



The Bugle

**Magazine for Gargunnock
and the surrounding area**

**Issue 52
June 2018**

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Faith in Farming - The future looks good

This year's **Faith in Farming** event at Briarlands arranged through the Kirk, saw more than 120 folk enjoying three great speakers telling of how they are doing a traditional job in a new way. Rebecca McEwan of Arnprior Farm was first up, explaining how as well as still tending sheep, the farm launched "Arnprior Pumpkins" several years ago and now grows 6000 pumpkins over the summer to sell to enthusiastic Halloween revellers who pick their own. "Lambing-live" has enabled families to visit the farm during the Spring to



discover their food comes from, and their latest venture will be glamping-pods complete with swimming pool. Visiting us from Ayrshire, Rev Chris Blackshaw explained why the Church of Scotland appointed a minister to the farming community and how that works as he supports farming families and those involved in the industry through home visits and organising support through Ayr Mart. As well as being a minister, Chris and his wife run a small farm in Cumbria. (Recently Chris was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland's Out of Doors, and presenters suggested that having a chaplain in every Mart would be a great idea.)

Bob Gray farms South Glassingall Farm near Dunblane, and toured the world with the Nuffield Trust. He revealed how farmers across the globe from Indonesia to Israel, were using technology and science to supply increasing food demand. Members of the RHET choir sang songs old and new, and the gathering enjoyed the worship and 'the great farm implement photo-quiz'. This was the fourth Faith in Farming event to celebrate our agricultural life, and we hope it won't be the last.

Huge thanks go to the organising committee, Briarlands for their hospitality, and to all who participated.

Rev. Andy



The Rev's last Rant !

It'll be exactly seven years in June, since Fiona and I arrived and began living and working amongst you here in Gargunnock, and we have enjoyed these years, but now is the time for us to move on in life. Retirement beckons! During these years we have had the privilege of walking with you on some pretty hard journeys, and celebrating great family & community events. You also allowed us to get involved in the life of this place and people – your Primary School, the Community Centre, the Gala , the Inn. As we have done so, we've formed lasting and valued friendships, (and not just with kirk-folk), and for all of this we will be forever grateful, both to you and to God.

The next stage of your local church's life is uncertain at present as the national church wrestles with the difficulty of where to place a decreasing number of available ministers; so I'm glad to tell you that Rev Lynne Mack will continue to care for folk and take a lead in shaping the kirk's future here. Your current church building is in good order and you need to learn to use it more ...and for events other than Sunday worship! - 'Use it or lose it!'

Change is inevitable, beneficial and necessary. This is not a new, unknown experience, and if the next phase seems unclear, then each of us needs to help in shaping that future in order to ensure that those things we value, such as Christian care and compassion, worship opportunities and community cohesion continue, albeit in a slightly different form, or space. It's time for folk to step-up, not step away.

Ministers come and go, but God is always present and available for consultation! Fiona and I thank you for being a welcoming community that will hold a special place in our hearts, and I'm pretty sure you'll be welcoming us back occasionally.

Yours in Christ

Your friends

Rev. Andy & Fiona



Andy's last Sunday worship with the three Church of Scotland congregations will be on Sunday 24th June 2018, at 10.00am in Kincardine in Menteith Church where we'll be joined by folk from there and Doune. It'll be followed by 'Brunch' in the Blair Drummond Community Hall.

Village Pig Race

On the 21st of April, our Community Centre played host to the eagerly anticipated 'Pig Race' evening for a third successive year. This fundraising event, on behalf of the Gargunnock After School Club, was again a great success, proving popular among locals and visiting guests. Compere Nigel kept us informed of which imaginatively named 'curly tail' was leading....be it Luke Stywalker, Piggy Stardust or Uswine Bolt among many others.

The GASC Board of Trustees would like to thank all those who provided support before, during and after the event. In particular, Alison Younger for donating Leckie pork, Ali Tunnah for making her mouth-watering pulled pork rolls and Sam Hart for rounding off the evening with some music. Thanks also to the village shop and the Gargunnock Inn for their donations and support. A great effort by Committee members (you know who you are) and a good turnout resulted in raising over £1000 for GASC. We endeavor to keep our fees low by organising fundraisers like the Pig Race, so a huge thank you to all.



The GASC Board of Trustees

Gargunnock Community Trust and Community Council Announcements

Glebe Land Technical Report

In November 2017 the Gargunnock Community Trust commissioned a technical survey of the ground in Trust ownership at the Glebe with the support of a grant from the Windfarm fund. The objective of the study was to identify if there were any problems with the site that would prevent or inhibit any use of the ground in future. To this end we asked the consultants to carry out desk research that would identify:

- past uses of site and implications for future development;
- utilities way-leaves;
- risk factors for each potential use;
- mitigation strategies for each potential use;
- indicative costs of mitigation.

As background information for the study the consultants were advised that in February/March 2017 the Gargunnock Community Trust had conducted a survey of residents to establish the use preferences for the site. The results of the survey were as follows:

Categories	Count of Category	
Garden	76	45%
Housing	32	19%
Recreational	62	36%
Grand Total	170	100%

Garden use would include:

- A wildlife garden & pond;
- Orchard; and
- Area for vegetables.

Housing use would be for around 12 single or two storey dwellings for affordable rent with front and back gardens covering about one third of the site, location dependent on ground conditions.

Recreational use would include:

- Grassed area;
- Access paths to Gargunnock estate;
- Picnic area;
- Children's play; and
- Multi purpose sports pitch.

The detailed report is over 100 pages long but the results have indicated that the site is considered to be a low risk given the historical use. The risk of underlying ground water and nearby controlled water is low. In the event of re-development, the risk to public and worker safety is assessed as low due to the potential presence of unknown contaminants.

It is unlikely that made up ground or other sources of ground gas emissions will be present on the site and as a result elevated ground gas concentrations are not expected.

Apart from Horsetail there is no other invasive vegetation.

Also, based on the available information standard strip foundations for any structure is unlikely to be feasible therefore ground improvement techniques such as vibro or piling maybe required.

Therefore, the overall conclusion from the study is that we can develop a wide range of options for the site but anything that would require a structure could be expensive.

Windfarm Panel Meeting



The latest meeting of the Windfarm Fund Panel took place on Monday 30th April. There were three new applications before the Panel. Forth Valley Orienteers [FVO] sought £450 to produce an orienteering map for Gargunnock with a view to encouraging local residents to get involved in the sport. The Panel were prepared to support this on the basis that the map was available to village residents and that FVO make presentations to the Primary School and other village groups such as the Guides. The Community Trust considered that more information was required before any grant could be awarded. The Gargunnock Branch of the SWI sought a contribution of £300 towards an educational trip to Dumfries House to cover the cost of the transport. This was supported as over half of the costs were being met by SWI members. Finally, there was an application from Gargunnock Show for Mobile Bluetooth Speakers to improve the sound system at the show, but these would also be available to other groups such as the Gala. The Panel indicated that they had already supported an application to investigate improvements to the sound system at the Community Centre for the Gala Committee and felt that this idea should be incorporated in that technical appraisal. The next meeting of the Panel is not until September so there is plenty of time for groups to come forward with more projects of benefit to the village.

Application details can be found at www.gargunnock.org.

Gargunnock Community Trust AGM

19th June 2018.

7.30pm at the Community Centre.

The Gargunnock Community Trust will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19th June at the Community Centre. The meeting will be a chance to hear more about the activities of the Trust over the past year including the establishment of the Wind Farm Fund and the survey carried on the Glebe Land to help assess options for its use in the future.

The AGM also offers an opportunity for villagers to join as members and put themselves forward to become members of the Board.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Trust – membership is open to anyone who resides in the village of Gargunnock - an application form can be found on the Gargunnock website www.gargunnock.org. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member then please get in touch with **Iain Gulland** at iain.gulland@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events at the Community Centre

Diary of events and how to book the Community Centre can be found at www.gargunnock.org

WANTED

Community Councillors

The Community Council is a voluntary body set up by statute by the Local Authority to act on behalf of the village. It is a vital link between the village and Stirling Council, which MUST consult the Community Council on various important issues which have a direct effect on the village. Without this link, the village loses this contact and would cease to have any knowledge of, or say, in anything Stirling Council may be planning.

A few of the current Community Councillors have served for a number of years and have indicated their desire to retire from service. So.....
NEW MEMBERS are needed.

Without them the Community Council WILL fold and this would prove disastrous.

The AGM will be held on 25th June at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

PLEASE come along and find out more of what is involved and seriously consider the part YOU could play in the wellbeing of the village.



The Gargunnock Songsters

The Gargunnock Songsters would like to thank everyone who attended their recent Spring Show. This annual event is something the Songsters look forward to as it is always such a lovely occasion and this year was no exception. For the second year we gave a matinee performance as well as one in the evening. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did and we hope to see you all again next year...if not before! On the subject of next year, we are excited to announce that the Songsters will be putting on a joint concert with the Brightons Praise Group. This will be a charity event to be held in the Albert Hall (Stirling!), so put the date in your diary Friday 3rd May 2019!

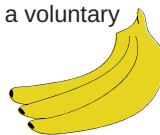
The Songsters practice on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Primary School, Gargunnock. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining or booking the Gargunnock Songsters and would like further information please visit our website at gargunnocksor or contact Lorna Rodger on 07733227965.

Breakfast Club Update

Can you spare 10 minutes a week???????????

Gargunnock Primary School Breakfast Club urgently need a new coordinator after the summer break. You do not need to attend Breakfast Club, just reconcile a couple of sheets and oversee the rota which is currently already organised. This is a voluntary position but vital to the operation of this service.

Contact Carol at carolmac2709@gmail.com



Gargunnock Gargoyles

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THIS VILLAGE!

A few years ago, I got dropped off in The Square after a performance and walked home along Leckie Road quite the thing, looking like a medieval wench! Now you might have thought that was a strange sight in a rural Scottish village but not in Gargunnock, because only in Gargunnock could I be upstaged by a woman wheeling a full size human skeleton, on a stand, up Bennett's Way and along the road, then 2 men carrying a large sofa along the middle of the road!

Anyway, the Gargoyles of Gargunnock are out and about again this summer as follows:

TRAQUAIR MEDIEVAL FAYRE

Saturday May 26th and Sunday 27th

KINNEIL HOUSE OPEN DAY

August 26th Sunday, 12 to 4pm

HOLY RUDE OPEN DOORS WEEKEND

September 16th Sunday 1.30 to 3.30pm

CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY

September 22nd Saturday, probably 3pm to 5pm

If you are involved with a charity that you would like us to support, then please get in touch via our website or call 860630 and if we can fit it in, we will!

<http://www.spanglefish.com/TheGargoyles/index.asp>

Council Food Waste Bags

Having tied a green bag to the brown bin to get more none were left.

I phoned the council only to be told that the only way to get replacements is to go to a library. So I went to the Cambusbarron one.

The person there was very helpful. They take your name and address, how many rolls you want. I don't know if the mobile library will have them. As the council use a spread sheet to keep a count on how many rolls each person takes in a year (6 per household). I don't know if the shop or community centre would be able to do this. So where do all the elderly people in the village who do not have access get theirs? Dorothy Burman

Dear Editor,

As a comparatively new(16 years and counting) resident I confess to have been quite happy to leave the running of the village to the Community Council, and I do feel that we all probably have taken their efforts for granted.

However when I decided to attend the April meeting I was shocked and disappointed to find that due to non attendance for no doubt good reasons by Community Council members the meeting could not be officially constituted and therefore important business could not be discussed.

I did not realise that Stirling Council members and their official representative turned up for these meetings, not a good impression to leave them with that matters such as:

Planning Leckie estate

Traffic Calming Measures

Upkeep of the Cemetery

Play area in Provost Park

State of Drains on McNeil Crescent and Main St

Proposed Cycle Super Highway

Beeches path upgrade

Replacement of Bus Shelter at Meiklewood

Amongst other matters that could not be discussed/actions.

We should not just expect that those who have served the village on the Community Council will continue to do so . I do believe that new members would be welcomed and indeed are probably required to keep and improve the amenities that we probably all take for granted.

The AGM is on 25th June please put the date in your diary and get involved.

David King.



REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene

Sunday 10th June 2018

9.30am–5pm

Cowie Community Centre, Cowie, FK7 7BL

REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene is a practical course designed to give individuals a basic knowledge and understanding of the causes of food poisoning, measures for prevention and the legal aspects of food hygiene in Scotland.

Participants will also have the opportunity to complete a short exam as part of the course. Upon successful completion of the exam, participants will be awarded a Certificate in Elementary Food Hygiene.

By the end of the session participants will have an awareness of: Food Hygiene, Food Pests, Bacteria, Food Premises, Equipment & Utensils, FoodPoisoning Cleaning & Disinfection, Personal Hygiene and Food Hygiene Law.

Please note: Tea/Coffee will be provided but participants will be expected to bring their own lunch

This course is aimed at members of Community Groups

Please note booking is essential, to book please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-stronger-communities-tickets-29606216992>

Or 01786 233076 or communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk

Please include in your email your group's name, contact person and their telephone number

If you need help or this information supplied in an alternative format please call 01786 404040



Playgroup and Toddlers

Playgroup & Toddlers have had a fantastic year; Gargunnock seems to be experiencing a baby boom with an influx of young families moving into the village and existing ones expanding in numbers. Our toddler sessions have been especially busy with babies abound and some of our seasoned toddlers, growing up way too fast, have now joined playgroup giving the numbers a boost.

Pauline is a brilliant addition to the playgroup team, having taken over as playleader from Jane at the start of the new school year. Already at the helm of GASC, she has come to the role with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm and is a familiar face for some of our little ones moving on to school next year.

On that note, we are sadly saying goodbye to Zoe and Nairn starting school in the Autumn but wish them all the very best on their new adventure and know the beauty of our community is that there are plenty of opportunities to catch up with them again. The Woodland Play grant of close to £10k has now been all spent on much needed equipment and training to facilitate our woodland play sessions at Gargunnock House. This initiative has proved to be a great success and it's magical to see such exhausted, muddy-faced fun being had as their confidence and connection to nature grows.

We are also grateful for the grant from the Community Windfarm Fund which has helped provide much needed resources.

AGM Tuesday 19th June Gargunnock Inn at 7.30pm

All welcome; please come and join us. It's a brilliant opportunity to meet other parents in the village, gain a better understanding of what it takes for playgroup to run and help contribute ideas to this amazing service we can provide for our children. Pauline will be doing a short presentation about what playgroup have been up to this year too!

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved in supporting playgroup and toddlers over the past year, especially Pauline, Louisa and Morna without whose energy, commitment and patience it wouldn't be possible.

Thanks to our fab team of parents, grandparents, friends and committee members for keeping the cogs turning. Special thanks too to Leighton Rolley for donating the proceeds from his event Underwater Exploration, Shipwrecks and Oceanography held on 27th April; who knew we had such an interesting adventurer in our midst? For anyone interested in playgroup, our sessions are held during term time at the Community Centre on Mondays and Thursdays 0900-1130. Woodland play sessions will be on the first full week of the month (Mondays and Thursdays) 0915-1130 in the grounds of Gargunnock House. The toddlers group meets on Wednesday mornings 1000-1130 at the Community Centre and runs throughout the year including school holidays.

Brownies

Gargunnock Brownies would like to say thank you to everyone who donated buttons after our appeal in the last Bugle.

We made some lovely button bowls and have plenty of spare buttons for another craft later on this year.



Rainbows

Shona and Carol would like to say farewell and thanks for all the fun to all the little Rainbows past and present as the unit closes on the 13th June 2018.

Rainbows has been operating in Gargunnock for 15 years, originally set up by Nicola Young and Helen Dingley. Shona and Carol have been volunteering for the last 4 years. Sadly it will close after the annual Sausage Sizzle at Blair Drummond Safari Park as no one from any of the affected villages has come forward to take over the running of this popular group for girls aged 5-7 years.

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Thank you for your warm
welcome and support
Alistair and Violet

The Gargunnock Walking Group

The Gargunnock Walking Group has continued with its program of interesting and varied walks around the local area as well as further afield. Walks are usually accompanied by a refreshment taken in a local eating place.

An easy walk was to Royal Cottage on the south side of Loch Katrine from Stronachlachar in fine weather with the last of the winter snow on the mountain tops and was followed by an excellent lunch in the café at Stronachlachar. This was followed by a walk to in Glen Kinglas to Abyssinia Bothy where Pete Rowell welcomed us and provided hot drinks. This was most welcome as most walkers ended up with wet feet as they crossed the burn to get to the Bothy.

The most recent walk was a train trip to Corrour station and a walk round Loch Ossian. The occasional heavy showers were more than compensated for by the excellent cuisine at the Corrour Station Restaurant. This walk was suggested by Willie Campbell, the last Head Gardener at Gargunnock House and world renowned expert on Rhododendrons. The area around Corrour Lodge is renowned for its Rhododendrons and he was able to provide his expert opinion on the blooms.

The next two walks are on 24th May and 7th June when we will climb Conic Hill and walk in Menstrie Glen.

The walk at the end of June will be our most ambitious so far when a number of the fitter members are to walk through the Lairig Ghru. This is the mountain pass through the Cairngorms between Deeside at Linn of Dee and Speyside at Glenmore. At a distance of nineteen miles and an ascent to over two thousand five hundred feet this is a major excursion. We hope to have a further report on this in the next Bugle. Further walks will be on 12th July, 26th July, 9th August and 23rd August. As usual these are subject to the weather, but we have not had any problems so far!

If you are interested in participating in the walks, call me on 01786 860608 or drop me an email to edmond.mansion@btinternet.com

Edmond Mansion



Walking Group at Loch Ossian



Where are the trains?
Is our one on time?
Corrour Station



Walking Group at Old Kilmadock
on the banks of the River Teith

Defibrillator Course

A defibrillator/CPR course was successfully completed on 22nd April at the Community Centre. Although only five villagers attended, this did allow each to receive an intensive training, particularly in up-to-date techniques in CPR. Whilst training was also given on the defibrillator it is a device which itself explains each stage in operation and the administering of CPR is regarded as of fundamental importance. It would be to the advantage of the Village to have more people, whatever age, trained in this technique so we would like to see more volunteers come forward. I shall be happy to arrange a further course for anyone interested so please let me know if you are. The staff from Trossachs Search and Rescue are a friendly bunch and excellent instructors - we are indeed most fortunate to have them in the area.

Contact - Charlie Fitches tel. 01786 860440 email c.fitches@btopenworld.com



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Gargunnock Flower Show Annual Quiz

The annual Gargunnock Flower Show Quiz took place on Friday 16 March in the Community Centre. This is an important night for us without which financing the Gargunnock Flower Show would be difficult. Thanks for such great support!

The large turnout was ably kept in order by Quizmaster Willie Campbell (invited back again by popular demand!) The quiz was compiled by our talented team of Robert and Liz Petrie – well done yet again for such entertaining and tricky questions.

After ten rounds the scores were totted up and the results are as follows:

Booby Prize:

Barbara Barr, Douglas Barr, Aileen Clarke and Margaret Gibson

Runners-Up:

John MacDonald, Sandra MacDonald, Stephen MacDonald and Joan More

Winners:

Sandra Anderson, Janet Iffla, Anne Muirhead and Liz Patterson

Thanks again to Willie, Robert, Liz and to everyone who donated the very generous selection of raffle prizes.

See you again next year!

Sandra Anderson



GARGUNNOCK GALA DAY - SATURDAY 16TH JUNE

A wonderful day for all, with a fancy dress parade, tea & cakes, stalls, BBQ, evening entertainment and more! Look out for the Flyer for more details. If you can help on the day or make a donation please contact Fiona James 07753139477 or Stevie Buchanan 07825768771

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE FROM 7PM IN THE PARK

This year we are re-introducing some pre-gala fun with a Kids v's Adults football game and the Tug 'o War competition open to all so please come along and join in the games or support your friends and family.

A Fond Farewell to the Rev.

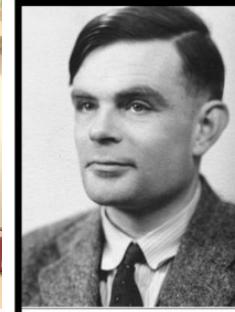
Whilst there is some sadness that Rev Andy is retiring to adventures new, there are many such good memories to retain. We will all miss that great smile, eagerness to support and to be enthusiastically involved. There are a couple of standout fond memories I wish to share. The first is when a number of years ago the village experienced a 'flash flood' event where one of the homes in the Square was flooded, Andy reacting to comments that the north end of Station Road was flooded, sprinted down Station Road passed the school to our house to check that we were not affected. It reminded me of 'Chariots of Fire', it seemed to me that Andy was running in slow motion with the stunning Vangelis sound track resounding in my ears. Such is the mark of the man, his concern for his fellow villagers.

The second was on one of our excursions to Murrayfield to watch Scotland in action against Australia. After the match, we walked back into Edinburgh centre for another refreshment, before heading for the train home. When we arrived at the pub we realised we had lost Andy in the crowd. To this day, Marshall Dallas, Duncan Leask, Brian Crawford and I hang our heads in shame. Although, we still believe it was Brian's fault.

I would on behalf of all Andy and Fiona's friends and I am sure I speak for everyone in the village who has met them, wish them both a peaceful, happy and long retirement. I don't know of Andy and Fiona's future plans, however I do believe they will both discover new exciting exploits to undertake in their latest journey.

"Today, I close the door to my past... Open the door to the future, take a deep breath and step on through to start the next chapter in my life".

Lovat MacGregor



Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things that no-one can imagine

Alan Turing

WANTED

your old computers

The Turing Trust is a charity which mends and sends second-hand computers to schools in Africa, including the one that my school partners.

If you have a computer that no longer works or you do not use, the Turing Trust would be glad to receive it.

Please give me a ring and I can collect it.

07950407875 or 01786860629

Thanks, Calvin Clarke



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Gargunnock Primary School calls out for votes to bag a share of Tesco's bag fund

Gargunnock Primary School is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores awarded to local community projects. Greenspace Scotland is working with Groundwork to provide support to communities in Scotland.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they think should take away the top grant.

Gargunnock Primary School is one of the groups on the shortlist.

Outdoor Learning Zone (OLZ)

At Gargunnock Primary School it is our aim to provide a highly engaging and motivational place for children to learn and play. We are passionate about encouraging our children to be inquisitive, ask questions and solve problems through hands on investigation and discovery. It is our wish for our children to be ambitious for themselves, applying learned skills in real and practical contexts, allowing them to build their knowledge, skills, understanding and confidence across our Curriculum for Excellence.

"I'm looking forward to having more fresh air whilst I am learning more about the environment we live in. I've really enjoyed being part of the Grounds Group to work on this project." Naomi P6

"I want everyone to be able to use it every day for anything they want! It will help all the children of Gargunnock learn different things, which you can't always do in an indoor classroom!" Salma P6

"I enjoyed when we got to make models of the OLZ and I'm really looking forward to it. I want it to have lots of building things and balls. We can even use it for bird watching!"

Ruairi P3

Voting is open in all Tesco stores throughout May and June. Customers will cast their vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop. The specific Tesco stores are Bridge of Allan and Stirling.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered over £43 million to more than 10,000 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups every time they shop. Every other month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco's regions will be awarded funding.

Tony McElroy, Tesco's Head of Communications in Scotland, said:

"We are absolutely delighted to open the voting for March and April. There are some fantastic projects on the shortlists and we can't wait to see these come to life in hundreds of communities."

Emma Halliday, Community Enabler Coordinator at greenspace Scotland, said:

"We've been thrilled to see the diversity of projects that have applied for funding, ranging from outdoor classrooms, sports facilities, community gardens, play areas and everything in between."

"We're looking forward to learning the results of the customer vote and then supporting each group to bring their project to life."

Funding is available to community groups and charities looking to fund local projects that bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

Tracy McPeddie - Gargunnock Primary School Treasurer



Stirling Members' Centre

Supporting the National Trust for Scotland
(Charity Number SC 025499)

Sandy and Margaret Moreland, Joint Secretaries

Tel: 01259 761700

Email: stirlingnts@gmail.com

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2018

All outings start from Forthside Car Park near Gabe's Diner (Timings are approximate)

Thursday 31st May 2018 Depart 1.20pm Return 4.40pm

Kilsyth Gardens (Organiser Donald Way)

Wednesday 13th June 2018 Depart 1.10pm Return 4.40pm

Queensferry Centre & Crossing (Organiser Donald Way)

Thursday 20th September 2018 Depart 10.15am Return 6.30pm

Pitlochry Theatre "Cabaret" (Organisers Sandy & Margaret Moreland)

Public Transport

Despite painting the exteriors, the interiors of our buses have not improved. First Midland Bluebird have admitted that they underestimated the cost of refurbishing the interiors of the five Balfron Discovery Buses. They have been overwhelmed with the continual problem of faulty heating and water ingress. Coming into the summer months heating may not be such an issue but please continue to report to the driver any issues that do affect your trip especially water ingress and dirty buses.

You can also contact First anonymously via their "Rant and Rave" forum or contact Bus Users Scotland on **0300 111 0001**

enquiries@bususers.org. The C12/C12A Services are funded by the Council and I would urge you to also alert their transport department as quality of service is taken into account when tendering a contract. If we don't report these issues they assume all is well. Please note the Balfron Depot number for lost property or other local issues is **01360 440920**.

A review is taking place into the evening services via Cambusbarron. If this route is changed it will cut the journey time for people who wish to travel to and from Stirling and we hope this would also include a return to the Dumbarton Road stops. We also hope this will encourage more passengers to use the early evening Pilot service to Stirling C12A on a Friday/Saturday evening 18.50 in Gargunnock.

These buses will not be shown on your current timetable but leaflets are available at the bus station. Please note: the 17:00 B10 bus from Glasgow connects to this service at Balfron and will take you straight through Gargunnock. At present this Pilot has been extended until August 2018 so please try to support it.

We still have no public transport on the B12 route on a Sunday. All Councillors and Community Councils have been contacted and asked to pursue this. Transport officials query the need for a Sunday service assuming everyone has access to either a car or a lift. If you or anyone you know will benefit from this service please contact the Council so that this matter can be moved up their agenda. This is not just a Gargunnock issue there are people in all the western villages without transport who cannot access any services including hospitals on a Sunday.

Valerie Brand



Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

The Scottish Parliament
Parlament na h-Alba

Please feel free to contact me
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