The Bugle

Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

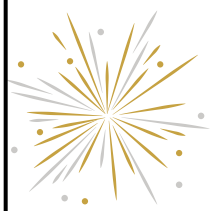
Issue 72
December 2022
www.gargunnock.org

Remembrance Service

Val Rose, our Interim Moderator, and the Kirk Session thank the Gargunnock Community Trust for their participation in the Remembrance Day Service, when we remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. During the service Douglas Johnston laid a Poppy wreath at the Village War Memorial, within the church, and another, on behalf of the Residents of the village, at the Gate into the Fountain Area after a short Act of Remembrance at the Square, after the Service.

NEW YEAR AT THE SQUARE !!!

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



There will be fireworks as the Church bell tolls at midnight.

COME ALONG WEARING YOUR FLASHING LIGHTS

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

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

Editorial

Welcome to December's Bugle. Christmas is almost here and the new year will soon be upon us. Worries over Covid are finally going away and hopefully the events such as the gala will be back by next year.

I would like to thank Jon Park for helping me with becoming the new editor for the Bugle. Also the Community Trust for letting me volunteer. Thank you all for contributing for the Bugle even it was sending in articles or helping me figure out how to log into the computer.

All contributions can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, please send feedback for this bugle edition. The deadline for the next issue is 12th February 2023.

Louise Crawford, November 2022

Gargunnock Gala 2023

Gargunnock Gala day is back with a big bang on Saturday 17th of June 2023. Look out for further info coming soon If you would like to get involved please contact kimberley.sinclair@yahoo.co.uk

Final Farewell

Dave and Issy would like to say our very grateful thanks to all those who wished us well and unfortunately we were not able to say goodbye to personally.

Our farewell do was bittersweet, a very pleasant evening and a gift we shall treasure forever as well as a couple of bottles which may help us ease the pains of moving!!

To paraphrase Winnie the Pooh "How lucky are we to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Anne and Maitland

Anne and Maitland would like to thank all our friends, wedding guests and well-wishers for making our wedding day so special.

We had requested that we didn't want to receive any gifts but, if so desired, to donate to

We are delighted to say that the wonderful sum of £1520 was received, with £745 donated to each of Prostate Cancer UK and Macmillan Cancer Support, and £30 specifically requested to go to Cancer Research UK.

Many many thanks to all who donated for their generosity.

After a collective 80 years volunteering for Girlguiding

Mrs B, Karen, Jackie & Jolanda will be stepping down in June 2023.

If you want these groups to continue to provide the fun and learning that they do for girls aged 4-10 then new volunteers are needed.

Brownies and Rainbows do not need to continue at their current locations and on the nights and time they currently run, this can be changed to suit new volunteers and it works out well to have a good number of volunteers so that duties can be shared out.

If you are interested in becoming a Unit Leader, Assistant Leader or Helper please contact any of the current leaders or email **jackie_campbe11@yahoo.co.uk**

More information about volunteering can be found at **https://www.girl guidingscotland.org.uk/become-a-volunteer/**

GARGUNNOCK CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICES and EVENTS

There are special events and services during December in and around Gargunnock Parish Church, which are open to all, and we invite you to attend one, some or all of them! Due to the fluctuation of the COVID infection rates we ask that you take the precautions necessary to your own situation. We will have Hand Sanitiser and Face Masks available.

Join our celebrations of worship as we await the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Details are as follows:

- **Sunday 27th November**, the First Sunday of Advent; Douglas will lead Worship.
- **Sunday 4th December**, the Second Sunday of Advent, the services are at our sister churches: Kincardine-in-Menteith at 9.30am and Kilmadock at 10.30am, Rev Alastair Munro will conduct these services.
- **Sunday 11th December**, the Third Sunday of Advent. Val Rose will conduct the service at Gargunnock.
- **Sunday 18th December** at 10.30am there will be a Family Service telling the story of Christmas through Lessons and Carols. This will be led by the Elders.
- **Saturday 24th December**: Christmas Eve is really special, so plan to visit Gargunnock Kirk from 11.00pm for some Carol Singing before the Watchnight Service at 11.30pm to welcome the first moments of Christmas morning.
- **Sunday 25th December** our three local congregations join together to continue the celebration of Christmas. We will meet in Gargunnock Church at 10.30am when Val Rose, our Interim Moderator, will conduct worship. Children are encouraged to bring their 'new toy/s'.
- **Sunday 1st January** at 10.30am our three local congregations will join again at Gargunnock when we will give thanks for 2022 and seek God's blessing for 2023.

We also invite you to join us at some local events:

- **Saturday 3rd December**: Classics at Kippen is hosting a 'Christmas Celebration' in Kippen Church at 7.30pm. The Concert features John Logan and Students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Tickets: Adult £15 / Concession £12 / Under 16's free and are available via info@classicsatkippen.co.uk. Refreshments will be served at the interval. Proceeds in aid of MND(Scotland) & Parkinsons UK (Scotland).
- **Sunday 11th December** Kincardine-in-Menteith is hosting 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Church at 6pm. All Welcome.

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

Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk

Windfarm Panel Update – November 2022

At their October meeting the Windfarm Panel agreed the following awards for funding:

- Gargunnock Primary School - £500 towards costs for a Gargunnock Show Theatre production.
- Development Trust - £5181 towards the Community Centre Zero Carbon Project to deliver a £25,906 project which has received funding from CARES Net Zero Scotland.
- A Community Council application for £150 to retrospectively fund Defibrillator training was unfortunately not eligible as the rules for the fund exclude activity which has already taken place.
- During November a request was made by the Development Trust towards replacement pads for the Defibrillator and, if needed, necessary software updates. It was agreed in principle to award up to £500 to support as required.

The Windfarm Panel is comprised of community based volunteers including representatives from the Development Trust and the Community Council. They are responsible for making awards within the Gargunnock Community Council area from the FALK Renewables fund which is approx. £25,000 per annum.

The membership of the Panel changes annually as appointments only last for a predetermined length – and whilst it's always a shame to lose experience it is a great way to get new perspectives and ideas and involve a wide range of community members. The two Trust representatives Jill Patrick and Jon Park are in the process of being replaced and the Panel extended their thanks to them for their service. Vanessa Paynton was warmly welcomed as our newest Panel member at the October meeting.

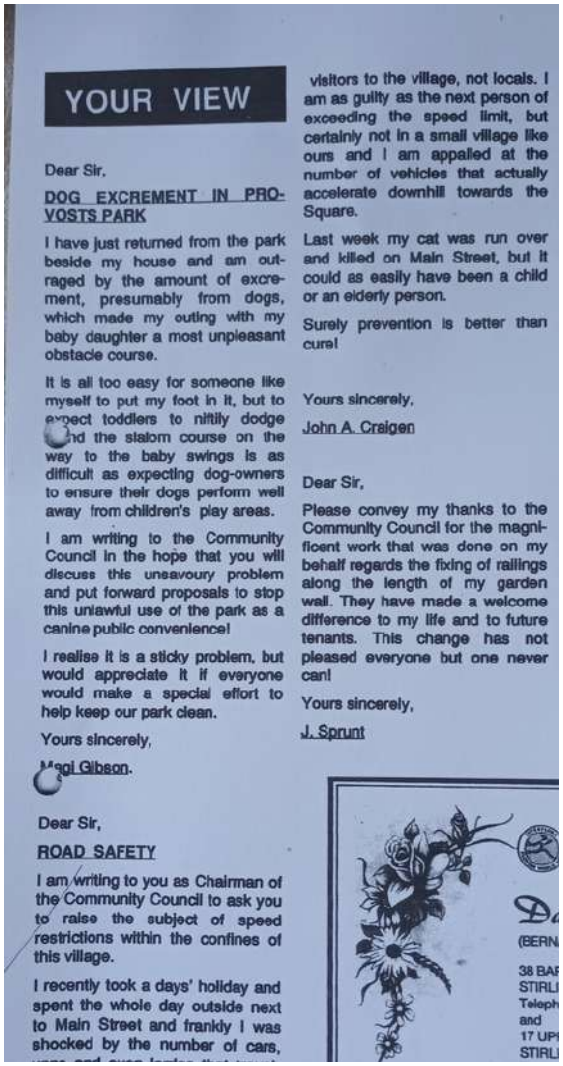
Deadline dates for next year are:

- 2nd January 2023
- 24th April
- 18th September

When submitting application always download latest form from https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications. If you want to submit a time critical application before these dates please email windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

Speeding & Dog Poo!

Two of the most complained about subjects are speeding in the village and dog poo. Well if you think these are modern problems then think again. Here is a page from the Gargunnock Quarterly dated Spring 1989 - the subjects seem familiar!!



YOUR VIEW

Dear Sir,

DOG EXCREMENT IN PROVOSTS PARK

I have just returned from the park beside my house and am outraged by the amount of excrement, presumably from dogs, which made my outing with my baby daughter a most unpleasant obstacle course.

It is all too easy for someone like myself to put my foot in it, but to expect toddlers to nitlily dodge and the slalom course on the way to the baby swings is as difficult as expecting dog-owners to ensure their dogs perform well away from children's play areas.

I am writing to the Community Council in the hope that you will discuss this unsavoury problem and put forward proposals to stop this unlawful use of the park as a canine public convenience!

I realise it is a sticky problem, but would appreciate it if everyone would make a special effort to help keep our park clean.

Yours sincerely,

Angi Gibson.

Dear Sir,

ROAD SAFETY

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Community Council to ask you to raise the subject of speed restrictions within the confines of this village.

I recently took a days' holiday and spent the whole day outside next to Main Street and frankly I was shocked by the number of cars, visitors to the village, not locals. I am as guilty as the next person of exceeding the speed limit, but certainly not in a small village like ours and I am appalled at the number of vehicles that actually accelerate downhill towards the Square.

Last week my cat was run over and killed on Main Street, but it could as easily have been a child or an elderly person.

Surely prevention is better than cure!

Yours sincerely,

John A. Craigen

Dear Sir,

Please convey my thanks to the Community Council for the magnificent work that was done on my behalf regards the fixing of railings along the length of my garden wall. They have made a welcome difference to my life and to future tenants. This change has not pleased everyone but one never can!

Yours sincerely,

J. Sprunt

ALEXANDER STEWART MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Primary School Update

Green Flag Status

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the renewal of our Green Flag status. This is in recognition of the efforts the children have made towards developing biodiversity through planting a new wildflower meadow and Jubilee garden, improving our school grounds through our new raised beds and through our continued efforts to recycle. We were also commended for our quality education opportunities working with community partners, On The Verge, The Good Bee Project alongside Gargunnock Beekeepers and with Flanders Moss.

This is great news and demonstrates how we tried really hard throughout the past year to keep our learning opportunities going when there was a pandemic around us.

P5/6 RHET visit

P5/6 visited United Auctions earlier this month to learn a bit more about food and farming. The event had a focus on Health & Wellbeing, Developing the Young Workforce, and Sustainable Living. There were a wide range of activity providers from across the food, farming and environmental sectors and the pupils learned lots about farm to fork food journeys and the benefits of buying local produce that has not travelled around the world before reaching our supermarkets.

Skills Academies

We have changed the way we do skills academy sessions in school. This year we are offering 4 week taster academies and are trying to show how the skills they are learning can be developed in the wider world. This term our Ukelele academy will perform at the Christmas concert, our Dance academy will participate in a Ceilidh at The Peak, and we are hoping to sell out jam and chutney at a local Christmas Fayre. Pupils are encouraged to explore and learn new things and open their thinking to new opportunities. If any member of the community has any particular skill set that we could utilise in our skills academies we would love to hear from you.

Outdoor classroom day

It was very windy for our Outdoor Classroom day and using tarpaulins didn't seem such a great idea when we started out but we all had a great time den building in our school grounds wooded area. Lots of pegs and bungees were available to tie everything down and we were away. There was great co-operation and teamwork on display and magnificent engagement from all. The pictures really speak for themselves.

Gargunnock Community Trust News

The well attended Trust AGM, held 27 October, heard from various trustees about the work of the Trust and the successes achieved over the past year. Highlights included a wide range of actions taken and being progressed to make the community centre zero carbon, the centre being the Trust's main capital asset. So far, the heating and hot water systems have been improved, the insulation in the roof has been increased while all the lighting is now LED. Full planning permission and grant funding has been secured to install solar panels and a battery. Grants for these improvements have come from the Windfarm Fund and CARES Net Zero Scotland. Together these improvements will help manage energy costs.

Further highlights included the trust's contribution to the Village Shop Working Group which included members from the trust, Community Council and other community members; with grant applications submitted should the need arise.

Updates from the Bee and Pond Groups showed the great progress they have made, enabled by the trust having secured ownership of the Glebe Park and installed the footpath a few years ago. The trust's paths group has continued to be very active with a focus on the Gargunnock to Stirling path. A further £500k from SUSTRANS has been secured for the detailed design phase, with the volunteer trustees involved having been independently praised for the amount of progress they have achieved. Charlie's Loan footpath has been upgraded with volunteer labour and materials provided by Stirling Council. Progress has been made with the Hill Path with a detailed expert's report having been completed, while the Beechs' path will be progressed in the near future.

The operations of the Windfarm Fund, administered by the trust and managed by the Windfarm Fund Panel were explained and Alison Younger was thanked for her work as chair of the Panel, a position she has agreed to continue for a further two years. Bite and Blether has been reinstated following Covid with good attendances, proceeds helping to maintain the community centre. The Bugle was published four times and Jon Park was thanked for stepping in as editor to ensure this important local newsletter continued.

Photo by Anne Marie

The company secretary's report provided assurance that all necessary corporate governance matters had been dealt with appropriately while the treasurer outlined the trust's positive financial position. The trust's banking was now all on-line, Xero accounting software had been purchased to help improve the efficiency of financial transactions and VAT returns; a new Windfarm Fund grant tracker had been introduced to help meet Foundation Scotland's requirements and Jon Park had worked with Debbie Masson, the community centre bookings administrator, to simplify the community centre pricing structure.

The trust, including all the existing trustees/directors were thanked for their tremendous efforts and input during the year. Specifically, Jon Park was thanked for his significant contributions as he was stepping down as a trustee at the AGM. All the remaining nine trustees were reappointed by the meeting.

As no one else came forward at the meeting there remains three places on the Trust Board for new trustees; if you are interested in getting involved and want to contribute your skills, expertise and time to your community please drop an email to gargunnocktrust@gmail.com or speak to one of the trustees. It has been great to see so many people becoming involved in the various trust sub groups, however, without new trustees we will only be able to focus our volunteer time on projects which best fit the skills, interests and time of the existing volunteer trustees so the challenge has been set.....!

STILL MISSING

Can I ask if anyone is feeding Mavis to please stop, she has been missing for about 20+ weeks now and we want her home. If you have or know of someone who has a new addition like Mavis can you let me know please. With the weather turning, I want her back. I know there is a possibility that maybe something has happened that she will not return, but if someone is doing a lovely thing and feeding her, please don't so she might come home. I am still out looking when I can, hopefully one day I will find her either way.

Also, if someone has taken her in, please can you message me, let me know she is at least safe, I'm going out of my mind thinking her body is somewhere that I will never find.

Send me a picture of her, safe and sound, then we can sort something out. I know of people who take cats in and fall in love with them. Mavis is very loveable, all I am asking if you/or someone you know has taken her in please just let me know she is safe and well. That's all I need to know.

Many thanks
Please email me at Debbie.tawse@btinternet.com

Bite and Blether

Thank you so much to everyone who braved the atrocious weather on Wednesday 2nd November to come down to Bite and Blether in the Community Centre.

After a fairly quiet start we were suddenly very busy indeed. Our three soups - mushroom, spicy parsnip and carrot and "Witches Brew" (pea and crispy bacon chowder) were soon completely sold out and the delicious home baking was disappearing fast!! By the time we closed the doors at 2pm there was very little left - a very successful day!

Thank you again to our small group of loyal volunteer bakers - Jessie, Morag, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Allison, Sally, Gill, Rowena and Bernie and Barbara for their soups. Also to Lorna and Moira in the kitchen!! It would not be possible without all of you.

The next Bite and Blether is on Wednesday 7th December from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Community Centre.

the Woodhouse

Thursday evenings open until 8pm.
Farm Shop & Café.

Always featuring fantastic and innovative Woodhouse specials*.
And 'Base Pizza' every second and last Thursday of the month.

To book email woodhousekippen@gmail.com
*See facebook for menu details.

Gargunnock Walking Group – November 2022

The Gargunnock Walking Group has recently enjoyed some further excellent walks including Kirkton Glen at Balquhider, Braco Castle and Gardens, and a walk on farm tracks and paths between Dollar and Muckhart. On one of these walks we unexpectedly found an osprey's nest with two ospreys on it. The most recent walk was in Glen Artney. On previous occasions we have spotted large herds of deer and stags on the hill sides in the glen. On this occasion the weather was rather wet and windy and the best that we could do was spot a largish herd of deer, but no stags this time. As usual red kites were spotted in the glen.

The next walk is on Thursday 24th November, and if the weather is fair, we may make another attempt at a walk in one of the Hillfoots glens.

Further dates are planned as follows:

- Tuesday 13th December
- Tuesday 10th January
- Thursday 24th January

- Checking out a new member of the walking group in Glen Artney.

Thanks to Jeremy for the Picture.

- Scenic foot path between Dollar and Muckhart.

Thanks to Sue for the picture.

The walks will be decided nearer the time and will depend upon the weather.

Possibilities for further walks include return visits to the Dukes Trail, and Cashell Forest Park. New walks might include Dumgoyne, and around Auchterarder. I would expect to do repeat visits to favourite spring walks such as Glen Lednock near Comrie.

As usual these walks will depend up on the weather on the day. We want to maintain the tradition of walking on fine clear days when we expect to have stunning views of the surrounding countryside. And we are always on the look-out for new and interesting walks within easy access of Gargunnock

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

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

Edmond Mansion

Many artists have been keen to record the beauty of our village on paper or canvas throughout the years. Many of their paintings survive to this day, mainly unseen, but they do pop up from time to time on the art market.

Top-left - The famous 19th/20th century etcher Sir Muirhead Bone visited our village on more than one occasion. He sketched this view of the houses in the Square, possibly during his visit in 1910. The gable end on the right is one of the basket making shops which stood just in front of the White House at that time.

Top-right - Both basket making shops are visible in this painting as are the White House and the Church beyond by another well known artist of the same era, Tomson Laing, who also created the two framed paintings of the Square. Almost identical except that the one on the left is a watercolour, while the other is not.

Upper Centre - This one is from an on-line catalogue of his works. He often depicted horses, sheep or cattle in rural or seashore settings.

Bottom Centre - View from McNeil Crescent 1970 by Joe McIntyre. This is the one that clinched the sale of the Kings house, Burnside, recently by verifying its 2-storey status in that year. I think this painting was found, a bit damaged, in a loft in Stevenson St. but I may be wrong. Some of his works are in Royal collections.

Many of these paintings were brought to my attention by our resident art expert Neil McCrae, who you may recall from his appearances on BBCs Antiques Roadshow some time back. Thanks Neil.

JMcL

Parent Council Update

Gargunnock Primary School Parent Council have been busy during the autumn and winter terms working with the pupils, staff and wider parent / carer network to identify fundraising priorities for the school this session. The potential to secure the services of Tapsalteerie Theatre Company to have a whole school revival of the Great Gargunnock Show has excited everybody and the Parent Council were very grateful to secure £500 from the FALK Windfarm Fund towards costs - hopefully they can raise funds for the remainder and schedule the workshops and community performances for Spring 2023.

Key fundraising and community events being supported by Parents include:

- **200 Club**: 'Buy' a number between 1 – 200 for £10 and be entered into a monthly prize draw to win a cash prize – numbers still available.
- **Sunday 20th November**: P7's Mad Hatters Tea Party with Bingo, 2-5pm in the Community Centre.
- **Christmas Raffle**: some great prizes - get your tickets now!
- **4th February**: Over 18's Ceilidh – save the date and get your ticket for a fabulous night of live music, dancing and good company at the community centre.

Parent Council is made up of parents and carers of children attending the school and all are welcome to join, or attend our termly meetings.

Our objectives are:

To promote partnership between the school, all its pupils and all its parents
To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of all the pupils.
To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents.
To raise funds for the school which support the education and welfare of all the pupils.
To identify and represent the view of parents on the education that is provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of all the pupils.

Throughout the Bugle you will find a selection of photos taken by Anne Marie MacGregor. Thank you Anne Marie!

An Update from Gargunnock W.I.

Back in September we were all ready to hold our first meeting of the session when we had to cancel it due to a high number of our members having caught Covid. However, we successfully held our first meeting in October which was a hands on evening making Christmas cards led by Maureen McLaughlin and making Christmas decorations from a tea cup led by Dee Guidery. Afterwards there were plenty of cakes and refreshments as well as our ever successful rural raffle.

A week after our first meeting we held our first drop in afternoon in the Community Centre open to members and non-members with tea/coffee/cakes/biscuits. This drop-in was set up to be a social time as we felt many villagers had missed out socially over the past couple of years and some people are still very cautious about going out. It was a glorious afternoon with the sun shining and doors of the Garden Room open. The afternoon proved to be very popular. There will not be one in December but it will resume on January 24th.

Many of our members attended a demonstration of Christmas Cake decorating by Linda McTurk at the Smith Art Gallery.

On November 15th our meeting was a Photography talk by Helen Hyland. Congratulations are in order for Helen as she won the National SWI Photography competition entitled 'Man's best friend', with her photo taken at Geilston Gardens.

In December members will enjoy a Christmas meal at the Gargunnock Inn with a secret Santa presents and games. The Christmas windows will be appearing again this year for everyone to discover from early December. Why don't you join in the fun and decorate a window or two ?

January 17th is our first meeting in the New Year with Lois Simpson from Move it Fitness.

Further information about Gargunnock W.I. contact me on 007815522247 or email bmountford31@gmail.com. Or Anne Muirhead, Secretary on 01786 860657 or email mrshamish@outlook.com. New members are always very welcome. Gargunnock W.I. would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Beverley Mountford -President Gargunnock W.I.

MERRY Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Blueberry Hill Meals Christmas and winter specials menus are out now! Avoid the supermarket stress and piles of pots and pans by letting us take care of the cooking this Christmas. We have delicious honey roast carrot and parsnip soup, roast turkey or chestnut loaf with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and mince pies. For festive food without the fuss, we're here for you.

From our kitchen in Stirling, our Blueberry Hill chefs cook a superb range of soups, main meals and irresistible desserts from scratch using fresh, high-quality ingredients. We freeze them in handy, individual portions and our team of friendly drivers deliver them to you for FREE. Please get in touch and we'll send you a copy of our brochure, current specials menu and Christmas menu.

Try our starter pack for £10 and get four dishes delivered FREE to your home

www.blueberryhillmeals.co.uk
hello@blueberryhillmeals.co.uk
01786 357 560

The mystery of the Gargunnock knitter

I'm sure you have seen the knitted decor brightening up the village recently over the past few months. They have been a highlight for our everyday walks, seeing the Square and Charles Street contributing lots to the seasonal holidays. The odd thing is, we do not know who to credit for these beautiful artworks.

It has been great to see the themed knitted decorations. Such as the poppies for Remembrance Day or the pumpkins for Halloween. We also loved the Ukrainian flag on the post box showing the support we have in the hopes of Ukraine getting through these tough times. Thank you for these amazing crochet's.

Photos by Anne Marie

GARGUNNOCK'S ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD 2022

Gargunnock's 'Alternative Christmas Card' has raised over £20,000 for various charities over the years and this year our chosen charity is Action in Mind.

Action in Mind is a Stirling-based community mental health organisation which supports people - and their families and carers - with mental health issues and illnesses who live in the Forth Valley region. Things are extremely challenging for most at the moment so the vital mental health support services, such as those provided by Action in Mind, are more crucial than ever.

The 'alternative card' has become a bit of a village institution and its beauty lies in its simplicity! It's really just a poster wishing everyone in Gargunnock a very Merry Christmas from everyone who has donated. It's pinned to the notice board on Christmas Eve and will be included in the first edition of The Bugle in 2023. Donations are made online - and do remember when you leave your message on the JustGiving page to include all of the names from your family that you'd like mentioned on the Village Christmas Card.

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

Jane Milne

HOW TO DONATE - Online: https://www.givey.com/gargunnocksvillagechristmascard2022
(Please tick the Gift Aid box if applicable)

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

We are a community led group providing a safe, fun and engaging environment for children to meet, learn and play. As well as fun for the kids it is a great way to meet other parents in the area.

All children (and parents!) are welcome. We currently have spaces available for both Playgroup and Toddlers so please get in touch if you're interested or have any questions!

We are hiring - PLAYGROUP MANAGER

Gargunnock Playgroup is looking for a caring, committed and enthusiastic person with previous experience working with children aged 2-5 years to join our team. This is a permanent, paid post.

Applicants must have previous experience in a relevant childcare environment, and either hold or be be willing to work towards a qualification accepted by the SSSC for registration as a Manager (e.g. BA in Childhood Practice or PDA level 9).

Please get in touch for the full job description. If you, or anybody you know, is interested and has the necessary experience and professional qualifications please contact us at mcgregor_nina@yahoo.co.uk

Update from the Flower Show

While the main gardening season is more or less in the past, the Flower Show Committee are still active in making a contribution to the beauty of the village.

The barrels are still looking healthy and, due to the unseasonally mild weather, some Spring bulbs are already showing.

Now, to supplement these barrels, a further 4 are being purchased although slightly smaller than the current barrels. It is thought that one will be placed at each end of the bench outside the church. If anyone would like to be custodian of one (or two,) of them please let any of the committee know. There is no expense involved as all materials will be provided.

The other two barrels will be gifted to the school, and looked after by the kids, to encourage them to take an interest in gardening and nature.

In addition, a donation of £100 will be given to the school to assist in the expansion of their vegetable patch.

Maitland (President)

Andrew Anderson & Sons
Funeral Directors
Est.1969
"Stand Sure we will look after you & your family"
We are proud to offer a **24 hour caring and professional service** to the local community.

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

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

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Down at the Farm

It feels a bit like October arrived and someone turned on the tap. The wonderful dry-under-foot conditions of summer a distant memory as wellies squelch - with the additional weight of mud they also give legs an extra work out. Folks say though that there is 'no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes' and I guess they are right. Back in the day when we walked the hills for leisure we had decent Gortex waterproofs. Water resistant but breathable. A few years in I gave up on such efforts – the costs not justified by lack of performance in the wear and tear department. At this time of year most farmers across the country are to be found in Flexithane. Essentially rubber coated trousers and jackets they are longer wearing and much cheaper – the main downside (other than only available in green) being that they don't breathe. Often you feel that you've been in a hot sauna for hours.

The morning routines have shifted – the cattle are now mostly in the shed. They need fed morning and night and the autumn calving period is well underway – so regular checks are essential through the day to both monitor imminent births and ensure new borns are sucking well. The tups have gone out with the ewes - on a 34 day schedule to do their work and hopefully sow the seeds for next years lambing. Sheep's fertility cycles every 17 days so the ewes are all effectively getting 2 opportunities to conceive. Experience in years past has led us to be strict on the number of days – with some always lambing a bit early, and some a bit late the busy lambing period can stretch on endlessly otherwise.

Our new hens have settled in well – though we anxiously watch the march of Avian Flu around the country. As I write England are already under a legal lockdown where birds must be housed – and all the signals are that Scotland will soon follow. New laying patterns are getting established – and whilst there are not many very large eggs to be had - they are following the natural pattern of getting slowly bigger and bigger so hopefully it wont be too long until these are back.

The freezers are full of pre Christmas butchery - loads of super tasty Leckie Pork sausages including seasonal favourites like chipolatas, smoky maple and chilli and red onion and sage – alongside a good stock of gluten free links. We've got a small number of super choice cuts – anyone for a 3 kg sirloin roast as a Xmas treat? Plenty of all the usual Highland Beef and Outdoor Reared Pork in stock so please do keep us, and other local producers and businesses, in mind as you plan your festive menus. As ever, free local home deliveries every Friday, or on farm pick up available anytime.

A final note to wish all our customers and flexible staff team the very best Christmas and New Year – your ongoing support for us and our produce means the world to us.

Thank you!

Alison, Fergus and the girls.

OLD LECKIE FARM
GARGUNNOCK, STIRLING

- Leckie Free Range Eggs
- Leckie Meat: Beef, Lamb, Outdoor reared pork
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- Self catering accommodation
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Local delivery every Friday

Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance:

PC Graeme McNulty is a new addition to the Forth and Endrick Ward Officer role. Graeme has been a Police Officer for thirteen years, including five years within Balfron. For the last four years, Graeme has been the School based officer at Balfron, Dunblane and McLaren High Schools.

PC Steven Graham and PC Graeme McNulty are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on 101 or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.police.uk.

It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact however should not be used for crime reporting.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice.

Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:
www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision
www.facebook.com/policescotland
www.twitter.com/stirlingpol
www.twitter.com/policescotland

Theft

In September 2022, Police were made aware of a theft of lead from the church roof in Kippen. This is another clear example highlighting the complete lack of morals among thieves operating in our area. It is therefore important to be vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. These calls are always treated seriously and are all investigated.

Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it make it harder for the thieves:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on 101.

The Bugle is a free Community Newsletter published quarterly by Gargunnock Community Trust Ltd. Its aim is to provide news, views, information and entertainment for the residents and friends of Gargunnock and the surrounding area.

Editor: Louise Crawford
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Deadline of next issue: Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including 12th February 2023.

Contributions: Letters & submissions may be made to the Editor (deadlines are shown elsewhere in the newsletter). We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted.

We reserve the right to edit, shorten, or refuse to publish any article or letter submitted. Contributions will be attributed to the author. However, at the Editor's discretion, a contribution may be printed anonymously but the author's name, address, and phone number must be supplied to the Editor.

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

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Distribution: The Bugle is distributed to around 400 homes in the village by volunteers (thank you) and is also available on the village website (www.gargunnock.org). If you would like to help with distribution, please contact the editor (gargunnockbugle@gmail.com).

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