



# The Bugle

**Magazine for Gargunnock  
and the surrounding area**

**Email - [bugle@gargunnock.com](mailto:bugle@gargunnock.com)  
Phone no - 01786 860761**

**Issue 47  
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Gargunnock Village Trust are looking for an enthusiastic, conscientious, friendly and reliable person(s) to help with caretaking and administrative tasks.

You need to be flexible and like working with a diverse range of people. It will be an advantage if you live in the village and own a car as you may need to pick up supplies for the Community Centre.

This will be a paid not voluntary position. If you would like to apply or would like more information please email [bugle@gargunnock.com](mailto:bugle@gargunnock.com)

#### **Caretaker duties will include:**

- Routinely checking the Community Centre
- First line of contact for users/customers of the Community Centre
- Focal point for boiler
- Focal point for contractors
- Setting up and dismantling stage when required
- Setting up rooms as required
- Responsible for key code system
- Testing the fire alarm
- Purchasing supplies for the Community Centre
- To deal with any other matter which would facilitate the smooth running of the Community Centre.

#### **Administrative tasks will include:**

- Responsibility for Community Centre bookings
- Creating and sending out invoices for bookings
- Oversee people borrowing Community Centre equipment
- Keeping inventory of Community Centre supplies and equipment
- Updates to village website
- Produce Bugle - 5 editions each year
- Responsible for obtaining quotes
- Keeping Trust documentation up-to-date
- Admin focal point for Wind Farm grant process reporting to the Board
- Marketing of the Community Centre
- Act as project co-ordinator for Gargunnock Village Trust projects

#### **WINDFARM FUND NEXT STEPS**

We're pleased to tell you that, after a meeting between Community Council and Community Trust representatives, we are agreed on the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding covering the operation of the Windfarm Fund. Following this, a formal agreement has now been reached between the Community Trust and Foundation Scotland regarding the management of the Kingsburn Windfarm Fund [KWF], which will enable the first payment of £22,267 to be released soon.

The Trust has already established a separate bank account to manage the fund so that all payments can be readily tracked. As reported in the last *Bugle*, the Fund will be able to make small grants available to village organisations, develop new strategic projects which will leave a lasting legacy for the village and support existing community assets like the Community Centre.

An independent Fund Management Committee will be set up of around 6-7 members drawn from the: Community Council, Village Trust and other village organisations, hopefully with an independent chairperson from outwith the village. In order to provide more detail on the fund operation and to give consideration to how it might be used, a village meeting has been arranged for 8.00pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Community Centre.

Before the meeting it would be helpful to have expressions of interest from representatives of village organisations [aged over 16] who might be prepared to serve on the Fund Committee. What this will involve is around 2- 4 meetings per year to make decisions on applications for grants. Initially, the Committee will have to agree the criteria which will need to be followed in awarding grants – such as:

- the different types of grants the Fund will operate
- the maximum grant in the different categories
- the number of applications by individual organisations permitted each year
- what impact the grant will have on improvements to village life
- whether any project can attract money from other sources, etc.

KWL have also indicated that a number of activities [eg. promoting religion or party politics] are specifically excluded.

The Committee will aim to achieve decisions by consensus. However, where this is not possible decisions will be based on a simple majority. All members will need to indicate organisations in which they have an interest and will not be able to participate in decisions regarding any application from such an organisation. It is the intention that members should retire on a planned basis in order to retain experience within the main body of the Committee – normally this would be every 2-3 years.

Foundation Scotland have indicated they could provide training, if necessary, for prospective Fund Committee members. If anyone is interested in serving on the Committee or wishes to find out more about it, please contact - Geoff Peart [860318] or Douglas Coupethwaite [860344] or email [bugle@gargunnock.com](mailto:bugle@gargunnock.com)

#### **GLEBE LAND SURVEY RESPONSES**

Many thanks to everyone who completed the survey issued with the last Bugle. 172 surveys were returned and the results were;

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>78 responses in favour of a village Garden</b>                    | <b>45%</b> |
| <b>24 responses in favour of Housing</b>                             | <b>14%</b> |
| <b>62 responses in favour of Recreational Facilities</b>             | <b>36%</b> |
| <b>8 responses in favour of a mix of Housing/Recreational/Garden</b> | <b>5%</b>  |

*Look out for full survey details appearing next week on the village website*

## CRIMESTOPPERS SCOTLAND:

Stirling It's YOUR call to prevent crime

Crimestoppers Scotland is urging members of Stirling's local communities to contact the charity anonymously about crime concerns.

The campaign which launched on the 3rd April highlights the difference a call to Crimestoppers can make to people living in areas where crime can be problematic and people may not want to give information to Police or other law enforcement.

Contacting Crimestoppers really does make a difference. In 2015/16 Crimestoppers Scotland passed on 10,000 public calls to Police Scotland and other authorities. This meant: 477 criminals were arrested and charged – 35 guns, knives and ammunition were removed and £605,692 in the value of street drugs seized.

Angela Parker, National Manager for Crimestoppers in Scotland said:

*'For various reasons, people may not want to speak to the Police or Law Enforcement, so independent charity Crimestoppers can pass on information to protect callers' identities. Our message to Stirling's residents is that you can do something about it, you can prevent crime, so let's make Stirling safer, together.'*

Crimestopper's bus adverts and social media will highlight how easy it is to make a call. Community partners across Stirling will also be equipped with the charity's calling cards, banners and digital resources to share.

The campaign will also see each of Stirling's seven secondary schools being equipped with free Fearless.org resources. (Fearless.org is the charity's youth programme that provides a safe online site to give information about crime anonymously.)



I'm excited to report that two of our villagers will be running out onto the main international pitch at the BT Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, on Saturday 29th April, for the finals of the Scottish Rugby Girls' Under-15 and Under-18 Cups.

Team captain Lorna Farquhar will lead out Stirling County U15 girls at 2pm to face arch-rivals Biggar RFC. The team overcame a very strong Cartha Queens Park side in a bruising semi, away in Glasgow after convincing victories in the qualifiers, 1st round and quarters.

Catherine Mitchell is part of the Stirling County U18 girls squad that has also made their final having beaten Murrayfield Wanderers in their semi and an outstanding performance in the quarters. They kick off against equally strong opposition, Hillhead-Jordanhill, at 3:45pm.

There is no charge for tickets and plenty car parking but there will also be a supporters' coach going from Bridgehaugh. If you want any more details please contact David Farquhar, U15 (extremely nervous) Assistant Coach by email at: david@farquhar.com.

Both teams tasted success pre-Christmas by winning the combined U15/U18 SRU President's Conference jointly with Biggar RFC.

**David Farquhar**

## THE REV'S RE-ENTRY REFLECTION



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017 is a date to put in your diary as that's when your village church building re-opens and I invite you to come along. We'll be open from 9.30am onwards until 3.00pm in the afternoon for you to walk round, enjoy a coffee and look at what's been done, ask questions and of course you'll be welcome to worship God at 10.30am.

We've reroofed the old building, (with Scottish slate) and replaced flashing while strengthening and repairing the bell tower complete with weather vane! We've treated all the roof timbers, insulated the roof space and removed all the asbestos. Then we pointed and repaired stonework outside, while re-wiring the electrics and putting new low energy lighting inside and of course, redecorated. We've created more room for people to move about inside too and built-in some practical storage. Soon we hope to have media-screens installed, because we've enjoyed using that facility and the versatility of Gargunnoch Community Centre since October, and want to take the lessons we learned there back up to the Kirk. Your church building, which has helped the village for 300 years, will then be wind, watertight, ready and equipped to serve the community for many years in the future.

It has been a bigger job than expected, and strangely, you may not notice huge differences, simply by looking around inside and out! More important is **how we do things** than the way things look. Now we have space to welcome people, park prams and wheelchairs; for children to move around, to share time together and for hospitality. Soon there will be opportunity to use this building, in a more versatile, less formal way, which will be appreciated, not only by our young people.

When folk are touched by God, it's not their hairstyle or clothes that change – it is how they live, what they do and how they feel. These things are equally obvious signs of renewal, but deeper and more significant to the community. That's true of your church and congregation too, so don't think – 'nothing has changed – it's the same colour as before!' Come and experience the friendship, the worship and the challenge. – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Remember!

**Your minister, Rev Andy**

## GARGUNNOCK WALKING GROUP

Do you enjoy walking in the countryside around Gargunnoch and further afield? Do you enjoy walking in the company of other like-minded people? Do you like a daytime walk of about two to three hours with a refreshment afterwards?

I would be interested to hear from you if this appeals to you. I am thinking of walks perhaps twice a month on a week day, possibly a Tuesday. The organisation would be minimal but sufficient to organise transport if the walk is away from the village.

This invitation is open to anyone as long as they are capable of walking for up to three hours, but preferably without pets.

Typical walks that I have in mind include circular walks in Loch Ard Forest, Bracklinn Fall circular walk, small hills such as Conic Hill, walk to Kippen and back, Hillfoots Glens, around Aberfoyle and such like. I would expect to find a lot of the walks on the [www.walkhighlands.co.uk](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk) web site.

If you are interested let me know by email or phone. We can then set up a meeting in the pub to discuss how we want to proceed.

Edmond Mansion (01786 860608)  
Email: edmond.mansion@btinternet.com

## SAVE THE DATE

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 24th April | Community Council Meeting                    |
| 29th April | Village Pig Race Night                       |
| 3rd May    | Bite & Blether (last one until after summer) |
| 7th May    | Gargunnoch Church re-opens                   |
| 20th May   | Gargunnoch Songsters Spring Show             |
| 24th May   | Windfarm Meeting                             |
| 3rd June   | Gargunnoch Show                              |
| 17th June  | Gargunnoch Gala                              |
| 26th June  | Community Council AGM                        |

## GARGUNNOCK GALA 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017

The theme for the 2017 Gargunnoch Gala is.... **Myths & Monsters!**

The Primary 6/7 class split into 2 teams and worked on different themes for the Gala. They presented the 2 themes to the whole school, who then went to a voting booth to cast their votes! Thank you to all staff and students for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

Both presentations were confidently delivered with fantastic ideas and creative flair. It was a close call, but Myths and Monsters was the winner on the day.

The Committee are very excited about the mystical theme, and are busy working up ideas and organising the day. The Gala is for the whole village, regardless of age or whether you have children – there is something for everyone.

If you would like to help out, or you are a local group who would like to have a stall – please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

Look forward to seeing you on the day.  
Stevie Buchanan,  
Chair



### BUD HAS RETIRED!

Thank you so much to everyone who has seen me walking just one dog and has stopped, in obvious concern, to ask where Bud was. He's still with us! But at the grand old age of nearly 14, he has reluctantly decided that long walks just aren't his thing anymore. He still comes with us when he can - pictured here on holiday recently on Arran.

## Dean Lockhart MSP

Member of the  
Scottish Parliament  
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

### MSP SURGERY

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017  
CALLANDER KIRK HALL, 11AM-12PM

FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2017  
KILLEARN VILLAGE HALL, 11AM-12PM

FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017  
ALBERT HALLS, STIRLING, 10AM-11AM  
KIPPEN VILLAGE HALL, 1PM-2PM

Parliamentary Office:  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 5993  
Email: [Dean.Lockhart.MSP@parliament.scot](mailto:Dean.Lockhart.MSP@parliament.scot)



Regional office:  
31 Canmore Street  
Dunfermline  
KY12 7NU  
Tel: 01383 720530

# GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE STORE

**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
**01786 860703**

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

**Monday-Saturday 7:30am-7pm**  
**Sunday 7:30am-5pm**



**mortonsrolls**  
the only way to start your day



**Skinnners Steak Pies delivered to the shop each Tuesday, if you want one put aside for you later on in the week please let us know.**

**Look out for our new range of Ready Cooked Meals coming soon.**

**and don't worry Ice-Cream is on it's way!**



**Thank you for your warm welcome and support**  
**Alistair and Violet**



## GARGUNNOCK SONGSTERS – Sing Sing Sing

The Gargunnock Songsters formed in 1999 when a group of enthusiastic music lovers met to practice each week in the front room belonging to one of their members. At that point everyone hailed from Gargunnock. Their first public performance was in the Albert Halls in Stirling where they raised money for Multiple Sclerosis.

A picture from the Stirling Observer

### Original members at the Albert Halls in 1999



### The Gargunnock Songsters in March 2017



Since those early days the choir's membership has grown to almost 40 and they come from all over, from Gargunnock, Kippen, Thornhill and further afield, from Stirling, Falkirk and the Hillfoots. Members come from various walks of life but they all have one thing in common – they love to sing and they appreciate the benefits singing can bring. If you feel the same way, why don't you come and join the choir, new members are always welcome.

If you would like to come and hear the Songsters perform, their Spring Show will take place in the Gargunnock Community Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a Matinee performance at 2.00pm and the evening performance will commence at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £8.00 (£4.00 for children) and refreshments will be available.

If you would like more information on joining or booking The Gargunnock Songsters please visit our website [www.gargunnocksongsters.org.uk](http://www.gargunnocksongsters.org.uk) or contact Lorna Rodger on 07733227965.



### 'Young at Heart' (Drop-in class)

is a dance exercise class designed for Active Older Adults

**Tuesdays: Gargunnock CC 11.30am - 12.15pm**

**Thursdays: Doune Rural Hall 10:00am - 10:45am**

For further information please call

**Janice on 01786 860251 or 07565 182259**

*Personal Training available within your own home*

**NO CLASSES 27th APRIL - 12th MAY**

## GARGUNNOCK PLAYGROUP AND TODDLERS

The playgroup and toddler children have all been enjoying spending lots of time outside over the last couple of months. To be honest come rain, snow, wind or sunshine they love to be out in it!

The playgroup children were very lucky to be invited to Andrew's farm (Redhall Farm) for a session. They not only got to see the sheep and hold and feed a lamb but they also saw twin lambs being born. There was lots of work to do including feeding the cows and hens, collecting the eggs and having a seat in Farmer Andrew's tractor to check the horn was working! A big thank you to Farmers Andrew and Christa for having us!

The playgroup children have also had some more successful woodland play sessions and look forward to more over the next term. In February we were very pleased to be awarded £9450 by the Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All Scotland) to help us develop our woodland play sessions. This will allow us to purchase equipment to make this fantastic project sustainable for the foreseeable future. Most of the current cohort of playgroup children will be starting school in August. It's nice to see this bunch of good friends making the transition together. Over the coming term we are looking forward to having some of the school children visit us as part of our transitional arrangements. There will be a number of two (and a half) year olds starting playgroup over the next year and in many cases taking the place of an older sibling. We are excited to see a new group of children get the fantastic opportunity to make strong friendships from this age and get out there and in amongst it at both our Community Centre based playgroup sessions and our woodland play sessions. Our sessions will continue to be held at the Community Centre on Mondays and Thursdays 0900-1130 during term time. 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 continues to meet on Wednesday mornings 1000-1130 at the Community Centre. The group is thriving and has never been bigger! They have an exciting sponsored toddle planned for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 10am meeting at Gargunnock House. They plan to toddle up the drive and have a snack under the 'climbing trees' before heading back through the woods for a teddy hunt! Not only will this be a fun event for all involved but we hope to raise some funds for this fantastic group. If you wish to support this event please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Lastly on the topic of fundraising, our last Pub Quiz on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March raised a fantastic £262. Thank you to Kate Mosley for once again putting on a great quiz! Thanks also to the pub for being such fantastic hosts as usual and thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a successful night.

If you want to get in touch with any queries contact details are: Claire Hart (Ethan and Zoe's mum) 21 Drummond Place, Gargunnock, [clairehart01@gmail.com](mailto:clairehart01@gmail.com) or call 07769967367.



### GARGUNNOCK PRIMARY OPEN AFTERNOON

Our whole school topic this term was materials.



We launched it by creating a big display/collage of manmade and natural materials, we described them using lots of creative adjectives.

On Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March we had an open afternoon. P1/2/3 did a lot of experiments involving milk, food-colouring and slime making, they also had an excellent area for making things out of natural materials. P4/5 also did lots of exciting experiments like sorbet making, finding the warmest room and which items float and sink. P6/7 did lots of things too, including chromatography and paper-making. The open afternoon went very well, lots of visitors joined us and everyone enjoyed it.

*Ruby Conroy P4.*

## GARGOYLES of GARGUNNOCK 2017 SUMMER TOUR

Sat May 27<sup>th</sup> & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> May,  
Wed June 14<sup>th</sup> 1.30 to 3.30pm,  
Wed August 9<sup>th</sup> 12 to 2pm,  
Sun August 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 4pm,  
Sun September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sat October 8<sup>th</sup>

Traquair House Medieval Festival, Innerleithen  
Stirling Town Break Dementia Group  
Callander Carers Group, Bridgend Hotel  
Kinneil House, Bo'ness  
Cambuskenneth Abbey Open Day - time tbc  
Top of the Town Festival, Stirling - tbc

## **Support Worker**

**Drivers Preferred**

**Rural Stirlingshire**

**Days, Evenings and Weekends**

**Salary £8.25 - £8.50 per hour**

**Flexibility towards shifts required**

*Do you want a rewarding career?  
Are you looking for job satisfaction?  
Would you like to work in your local community?*



Throughout the rural Stirlingshire area, Mears/ILS provides care and support to older people and vulnerable adults. Whether we provide personal care, emotional support, domestic assistance or medical supervision, understanding and empathising with people is right at the heart of who we are. If you have good communication skills, care and compassion, we'll give you support and opportunities to develop. So you'll not only help to enhance the quality of life for people in the local community; you'll help to enhance your own prospects for the future too.

All posts are subject to PVG vetting procedures. Interviews will be held locally. Full training will be provided.

To apply please contact the recruitment line on 01259 768615 or e-mail [craig.jardine@mearsgroup.co.uk](mailto:craig.jardine@mearsgroup.co.uk)

# MEAL MAKERS



Would you like a friendly neighbour to deliver you some home cooked food?

Know an older person who would appreciate a home cooked meal?

Get in touch 0800 783 7770

Could you cook one extra portion of dinner for an older neighbour, try sharing today

[www.mealmakers.org.uk](http://www.mealmakers.org.uk)

Meal Makers, is a local neighbourhood food-sharing project that uses an online platform ([www.mealmakers.org.uk](http://www.mealmakers.org.uk)) to connect volunteers of any age who have a passion for cooking and want to be active in their communities (Cooks), with older neighbours over the age of 55 (Diners) who would appreciate a home cooked meal and a friendly chat. Once a Cook and Diner have been matched the Cook will prepare an extra meal and deliver it to their Diner at a time agreed by both parties. This can be as often as the cook and diner would like whether that is weekly (most common), fortnightly or just now and again.

The project aims to reduce food poverty and malnutrition, improve diets and combat social isolation by breaking down the barriers that lead to loneliness. The project also helps to strengthen connections within communities and provides a flexible way for people to volunteer their time and skills locally in a way which suits them.

The project has been really successful in Glasgow, Dundee, Perth and Kinross, Renfrewshire and Edinburgh and has recently been launched in Stirling.



## POTORAMA 2017 - GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW

If you would like to participate for the first time this year, please contact Sandra (07583820256) or Maitland (07763098247) to get a pot. If you have participated before, please re-use your pot.

All pots are individually numbered. Please leave this number visible if possible so prize winners can be identified. Please plant your pot with either flowers, plants or vegetables. Ensure that the pot is weighed down in some way to withstand the strong winds.

Please then decorate your pot in your chosen theme by adding additional decorations as your imagination allows. Please have your pot ready for display by the end of June.

In order to maximise the impact of "Potorama" please display your pot at one of the following sites: The Square, Main Street, Leckie Road, Station Road and Manse Brae

Pots should be on site by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Judging will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July. There will be prizes for individual and group entries.

So get your thinking caps on. Let your imagination run riot and let's produce a stunning display that the village can be proud of.

Gargunnoch After School Club presents:

## VILLAGE PIG RACE NIGHT

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

**GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**7.30PM PROMPT**

**ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY**

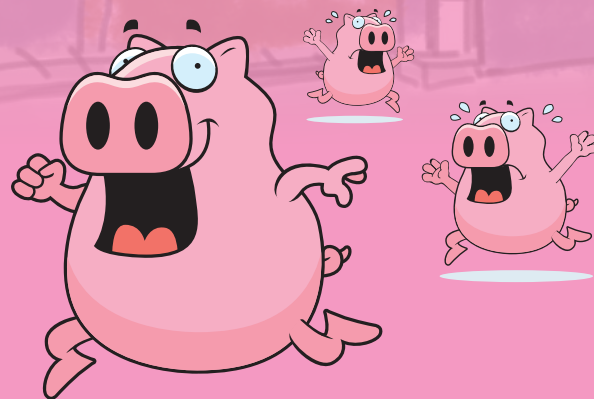
**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM GARGUNNOCK AFTER SCHOOL CLUB, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OR GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE STORE**

**Tickets £10.00 includes pulled pork roll and fixings'**

**Race sponsors £25 | Own a pig for £5 | Train a pig for £3 | Vet £1**

**Live music to follow after races | Licensed bar**

**THEY'RE  
BACK  
(BACON)**



Gargunnoch After School Club  
is a registered charity in Scotland SC044199.

## GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW QUIZ



The Annual quiz was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March when the usual suspects, and also some intelligent people, congregated to battle it out for the honour of being the prize rose amongst the other roses.

This year, the "Sew and sews" narrowly won a keenly contested contest but perhaps the least said the better regarding the booby winners!!.

As this is the only fund-raising event the Show has, to help keep the Show functioning, it's thanks to all who joined in the fun and helped raise the around £300. This year's Show is on 26<sup>th</sup> August. Schedules are available from the Shop.



**YOUR OLD COMPUTER  
ANY AGE, ANY CONDITION  
LAPTOP OR PC**

The Turing Trust works with my school and schools across the UK. Their staff have the ability to bring old computers back to life, transport them to Africa cheaply and instal them in schools, where they also provide IT training. They rely on donations for this work. The Trust is run by relatives of Alan Turing in honour of his remarkable legacy.

If you have such a computer, please contact Calvin Clarke, Norcroft, Loftbrae Park (tel. 860629) I'm happy to collect.





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

**Antisocial Behaviour** - On 17th March 2017 a drugs warrant was executed at an address in Gargunnoch. A quantity of cannabis was recovered and 2 males were reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Stirling.

**Road Safety** - Police will continue to monitor speeding in the village and take enforcement action where possible.

The Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership has continued to operate on the A811 to contribute towards improving road safety.

**Theft** - There have been no reports of theft in the Gargunnoch area over the reporting period. However, local people are reminded to report any suspicious activity to Police Scotland or CrimeStoppers.

#### Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Raymond Murphy and PC Steven Graham are the ward officers for the Forth and Endrick area, which incorporates Gargunnoch and surrounding areas. Both are based at Balfour Police Office, and can be contacted at the office, on 101 or at [ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

We regularly publish information and appeals online. Our local Twitter feed can be found at @StirlingPol, and our local Facebook page can be found at 'Forth Valley Police Division'.

As well as regularly high visibility patrols in the area by local officers, PC Murphy and PC Graham regularly visit Gargunnoch on routine patrol, carry out road safety duties including speed enforcement, assisting with local community issues and attend Gargunnoch Community Council meetings.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 PC Murphy will be leaving the post as ward officer and moving to Greenock to commence duties in the Road Policing Unit. PC Murphy has enjoyed working with the community in Gargunnoch and the surrounding villages. At present it is unknown who will be replacing Ray.

#### HMRC and Apple Gift Card Fraud

Fraudsters are using the following contact methods to defraud people:

- Voicemails: Fraudsters are leaving victims automated voicemails stating they owe HMRC unpaid taxes. When victims call back on the number provided, they are told that there is a warrant out for their arrest, unless they make payment via iTunes Vouchers.
- Spoofed calls: Fraudsters are cold calling victims using a spoofed 0300 200 3300 number and convincing them that they owe unpaid tax to HMRC.
- Text messages: Fraudsters are sending text messages requesting victims to urgently call back on the number provided. When victims call back, they are told that there is a case being built against them for an outstanding debt and they must pay immediately.

Fraudsters are using iTunes gift cards to collect money from victims because they can be easily redeemed and sold on. The scammers don't need the physical card to redeem the value and instead get victims to read out the serial code on the back over the phone to them.

Action Fraud has been working with Apple and HMRC to warn people about this type of fraud.

How to protect yourself:

- HMRC will never use text message to inform about a tax rebate or penalty.
- HMRC will never ask for any payment in the form of iTunes Vouchers.

- HMRC will only post out a P800 tax calculations, in circumstances of under or overpayment of taxes, if you're employed or get a pension.

- Payments using iTunes Vouchers may not be recoverable.

- Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should not trust the number you see on your telephone display as proving the caller is genuinely calling from HMRC.

- Be protective of divulging other personal details such as National Insurance number, passport number and bank details over the telephone.

- If you receive an unexpected call, whereby the caller requests an advance fee in the form of iTunes gift cards, the call should immediately be terminated.

**Policing 2026** - People across Scotland are being invited to contribute their views as a new Policing 2026 draft long-term strategy to deliver policing throughout the country was launched.

The publication of Policing 2026 signals the start of a landmark countrywide consultation designed to ensure as many voices as possible are heard to help the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Police Scotland design its services to keep people safe over the next decade.

Full details can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk/policing2026](http://www.scotland.police.uk/policing2026)

#### Rural Watch Scotland

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and Forth valley Rural Crime Group aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural Watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and members responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

- Log onto [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)
- Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.
- Follow the on screen instructions.



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**Exhibiting their New Collections for 2017:**

**FORTH VALLEY ART BEAT OPEN STUDIOS**  
Bridgend, Main Street, Gargunnoch, Stirling FK8 3BW  
10th, 11th, 12th, & 16th, 17th and 18th June, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**POP-UP SHOP, GARGUNNOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
25th November, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## B12 BUS ROUTE

Many residents will now be aware of the cuts to the B12 Balfron to Stirling bus route that started in August 2016. Since then passengers have been trying to get two particular buses reinstated, the 10.10 Balfron to Stirling and the 16.05 Stirling to Balfron. These were two of the busiest buses on this route and were vital to people who have no other means of transport in order to access all manner of services in Stirling. This includes being able to do their shopping, access employment, meet friends and family, visit loved ones in hospital or care homes and vitally, being able to access healthcare themselves at the 3 separate hospitals that serve our communities.

The B12 route serves 9 separate villages and since the loss of these two buses it now means residents can leave home at 9am to attend a hospital appointment and depending on which village they live in do not return until 7pm that evening. If people miss the 14.15 bus from Stirling the next one is 17.38. This is very hard on our elderly and disabled residents who are trying so hard to live independent lives and maintain a degree of dignity.

Public transport is vital to the life of rural communities today and for the future. It's not just for the elderly or disabled to remain independent and avoid isolation ...or for young folks who cannot drive trying to meet friends or access employment..... no one knows when they or someone close to them may find themselves in the position of suddenly needing to rely on public transport.

Since last August, First Midland Bluebird, local Councillors, Community Councils, MPs, MSPs and the CEO at Stirling Council have all been made aware of this situation. First Midland Bluebird is a private company and at present have a monopoly in our area and they refused to reinstate these two buses without a subsidy from

Stirling Council. Council Officials stated they were unable to provide such a subsidy due to funding cuts in their overall transport budget.

At the Stirling Council 2017 budget meeting in February, extra funds were allocated for supported rural transport services. One of our local Councillors specifically asked at the budget meeting if a portion of this could be used to reinstate the two B12 buses and the answer was "yes".

He tabled a further question the following week at the final meeting of the full Council to try to establish a timetable for the reinstatement of these buses. Unfortunately a definitive answer was not forthcoming at that meeting. However, it was now a matter of record that the funding was available to reinstate the 10.10 and 16.05 B12 buses.

As the current administration were made aware of the necessity of the two B12 buses some 8 months ago and the fact that registration of new services with the Traffic Commissioner is a lengthy process, we had hoped they would start this procedure immediately it became clear that funding was available. Despite some delay, at the time of going to print we can now confirm that the tender has finally been published. Therefore, it is anticipated it will be sometime in June before the B12 buses are finally reinstated.....subject to confirmation.

This has been a long campaign and a particularly hard winter for B12 passengers. We hope that those who are struggling with the current timetables will be encouraged by the fact that the end is in sight and that many people have worked together, from individual Councillors, Bus Users Scotland, Community Councils and residents from other villages and they will continue to support this case until it is fully resolved.

Valerie Brand





# Andrew Anderson & Sons

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Next edition of the Bugle will be end of June if you have any articles or Ads please email [bugle@gargunnock.com](mailto:bugle@gargunnock.com) by 12th June 2017. Items submitted are the personal opinion of the author and, as such, are not endorsed by the Bugle.