

The Bugle

Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

Issue 58
September 2019

www.gargunnock.org



Gargunnock Gala AGM

The current Gala Committee will be holding its AGM at 7.30 on Friday 4th October in the Gargunnock Inn.

For various reasons, the current committee are unable to continue in their roles, so we are looking for a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as ordinary members.

The Gargunnock Gala is a long-standing annual village tradition and it would be great to get the ideas of a new team in shaping next year's event. Please come along and find out how you can help - the more people who can offer help the easier it will be for everyone. It's a fabulous and rewarding event to work on, so please volunteer if you can!



Gargunnock Gala 2019

The Gargunnock Gala 2019 was another fabulous day out for the whole family. The rain held off for most of the day and everyone had a great time enjoying the activities and stalls.

There were some fantastic costumes on this year's 'Heroes' theme - chocolates, superheroes aplenty as well as a fantastic mix of real life heroes including Santa and Rudolph!

This year's parade was led by the excellent Balaklava Pipes and Drums followed by Gala Queen, Salma Sheikh and Laird, Angus Park, driven in style in their vintage vehicles. The crowning of the Queen and Laird took place in the Community Centre field with Salma being presented with the Moira McPhate commemorative rose bowl and Angus with the Laird's quach.

Then it was time for the stalls to open for all. The children enjoyed our storyteller and face painter and the myriad other stalls - glitter tattoos and nails, coconut shy, book stall, bottle stall, virtual reality game, craft tent, tombola, silent disco and even a competition to see how many pants they could put on in a minute!

The tea room and BBQ were as delicious and popular as ever with delicious desserts on offer for those with room left in their tummies! All washed down with a drink from the bar.

Next was the highly anticipated Gargunnock's Got Talent show - and what a lot of talent there is in the village. We were treated to singing, dancing, acrobatics, comedy sketches and musical talent - a wonderful display from everyone. Congratulations to all the winners.

Finally everyone rocked the night away to popular band Heavy Load, with just a small break for stovies from the Gargunnock Inn.

Gargunnock, you know how to rock!

The Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Gala such a success. It takes a whole community to put on a day like Gala, and whether your contribution was big or small, we couldn't have done it without you, so thank you all. The Gargunnock Gala Committee 2019



Gargunnoch Community Council and Community Trust Updates

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



Bite & Blether

Every first Wednesday of the month

Councillor Surgery

9th Sep 7-7.30pm

Community Council Meeting

9th Sep 7.30pm

Nibble & Natter

Sun 20th Oct 11am-2pm

Songsters Christmas Concert

Sat 21st Dec 7-10pm

Regular Classes/Groups:

Playgroup: Mon & Thurs 9-11.30am

Inside Yoga: Monday 7.30-8.45pm

Gargunnoch After School Club: Mon-Thurs 3.15-6pm

Doctor's Surgery: Tues 2-3pm

Pilates: Tues 7-9pm

Toddlers: Wed 10-11.30am

Brownies: Wed 6-7.30pm

Guides: Wed 7.30-9.15pm

Diary of events, further information and contact details plus how to book the Community Centre can be found at www.gargunnoch.org

GARGUNNOCK BRIDGE CLUB

Looking for a fresh winter interest?

THE GARGUNNOCK BRIDGE CLUB resumes on THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER at the Gargunnoch Community Centre.

This is a relaxed evening for those who already have a knowledge of Bridge, and represents an opportunity to meet with like minded folks in a pleasant Village environment.

Enquiries to:- JANETTE WILSON (tel 860347) or PAT HENDRY tel 475779).

Wind Farm Fund – Still looking for Panel Members and Good Projects

The Panel currently has 8 members but we would like to increase that to 10 to make it more representative of the village as a whole.

The commitment would not be for more than a couple of hours on 3 or 4 evenings over the year.

The Panel would also welcome a wider range of projects to be brought forward for consideration.

The Fund has over £20,000 available in the current year for small and large initiatives of benefit to the community. Projects which will make a lasting difference to the village take time to work up and the Community Trust is willing give advice and guidance to anyone who has an idea which needs more development.

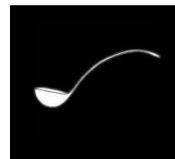
The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for October 21st so applications would need to be in a couple of weeks before that. If you feel you would like to join the Panel, or put forward a project for the village, or find out more information about these possibilities, please contact the Wind Farm Fund Administrator – Carol MacGregor on gargunnochcc@gmail.com

Wind Farm Funding - can you make an impact?



**Funds
Available!**

Funds for Gargunnoch Village based projects available. For application information go to www.gargunnoch.org



Bite and Blether

Bite and Blether starts again on Wednesday 4th of September and thereafter the first Wednesday of the month from 11:00 - 2:00 in the Community Centre. We look forward to welcoming everyone for coffee, tea, delicious soups and fabulous home baking. See you there!

CONTACT EMAILS

Bugle Email: gargunnochbugle@gmail.com

Community Centre Email: gargunnochCC@gmail.com

Community Trust Email: gargunnochtrust@gmail.com

Community Council Email:

gargunnochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

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A Reely Successful Charity Barndance Over £2500 has been raised by revellers attending the Gargunnoch Farmers Club Charity Barndance held at Old Leckie Farm at the end of June. This popular bi-annual event was run in partnership between Old Leckie Farm and the Gargunnoch Farmers Club to celebrate 225 years of the Club. Organisers reckon about 300 folks, young and old, came along to enjoy the fabulous Andy Gordon Ceilidh Band, Old Leckie Stovies and Big Davy's Bar.

Bobby Macallister, Chair of Gargunnoch Farmers Club was delighted with the success of the event, "The Club was established in 1794 not only to promote agriculture and innovation but also cheerfulness and good humour – and we certainly did that!" Thanks to the great turnout and support from many people and local businesses 4 different charities will now benefit from £630 each towards their worth causes: RSABI (Supporting People in Scottish Agriculture); ECNO (Edinburgh Centre for Neuro Oncology); New Struan School (Scottish Autism) and The Gargunnoch Senior Citizens Christmas Fund.

Old Leckie Farm Update

With the summer now been and gone we're reflecting on a mixed bag in terms of harvest along at Old Leckie. We had some great silage (winter feed) cut early on in the season and, with help from our neighbours, a good yield of both barley and straw from our barley crop which was down beside the main road. The showery rain patterns of August proved tricky for finishing the hay making, and the heat of late July was challenging for young salad crops in the tunnel which bolted really quickly.

The sheep have been waging their own battles with the flies which have been really bad this year, but the spring lambs are growing well and the regular patterns of Tuesday/ Thursday lamb sales is well underway. Those passing through the farm have been entertained by the young cattle stock in our Big Field to the west who are always nosy to see who is passing by. We've been experimenting this year with rotational grazing systems and have subdivided this field into 9 single hectare units, moving the stock every 2 to 3 days into the next block to enjoy the new grass regrowth. At the Glinns Road end of the farm we are also trialling redstart Kale which we hope will allow us to keep some of our cattle out for longer at the tail end of the year.

We took arrival of Spotty and Dotty, 2 Gloucester Old Spots who will become new breeding sows for us, and have added to our pig numbers with 4 gorgeous wee ginger weaners - it shouldn't be too long until we have some pigs running back through the woods again. We've also been busy with site works for new hen house which will consolidate our current flocks and give us a bit of capacity to get a few more hens to meet demand which we sometimes struggle to keep up with. The Barndance held at the end of June with the Gargunnoch Farmers Club was a brilliant evening – thanks so much to everyone who came along and helped us raise more than £2500 for charity.



**Dean Lockhart MSP**
Member of the Scottish Parliament
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

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Gargunnoch Senior Citizens' Christmas Gift Fund

Thank you Alison and Fergus Younger, we are very grateful for your extremely generous donation raised from your Barn Dance. This will go a long way to help pay for this year's Christmas vouchers. Next month's Bite and Blether on Wednesday 2nd October will be in aid of funds for the Christmas vouchers. Please put the date in your diaries and come and support this worthy cause - and enjoy some tasty soups and fabulous home baking!!

Summer Soiree

Marion and Peter would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to their Summer Soiree. We raised £885 for Strathcarron Hospice which is absolutely wonderful, thank you for your generous donations to this worthy cause. We would like to say a special thank you to Columba's Church for providing us with the perfect venue. Also thanks to the ladies who helped with the teas. A very success evening.

Marion Wyllie

GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW

Although the summer weather hasn't been the best for gardeners this year, Gargunnoch Flower Show put on an impressive display of flowers and vegetables, baking, handcrafts and children's work when this event was held on Sunday.

By close of doors in the morning for judging, the hall was awash with a lovely display of flowers and vegetables of all shapes and sizes, which proved a challenge for the judges and, after great deliberation by both judges, it was Bill Nicol with his Coleus plant which won best in show from all entries within the main hall.

Although the number of entries in the handcraft section was down on previous years, the standard was high, and a lovely selection of baking in the industrial section gave the judges food for thought, (as well as taste!!). Dorothy Burman's cloutie dumpling won best in show in the Industrial section and was a worthy winner.

A lovely display of colours from the children entries was a great talking point by all who came along to support their child's work, and the committee are again grateful for the school's input in to this section of the show.

It was especially gratifying to see so many "first timers" featuring in the prizes, with quite a number within a point or two of the major awards.

The tea room was busy and there were many raffle prizes to be won. It's grateful thanks to everyone who provided baking and prizes to make both of these a great success.

When opening the show President Maitland Clark gave a special thanks for the hard work that had gone into putting on this show, the volunteers who came along to help with the staging on the Saturday, all those who had exhibited on show day, everyone who was there to support the show and committee members, for without all of these people the show would not continue.

This event was a great community effort and we look forward to its continued success next year.

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Youth Club Cup (for most points in the children's section) - Alexander Hay
Rev C Hepburn Cup (for runner-up in the children's section) - Ewan Jackson
Nicol Cup (for best exhibit in children's section) - Beth Jackson

INDUSTRIAL SECTION

Mitchell Cup (for most points in baking, confectionery, preserves, knitting and fancy work) - Janet Iffla
Lawrence Cup (for most points in fancy work) - Anne Muirhead
Strang Trophy (for best cloutie dumpling) - Dorothy Burman
The Garden Estate Trophy (for winner of the "down the garden path" category) - Jeanette Wilson

McArthur Trophy (for best in baking, preserves, handcrafts and floral art) - Dorothy Burman

POT PLANTS

Bob Erskine Trophy (for most points in pot plants section) - Anne Christie
Gary Gray Trophy (for best pot plant in Show) - Bill Nicol
Bobby Simpson Trophy (for best hanging basket) - Elizabeth Wilkinson

CUT FLOWERS SECTION

Touch Rose Bowl (for most points in dahlias and cut flowers) +
Bob McIntyre Trophy (for best pansy) +
Davidson Florist Cup (for best dahlia) - All 3 won by Bill Nicol
May McPhate Rose Bowl (for best rose in Show) - Anne Christie
Gargunnoch House Cup (for most points in pansy and viola sections) - Anne Christie
Gledden Trophy (for best sweet peas) - Penny Morrison
Milton Quaich (for best exhibit in the cut flowers section) - Helen Scott

VEGETABLES SECTION

Carson Cup (for most points in fruit and vegetables) +
D & J Imrie Trophy (for best onions) +
John & Janet Muirhead Quaich (for best tomatoes) - All 3 won by Bill Nicol
John Buchanan Memorial Trophy (for best exhibit of vegetables ex onions from seed) - Ronnie Carson

OVERALL WINNERS

Forbes Quaich (best exhibit in fruit, flowers, vegetables and cut flowers) - Bill Nicol
Gargunnoch Inn Small Shield (runner up with most points in floral art, baking and confectionery, preserves, knitting and fancy work) - Helen Graham
Gargunnoch Inn Shield (most points in the above categories) - Janet Iffla
Committee Small Shield (runner up for most points in fruit, vegetables, pot plants, dahlias, cut flowers, pansies and violas) - Anne Christie
Committee Shield (winner in above sections) - Bill Nicol

GARDEN COMPETITION (judged prior to the Show)

Flowers: Alastair Jackson
Vegetables: Duncan Petrie
Flower and Vegetables: Bill Nicol



A proud Alexander Hay, (and family!) winner of the Children's Section, with his trophy.



President Maitland Clark



Bill Nicol with his prize winning coleus



Last minute checking before the Judges come in



Alastair Jackson in his prize winning garden



The school drawings entries



The Committee and Judges

Gargunnoch Kirk Team Update

Hello from the Welcome Team of Gargunnoch Kirk!

Please don't stop reading – you may find it interesting!

We were formed in Spring 2017 by Rev Andy and Fiona Campbell who, as you know, left the village last July to live in Oban, following Andy's retirement from his role as Minister here.

They felt that the church community in Gargunnoch should be more inclusive towards locals and more involved in the life of the village, to make the residents more aware of the church within their community and to publicise that it is not only a place of worship for those for whom that is appropriate, but also has a place in history and, hopefully, in the future of village life.

The Team members include Rev Lynne Mack, Douglas Barr, Mairi Jackson and Jeremy Wilkinson.

Our successful initiatives so far have been to:

- Introduce refreshments at the regular Sunday services
- Arrange for the Community Carol Singers to sing in the church on their way around the village each Christmas
- Coordinate a very popular talk in the Kirk by Stirling Council's Archaeologist, Dr Murray Cook, about the history of Gargunnoch, followed by a guided walk to Keir Hill
- Produce a leaflet about the Old Kirkyard, with the invaluable help of John McLaren, and distribute them to all the residents of the village, to coffee shops and tourist venues.
- Have a Kirk Open Day in May, which was really well attended
- Set up a Gargunnoch Kirk Facebook page, which has received loads of likes
- Open the church every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm, during the summer months, for silent prayer, or for general and historical interest. This has attracted many visitors over the summer, both local people and tourists from around the world.
- Conduct Old Kirkyard tours during the Open Afternoons. Note that tours must be booked in advance.

Our next initiative is to produce a second leaflet, this time about the history of the church building, again with John's help.

If you're interested in anything about the work of the Welcome Team, but especially the free Kirkyard Tours, please email us on our new email address and we will get back to you – gargunnochkirkyard@gmail.com

Helen Rowell, Welcome Team member

The Garoyles of Gargunnoch

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE KIRK OPEN AFTERNOONS!

During the last Kirk Open Afternoon of this year, 1pm to 4pm on Saturday 28th September, The Gargoyles of Gargunnoch will be singing in the Kirk, to add to the atmosphere. It's not a concert so you can listen as long or as little as you like, while you look around the Kirk. You could book a tour of the Old Kirkyard at 2pm as well if you like, on gkwelcometeam@gmail.com.

Refreshments too and all free, although donations are always welcome!

The Gargoyles of Gargunnoch will be performing at 2 public events:

1. The Open Doors weekend at The Church of the Holy Rude on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September
2. Cambuskenneth Abbey Open Afternoon Sunday 29th September. Tours with Dr Murray Cooke can be booked nearer the time by emailing cookm@stirling.gov.uk



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Thank you for your warm
welcome and support
Alistair and Violet

Gargunnoch Playgroup and Toddlers



Gargunnoch 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.

Gargunnoch Playgroup runs every Monday and Thursday from 9-11.30am 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.

The cost is only £7.50 per session.

Ad hoc rates and discounts for more than one child are available. Please contact Pauline Harley (Playgroup Leader) paulineh84@outlook.com for more details.

Gargunnoch 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!

NEWS

- New committee members; Debbie Masson, Helen Hansom
- Nibble and Natter Sunday 20th October 11-2pm, Gargunnoch Community Centre, Tea/Coffee, Soup and Sandwiches.
- One of our ever-popular fundraisers - Kids' Halloween Party Saturday 26th October, times to be confirmed...
- Autumn Pub Quiz Friday 22nd November 7:30pm, no need to have a team ready, just come on down for a warm welcome at the Gargunnoch Inn.

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

Pauline Harley (Playgroup Leader) 07772927540, paulineh84@outlook.com,

Debbie Masson (Chairperson) 07779727209, debstarmasson74@gmail.com,

Clare Rolley (Toddler Representative) 07480797644, clarerolley@outlook.com

New/updated Facebook page coming soon!

Gargunnoch Walking Group

The Gargunnoch Walking Group has continued to meet with some very enjoyable and interesting walks. A few weeks ago we repeated the excellent Falkirk Wheel to Bonnybridge walk with the return over the Antonine wall. This is a fascinating area with many descriptive boards telling us about the structure of the wall and the layout of Rough Castle. The most recent walk was to the top of Ben Gullipen where we enjoyed superb views over the Trossachs and the Forth Valley.

Forthcoming dates are:

12th September – Stank Glen; this is a walk on the lower slopes of Ben Ledi with views over Loch Lubnaig.

26th September – Blair Logie and Menstrie Loop.

10th October – Plean Country Park and Torwood Broch, Torwood Castle and Torwood Blue Lagoon. This is a fascinating walk of some eight miles with visits to some extraordinary sites.

24th October – Lanrick Estate.

17th November – A walk in the Crieff area.

All of these dates and walks are provisional depending upon weather and for some walks the availability of the leader.

As usual I will send out emails to members about a week before to confirm arrangements.

As usual we will meet at 9:30 in the Pub carpark and the after the walk we will take lunch in a nearby hostelry.

If you are interested in participating in any of these 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.

Edmond Mansion



Lunch at the head of the glen – “The sun does not always shine!”

Brownies

Gargunnoch Brownies is currently updating their waiting list.

If you have a daughter who will be turning 7 years old over the coming year please get in touch.

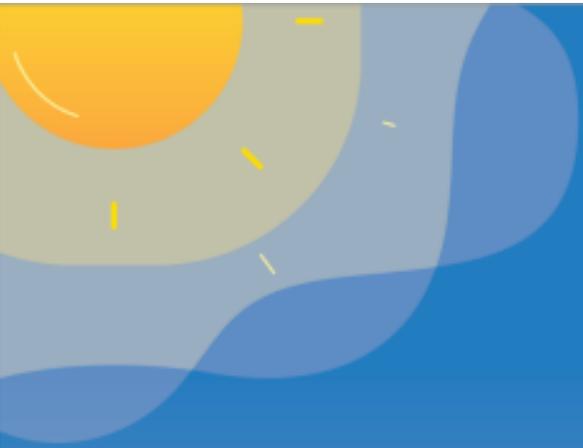
We meet every Wednesday during term time.

Gargunnoch Community Centre, 6pm - 7:30pm

To find out more please contact Jackie on 01786 860761 or email jackie_campbe11@yahoo.co.uk



Kirkton Glen Balquhidder - “It is not always wet!”



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Stirling Members' Centre

supporting the National Trust for Scotland

The Stirling Members' Centre numbers about 200 people and membership is £5 per annum for individuals or £8 per annum for a complete household at one address. When joining you will enjoy membership rates immediately but there will be no membership charge until the start of the financial year in October 2020 and you only pay for the talks.

We welcome new members who are also members of the National Trust for Scotland, but anyone who is not a member of the NTS will be welcome to any of our talks subject to places being available. The current rates for winter talks are £6pp for members or £7pp for guests. Please come along – we are a friendly bunch!! Our programme of talks held in the St Ninian's church hall from October 2019 to March 2020:-

Thursday 24th October, 2019, at 2.30 pm

AGM followed by "From Kyoto to Clackmannanshire - The History and Restoration of Cowden Garden"
– illustrated talk by Kate White, Head Gardener

Thursday 21st November, 2019, at 2.30 pm

"Surveying St Kilda"
– illustrated talk by James Hepher

Thursday 12th December, 2019, at 2.30 pm

"The Story of Dr John Roebuck and James Watt at Kinneil House"
– illustrated talk by Ian Shearer, Chairman of Friends of Kinneil House

Thursday 16th January, 2020, at 2.30 pm

"Recent discoveries in Stirling's Archaeology"
- illustrated talk by Murray Cook, Archaeologist

Thursday 13th February, 2020, at 2.30 pm

"Gardens and Designed Landscapes"
- illustrated talk by Colin Wren NTS Gardens Manager

Thursday 12th March, 2020, at 2.30 pm

"Glass & Light"
– illustrated talk by Alison Kinnaird, Glass Artist & Clarsach Musician

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Contact details: Sandy & Margaret Moreland, Joint Secretaries, Tel:- 01259 761700

E-mail:- stirlingnts@gmail.com

or see website:-

www.spanglefish.com/ntsstirling

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Home Energy Scotland: on a mission to help you keep warm for less

The barbeque has been packed away, the kids are back at school, and there's a definite chill in the morning air – yes, autumn has arrived! And as we start thinking about putting the heating on, it's safe to say that most of us won't be looking forward to the higher energy bills that will follow.

However, help is at hand to ensure our homes are as nice and toasty as possible ready for the colder months ahead, without needing to break the bank. Funded by the Scottish Government, Home Energy Scotland is a free, impartial energy advice service on a mission to help householders create warmer homes, reduce their bills and help tackle climate change.

Whether you own or rent your home, advice is individual to you and no matter your own personal situation, help is available for all.

Support ranges from home energy saving tips, to information about funding and grants available for new boilers, insulation and heating systems, to help make your home more efficient. Advisors can see if you're eligible for financial support, benefits and incentives, and advise on shopping around for a cheaper energy supply.

Or, if you're thinking about going green and making your next car an electric vehicle or installing a renewable energy system at home, but aren't quite sure where to start, Home Energy Scotland's free specialist advisors can provide expert insight and knowledge to help you consider all of your options.

Whilst the service is in part delivered by telephone, Home Energy Scotland is not a call centre and has no connection with any energy supplier, and never cold call.

Thousands of people have already saved money through reducing the energy they use and taking advantage of cost savings, discounts, or benefits available to them.

To find out how Home Energy Scotland can help you, call the Strathclyde & Central Advice Centre on freephone 0808 808 2282 or email adviceteam@sc.homeenergyscotland.org and an advisor will call you back.

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Balfron Bus Changes

Once again FirstBus have dropped an August bombshell by submitting a proposal to alter times/frequency on every Balfron bus service. The changes, if approved, will start on October 21st.

Communities had 12 days until 27th August to consider the changes and submit their views.

Stirling Council were tasked with facilitating a meeting on 21st August to inform residents. They also provided contact details in the form of an email address and telephone number for people to send comments directly.

Bruce Crawford, Stephen Kerr and our three local Councillors were immediately contacted. They were all unable to attend the meeting at such short notice due to prior engagements. Bruce and Stephen have both written to First.

We contacted the Stirling Observer and subsequently invited them to the meeting. Greig McKay, of Bus Users Scotland, also attended. Despite another event the same evening regarding the new housing development in Killearn, the McLintock Hall was packed with standing room only. First underestimated the strength of community outrage and failed to print enough copies of the proposed timetables and had to send someone down to the depot to print off more, even so, there were still not enough to go round.

The proposed timetable is much worse than anticipated, affecting all weekday buses and also reducing our Saturday service to every 2 hours.

The timetable is complicated as all buses served by the Balfron Depot have been amalgamated into two new services - the X10 and X10A.

The current B12, Balfron to Stirling route is the worst affected, both in terms of service reductions and time changes. First have introduced a new Glasgow-Stirling via Aberfoyle route called the X10A. This appears to be at the expense of our Balfron-Stirling route.

(X10) First stated, there would be no reduction in the number of journeys which is untrue. They also stated all journeys will go straight through to Glasgow, also false.

These changes will have far reaching effects for all western commuters who require access to Stirling. The early morning buses, enabling people to access employment, trains, universities, colleges etc have been cut. The 07.50 bus for people starting work at 09.00 in Stirling has been axed.

For Gargunnoch commuters the first bus is 07.44 arriving in Stirling at 07.58, with a 60 min wait in the city for those starting work at 09.00. The next bus will be 10.14. Strathblane and Killearn residents cannot access Stirling before 09.29 which includes a 60 min wait in Balfron.

The new Aberfoyle X10A service appears to have gobbled up all our prime slots.



Come and Try Curling – FOR FREE !!!

Thanks to a generous grant from The Gargunnoch Windfarm Fund, the curling club is able to offer an open invitation for you to give curling a go (with no obligation to continue in the sport).

Join the Gargunnoch team for free at any (or all) of the following coaching sessions to be held the National Curling Academy at the Peak:

Sunday 22 nd Sep	1730-1930	Family Fun (Age 8 to 88)
Sunday 29 th Sep	1730-1930	Family Fun (Age 8 to 88)
Sunday 6 th Oct	1730-1930	Adult Coaching (16+)
Sunday 20 th Oct	1730-1930	Adult Coaching (16+)

Local players and qualified coaches will be on hand to give you the basics, or provide improvement coaching.

For more info please contact Pauline Evans talline.evans@gmail.com.

See you there!

Club news

Club membership has increased again to 28 players and at the first AGM of the relaunched club in April we elected a full club committee:

Gavin Fleming (Chair)
Pauline Evans (Club Secretary)
Gordon Webber (Match Secretary)
Graham Dingley (Treasurer)
Robert Hay
Jackie Stevenson

In the coming season the club will again run its own two main competitions. 'The Bugle' will run Oct to Dec and 'The Drum' will run Feb to Mar. Additionally we are running a pairs competition in a double-knockout format throughout January. All games on Sunday evenings.

We are also participating in various inter-club completions run by Forth & Endrick Province, Stirling Curling Group, and Scottish Curling.

When questioned directly, First admitted it was they themselves who withdrew from the Balfron School Contracts and that the current changes were a commercial decision taken at a higher level than those present at the meeting. It was also put to First, that as we already know the FirstGroup are proposing to sell the UK bus division, was it not the case that this was the first stage in an effort to maximise profits in the lead up to a sell off. No concrete answer was given.

First were lambasted for the short notice given to the public in order to respond to such changes and the fact that none of our elected representatives were able to attend.

Brian Peat, their commercial manager implied that we were lucky to have been consulted at all and that a few years ago these cuts would have gone straight through. We pointed out that this was exactly what they did in 2016, again to public outrage. They are in fact obliged to consult stakeholders prior to any changes.

We must not underestimate the impact these changes will have on the lives of rural residents, both in terms of time changes and reduced frequency of journeys. Our elderly and disabled from the different villages will lose their independence and once again face long journeys to hospitals. And now it will be even more difficult for younger residents to access colleges, employment and early morning trains via public transport. Western villagers are rightly outraged and have expressed their views directly to Stirling Council who will collate and relay objections to the management at First Scotland East. Will this be enough to stop the changes - who knows? To be clear, these are currently only proposals. If they do go ahead they will not start until 21st October and we will do our best to make sure as many people as possible are made aware in advance.



Gargunnoch Women's Institute

Our thanks go to Kathleen Sinclair, past President, who has done a sterling job over the last 3 years, having increased the membership and the standing of our WI throughout her term of office. The Presidential badge of office was passed to the new incumbent Anne Christie. We welcome Heather Wiseman, Beverley Mountford, Dee Guidery to the Committee and thank the outgoing Committee members Hazel Pine, Cathy Rowley and Maureen McLaughlin. We would be delighted to welcome new members along to our first meeting on Tuesday 17th September at 7.30 at Gargunnoch Community Centre when we will have a light-hearted fun quiz night. Please bring along a friend. We have regular meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The format of the meeting is usually a speaker or a hands-on craft night with time for tea/coffee and cake, and a regular catch up with friends. Throughout the syllabus there is something for everyone and a variety of interests are covered. I look forward to meeting up with all current, and new members are very welcome to come along and find out more about the organisation. We have a wide range of ages among our members.

President Anne Christie

Flags of Many Nations

We collected our visitor, Janet, at Edinburgh airport after her long flight from NZ.

To be frank she looked all-in although she protested otherwise. We made our way to the car and headed back home. Some of her ancestors, McNairs from McNair House in the Square, emigrated from Gargunnoch to NZ via the Australian goldfields, in the 19th century seeking fortune and the prospect of a better life. Now she was returning, "For my last trip," she said, "I'm not getting any younger, you know."

She nodded off on the way back but sat up and began to take notice as we neared "her" village. I swung into the back road so that she could enjoy her favourite entrance to Gargunnoch via the Manse Brae. With almost no traffic around I was able to slowly motor down past the church where the McNair family gravestones are visible in passing. At the bottom, the entrance to the Square, I paused. It took a second or two before she noticed the flag-pole and a further few seconds before a gust of wind properly revealed the New Zealand flag flying from it. "What's that doing there?" she asked. "Why is it flying my flag?" "It's there in your honour, of course, because you're a guest to our village" we said. Well, you would have thought she had won the lottery, she was so pleased. A photo session followed with a few of them being transmitted instantaneously back home via WhatsApp. And that's just the point of this story; the real pleasure given to her by the sight of her national flag flying in her honour was considerable and much appreciated.

Gargunnoch had extended a welcoming hand of friendship to a visitor from afar. So what's the history of the flagpole and why do the flags keep changing? For that it's over to Douglas Coupethwaite.

"Back in 2011 the Gala Committee decided that the theme for the Gala that year would be "All around the World". As part of the decorations for the event a range of international flags were purchased. It was also agreed that a village flagpole would be a good idea, then, after the gala, National Flags could be flown on the appropriate dates/anniversaries etc. This, hopefully would be interesting (and educational) All of this was funded by the Gala Committee. The flagpole installer, who should remain nameless, thought that digging a 400mm x 400mm hole for the concrete foundation would be easy, it wasn't and the mixing of enough concrete by hand was worse. Persistence paid off though and the flagpole was soon in place in the Square. A competition was arranged to find a design for a Gargunnoch Village Flag and the winner was flown for the first time in May 2012. Nowadays wear and tear (and vandals) have taken their toll and the pole needs to be replaced. Happily the money to do this has been granted by the Windfarm Community Benefit Panel and we should see its replacement in the next few weeks. I can fly the appropriate flag



for overseas visitors if people contact me on 860344. A couple of days' notice is preferable and is, of course, dependant on us having the flag requested. There's no charge".

And what of Janet? Well she thoroughly enjoyed her time here during which she took part in the judging of the fancy dress at the Gala. She's back home now of course but still talking about the day that Gargunnoch flew the flag especially for her. A nice gesture.

John McLaren

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FAITH IN FARMING 5

Where: Brairlands Farm Blair Drummond

When: Sunday 29th September 2019

Time: Refreshments from 6pm start 6.30



3F (Faith Fun and Friends)

As we look forward to the next session of 3F the organisers have been busy putting together the programme of speakers starting in **September on the last Tuesday of the month.**

The meetings will be held in Kilmadock Church Doune (opposite the Red Lion) starting at **7.30pm.**

24th September - Lynda Ferguson, Camphill Blair Drummond

29th October - Rev Janet Foggie, Pioneer Minister University of Stirling

26th November - Starting at 6.30pm with Supper in Buttercup, Doune followed by Shopping at Doune Chic. Pre booking essential for this evening.

All welcome.

If you require more information please contact:

Gargunnoch - Jessie Wyllie

Doune - Morag Ferrier

Blair Drummond - Janette Gilliland

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Will Muir The Smiddy Blair Drummond

John Stirling W N Lindsay (Grain)

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