



The Gargunnoch Bugle



Issue 68 December 2021

Scott Methven, Queen's Official Piper

"If someone had told me I would one day end up living in Buckingham Palace being with the Queen wherever she went, I would never have believed it."

Scott Methven started life in Stevenson Street in Gargunnoch. He learned to play the chanter at Primary school like his brothers Sandy and Davie before progressing on through Stirling Schools Pipe Band and Stirling Pipe Band. He joined the army aged 16 and then, because of his piping skills, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders where, after several tours including Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and The Falklands, he eventually became Pipe Major. He then became Pipe Major at the prestigious Army School of Army Piping and Highland Drumming where he was responsible for the training of all pipers and drummers to Intermediate standard in the British Army and also the Commonwealth.

Due to his success Scott was selected to be the official Sovereign's piper in 2015. The fifteenth since 1843. As part of the Royal household, travelling to Balmoral and Windsor with Her Majesty, his daily duties included piping outside the Queen's rooms every morning for 15 minutes in regimental uniform before changing into official uniform ready to escort Her Majesty to official engagements where he ushered dignitaries, celebrities and foreign heads of state through the protocol of meeting the British monarch. He performed at many major events including Royal engagements and state visits.

Sadly, in 2017 while they were at Balmoral, his wife Morven was diagnosed with terminal cancer. When Scott informed the Queen she told him to go to the hospital to be with his wife. The children stayed in the palace where they were looked after by the royal household. "Everybody looked after them" Scott says. "They were brilliant." The Queen refused to replace Scott during this time and with his job secured he was able to focus all his attention on Morven. Tragically, in October 2018 Morven passed away.

Scott remained as "Pipes" until February 2019 when he retired from his official position to spend more time with his children. He now lives in Thornhill where he teaches chanter from home to pupils from the surrounding villages. He established and can be contacted at - MilitaryPiping.com.



Photo With the Queen at Stirling Castle (all photos courtesy of Scott Methven)



Balmoral Castle, Wearing Balmoral Tartan

Editorial

Welcome to December's Bugle! As I write this it feels that autumn is rapidly turning to winter as the temperature drops and the last leaves fall from the trees. Fingers crossed this winter is different to last and we can enjoy a more normal Christmas and Hogmanay.

Talking of Christmas, thanks to Jane Milne for organising the Village Christmas Card again this year, this has become an institution and raises money for good causes—over £18,000 so far. See page 22 for how to take part. And if you fancy some carols, join Helen Rowell and others at the Community Centre on the 15th or 16th December (TBC).

There is a lot of news in this issue, including an update on the village shop from the Community Council, see page 9 for further details. As always, thank you to all those who have taken the time to pen a few words and/or take a few pictures, the Bugle really would not happen without you.

We are still without a permanent editor and once again this issue has been produced by a small team of volunteers

from the Trust. If you fancy having a go at editing the Bugle and getting a small payment in return, please see the advert on page 5 for details on how to apply. No experience is necessary and there is plenty of support on hand to help deliver each issue.

Contributions are always welcome and can be sent to gargunnochbugle@gmail.com, as can any feedback you may have (good or bad!). The deadline for the next issue is 14th February.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022!



Contents

Editorial	2
Dates for your Diary	2
Meet Your Neighbour	3
Gargunnoch Walking Group	4
A Thank You	5
Gargunnoch Flower Show	5
Playgroup & Toddlers	6
Brownies	6
Wildlife Pond for the Glebe Park	7
Paths Group	7
Bee News!	8
Community Council	9
Police Report	10
Autumn Wildlife	12
New Tear at The Square?	13
News from the Primary School	14
Parent Council Update	15
Guides	15
Dean Lockhart MSP	16
Community Centre Zero Carbon Project	17
Gargunnoch WI	18
Windfarm Update	19
Community Carols	19
Trust AGM Report	20
Curling Club Update	21
Gala—Can you help?	21
Alternative Christmas Card	22
Gargunnoch Church Update	22
Remembrance Sunday	23
Down at Old Leckie Farm	24

Dates for the Diary

Friday 3rd December @ 8pm
Playgroup Pub Quiz
At the Gargunnoch Inn

Thursday 9th & Tuesday 14th December @ 9:30am
Gargunnoch Walking Club
Meet at the pub car park

Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th December @ 7pm
Community Carol Singing
At the Community Centre Gardens

Sunday 19th December @ 6pm
Curling Club Christmas Bonspiel (see p21)
The Peak

Friday 31st December @11:50pm
New Year at the Square
The Square(!)

Tuesday 11th & Thursday 27th January @ 9:30am
Gargunnoch Walking Club
Meet at the pub car park

Thursday 20th January @7:30pm
Primary School Parent Council Meeting
Primary School

Friday 28th January @7:30pm
Curling Club Pub Quiz
At the Gargunnoch Inn

Monday 21st February
Windfarm Fund Deadline (see p19)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR: AUDREY BIRRELL

How long have you lived here?

All my life. In the mid 1940's home birth was the norm.

What brought you here?

My father was working with John McLaren & Sons at the sawmill beside the Gargunnoch Railway Station, just off the A811. The sawmill is still there today although under new management.

What do you like about living in Gargunnoch?

You may say "I have known nothing else" but it is my utopia – many open spaces, the views of the surrounding hills, the tranquil atmosphere allowing us to hear bird song and friendly people.

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

The Main Street has a very different look – many old houses demolished and new built but set back from the road giving an openness. Areas such as Broom Park, Drummond Place, McLaren's Park and Loft Brae have been developed thus enlarging the village. We had three shops and a Post Office and at the moment sadly we have none. (Although Rae's pop up shop is where Mrs McGregor had her shop). The Gargunnoch Inn was not the open place it is now; it was for the men folk and affectionately known as Molly's. It did not serve meals.

There were fewer people so everyone knew one another and, as a family who had no relatives close at hand, friendships were made from helpfulness to neighbours.

What is your present occupation?

I am retired but I was a teacher of Home Economics in Stirling for many years. Since retiring I have used my skills within the Volunteer sector. I joined the Stirling Decorative & Fine Arts Society and became a Heritage Volunteer – which has opened up many opportunities. I had volunteered in Stirling Council Archives for 14 years, until the Lockdown. Our main project was the cataloguing of documents from Gargunnoch House. My local knowledge helped the group but I gained knowledge of the social-economic aspect of life on an estate. My exploits in volunteering have given me the opportunity to meet Royalty and for the Team to achieve a National Award for the Society. This was mainly through working on Textile Conservation with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Museum.

What is your favourite part of the village?

When I retired I commissioned Rev David Reid, an amateur artist, to paint a landscape scene around Gargunnoch. After an enjoyable afternoon with David touring the village, he with his camera, I choose a view from the Kirkyard looking over the White House roof toward Ben Ledi - the Church being an important part in my life.

Have you been involved in any of the village groups?

My very first involvement was as a taster of the spoils when my Mum, an avid founder member of the 'Rural', was choosing her exhibits for shows. In my childhood I was involved in youth organisations - Brownies, The Girls' Guildry, now known as the Girls' Brigade, and the Sunday School.



I later taught in the Sunday School. In my teens I took up Scottish Country Dancing which was held in the then British Legion Hall now the "village shop". Johan Mailer and I were adventurous travelling monthly to the Stirling Castle Club and Dunblane Hydro.

Time was limited when I gained promotion within teaching, so my involvement was mainly supporting their fundraising events.

In 2005 I became an Elder and Session Clerk of Gargunnoch Parish Church. Within the Church there are a number of people who are involved in different aspects of its Mission and Outreach both locally and nationally and I am pleased to be a part of that.

How has the current situation affected you and yours?

Volunteering work has stopped. More time has been given to Church as we work through the Covid Restrictions to prepare the building for services. Technology has allowed virtual Church Meetings - not my favourite format, but my computer skills have improved with the help of John McLaren.

Alison, my sister, was on furlough for three weeks of the first lockdown but since her return to work I have lost free access to the car. I thank Jeremy & Liz Wilkinson for their weekly shop for us. It was also good to hear of the many offers of help given by the younger village folks during the pandemic.

What is your next challenge?

I think, after the pandemic slowdown my next challenge will be overcoming the various stages of old age. They do say it does not come alone.

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

Douglas Coupaithwaite. Douglas has been a resident for many years and has been involved with many of the positive changes to village life.

Photo: Barbara Linklater

Gargunnock Walking Group

The Gargunnock Walking Group has continued to function but with slightly reduced numbers. Some members are still being cautious about joining groups, but to the best of my understanding no-one has caught Covid from joining a walking group. The recent walks have been to the Falkirk Wheel and Antonine Wall, Glen Farg and the railway tunnels, Kippen, and Glen Arthey. The Glen Farg walk was of particular interest because part of the walk is along the route of the former Edinburgh to Perth railway line and goes through two of the very well preserved tunnels. The Glen Arthey walk was on a glorious autumn day and as usual we were able to spot deer and hear stags calling.

We had hoped to do the walk in Glen Kinglas to Abyssinia Bothy, but the weather was poor and this has been one of the few occasions when we have delayed a walk because of bad weather.



*Stunning scenery near Brig o' Turk.
Thanks to Liliane for the picture*

Further walks are planned as follows:

- Kirkton Glen at Balquhider.
- 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.
- Mugdock Country Park; a number of interesting features are encountered including Mugdock Castle and remains of training trenches dating from WW1.

As usual we are always on the look-out for new and interesting



*Slightly damp day at Falkirk Wheel.
Thanks to Issy for the picture*

walks within easy access of Gargunnock

Walks in December will be 9th December and 14th December. From January walks will be on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month; so for January dates will be Tuesday 11th January and Thursday 27th January.

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

If you are interested in participating in our walks, call me on 01786 860608 or drop me an email to edmond.mansion@btinternet.com and I will put you on the circulation list for meets and send a copy of the Guidance Notes. Please note that one of the few rules that we have is no dogs. The primary reason for this is that we occasionally walk through areas where livestock graze and I would not wish to be associated with anyone's dog however well-disciplined whilst in the vicinity of cattle. We also expect participants to be responsible for their own wellbeing and capable of going the distance of the walk.

Edmond Mansion, November 2021

Gargunnock Old Peoples' Christmas Gift Voucher Fund

It is with some sadness that we have to report that the Gift Vouchers given out this year will be the last. The Committee have reluctantly decided to discontinue the scheme, run by villagers for villagers since 1965. Over the last few years it has been increasingly difficult to raise enough funds to cover the cost of the vouchers. Without the support of FALCK and the Wind Farm Panel this decision would have to have been made much sooner than this. Our thanks to them and everyone who has supported us over the years.

We hope you enjoy spending your Vouchers this last time and wish you all a very Happy Christmas Season.

LOOK OUT.....

.....Yes, look out for details of a brand new Village event over the Summer.

The Flower Show has decided to abandon the Gardens Competitions due to the deteriorating number of entries over the years. BUT, instead, there will be something in its place – something completely different and can involve ALL of the Village.

So LOOK OUT..... For full details in the next issue of the Bugle.

GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY TRUST: A SPECIAL THANK YOU

On behalf of the community, the Gargunnock Community Trust would like to express a very special thanks to the four directors/trustees who stepped down during the past year.

Dave King who served as chair and a member of the Paths Sub Group has been instrumental in garnering political support for the Gargunnock to Stirling path as well as overseeing the development of the Trust over the past few years. Barbara Linklater has been an active member of the Trust for a number of years, helping out with Bite and Blether and one of the founder members of the Beekeeping Group which this year successfully established three bee colonies on the Glebe Park. She also actively promoted the introduction of wildflowers in the commemorative garden. Nic Stewart and Paul James while only serving on the Board for a short time made their own significant contributions to the work of the Trust.

All trustees/directors dedicate an enormous amount of their personal time and energy to help maintain and improve the facilities for the benefit of everyone living in Gargunnock.

GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW

There will “definitely” be a Flower Show in 2022, well “definitely” in the sense of getting permission from Covid and Nicola! But, as it seems likely that this will be ok, plans are already underway to make this one a special “welcome back” event, following the postponement of the last two.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: SUNDAY 28th AUGUST 2022

So let's make a start in preparing for this - In November, we should be.....Planting spring bulbs including tulips -Cut back roses - Sow sweet peas.

You will see in a separate article that the Flower Show Committee has decided to abandon the Gardens Competitions, after years of deteriorating numbers of entries. BUT..... there are plans to have an alternative event, one which will be open to everyone in the Village, gardeners and non-gardeners alike. So.....

LOOK OUT..... for details in next issue of the Bugle.

A new section has been included in the Flower Show schedule for Novices i.e. anyone who hasn't won a prize in previous shows. This is an ideal opportunity for youngsters and newbies to the Village to participate. So in this section of the schedule there won't be any “not much point in me entering because he/she always wins”. A free copy of the schedule will be delivered to every household in due course. **LOOK OUT**..... for it coming through your door.

Maitland Clark



Gargunnock Community Trust Ltd.

A registered company in Scotland
(SC285574)

www.gargunnock.org



Interested in developing your desk-top publishing skills while helping Gargunnock?

Gargunnock Community Trust is looking for someone who is able to collate and prepare the Bugle, our local newsletter. It would suit someone who has a basic knowledge of 'Publisher' or similar software and can commit a bit of time each month to gather material and set it out so that it is print ready.

Four editions are published each year and most articles are prepared by representatives of local organisations and individuals keen to communicate what they have been doing and what they plan to do.

If you are interested then please email gargunnocktrust@gmail.com or speak to one of the Trust Directors/ Trustees. There is a modest payment available for this role.

The Library Van

The van comes to the village every second Tuesday; the next visit is December 14th. That is as far as the current schedule goes. The van will be parked in McLaren Park from 13.30 to 14.00 and outside the pub on Main Street between 14.05 and 15.20. At the moment only two households will be allowed in van at any one time and if it is busy you will be allocated a ten minute visit.



Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers runs sessions weekly throughout the year for all children up to school age. If you are new to the village and have young children or are expecting a baby please do get in touch.

Gargunnock Playgroup runs every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-12pm during the school term in the Community Centre. Our qualified staff run a varied set of activities suiting all ages and interests. We are an independent Playgroup, registered with the Care Inspectorate, managed by parents and welcome children from 2½ yrs to pre-school. Please contact playgroup@gargunnock.com for more details.

Gargunnock Toddlers provides lots of toys, snack time and a warm welcome for parents-to-be, parents and children

from 0-5, or their grandparents/childminders etc. Every Wednesday morning (10-11.30am) in the Community Centre. Sessions are £2.50/50p for siblings. Why not come along and see for yourself!

We are following all regulations and guidelines around Covid-19. At time of writing, Playgroup is up and running and the Toddler group is meeting inside(!) and outside at the Community Centre. Please contact us for the latest information!

If you want to get in touch at any time please contact;

Morna Tinto (Playgroup Leader)
07766 806224, playgroup@gargunnock.com,

Debbie Masson (Chairperson)
07779 727209, debstarmasson74@gmail.com,

Mark Dickson (Toddler Representative)
07841 212142, markardickson@gmail.com



Gargunnock Brownies enjoying a Samba Drumming Workshop



If your daughter is turning 7 over the next year and you would like them to join us please visit

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>



We meet up every Wednesday night during term time.

Currently we have a waiting list so please register your interest.

Wildlife pond and bog garden for the Glebe Park

The number of ponds in the UK declined significantly during the 20th Century, resulting in reduced habitat for animals that rely on these (including frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies and damselflies). Adding a wildlife pond into a park or garden is one of the best ways to increase the biodiversity found there.

In the survey of Gargunnoch residents on the uses of the land at the bottom of the Glebe, now the Glebe Park, a pond/wetland/bog area was a common suggestion (mentioned by one third of the people who voted for the most popular outcome, a park). A small group of us in the village have been developing a proposal for a shallow wildlife pond and bog garden in the Glebe Park. This has obtained approval in principle from the Gargunnoch Community Trust, and support from the Primary School, Guides, Brownies and Playgroup. We are now developing an application for funding.



We hope that a pond and wildlife garden will add to the Glebe Park visually, bring in attractive species such as dragonflies and damselflies

to breed in the pond, and provide opportunities for engaging children in the village with our native wildlife through pond dipping to see the range of beasts living in the pond. We have included a pond dipping platform at the edge of the pond in the design to make this easier. Visits to the pond could potentially also incorporate water safety lessons.

Once we are closer to construction, we will set up a Facebook page to update the village on progress and to ask for volunteers to help (i.e. get wet and muddy!) to dig the pond, plant the bog garden, etc.

Dave Penman, Barbara Linklater and Ian Young

The photos are of two of the species of dragonfly that we hope to attract; the Common Hawker (top right), and the Emerald Damselfly (left). Photos: Dave Penman.



Paths Group Update.

Almost as if by magic as soon as Jeremy Wilkinson, our driving force departed the village materials started to become available.

Concurrently Stirling Council contacted our new Supremo, Pete Rowell to indicate they too could commence work on the Charlies Loan scheme. It is hoped that by the time the Bugle goes to print that with the assistance of volunteers from the village this scheme will be completed.

There are two other projects involving running repairs to The Ladies Walk in Gargunnoch House and a section of the path to the South of Watson House. It is planned to address these prior to the New Year.

The Windfarm Panel has requested a Paths Strategy plan to be produced, Geoff Peart is working on this.

Publicity requesting volunteers to contact Pete Rowell has been circulated on the Village Facebook Page, Village Notice Board and in The Inn.

Just in case these might have passed you by details are p.c.rowell@btinternet.com

Further information on the cycle path to Stirling/The King's Highway please refer to the Community Council Report.

David King, November 2021



Path builders at Charlies Loan—Stuart Ogg

Bee News – Winter 2021

Now that we are well and truly headed for winter, the bees' activity outside the hive has reduced to almost zero. Inside is a different story – once the temperature in the brood nest drops to around 14 degrees centigrade the bees create warmth using their own bodies and then retain this heat by crowding together as a cluster. This is an example of the bees operating as a superorganism – a group of interdependent individuals of the same species that thrives by interacting in a synergistic way. The bee cluster keeps the brood nest at a fairly constant 35 degrees centigrade which is quite impressive!

These clustering winter bees which are “born” later in the year have large fat bodies and can survive for months as opposed to the five or six week lifespan of summer bees. Winter bees may well still be alive and out foraging in early spring and will be grateful for the crocus, snowdrop and hyacinth bulbs you have planted the previous autumn as they provide a valuable early source of pollen.

It is really important that we ensure that the Gargunock bees don't run short of food and that their hives are dry and cosy during winter. We have applied insulation to the hive roof spaces, reduced the entrance size and fitted mouse guards and taken extra measures to stop water ingress. We are providing food in the form of solid “fondant” and a few group members will attend a session on oxalic acid treatment for varroa mite which they will then carry out in December.

You might wonder why we couldn't just completely seal up the hives in winter, or pop them inside a garden shed – since bees do not hibernate, they continue to eat and drink – and therefore form faeces – all winter long. On those rare winter days when it is both warm and dry enough to fly, they sense the warmth of the sun on the hive and will head out on a “cleansing” flight to empty their intestines! Bear this in mind if you have also ventured out for a stroll in the winter sun!

We have also been thinking about our plans for 2022 – nothing in beekeeping is certain but all going well we will find ourselves with healthy bee colonies to look after next spring and hope to increase our community engagement where possible with several projects on the cards.

Thank you to you all for your support, interest and encouragement this year - for regular updates and photos, join our Facebook page Gargunock Beekeepers.

Gargunock Beekeepers, November 2021.



Photo: Anne-Marie Stewart

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



If you are planning a Building Project

– a House Build, an Extension or Major Alteration,
apply the benefits of 100 years construction
experience to your project.

We have experienced and solved most of the
problems which can happen on building sites of all
sizes – so you don't have to.

We offer different levels of service to suit your
requirements from Full Project Management where
we look after everything from start to finish to a
Project Advisory service which is a light touch
advice service to help avoid delays and or extra costs
developing in your project.

Our Fee will normally be covered by the savings we
achieve in the day to day operation of the project
and the savings we negotiate within the individual
sections of work required.

We also offer a Contracted Building
Maintenance service where six monthly or
annual building inspections are required.

We are a locally based company
Give us a call or e mail to discuss your project.

CENTURY PROJECT MANAGEMENT

www.centurypm.uk

07833 280292

Community Council Update.

Gargunock Community Council (GCC) has been very busy this year and we highlight below some of the key activities. There have been some membership changes, please see current membership and roles in the table below.

We are keen to have as much community involvement at our bi-monthly meetings (list for 2022 will follow in the Bugle, Village noticeboard and on GCC Facebook page and website page).

At present our GCC meetings are still virtual, as soon as is possible they will become face-to-face at the Community centre. The meeting agendas and date/time are always available, in advance, on the Village noticeboard, GCC Facebook page and website. There is always a "Residents forum" so you can join on the day and raise your topic

Contacting the GCC can be done by talking to the local councillors, or by using our email address:

gargunockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Village Shop

As you will know there was a fire in July 2021 that closed the shop.

GCC has 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, Gargunock Community Trust, Windfarm Panel, and Residents. A village survey/petition is planned to understand what the community wants for a shop.

The shop is currently being cleared of all its contents and will then be refurbished as an empty building. This refurbishment work should start towards the end of November.

The work is planned to be complete in December at which point it will be put up for sale. No further details are known as to the future intentions of the potential buyers for the shop.

Electric Car Charging Points

EDF has now installed the SIM cards, the engineer just needs to submit the registration forms to Chargeplace Scotland. The chargers often still work while the registration is going through (they just don't appear on the app yet) so if anyone has a Chargeplace Scotland RFID card they can have a bash at charging.

Station Road and A811 Junction

The Gargunock Community Council and the Trust have applied to

Stirling Council for some funds to instal two mirrors opposite the junction to aid with visibility to both directions.

You will see similar mirrors along the A811 at other junctions with similar visibility challenges.

The Community Council needs your help in raising safety concerns at this junction top keep the pressure on the Council to implement a permanent solution.

Can all residents please contact the Community Council with appropriate reports of any incidents or dangerous occurrences at this junction.

The junction with Station Road and the A811 continues to pose a danger to our residents and frequent visitors.

Concerns have been raised with Stirling Council and Police Scotland and there is a petition open asking for improvements to be made to the access/egress to the Village at this junction. The Stirling Council Officers had intended to close this petition however Councillor Berrill and Davies required the petition be kept open.

Contact: LovatMacGregor@gmail.com

Cycle path Stirling to Gargunock

Slow but positive progress continues to be made. Great encouragement has come from Stirling Councillors, MSPs and notably our MP Alyn Smith. A letter sent to the Chief Executive of Stirling Council, followed up by a letter of support sent to all the Western Villages and an online petition supporting the whole King's Highway Project has received considerable backing. The Agents acting on behalf of the Gargunock House Estate have indicated their client's wish to work with us in order to arrive at a solution agreeable to all.

Challenges along the section between Meiklewood Cottage and crossing of the M9 at Falleninch are being tackled by the Community Trust's Consultants. Stirling Council have allocated a single point of contact for the Stirling to Gargunock part of the project.

A very well attended meeting was held in the Community Centre involving all of the communities from Gargunock westwards to Killearn and a representative from Cycle Scotland offered support to the Project. Following the meeting a King's Highway Campaign group was set up.

Gargunock Community Council, November 2021

Current membership of Gargunock Community Council - October 2021

Position	Name	Membership type
Chair	Vacant	Full
Vice-Chair	Christine Phillips (CP)	Full
Secretary	David Millar (DM)	Co-opted
Treasurer	Douglas Barr (DB)	Full
Planning & Licensing	Julie Cole (JC)	Full
Roads & Transport	Lovat MacGregor (LMG)	Full
Windfarm Representative	Vacant	Full
Cycle path lead	David King (DK)	Full
Facebook and website administrator	Mike Buckley (MB)	Co-opted

Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham is based at Balfour Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

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

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

Theft

The evenings are getting darker earlier and it is a time where traditionally housebreakings can occur. Having your home broken into is not common. There are however many ways that you can help secure your home. They don't all cost money – some are common sense and good housekeeping.

What basic steps can I take to protect my home? First, think about basic good housekeeping routines that aren't expensive:

- Keep your home locked at all times.
- Many thieves do not need to break in at all because a door or window has been left open or unlocked.
- Don't leave keys on the inside of door locks, under mats or anywhere else they can be easily found.
- If you have a 'thumb turn' lock on the inside of a door, ensure that it cannot be accessed from outside.
- Don't keep house keys and car keys on the same key ring
- Don't keep a lot of cash in the house.
- Mark your property with a UV marker pen or Security DNA marking Kit - these can be bought online or in some stores.
- Look for the Secured By Design accreditation on the product and register - you can place an invisible imprint of your postcode and house number on your possessions.
- You can record and register details of your valuables, serial numbers and features or marks, on devices on the national mobile property register on the immobilise website - this includes mobile phones, cameras, laptops and tablets.
- Don't leave valuables where they can be seen through a window - for example, around the tree at Christmas time.
- If you have a wall calendar, avoid having it shown near a window from where appointments can be seen - people may see when there will be no one in.
- 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 security 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.

Advice for Drivers

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road. Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should

also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Make sure your windows are clean, properly demisted and clear of snow and ice before you drive. Also make sure that your roof is clear of snow as this affects drivers behind you and can also cause obstructions on your windscreen when braking. Be careful with low sun as it can make it difficult to see and a dirty, greasy or damaged windscreen can make this worse.

All lights must be kept clean and clear and be in good working order, including registration plate lights. Use the help of someone to check that all of your lights are working.

Consider keeping an emergency kit in your car for severe weather, this should at least include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- A torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes, boots and a blanket
- Some food and a warm drink in a flask
- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A map or device with offline maps for any unplanned diversions.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads. Aquaplaning can be a frightening experience; this is where a wedge of water builds up between the front tyres and the road surface. If this happens, the safest solution is to remove pressure from the accelerator, allowing the vehicle to lose speed which will help the tyres regain their grip.

Ice and snow can increase stopping distances by up to ten times so keep well back from the vehicle in front. Anticipate when you will need to be stopping and be alert to other road users. When the roads are icy, drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently.

Fraud & Keeping secure online

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

So much of our daily routine is now online. There's banking, shopping and social networking. Criminals are also going online to exploit people. To help keep yourself safe, here are a few golden rules to follow.

- Use a strong password or passphrase.
- Your password should be at least 12 characters long, and should contain a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols.
- Never give personal or sensitive details out online or over email
- Make sure all devices have the latest anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- Keep software and apps regularly updated.
- Only download from legal, trusted websites.
- Only open emails and attachments from known and trusted sources
- Check the address starts with 'https://' whenever you're asked to enter sensitive information online
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi hotspots that are not secure or if they ask you for personal information to obtain access.
- Regularly back up your data
- Regularly check your privacy settings and how your data is being used and shared
- Be cautious of internet chats and online dating - there's no guarantee you're speaking to who you think
- Be extremely cautious if you're asked for money.



Stirling Council Schools, Learning and Education

Enrolment Arrangements : Primary & Secondary School Education in 2022

The 2022/2023 school year starts on 17 August 2022, this is the **only** date for beginning school education for that year.

All children who are five years old on or before 17 August 2022 are of school age and **must** start their primary school education on 17 August 2022, children who are five years old between 17 August 2022 and 28 February 2023 **may** start their primary school education on 17 August 2022.

If your child is starting their primary school education in August 2022 you **must** enrol him/her at their catchment school **by 28 January 2022**. Details of school catchment areas and further information on our enrolment procedures can be found by visiting our website www.stirling.gov.uk or by contacting us on 01786 233185. Should you wish your child to attend a primary school other than their catchment school you are still required to enrol them in the catchment school and submit a placing request for the school of your choice. We have now moved to online enrolments and request that you complete the online enrolment form which can be found on our website www.stirling.gov.uk. As part of the enrolment process we are required to check the residency of all parents wishing to enrol their child at their catchment school, you will be required to scan and upload a copy of your child's birth certificate, and two of the following - child benefit book/award letter, tax credit/universal credit award letter, two recent household utility bills or a recent council tax bill.

Gaelic Medium Provision

Gaelic Medium Provision is available at Riverside Primary School, Forrest Road, Stirling tel: 01786 237933 email: rvsdeps@stirling.gov.uk. Any parent wishing to enrol their child in our gaelic medium provision should contact the school for further information.

Notice to Parents and Guardians of Children due to Transfer from Primary to Secondary School

Children currently in P7 will transfer from primary to secondary education in August 2022. You will receive notification of transfer arrangements through your primary school and your child will be automatically enrolled in their catchment secondary school. Should you wish your child to attend a secondary school that is not their catchment school a placing request must be submitted.

Placing Requests for Session 2022/2023

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended, Stirling Council hereby informs parents or guardians who wish to make a placing request for the school session 2022-2023, to do so in writing **by no later than 15 March 2022**. Your right applies to a request that your child be placed in a school other than the school which normally serves the area in which you live. It applies to a primary school or, where appropriate, the transfer to a secondary school, including a school providing for children with additional support needs. You can apply online at <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/schools/enrolling-your-child-at-school/placingrequests/placing-request-form>

It is essential that you enrol your child at the school that serves your local area even if you are making a placing request for another school.

Please note that if your placing request is successful school transport will not be provided for your child.

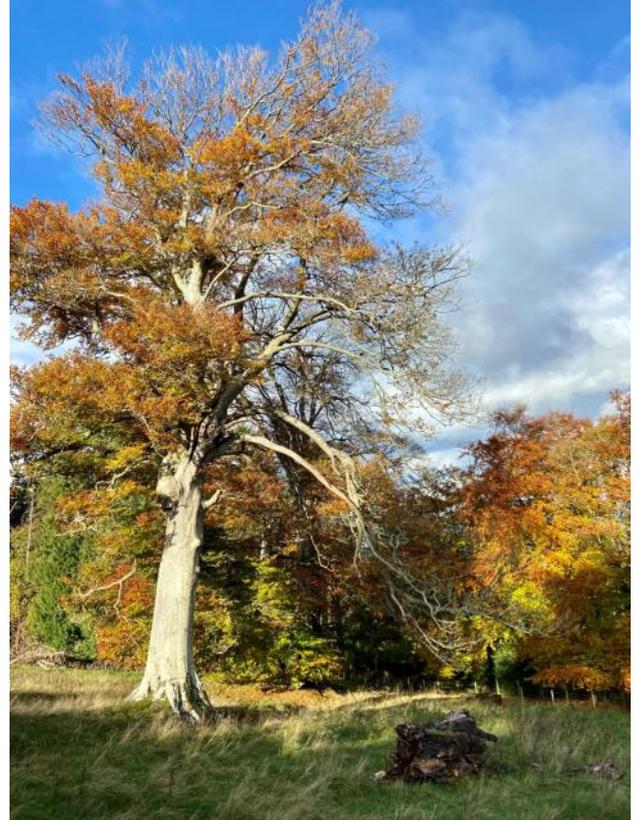
Schools Information

Information on local authority schools in Stirling Council is available on our website www.stirling.gov.uk or by contacting us on 01786 233185.

Parents wishing to apply for enrolment to Our Lady's RC Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School, St Margaret's RC Primary School and St Modan's High School should contact the school to discuss enrolment policy. Details are also available on the Council website www.stirling.gov.uk

Autumn Wildlife

Autumn is a fabulous time of year the colours throughout the estate and village are breathtaking. I love spotting all the wildlife and fungi around. Corrie my dog does too ,her favourite is the honey fungus . Fly agaric is such a colourful species with its bright red and white cap . We spotted Rosecomb on a waxcap mushroom a abnormality that I've never seen before . Worth going for a walk as lots of birds around as well as roe deer and red squirrels. A favourite spot for red squirrels is around the sweet chestnut trees near Gargunock house.



Text and pictures courtesy of Anne-Marie Stewart.

Top left: Corrie & honey fungus

Top right: autumn colours near Gargunock House

Middle left: Fly agaric

Middle: Sweet Chestnut

Middle right: Rosecomb on a waxcap mushroom

Bottom left: red squirrel in a tree.



NEW YEAR AT THE SQUARE

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

The Church bell will toll at midnight.

COME ALONG AND BRING YOUR FLASHING LIGHTS

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

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

This year will be different from previous years and so some guidance for your safety is necessary...

Although the event is in the open air:

- 1) Please feel free to wear a mask if you feel more comfortable with one.
- 2) Unless you are part of a bubble, no New Year kisses or handshakes. Elbow bumps only.
- 3) Do not share a drinks glass with anyone, but by all means share your drink!!
- 4) If you can keep a 1 meter distance, please do so.
- 5) Auld Lang Syne will be a "hands free" version.
- 6) In any and all other ways, please stay safe.
- 7) And, of course, everything depends on government guidelines at the time.



News From Gargunock Primary School

I am delighted to announce that I have been successful at interview and will be the permanent Headteacher at Gargunock Primary School.

We said a fond farewell to Mrs McEwan, one of our dinner ladies at the end of last term. Lynn had been working in the kitchen for over twenty years so has probably served many of the community who went to Gargunock Primary School over the years. I am sure that you all join us in wishing her well.

House System

We have relaunched the house system and the House Captains and Vice Captains are looking forward to competitions and challenges over the course of the year. So far we have had a SumDog Maths competition as part of Maths Week Scotland resulting in a draw between The Red Foxes and Eagles with the Wildcats only a few points behind. Below are the winners of our logo competition and these logos will be displayed whenever there is 'house business'. Well done to Finlay Campbell (Red Foxes), Louise Buchanan (Eagles) & Archie Evans (Wildcats) for their designs.



P6/7 RHET visit by James and Emma P6



P6/7 went on a trip to United Auctions. We went with the head teacher Mrs Orr and SLA Miss Hoskins. We learned about food miles, how eggs are weighed and packaged, cows and sheep, cereals and we almost got crushed in a truck where they carry sheep and other animals. Then we went to the milk and dairy stall and found out what milk is good for you and what isn't. Then we got showed a video of red meats which contain protein and vitamin B12. We all washed our hands and got a goody bag containing milk stickers, little animal stickers and a book containing meat facts.

My favourite part was how to milk a cow and the eggs. I learned that you have to squeeze the udder- *James*.

My favourite part was the seeing animals and almost getting crushed on the animal transporter when the man lifted the floor up. I also enjoyed learning how they tag the sheep and cows- *Emma*

It was a great visit and we enjoyed our visit very much.

Cross Country Success

Well done to all our school cross country runners who competed well at the recent time trials in Kings Park. All participants competed really well and definitely earned their hot chocolate reward after they had finished their race. Our fastest boys were Finlay Campbell P7 and Peter Flemming P6 with the fastest girls being Isla Buchanan P7 and Ellen Younger P6. It is really hard to compete against a clock rather than competitors from other schools so we were delighted to hear that Isla was the fastest girl from all the schools attending with Beth Jackson was 5th and Maisie Campbell 7th overall. Finlay Campbell was also 4th overall in the boys sections with Archie Evans coming in 6th.

Whilst on the subject of running you may see some of our pupils running through the village on a Thursday lunchtime this term as Mr McDonald and Mrs Cluett have started a running club, hopefully in training for even more success in the future. Please give them a wave and encouragement if you see them.



Poppy Scotland

Well done to P6/7 who led the Poppy Scotland collection this year raising £47.72 for this good cause. We also had a minute silence in school to remember those who have fought and died for their country and created this very fitting artwork for our front entrance.

200 Club

The 200 club is organised by the school Parent Council to help raise funds for the school. There are still a few numbers available to anyone in the community who wishes to be part of this. Numbers cost £10 each and are drawn at the end of each month with the winner receiving a cheque for £25. If you would like a ticket then please contact the school gargps@stirling.gov.uk and we will pass you to the appropriate parent council member.

Gillian Orr, November 2021

Gargunnoch Guides

Term 1 at Guides has been great fun and jam packed with exciting activities. It has been lovely having all our Guides back and being able to run as a normal meeting without any restrictions.

This term we have been working on the Communication skill builder and completing different activities based around how easy and challenging communication can be. Guides have been working on a variety of badges too.

A main highlight for us all was the mini camp we held in the field at the Community Centre at the end of September. We were generously given a grant to purchase a new tent and the girls were very much involved in putting up and taking down the tents. The Guides enjoyed playing games and sitting around the camp fire toasting marshmallows and singing songs.

We wanted to know more about Guide camps in the village in the past, so please get in touch at gargunnochguides@gmail.com as we'd love to hear about your camping stories.

We had a lovely end to the term by having a Halloween themed night full of Halloween crafts, games, snack and costumes.

Term 2 is going well so far, the girls are continuing with the skill builders and will be finished with them before Christmas. We also had a bonfire themed night. There's still so much to look forward to such as food themed night, Christmas party and our Panto trip to Glasgow 😊

1st Gargunnoch Guides

Parent Council Update

Firstly, on behalf of Gargunnoch Primary School's parents, we would like to pass on huge congratulations to Mrs Orr, our Acting Head who has now been appointed as our new permanent Head Teacher.

In October the 200 Club launched, with the first monthly prize of £25, sponsored by Touch Business Centre, being won by Pauline Evans. The 200 club has 10 prize draws of £25, each kindly sponsored by local businesses. The money raised will go towards Gargunnoch Primary School and items identified by the pupils, parents and teachers.

If you would like to buy a number, or numbers, and join the 200 Club please contact Nic Brodie – 07709 420569 nic16mar@yahoo.co.uk, alternatively any parent with children at the school can purchase numbers on your behalf through the online Parent Pay system.

A huge THANK YOU to our Prize Draw Sponsors: Touch Business Centre, Old Leckie Farm, GMC Services, Ian Young and Sons, Zetotech Forensic Investigators, Run Dog Food, Decor 9, H & A Brand Consultancy and Design Studio.

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 Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraiser and Class Representatives. Meetings are open to all those who wish to attend. The next meeting is the 20th January at 7.30pm

Parent Council: Ali Tunnah (Chairman), Alison Younger (Secretary), Grania Watson (Treasurer), Helen Haddow, Kat Hansra (P3 to 5), Nicola Brodie (Fundraiser), Jacquelyn Marshall, Aston Goundry (P1 to 3 and acting Chairman), Jacqui Sutherland (P6 to 7) and Mrs Orr.

Thank you to Ali Tunnah and Nic Brodie for the work they have done for the school. Both are stepping down from their main roles. Nic is continuing on the Parent Council, so if anyone is interested in the post of Chairman or Fundraiser Co-ordinator please contact Alison Younger on 07825 241196 alisonyounger472@btinternet.com.

We will be running a **Christmas Raffle** this year, fundraising for the school in place of the Christmas Fayre. Further details will be available soon but tickets will be available through the same system as the 200 Club.

Grania Watson

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES



BRIARLANDS FARM



- Natural play equipment & cable ride
- Farmers Den Tearoom - Homebaking
 - Indoor soft play frame
- Tractor go-karts • Giant jumping pillows
 - Farm animals
- Tractor & trailer rides round the farm (£1 per person)

Tel 01786 841309

www.briarlandsfarm.co.uk

Check website for latest information

OPEN FEBRUARY TO JANUARY

(Closed 5th January to 11th February 2022)

A great day out for the whole family

Open everyday 10.00 - 5.30pm

Find us on

Keep Gargunnoch Gorgeous!

In October's Bugle we included an article about the litterpicking equipment that Gilly Bruce purchased using a Windfarm Fund Grant. The equipment is available for anyone in the village to borrow but I neglected to include Gilly's contact details should you wish to borrow the equipment. Gilly can be reached via email at gillybruce@live.com.

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

At the time of publication the COP 26 conference is drawing to close in Glasgow. Six years ago, the Paris Agreement agreed the goal of limiting the total increase in the Earth's temperature to 1.5C. As the Prime Minister has said, COP26 needs to be a "turning point for humanity", the point at which we pull together to keep 1.5 °C in reach. The Glasgow conference signals the start of the United Kingdom's COP26 presidency. The world will be watching and expecting real progress both at the conference and implementing commitments given. In Scotland that will require real co-operation between the UK and Scottish Governments as well as all the Councils who have a vital role to play in driving the net zero agenda at a local level.

At Holyrood, I chair the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee which has been established to scrutinise the Scottish Government's policies and implementation of plans to reach net zero in Scotland by 2045 and effectively manage the warming already taking place. One of the main responsibilities of the Committee is to hold the Scottish government to account in reaching its own climate change targets. So far many have been missed including three annual climate change targets, renewable heat and recycling rate targets.

Stirling Council, along with the other Local Authorities in Scotland, has produced its own Climate and Nature Action Plan. Councils themselves are typically directly responsible for around only 2-3% of the emissions in their area. It is therefore vital that councils take bold actions to address wider emissions in policy areas such as planning and local transport for which they have responsibility. I would also urge Stirling Council to reverse their cuts to bin collections that will only undermine the Council's own climate plan now that recycling bins are only collected monthly.

I continue to support the petition, originally lodged in 2018, by the Community Council seeking improvements to the dangerous Station Road junction with the A811. Progress has been painfully slow but thanks to the efforts of local Cllrs Alistair Berrill and Jane Hutchison attempts to have the petition closed have been defeated. I have sought an update from the Council regarding their commitment to investigate in detail how improvements can be made and when a report will be back at the Council's committee for determination.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Dean
LOCKHART**
Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Mid Scotland and Fife Region



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

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

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



Andrew Anderson & Sons Funeral Directors

Est. 1969

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

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

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

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

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

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

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



Community Centre Zero Carbon Project – Update

A grant from Zero Waste Scotland had been secured to engage an expert to assess the Centre and identify possible solutions. The technical report has been completed and our next task is to secure funding and implement the recommendations.



Where we are at present

The report identified potential carbon reduction each year

Annual carbon impact		Equivalent average car miles
Current carbon emissions (tonnes CO ₂ e)	3.52	12,440
Potential carbon reduction	109%*	13,596

*Please note this is due to savings not influencing each other, so this is greater than 100% for carbon reduction, which will not occur in reality.

The actions recommended to achieve these savings include:

- replacing all the existing lights with LEDs;
- enhancing roof insulation;
- improving the current biomass boiler and hot water system; and
- introducing solar PV.

There are some grants available to pay for up to 30% of some of these works, the remainder could be funded through 8-year loans.

Some early suggestions such as replacing the existing windows with triple glazed units was not considered value for money, at this time, but is a strong recommendation when we do require to replace them. Similarly, replacing the biomass boiler with air source heat pump technology would only be applicable after the design life of the boiler had expired.

Work has already started on improving the heating system by pressurising the system so that the biomass heating now reaches every part of the building. The next big wins are likely to be the replacement of all the lighting with LED units, improved insulation and linking the hot water system to the biomass boiler. We are currently looking at putting these elements out to tender.

Given the level of investment involved it is important that we phase the works, recognising, for example, the slates on the roof would need replacing before solar panels are installed. However, we have started reducing our carbon footprint and hopefully over the next two or three years we will have the resources to achieve net zero.

Douglas Johnston, November 2021

Gargunnoch WI

This session started with a Zoom session in September and a Members slot kicked off with Janette Wilson who told us all about her working career. Kimberley Hay told us of her career change from studying Nursing and now working in banking. Janet Iffla told us all about her career as a florist and how she got started. Members got the opportunity to tell each other what they had been up to over the summer.

October saw us celebrate our 75th Anniversary with a dinner at the Riverhouse in Stirling. It seems no time since we were celebrating our 70th Anniversary at the Collesio under President Kathleen Sinclair. Thanks go to Sandra Anderson who co-ordinated the event and reminded members what they had ordered!! Anne Muirhead gave an account of how "Gargunnoch Rural" was founded and the variety of things members got involved with. Janette Wilson made the floral arrangements for the table. It was nice to see Johan Mailer who 5 weeks previously had had a hip operation, Johan is our longest serving member. Our oldest member Mamie Davies at 99 cut the cake with President Anne Christie. It was the first time members had a face to face group meeting since February 2020. There was much hilarity and lots of laughter from all the girls.

Our November meeting will be the first time for a group meeting in the Community Centre with guest Margaret Crawford who will be doing a craft session on making Christmas Gift Tags.

December will see the return of the Advent Windows following on from the success of last year bringing a bit of cheer to the village. It is hoped everyone in the village will join in with the Christmas windows and a STAR in each window will indicate their participation. It will be great to see the villagers enjoying a walk round the village celebrating the event once again.

If you wish further information on Gargunnoch WI, we meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, normally at the Community Centre. Please contact me on 07977441108 or Anne Muirhead, Secretary on 07902731512.

The WI wish each and every one in the village a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year.

Anne Christie President Gargunnoch WI

If you would like further information and to join Gargunnoch WI please contact myself Anne Christie on annechristie1958@gmail.com or Secretary Anne Muirhead on mrshamish@outlook.com

Gargunnoch WI 75th Anniversary

The meeting in October was a special one which saw 26 members celebrate the 75th year anniversary of Gargunnoch WI with a dinner at the Riverhouse in Stirling.

Members were welcomed with a celebratory glass of fizz, or a soft drink for the drivers, and this was followed by a lovely meal. It was hard to believe members had not been able to meet up for a group meeting since February 2020 but thanks to Zoom meetings they have been able to get together. There was much chat and everyone took the opportunity to catch up.

The meal ended with the cutting of the Anniversary cake and Mamie Davies, our oldest member at 99 was present to carry out this duty along with President Anne Christie. A beautiful basket of flowers was presented to Mamie. Her Honorary Membership had been presented to Mamie last November during restrictions and she brought along her certificate to allow the members the opportunity to see it.

Photos (clockwise from top right): Anniversary cake & Mamie's certificate, Mamie and Anne cutting the cake, pictures of each table. All courtesy of Anne Christie.

Anne Christie



Windfarm Fund Update

**** New email address windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org ****

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

The Windfarm Panel consider applications for funding provided to our community from the FALCK renewables Windfarm Fund. Whilst there has been a slow down in applications through the year - given the knock on of Covid for many events and activities – we are grateful that we do not 'lose' any of the funding – it carries forward and remains available for community use.



The voluntary Panel is made up of mix of community representatives and is supported with administration by the Gargunnock Development Trust. At our meeting in September we welcomed Hope Brodie, Nathan Anderton and Mike Fitches to their first meeting as new Panel members, Jackie Campbell as the new Administrator and bid a thanks and farewell to Jon Sutherland.

The following awards were made at our last meeting:

Applicant	Detail	Award
Willie Campbell	East Glen Rhododendron Planting	£250
Gargunnock Old Peoples Welfare	Christmas Vouchers	£1200

The Panel also noted that a previous award recommended to the Gargunnock Gala Committee for a new marquee would not now be used and that the monies allocated should be released back into the general fund for future applications.

Funding is available not just for groups and charities but also individuals. The Panel was interested to learn from Willie Campbell about Rhododendron species conservation areas and the role Gargunnock has in this important area. The funding awarded will be used to purchase 10 Species Rhododendrons for the East Glen (opposite entrance to Gargunnock House to the east of the village). East Glen is open to villagers all year round to walk and enjoy – though for these particular plants patience will be needed as plants may take 15 years to reach full flowering potential.

Last month we were delighted to host Falck Renewables who were in the community filming 3 of our recent grant awards: Kirk Welcome Team leaflets, Litterpicking and the Gargunnock Curling Club. The films will feed into a round up of the community projects that have been funded or part funded from Falck's wind farms all around the UK.

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 community website.

Alison Younger, November 2021

Looking for funds for your local group/class/project in Gargunnock?

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

21st February - 23rd May - 19th September

All information and application forms can be found on <https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications>



COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING 2021

This year we hope that some Community Carol Singing can go ahead but in a different format. Our plan is to sing Christmas Carols and songs in the Community Centre gardens from 7pm to 8pm only. It will most likely be on the evening of Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th December, dependant on the weather forecast. This is totally weather dependant so it won't go ahead if it's a bad week. If we can do it then look out for an announcement on Facebook and the Village Notice Board and in the Inn.

If we can do it and you want to come along and listen, then wear your warmest gear, Christmas hats, antlers, fairy lights, etc and bring a torch plus a chair if you think you might need to sit down. Covid restrictions will still apply so you need to remember 1 metre spacing.

No charity collection will be taken but remember to donate to the Village Christmas Card organised by Jane Milne.

Helen Rowell

Gargunnoch Community Trust AGM Report

The Trust held its 2020/21 AGM on 21 October at the Community Centre. The fact that we could meet face to face rather than via Zoom, as was the case last year was a real bonus. It provided the opportunity for those in attendance to hear about the work of the Trust and to engage in an excellent discussion about future projects.

The meeting heard from various trustees about the progress being made across various areas. These included the Gargunnoch to Stirling active travel route and the associated proposal to link this project up with the plans of neighbouring communities to create the Kings Highway which would see a route being developed to connect Stirling all the way to Dumbarton. The power of work that the Trust paths sub-group has put into this project was recently acknowledged by the local MP who is now actively supporting this proposal through an online petition. The meeting was also given a helpful update on the progress being made with the local paths around the village, including an application to the Scottish Government for funding under the Improving Public Access scheme to upgrade the Beeches path. We hope to hear the outcome of that in December.

Plans for making the Community Centre as carbon neutral as possible over the next few years were explained while an expert report, funded by Zero Waste Scotland, has recently been completed and sets out a series of detailed recommendations as to how this might be achieved. Quotes are now being sought to start the phased works once funding will be secured.

Progress with the Glebe Park, particularly the success of the previous planting and development of the Bee keeping sub group were also featured. There was a wide ranging discussion about the proposal to develop a wildlife pond in the park to further develop its biodiversity and as an outdoor educational resource for the village.

The meeting also heard about the wide range of projects supported by the Windfarm Fund Panel over the year and the



current interim arrangements the trustees have made to continue to publish the Bugle. There is still a vacancy for someone to take on the paid role of compiling the Bugle so if you are interested please get in touch with one of the trustees.

The AGM also considered the current financial position of the Trust, noting that the Business Interruption grant had helped bridge the gap in income that had been lost during the year as a consequence of activities having been curtailed by the Scottish Government's Covid restrictions.

Finally, four existing trustees/directors stood down during the year and they were all thanked for their contributions. Three new ones were appointed by the meeting. So the full list of directors/trustees for the coming year is: Jonathan Park, Douglas King, Jill Patrick, Gill Bell, Geoff Peart, Gavin Fleming, Mairi Christie, Stuart Ogg, Crawford Gordon, Chris Blacklock and Steve Barnet. The Trust would like to formally welcome Crawford, Chris and Steve and look forward to working with them. At its next meeting the Trust will appoint the main office bearers.

Stuart Ogg, November 2021



The next issue of The Bugle will be published in early March 2022. If you have any pictures, articles, letters, puzzles, or adverts that you would like to be included please submit them to gargunnochbugle@gmail.com by the 14th February 2022.

Hamish's Kindling

Hamish has an abundance of kindling available. If you would like some now that the nights are getting a wee bit cooler, then please get in touch.

£4 per bag with all proceeds going to Erskine charity.
Phone on 01786 860657, or contact Seonaid Muirhead on Facebook.



Gargunnock curling club

established 1790

Gargunnock's curlers are back on the ice and looking great in their new tops! A windfarm grant funded the new gear plus two coaching sessions run in September and some basic equipment that the club is able to loan to beginners.

The first club competition of the season, The Bugle, is now well underway with the team skipped by Matt Stevenson currently at the top of the table. The Doubles event will run in December, followed The Drum in the new year.

Dates for your diary:

- We will be running a Christmas Bonspiel on **Sunday 19th December 6pm** at the Peak. This event is open to anyone to come along and have a go for free!
- On **Friday 28th January at 7.30pm** we will have another Pub Quiz at the Gargunnock Inn led by Quizmaster Rab Hay. Please come along for a fun night and help raise funds for the club.

For more information or to join us for Sunday evening curling please contact Pauline gargunnockcurlingclub@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Good Curling!



Gala 2022—Can you help?

The Gargunnock Gala is a highlight in the village calendar – loved by young and old alike. This is the time of year that the Gala Committee get together and start to plan for next June's gala. As there is currently no Gala Committee, volunteers are needed in order for Gala 2022 to go ahead. Previous committee member Kimberly Hay is happy to share her wisdom with the new committee. E mail - kimberley.sinclair@yahoo.co.uk

GARGUNNOCK'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD 2021

Gargunnoch's 'Alternative Christmas Card' has raised over £18,000 for various charities over the years and this year our chosen organisation is Food Train.

This fantastic charity helps make life easier for local vulnerable older people, providing vital services to those who are no longer able to manage independently - through ill health, frailty or disability. It makes hundreds of deliveries every week, ensuring those most in need have access to fresh groceries. Teams of dedicated local volunteers also go that extra mile by helping with household jobs, delivering books through the library service and providing much-needed friendly social contact and meals through Meal Makers and befriending services.

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 2022. The easiest way to donate is online – and do remember when you leave your message on the online page, or on your note through my door if you prefer to donate by cash, to include all of the names you'd like mentioned on the Village Christmas Card.

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

HOW TO DONATE:

- Online: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gargunnochxmascard21>

(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)

NO CHEQUES PLEASE

Jane Milne

GARGUNNOCK PARISH CHURCH

Remembrance Service: See opposite page

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! Some COVID protocol is still in place and therefore more use is made of the Galleries within the Kirk. Pre-registration for Services allows us to be aware of the need to prepare the galleries. Contact the Session Clerk on 01786 860321 and leave a message.

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

On **Sunday 28th November, the First Sunday of Advent**, Douglas will lead Worship.

On **Sunday 12th December, the Third Sunday of Advent**, Val Rose, our Interim Moderator will conduct the service.

On **Sunday 19th December** at 10.30am there will be an **Advent Family Service** telling the real story of Christmas in a way that everyone can understand. This will be led by Ian Roy.

Friday 24th December : 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.

On **Sunday 26th December** our three local congregations join together **to continue the celebration of Christmas** We will meet in **Kincardine-in-Menteith Church at 10.00am**

On **Sunday 2nd January** at 10.30am we will give thanks for 2021 and seek God's blessing for 2022.

Kincardine-in-Menteith is hosting an **Evening Music Concert featuring Students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Bryony MacGregor** on **Thursday 2nd Dec at 7.00pm**

You are asked to **request a ticket online** and you **pay what you can for it**. The tickets are limited so you are asked to apply early.

The Email address for tickets is **blair.drummond.concert@gmail.com**

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

God's peace to you all!

Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk, November 2021

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN GARGUNNOCK2021

On Sunday 14th November a memorial service led by Ian Roy was held at the Church when we remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. During the service Kimberley Hay laid a Poppy wreath at the Village War Memorial, within the church, on behalf of the Residents of the village.

Following the service, the congregation followed the local Guides and made their way down to the Square where there was a short service of remembrance. Wreaths were laid, firstly by Natalie Kane and then by Allister McLean. Natalie who has had 20 year's army service, represented Gargunnoch WI. Allister is currently half way through his term of service, and his wreath was gifted by Stirling Council on behalf of the village. Both Natalie and Kimberley represented Gargunnoch Women's Institute who are celebrating their 75th Year.

Pictures: Top left—The Village War Memorial and Poppy wreath, in the Church;

Top-right—close-up of the wreaths;

Bottom— Natalie Kane & Allister McLean next to the wreaths laid in the square;



Down at the farm—update from Old Leckie

Along at Old Leckie we are grateful for the recent clock change – a welcome backlight to the morning rounds. The trees have definitely turned, the daily leaf fall blocking any available gutter, drain or channel necessitating a regular cycle of clearance.

The cattle are now mostly in the sheds, the pregnant autumn calvers making sure we are paying close attention so as not to miss tell tale signs of early labour. Only the highlanders and the young stock remain out – the hairy ones on the higher ground towards the hill and the younger cattle still rotating around the Big Field to the west and its rotational grazing set up.

Whilst all around us there are signs that autumn is beginning to wane into winter dormancy we are already looking towards the start of new life next spring with the male sheep, or Tups, getting geared up for their

annual outing with our breeding sheep. Keep an eye open as you are out and about for these proud creatures strutting their stuff around their hareems.

Elsewhere life goes on much the same on the farm through the winter - the pigs up in the woods are growing by the day, and the Leckie Layers will lay right through the winter period – albeit they may congregate a bit more around the door rather than head out to battle the winds and rain on inclement days.

With private butchery difficult to programme in the run up to Christmas we have made sure our freezers are full to bursting with enough of our highland beef, outdoor reared pork and lamb to see our customers (and us!) through to the new year. Our online shop is working well and we're continuing to supply NeighbourFood initiative in Stirling

with our meat. We totally get that doing the weekly shop is a chore for many so it's been great to see some of our customers using the website to source regular amounts of their household meat - <https://shop.oldleckie.co.uk> – we are always trying to find ways to help buying local become easier so let me know if you have any ideas!

As we head into Christmas we would like to thank all our customers for their support through this year – and for all the many warm wishes we received when we won our UK Farmers Weekly Award last month. It's been quite a year.

May your festive season be filled with lots of love, laughter and local food.

Alison Younger, November 2021



Free range eggs
Outdoor Reared Pork
Leckie Lamb
Highland Beef
Gift vouchers

Home deliveries or on farm pick up

Proud to care sustainably for our animals, and our environment, so that we can offer you the very best in fresh, local produce

<https://shop.oldleckie.co.uk>
01786 860768
info@oldleckie.co.uk

The Bugle

Is a free community Newsletter published five times a year by Gargunnoch Community Trust Ltd. Its aim is to provide news, views, information, and entertainment for the residents and friends of Gargunnoch and the surrounding area.

Editor:

gargunnochbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue

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

14 February 2022.

We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted.

Contributions will be attributed to the author.

However, at the Editor's discretion, a contribution may be printed anonymously but the author's name, address, and phone number must be supplied to the Editor.



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

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

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

Distribution:

The Bugle is distributed to more than 336 homes in the village by volunteers (thank you) and is also available on the village website (www.gargunnoch.org).

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

Compliments or Complaints:

Contact the Trust at gargunnochtrust@gmail.com

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