 is as under:-

**Monday 10th December, 2018, at 2.30 pm**

## "Steam Railways in Central Scotland"

– illustrated talk by Jim Summers & Stuart Sellar

**Monday 14th January, 2019, at 2.30 pm**

## “Stirling Royal Infirmary – The first 50 Years”

- illustrated talk by Craig Mair

**Monday 18th February, 2019, at 2.30 pm**

“Plant Life Scotland”

- illustrated talk by Alistair Whyte

**Monday 18th March, 2019, at 2.30 pm**

“Chinese Imperial Court Costume (1644-1911)”

– illustrated talk by David Rosier

**Contact details: Sandy & Margaret Moreland, Joint Secretaries,**

**Tel:- 01259 761700**

**E-mail:- [stirlingnts@gmail.com](mailto:stirlingnts@gmail.com) or see website:-**

[www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling](http://www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling)

[illegible]



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

Please feel free to contact me  
if you think I may be able  
to help you :

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Room M2.12,  
The Scottish Parliament,  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 5995



Email: [Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot)  
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**A New Season of Films to Enjoy at  
The Callander Cinema.**

At 7:30pm on Sunday November 11 we open the 42nd season of community cinema in Callander with a screening of Dunkirk. We will screen a varied selection of 15 Award Winning movies with Oscar Winners, Comedy, Drama, Western, Horror, and Foreign films, and a Christmas Movie for the family. The season will run from November 2018 to June 2019 for the bargain price of £26, which works out at less than £2 per movie.

Due to flooding, remodelling and uncertainty about the sale of St Kessogs we will be moving our screenings to 7:30pm on Sunday nights at the Callander Youth Project at 6 Bridgend, Callander FK17 8AH. We have received sponsorship from local companies: Julie Carmichael at Deli Ecosse, Gordon Esson at Man Cave Barber Shop, Dave McAlpine Construction, Callander Youth Project, Gordon Halladay at Spirit of Callander and the Texas Hold Em Poker players at The Waverley.

Visitors and locals are always welcome. It's £5 at the door for non-members.

We are online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Movie/Callander-Film-Society-146407232119375/>

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/neighbourhoodcinema/callander-film-society>

See you at the movies!

Eammon O'Boyle (01877-339323)

Sun. Dec. 9	The Death of Stalin
Sun. Dec. 23	The Man Who Invented Christmas
Sun. Jan. 13	Darkest Hour
Sun. Jan. 27	The Shape of Water
Sun. Feb. 10	Hereditary
Sun. Feb. 24	Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool
Sun. Mar. 17	Shoplifters
Sun. Mar. 31	Sweet Country
Sun. Apr. 14	The Guernsey Literary Society
Sun. Apr. 28	Lady Bird
Sun. May 12	I Tonya
Sun. May 26	Molly's Game
June 2019	AGM – TBC.





## Presenting the Gargunnock Primary School Junior Journalists!

### Gargunnock Primary's School Improvement Team

The school improvement team contains 7 pupils, one from each year. The school improvement team help organise school events and help Mrs Rushton decide things. They were chosen by the class using a vote, and they are all happy with their position.

By Eilidh Sellar



### Skills Academy

This year Gargunnock Primary School are running a skills academy which is similar to the citizenship groups that they did last year. All of the pupils are very happy with their choice. Each of the groups is led by a teacher.

The Chapter Chasers work with Mrs Hamilton. "I like it because we do things to do with reading and I like reading"- Salma P7. The Sports Stars work with Mrs Rushton, "In Sports Stars we learn how to be a leader in a group like teaching others how to play simple games like tig"- Zahra P6

The Digital Destroyers work with Mr McDonald "In Digital Destroyers we do coding, work towards the digital school awards and also we do raspberry pi." - Miller P5. Last but not least, the GEMs (Gargunnock Environment Makers) work with Mr Webster. GEMs job is to make sure the school is looking after the ground and the environment and recycle paper. We are trying to encourage people to recycle paper and encourage red squirrels and bees to come to our playground." -Scarlett P7.

By Sophie Kane



### Outdoor Learning Zone

Gargunnock Primary has its new Outdoor Learning Zone! On the 2nd of November the local primary school held an opening ceremony in the playground inside the outdoor learning zone. They're really pleased with the new outdoor learning zone, so pleased in fact, that they have made a video with some of the children being interviewed all about what they think of it. I have been doing some interviewing of my own and I have got some of the children who played a part in the outdoor learning zone opening ceremony: "I felt happy to be cutting the ribbon!" Nairn Fleming P1 "I feel like it will be a good thing for our school" Ruairi Peddie P4 "I think it's great that so many of our families and friends from the community came to join us for the celebration. My favourite bit was the whole school singing touch the sky because it's all about being in the Scottish outdoors." Mrs Rushton, Headteacher.

Ruby Conroy



### The Gathering 2018

The 2018 Gathering is a once a year event to inspire the young of Stirling, to help them learn with have fun at the same time. Only two pupils from each primary school can attend. At this Gathering they rounded all the pupils and separated them into groups of interesting lessons and activities, some were for all day some were for half the day. Lunch was provided and there were stalls for the children to see.

There was Lego city class, a dyslexia workshop and many others. The pupils from Gargunnock Primary School attended a whole day session run by Forth Valley College on filming; sound and vision. And that was the Gathering of 2018.

By Louise Crawford



### The School Motto

This year Gargunnock Primary School have chosen a new school motto. The process of choosing the motto went over numerous weeks but they are all happy with their new and improved school motto. First, a special type of talking homework was set. All families were invited to send in suggestions for a motto which were discussed in class. Each of the classes chose a shortlist of possible mottos and presented these at assembly. An overall shortlist of 5 was chosen and pupils and families were asked to vote.

After the long choosing process the motto was decided, their new school motto is...

**Be good, be kind,  
improve your mind.**

Now the whole school are working on creating a picture representation of the motto. Everyone who was took part in choosing the motto is very happy with the motto and hopes it will last a long time.

By Niamh Brodie

### Gargunnock Primary House Captains

The school houses Eagles, Wildcats and Foxes picked new house and vice-captains. They were elected at the start of the year at the first house meeting. All the pupils got to vote for their new house captain.

The Wildcat captains, Elise Smith and Scarlett Haddow, said that they "...feel good proud to be a house captain, we also wanted to have a responsibility and to lead a house". The Foxes captain, Naomi

Irvine, loves being in the Red Foxes and is glad to be their captain. Many of the house and vice-captains have wanted this position since Primary 1 and are happy with their dream finally coming true.

Throughout the year the houses receive numerous challenges e.g. writing a house song that are completed in house meetings which occur every fortnight. The house system is very important to the pupils in Gargunnock Primary and everyone enjoys contributing to their house.

By Kyle Heron



**Wildcats**  
Elise Smith,  
Scarlett Haddow



**Eagles**  
Angus Park,  
Niamh Brodie



**Red Foxes**  
Roan McKenzie,  
Naomi Irvine, Sophie  
Tucker, Salma Sheikh

## GARGUNNOCK'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD 2018

Gargunnoch's 'Alternative Christmas Card' has raised over £14,000 for various charities over the past fourteen years (including CHAS, The Scottish Cot Death Trust, The ME Association and Alzheimer Scotland). This year we're raising money for Home-Start Stirling, who offer home-visiting support to families in Stirling who have at least one child under the age of 5 years who are experiencing some kind of stress or crisis. Families need support for many different reasons, family breakdown, postnatal illness, isolation, a child's disability, bereavement, or any other reason causing stress or crisis. With a flexible approach, meeting the individual needs of each family, volunteers help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.

The 'card' has become a bit of a village institution and its beauty lies in its simplicity! It's really just a poster wishing everyone in Gargunnoch a very Merry Christmas from everyone who has donated. It's pinned to the notice board on Christmas Eve and will be included in the first edition of The Bugle in 2019. The easiest way to donate is online, where you can also post a more personal message to your fellow villagers on the Virgin Money Giving page.

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

Jane

email: [jane.r.milne@gmail.com](mailto:jane.r.milne@gmail.com), phone: 01786 860661

### HOW TO DONATE:

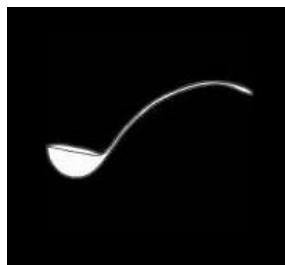
- Online: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/villagechristmascard](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/villagechristmascard) (Please tick the Gift Aid box if applicable)
- Cash: In an envelope through my letterbox at JUNIPER RIDGE, LECKIE ROAD (directly opposite the Community Centre path)
- When you leave your message on the online page, or on your note through my door, please remember to include a note of everyone's name you'd like included on the Village Christmas Card

### Word of the Month

**Vexillologist (n)** someone who studies, or has an interest in, flags.

E.g. Overheard in the Inn "Ah'm gettin that interested in aw they different flags that go up at the Square that ah think ah could become a vexillolololo... a vexillolololo lo... No ah've given up that idea."

## 'Bite and Blether' to continue



The piloted return of Bite and Blether in October was a great success with a busy stream of villagers popping in over the three hour period. Thanks to everyone who baked, made soup and came along to support, as the proceeds go towards the running costs of the Community Centre.

It has, therefore, been decided to keep this community favourite going. Jill and Barbara, with help from Morna, will run Bite and Blether on a monthly basis, on the first Wednesday of the month between 11am and 2pm. Please note there won't be a Bite and Blether in January 2019.

Everyone is very welcome to come along to catch up, or meet new friends, over a tea or coffee with delicious baking and tasty homemade soup.  
Claire Hart

## Need a local babysitter?

Hi! I'm Eva Dallas and I'm available for babysitting in December and over the Christmas holidays. I'm currently in S5 at Balforn High School. I have lots of experience of working with children through volunteering at my local dance school and helping at the Big Noise.

Please call or text me: 07468 412532.

## First Time for Everything

Keeping active. Staying connected.



Greta Allen, aged 88  
First time using the potter's wheel

Staying active and keeping in touch with friends is important at any age, but when you're older, it's a crucial part of ageing well.

Royal Voluntary Service and Prudential UK & Europe are working together to provide stimulating and enjoyable new social activities that will encourage active ageing and improve quality of life.

ROYAL  
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RVS Digital Workshop  
14/1/2019 10am-12pm

Digital Workshop run by the Royal Voluntary Service charity as part of "First Time for Everything" campaign for seniors (over 50s). For 16-20 people.

This is a FREE event.

Contact for the event is Ekaterine Tsursumia  
[ekaterine.tsursumia@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:ekaterine.tsursumia@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

### Dougie McDougal

Marion and family would like to express their sincere thanks for the messages of sympathy from friends and neighbours offered on the loss of Dougie. Grateful thanks to Rev Lynne Mack, Cooperative Funeral Services, Gargunnoch Inn and Janet Iffla for the lovely display of flowers. Finally thank you to all those who attended the service and gave generous donations for the stroke unit at FVRH.



## The Gargunnock Walking Group

The Gargunnock Walking Group will finish off its 2018 programme with two walks in December:

6th December: Boness and Kinneil House.  
Details to be advised. Peter and Helen Rowell.

22nd December: Local walk to be decided.

We will also have a dinner for members and guests in the Gargunnock Inn on the 6th December.

The programme for early 2019 still has to be confirmed but dates for January and February will be:

10th and 24th January, 14th and 28th February.

Walks will be decided nearer to the days when we know if we will be constrained by Beasts from the East, hurricanes, floods or we may enjoy the finest of winter weather.

If you are interested in participating in the 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.

Edmond Mansion



Members enjoying Autumn colours between Birnam and Loch of Lowes

## GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE STORE

Open 7 Days  
01786 860703

email address  
[aweir.gvs@gmail.com](mailto:aweir.gvs@gmail.com)

Monday-Saturday 7.45am-7pm  
Sunday 8am-5pm



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**Leckie Produce – Eggs and Sausages**

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Alistair and Violet



# GARGUNNOCK PARISH CHURCH

## Remembrance Service

Rev. Lynne Mack and the Kirk Session thank Mr Ian Roy, the Guides and Brownies and the Gargunnoch Gargoyles for their participation in the Remembrance Day Service, which commemorated 100 Years of the Armistice and we remembered those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. During the service Janette Wilson laid a Poppy wreath at the Village War Memorial, within the church, on behalf of the Community.

A wreath was also laid at the Flagpole by Helen Rowell and her son, Willie. This was a poignant moment for Helen, a descendant of Trooper George Brocksopp, the last name on the War Memorial for the 1914 – 1918 War.

When Helen and family came to Gargunnoch in 1990 she was surprised to see her maiden name on the Gargunnoch War Memorial and decided to find out why Trooper Brocksopp was on a memorial so far from home.

George was born in 1892 in a hamlet in north Derbyshire, near Sheffield but by 1914 records show him as a stud groom for Sir George Younger, Viscount Younger of Leckie. Charles Younger, the third son of Sir George is the only other Lothian and Borders soldier on our Memorial and we speculate that George Brocksopp went with him to war as his groom or similar. Trooper Brocksopp was killed at Flanders on 30th March 1918 and is commemorated on the memorial to those without a known grave at Pozieres in France.

We would like to express our appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the motorist who stopped in Leckie Road during the short Act of Remembrance. The Church Bells were rung, by John McLaren and Ken Stewart, at 12.30pm as part of the National 'Ring for Peace – Armistice 100' to commemorate what occurred on the 11th day of the 11th month 1918. Thanks to both gentlemen.

## Christmas Appeal:

We are again collecting items for START-UP, Stirling to help those in need within the area. This local Charity (Scottish Charity No. SC 035477) was set up by churches within Stirling and works with the Social Work Department of Stirling Council to provide a Foodbank and also starter packs for those made homeless. Unfortunately, in the present economic climate, this is a service which is well used.

We are hoping that many within the village will be willing to donate items from the START-UP, Stirling 's list, which will be available from the Church and Village shop in early December.

Collection of the items will take place from 15th until 30th December. The Donation Box will be within the Ross Anderson Room which will be open on Saturday and Sunday mornings OR contact Audrey Birrell. Session Clerk, on 860321 or your District Elder and they will uplift items.

## GARGUNNOCK CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS and SERVICES

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

Throughout December there will be Sunday worship at 10.30am in Gargunnoch Kirk as we await the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**On Sunday 16th at 10.30am** there will be the Advent Family Service telling the real story of Christmas in a way that everyone can understand.

On Wednesday 19th the Carol Singers will stopover at the kirk. See separate article for details.

**On Friday 21st at 9.15am** in the Gargunnoch Primary School the pupils will perform their nativity at their end-of-term Christmas service.

**On Sunday 23rd** our three local congregations join together to celebrate Christmas with Carols and Readings. We will meet in Kincardine-in-Menteith Church at 10.00am.

**Monday 24th** Christmas Eve is really special, so plan to visit Gargunnoch Kirk from 11.00pm for some Carol Singing before the Watchnight Service at 11.30pm to welcome the first moments of Christmas morning.

**Sunday 30th December at 10.30am** we will give thanks for 2018 and seek God's blessing for another new year.

See you there!

## Minister's Update

Hi Folks,

As I'm sure you've seen in previous issues of the Bugle, despite the retiral of Andy, our minister for the past seven years or so, the three Blairdrummond Churches (Gargunnoch, Kilmadock and Kincardine-in-Menteith) are still alive and kicking! It's difficult without a full-time minister, but as many of you will know I worked alongside Andy over the past four years, and I'm delighted still to be here and doing my best, with the help and support of all three congregations. You'll be able to read elsewhere about what we have planned in the run-up to Christmas.

When we were young, my sister always looked forward to special events, such as birthdays or holidays, by counting the number of "sleeps". It's a habit I continued with my own children, and I'm sure there are many who do the same.

I heard the other day about a wee boy who ran home from school and told his mum, "If I was a bear, I'd only have one sleep till Christmas!"

By the time you read this, we'll be well on our way to Christmas. As I write, I'm already thinking ahead to the last Sunday of the Church Year at the end of November, because the following Sunday sees the start of Advent, and a new year for the Church.

It's a time for looking back - 2000 years or so - to the time when God sent his Son to earth to save the world from itself. It's a time of preparation, when we think of all that God's gift to us of his Son has meant for us, and it's a time for looking forward and considering what God has in store for us and our loved ones.

So as we begin the frantic round of cards, shopping, gifts and general over-indulging, spare a thought for what Christmas is all about ...

## CHRIST IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Wishing you all God's blessings for the Christmas season and the coming year.

God's peace to you all!

Lynne

[lmack@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:lmack@churchofscotland.org.uk)



The 3F Group meets on the last TUESDAY of the month from September to May (NO meeting in December) at the comfortable church at 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.

ALL WELCOME

If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Wyllie, Tel. 01786 860550

Here is the Programme for the Winter:

**Tues 29 Jan:** Carolyn Goss, Registrar.

**Tues 26 Feb:** Bonnie McDowell will give a talk on Dementia.

**Tues 26 Mar:** Mark Drury will give a talk on Silver Jewellery.

All meetings £3

Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk.

## Police Update

### Community Engagement and Reassurance

Since the last edition PC Scott Craigie has left the post as a Ward officer however remains in the area as a Response officer. PC Steven Graham returns to the post and works alongside PC Gary Martin, who is new to the area. PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at 101 or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk). It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact

### Social Media

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at

[www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision](http://www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision)

[www.facebook.com/policescotland](http://www.facebook.com/policescotland)

[www.twitter.com/stirlingpol](http://www.twitter.com/stirlingpol)

[www.twitter.com/policescotland](http://www.twitter.com/policescotland)

The current ward priorities for the Forth and Endrick area are Antisocial Behaviour, Road Safety, Theft and Community Engagement and Reassurance. The following is a summary of local policing activity since the last edition of The Bugle.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Gargunnoch seems to be a popular place for hare coursing. The people responsible for this type of crime generally have lurcher style dogs. They arrive in an area, park their cars and then take the dogs onto open farm land. They usually walk in a line with the wind blowing towards them. If you see any such behaviour please contact the police.

PC Laura Robertson is our Local Wildlife Officer and she is extremely keen to clamp down robustly on this type of activity.

Laura was involved in an incident on the outskirts of the village whereby a tree was felled which contained a red squirrel's nest. One red squirrel was sadly killed. The SSPCA were summoned and fortunately the other 3 red squirrels were saved. The person responsible was traced and reported regarding his actions.

### Road Safety

The Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership and Police Scotland have continued to perform speed enforcement and hi-visibility patrols in and around Gargunnoch, resulting in a number of motorists being given advice regarding their vehicle or manner of driving, or prosecuted where appropriate. We will continue to carry out such patrols and checks over the coming months.

There have been numerous calls in relation to sheep, cows and horses on the roads in the Forth and Endrick area so please be extra vigilant and careful on your travels. Please check and maintain your vehicle for road worthiness. The winter weather causes roads and driving conditions to be hazardous. This includes ensuring that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

### Theft

In the last few months in other villages in the Forth and Endrick area there have been a number of commercial housebreakings. None have been reported recently in the Gargunnoch area however please report anything you feel suspicious to the Police.

### Police Message for Local Residents

Recently the clocks went back an hour to mark the end of British Summer Time. This also marks the start of the darker nights which can make it easier for thieves to target your property if they can see that nobody is home. We need your help to make it harder for the thieves so please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

If anyone would like further crime prevention advice, please contact PC Gary Martin or PC Steven Graham who will be happy to assist.

### POLICE SCOTLAND – YOUTH HUB

Police Scotland has launched its first dedicated internet page and social media channel dedicated to the children and young people of Scotland. The new platforms are a result of feedback from national consultation with young people, who requested better access to information and modern ways to communicate with Police.

The new resources will help promote Children's Rights by providing young people with easier access to educational resources and space to voice their views on platforms recognised and commonly used by them in modern society. The Children and Young People team aim to provide safety and prevention messages that will ultimately help young people make better life choices and minimise potential risks to themselves and others. Any content being published will be structured to avoid corporate messages and be more appealing to the desired age groups.

To view the internet page, go to [www.scotland.police.uk/youth-hub](http://www.scotland.police.uk/youth-hub) and the new Facebook channel can be found at [www.facebook.com/PoliceScotlandYouthHub](http://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotlandYouthHub).

Season's Greetings

PC Gary Martin and PC Steven Graham would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable festive period and extend their best wishes for the New Year.





It's been over one year since my friends and I (collectively known as the Gentlemen Gouffers of Gargunnoch...maybe you've heard of us?) passed through your town and our memories of doing so are still among the most prominent of our trip. We met several lovely and/or interesting people and enjoyed our time there.

I'm not sure why it only now occurred to me to contact Gargunnoch proper about our trip. But better late than never, right? Anyway, here is a little bit about us in case you're interested:

- Six golfers played across Scotland one year ago. When I say 'across Scotland', I mean that literally. We tee'd off in the surf of the east coast and played non-stop until we hit our balls into the west coast – 3,555 strokes, 5 days, 232 golf balls, roughly 72 miles (about 50% more than what we anticipated due to last-second reroutes & distractions), 200,000 steps, over 200 pints. We raised over \$7,000 for a local charity and several news outlets covered our expedition. We were the very first people to ever golf Scotland coast to coast!

A short video made of our trip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRdLV0igat0&t=4s>

- We call ourselves Gentlemen Gouffers of Gargunnoch. Why Gargunnoch? Well to make a long story short, 25 years ago a friend and I drove along a road that said 'Gargunnoch 5 miles', it was late and we were tired and the word 'Gargunnoch' was new to both of us. We began joking around that we should turn around because this is 'Gargunnoch territory' and they are beasts known to eat golfers. Well for 25 years we joked about the 'dreaded Gargunnoch' and then, while planning this trip, we noticed that our route would take us near Gargunnoch so we decided to adjust it to go through Gargunnoch and in doing so, fate gave us our group's name. If you click the first link below\*, you'll see the mythology we built around it in preparation for our trip. FYI – thankfully, no golfers were lost (although, one of our 6 had to grab a taxi to the next town as he sprained his ankle about ½ a mile from entering Gargunnoch...hmmm).

- We met several of our favorite Scots in Gargunnoch, including one linguist that corrected how we pronounced your town's name and gave us some great history on the town and another guy who, at 9 PM at night came out his front door and warned us not to proceed (we were leaving Gargunnoch and it was starting to get dark (we had glow in the dark golf balls) and given the legend of the Gargunnoch\*, his very spooky warning actually gave us a moment's pause).

Here is our main website:

<https://www.gargunnocks.com/> and a couple news reports:  
<http://local12.com/news/local/men-golf-across-scotland-to-help-make-dreams-come-true-for-orphans-with-special-needs-and>  
<https://www.facebook.com/doug.evans.148/videos/1748450171835029/>

I hope you find this a little interesting...

Thank you for your time,

Chris Shepard



## Glebe Land Tree Planting Project

I am writing with major concern that the Gargunnoch Community Trust are about to spend a significant amount of money; circa £18,000 converting the wooded area at the Glebe to a more wooded area at the Glebe by planting 200 trees. Whilst I agree with the formation of a proper path through the area to link with the 'Ladies Walk', speaking to several villagers we believe that the money could be much better spent. Whilst the plans laid out in the September copy of the Bugle were highly detailed, in my view there was one major omission; the fact that it is going to cost the village approximately £10,000 as I understand that this is the sum being contributed to the project from the Gargunnoch wind farm fund. This seems a great deal of money to spend on an area which I would like to remind everyone is an interim fix prior to a more permanent and sustainable legacy being proposed and implemented.

The wind farm fund provides the village with £22,000 per year. Therefore, as a village we could ask the question why haven't the Trust looked at approaching the land owner and commissioning a survey to see whether a hydroelectric scheme could be installed to generate power for the village; given the amount of water that flows down the Gargunnoch hills? Alternatively, look at a project to replace all the Fuel inefficient Home Domestic boilers in the village as other communities have done with their wind farm money. As for the Glebe area why not look at alternative ideas to create a more useful area e.g. an all-weather surface for multi sports for adults and children – basketball, netball, tennis, five aside football which whilst not the highest response to the original survey on land usage, would give a voice to the youth of this village who are fewer in numbers and therefore marginalised.

To date there has only been one big ticket item creating a legacy for the village and that is the wonderful Open Learning Zone at the school. Given the fact that the Trust receives almost £22,000 per annum and will do so for the next 20 years+ let's not squander a fantastic opportunity to do something significant with this money. I implore the village to make their ideas known to the Trust and let's create something we can all use and be proud of.

**Name and address supplied.**

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