The Bugle

Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

Issue 73
March 2022
www.gargunnock.org

The Flower Show

The Flower Show has been very fortunate to have enjoyed a very good relationship with Gargunnock Primary School over the years. To further this collaboration and encourage the pupils to take a greater interest in plants, flowers and vegetables, the sum of £100 was gifted to the school to enable them to purchase bulbs and seeds for their garden, along with a further donation of two half barrels and compost.

Maitland Clark, President, and Sandra Anderson, Vice President visited the school to do the honours. They are pictured along with the School Council, which is a group consisting of one pupil from each year in the school. The ideal site for the barrels is outside the school gates so that they can be seen as you enter the village, and they will complement the other half barrel displays already in position throughout the Village. We will all look forward to a dazzling display in due course.

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 1st March	Bite and Blether at the Community Centre
Tuesday 14th March	SWI 'drop in', 1-3pm at the Community Centre
Thursday 23rd March	The Great Gargunnock Story
Sunday 2nd April	Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am
Wednesday 5th April	Bite and Blether at the Community Centre
Thursday 6th April	Maundy Thursday
Friday 7th April	Good Friday
Sunday 9th April	Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am
Tuesday 11th April	SWI 'drop in', 1-3pm at the Community Centre
Saturday 22nd April	SWI Coffee Morning
Monday 24th April	Windfarm Panel application deadline
Wednesday 3rd May	Bite and Blether at the Community Centre
Saturday 3rd June	Gargunnock Farmer's Show
Wednesday 7th June	Bite and Blether at the Community Centre
Saturday 17th June	Gargunnock Gala Day
Monday 18th September	Windfarm Panel application deadline

Under 25 years?
Win a £25 cinema voucher!
We want to hear your views about the village.

Scan the QR code below and complete the survey.

Editorial

Welcome to March's Bugle. I hope you all had a great Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

Thank you to all the contributors who sent in their articles, advertisements, and more, to update Gargunnock.

Also thank you to the distributors who go out their way to hand out the bugle on their streets.

All contributions can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com, please send feedback for this Bugle edition. The deadline for the next issue is 30th April 2023.

Louise Crawford, February 2023

Trust News Update

The Trust welcomes two new directors/trustees - John Steele and Nathan Anderton. It's great to have new 'younger' blood on board with new ideas, skills and lots of energy!

At its January meeting, following the AGM, roles and responsibilities were agreed for all directors/trustees. For the time being the chair's role will rotate amongst all the directors/trustees. Gavin Fleming will continue as treasurer and Douglas Johnston will help prepare year end accounts. Gavin will also continue to be the chair of the Paths Group focusing on the Gargunnock to Stirling path alongside Geoff Peart. Douglas will continue to manage projects aimed at making the community centre carbon neutral and to minimise energy costs. He will also oversee the Glebe Park which involves liaising with the Bee and Pond Groups and continue to represent the Trust on the Village Shop Group, a joint project with the Community Council and others. Gill Bell will continue as Company Secretary. Stuart Ogg will be the meetings secretary and he also joins the Paths Group to help take forward projects. He will also continue to support Bite and Blether. Jill Patrick continues as the Membership Secretary helped by Mairi Jackson. Jill also organises Bite and Blether with help from many others. Mairi has also taken on the communications role so will liaise with the Bugle editor (Louise Crawford) and website administrator (Carol MacGregor) who also contributes to the Facebook Page. Crawford Gordon is now the Community Centre manager and is the key contact for the Caretaker (Lee Masson) and Bookings Administrator (Debbie Masson). Finally, John Steele and Steve Barnet are the new Trust representatives on the Windfarm Fund Panel; Steve also supports Bite and Blether.

All directors/trustees are volunteers and take on these roles to help the village to continue to develop and thrive. It is therefore very heartening that Nathan and John have both come forward to volunteer their time and experience, especially as the range of Trust projects expands. There are always ways to get involved in one or more of the many Trust projects as a volunteer and that doesn't mean you have to become a trustee/director. Having said that, we still have one place left on the Board.

So, if you are interested in volunteering and/or serve as a trustee/director please speak to one of the existing directors/trustees or email gargunnocktrust@gmail.com.

Liz Petrie and family would like to say a belated thank you to all those who attended Robert's funeral service and who sent cards and offered kind words at a difficult time.

Thank you from Liz and family

New Year

After missing 3 New Years due to covid restrictions, it was back to normality at last. Well, not totally normal as we haven't normally had snow at the Bells. But it was good to hear the sound of the Bugle (unmusical as it was!) welcoming the revellers along with the skirl of the bagpipes (very musical) thanks to Alan, a newcomer to the village. But as usual things didn't exactly go to plan. The countdown was missed so we were about 10 seconds late. However, as you know, Gargunnock micro time does not conform to UK time - well why should it?? At midnight the church bells rang out welcoming the New Year and then we waited, and then waited, for the fireworks. Little did we know that Douglas was having problems due to snow-damped matches and fireworks. But the event ended well with a large circle of Auld Lang Syne - ers, even though it was unaccompanied as the snow had infiltrated the bagpipes. Then it was off to first foot or the pub, before warming up at home.

I Can Make That
With Fiona James

Crafty Stitches Workshops

Beginner Sewist Workshop - Sat 18th March
10am - 3pm - £50

Hanging Storage Pod - Sun 23rd April
10am - 2pm - £40

Cross Body Bag - Sun 21st May
10am - 3pm - £55

All Materials are included in the cost
Bring along your own machine (some available for loan)

For the more experienced Sewists

Make a Denim Jacket - Thurs Eves 7-9.30pm
2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th March, 20th &27th April - £95

Other classes and private groups available on request
Please contact Fiona James for details and to book
fionajamesinteriors@gmail.com 07753 139477

MERRY CHRISTMAS GARGUNNOCK

Residents and friends of Gargunnock have raised the magnificent sum of **£1574.00** for ACTION IN MIND. We'd all like to wish **EVERYONE** in the village a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023!

Sandra Anderson; Corinne & Jonathan Anderson; Nathan, Brianna & Iona Anderton; Helen Bennett; The Blackwood Family; Janene, Kevin, Hope & Niamh Brodie; Gilly, Gav, Amy & Chloé Bruce; Bob & Dorothy Burman; Gay & Harry Burt; Chris, Jackie & Heather Campbell; Stuart, Gill, Finlay & Maisie Campbell; John, Diane, Julie & Luke Christie; Ann & Maitland Clark; Brian & Bernadette Corbett; Naomi Russell & Adam Cottis; Scott & Julie Coubrough; Douglas & Moira Coupethwaite; Bryan, Shona, Ella, Daniel & Louise Crawford; Marshall, Jo, Andrew & Eva Dallas; Eric & Alice Dempster; Graham, Helen, Rachel & Cameron Dingley; Paul Marshall & Jean Duffy; Helen & David Fallow; Mike, Sue, Jamie, Andrew & Gregor Fitches; Peter, Claire, Grace & Madeleine Gill;

Ali MacLachlan, Sam & Hollie Goldie; Stuart, Helen, Fraser, Fergus & Hughie Hansom; Craig Coull & Becky Hay; Rowena Boome & Tony Heath; Louise, Craig, Kyle & Innes Heron; Jane, Ewan, Lauren & Sam Hunter; David & Helen Hyland; Caroline, Paul & Ross James; Tom, Fiona, Anna & William Jamieson; Martin & Fiona Johnstone; Alison & Michael Kay; David & Issy King; John & Tracy Lafferty; Ian, Sandra, Katherine & Hamish Lewis; Martin & Barbara Linklater; Jan & Johnny Loudon; Robin, Alison & Finlay Lunn; The MacArthur Family; Lindsay, Gregor, Struan & Bryce MacCallum; Lynda, Murdo, Catherine & Sarah MacLeod; Edmond & Elizabeth Mansion; Ruben & Megan Mayer-Bell; Tina Peek & Charlie McAllister; Tom, Mairi, Carolyn & Finlay McEwan; The McGlynn Family; John & Helen McLaren;

The Milne Family; The Mitchell Family; Anne, Hamish, Jane & Seonaid Muirhead; Hugh, Jean & David O'Connor; Sheena & Stuart Ogg; Sally, Sarah & Fraser Park; Morag, Jon, Matthew & Angus Park; Carmel, Robin, Joseph & Kia Patel; Jill Patrick; Derek, Vanessa, Kate, Anna & Ben Paynton; Kate & Geoff Peart; Dave, Christine, Camille & Innes Penman; Pauline Perry; Hector, Trish, Darren & Alistair Petrie; Pete & Helen Rowell; Lois, Andrew, Tom & Finn Simpson; Claire, Doug & Bryony Smith; Bill & Lindsey Stevenson; Sarah, Ally, Euan & Ava Thomson; The Tinto Family; Catriona, Kirsty & Eilidh Vass; Zoe Wheddon; Ian, Margaret, Gordon & Catriona Young; The Youngs at Glenfoyle; Alison, Fergus, Katie, Ellen & Nelleke Younger; Gargunnock Strictly Sweepstake

Gargunnock Church

Vacancy
The Presbytery of Stirling's Presbytery Mission Plan was approved by The Church Of Scotland Committee before the 31st December 2022 deadline, subject to conditions set out by the General Trustees.

Unfortunately there are many barriers to be overcome before any major progress can be made on the plan for the Carse Area but we hope advances will be made during 2023.

We are grateful to our Interim Moderator, Mrs Valerie Rose, who has been guiding us and preparing a worship programme in which Gargunnock has a service each Sunday. Rev Lynne Mack continues to provide Pastoral Care, particularly with Parish Funerals.

Please inform your District Elder or the Session Clerk, Audrey Birrell, of pastoral care required within the parish bounds. Audrey is available on 01786 860321, with answerphone.

We thank Val, Mr Ian Roy and Mr Douglas Barr for their willingness to provide pulpit cover during the coming months. All are WELCOME at the 10.30am Services each Sunday.

Holy Week Services

Sunday 2nd April	Palm Sunday Service at 10.30am
Thursday 6th April	Maundy Thursday
Friday 7th April	Good Friday
Sunday 9th April	Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am

The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are to be finalised.

Audrey Birrell, Session Clerk.

Save the Date!
The Great Gargunnock Story
All Welcome
Gargunnock Primary School
23 March 2023

A811 Junction Petition Update

Regarding the still open issue of the ongoing work to progress the petition that was lodged regarding the junction on the A811 from Gargunnock and further to a previous update in the Gargunnock Bugle by my former colleague, Dean Lockhart MSP; I am pleased to confirm that – although it was some time ago now – our local Councillors have indeed gone to great lengths to ensure that the petition was not closed. Moreover, work has also been carried out to identify improvements to the junction layout.

Further to latest enquiries on all our behalf by Councillor Martin Earl; Stirling Council's Environment and Place Roads' Network Team has now confirmed that they have the development of this junction on their work plan for 2023/24.

Consultation documents have been prepared showing the extent of the land required to form the appropriate visibility splays that we have been looking for however, they say that due to a lack of resources within the team, the next stage of development has not yet begun.

The team plans to provide an update to the Council's Environment, Transport and Net-Zero Committee once they have undertaken the next stage of consultation and have a full design in place. To this end, I have also requested full details of this consultation and design, so that I am able to update our residents as soon as further information becomes available.

Alexander Stewart, MSP

ALEXANDER STEWART MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Regional Office: 31 Canmore Street, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 5NU
Holyrood Office: Room M2.15, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Regional Office: 01383 720 530
Holyrood Office: 0131 348 6134
Alexander.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot
www.facebook.com/alexanderstewartmsp

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Playgroup & Toddlers

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers are thrilled that Rabia Aslam has joined us as the new Playgroup Manager. Rabia has extensive experience of working with children and was previously a Nursery Manager. Rabia started with us just before Christmas, and is enjoying discovering all that Gargunnock has to offer!

We have spaces available on a Monday and Thursday morning (9.30am - 12pm), so if you are a parent with a child/ren aged 2 years + and looking for some childfree time then get in touch by emailing gargunnockplaygroup@gmail.com.

We are also delighted to have been successful with a grant from the Renantis Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust to fund an additional Toddlers session. Many thanks to both the Trust and Fund for their support, it is much appreciated.

Toddlers will now take place on a Tuesday 10am - 11.30am, and a brand new additional slot of Friday 9.30am - 11.30am, both at the Community Centre. If you have children aged 0 - 5 years old or you are due to become parents soon, Toddlers is a brilliant opportunity to get to know more parents and enjoy a cuppa while the children play - a snack and a hot drink are included in the price. £2 / child and 50p for siblings.

Gargunnock Toddlers
For children age 0-5 years old
The group is a great opportunity for kids to play and parents to meet and chat - everyone is very welcome!
Tuesdays 10am -11.30am
Fridays 9.30am-11.30am
Snacks and a hot drink provided.
£2 per child and 50p for each extra sibling

For more information please contact:
hcm22moore@gmail.com

Gargunnock Playgroup
For children aged 2 years and above - Spaces available!
Term time Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am-12pm
£10 per session, £5 for sibling

For further information please contact:
Gargunnockplaygroup@gmail.com

Both held at Gargunnock Community Centre

Additional Toddlers session made possible with funding from Renantis Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust

Renantis

Gargunnock's New Playgroup Manager

Hi, I am Rabia and I have started my role as the Gargunnock Playgroup manager. I have been working in nurseries for the last nine years and I have worked with all age groups and worked as the manager of a nursery for the past few years. I have twin girls who are 18 months old.

There is nothing, in my opinion, more fascinating than a child. Watching them grow, develop and learn is one of the most humbling experiences a person can have. There is nothing quite like it to make you realise how precious life is. I am a very passionate person – an attribute which is at its peak when it comes to certain issues surrounding children. My passion and determination to make positive changes for children.

We look to make a fun, friendly and engaging environment at Gargunnock Playgroup. We experience and celebrate festivals and holidays. From Santa visiting at Christmas to Scottish stories around Burns Night and making lanterns for Chinese New Year. We have planned outings and outdoor activities in the coming months for children to explore and learn new skills in different environments. We are so lucky in Gargunnock to have excellent indoor facilities at our Community Centre as well as such incredible outdoor space. We try to spend as much time as possible letting the children explore and learn in the outdoors. Most weeks we will either be clambering up Keir Hill, splashing in Gargunnock Burn, playing in Provost Park and running around the Community Centre garden.

We currently have spaces in both our Monday and Thursday Playgroup sessions for preschool children. If you would like any more information or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Parent Council Update

It's been a busy few months for the Parent Council and we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone in the village who has supported a number of our fundraising initiatives and events. The Christmas Raffle was really well supported and the recent Ceiliedh was brilliant fun – great to have live music and dancing back in the village hall. Funds raised from both of these will go towards the "Gargunnock Story" theatrical production and the purchase of staging for the school. We are also hoping to use some to secure some external funding for a polytunnel for the school grounds.

The Primary 7's also wanted to say a big thanks to everyone who came along and supported their Mad Hatters Tea Party – in particular Brian Guidery for his most excellent Bingo calling skills. The funds raised have been used towards the costs of their upcoming residential week to Dalguise.

Looking forward we are really excited to be organising the first post covid school disco on Thursday 23rd February and also the Great Gargunnock Story on 23rd March which will be open to everyone to come along to. Please save the date for this – it promises to be both entertaining and educational!

GARGUNNOCK GUIDES - WE NEED YOU!

In the September issue of The Bugle we appealed for volunteers to ensure that our guide unit in Gargunnock could carry on giving girls and young women in the area a space to be themselves, have fun, make friends, learn new skills and make a positive difference to our community.

After a collective 35+ years in guide leadership our current team will step down in June.

Guides have met in Gargunnock since at least the 1940's and we continue to be as popular as ever for local girls aged 10 to 15. There are precious few opportunities for young people in our area and it would be really sad to see another group close in the village.

We need new leaders and helpers to keep the unit going, and can offer ongoing support from the existing team and our new enthusiastic District Commissioner, not to mention a revamped program and loads of resources to make admin, banking and planning straightforward.

You don't have to be a parent to join in, nor do you have to commit to many years in the unit or keep to the existing meeting schedule. It's a great way of building experience of working with young people and very rewarding!

For more information please get in touch – gargunnockguides@gmail.com

For more information about volunteering check out https://www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/become-a-volunteer/

Photo credit: Emeline Bonner Campbell – Guide hike up Leckie Glen, circa 1947

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Windfarm Panel Update - February 2023

Youth Survey – win £25
Are you under 25 years? We'd love to hear from you about what you think about the village, its facilities and any improvements you would like to see. Please follow the QR code in this edition of the Bugle to complete the short survey. The code will also be on display at the bus shelter and noticeboard. Every response received will go into the draw to win a £25 cinema voucher.

Could you be our next youth Representative on the Panel?
If you are 16 – 25 years and would like to be involved with the panel we are looking for a new youth representative. It's a great way to get a bit of useful experience for CV's and be involved with supporting, and representing, your own local community. For more info contact Alison Younger on 07825 241196, or alisonyounger472@btinternet.com, or have a chat with Hope Brodie, our current member who will be stepping down later this year.

Awards
The Windfarm Panel have awarded the following grants since our last update:

- £376.76 to Ponds Group for Supplemental Planting and Noticeboard Materials
- £516 to fund up to 20 places on First Aid Training organised by Toddlers Group
- £483 to fund 6 month trial of 2nd weekly session for Toddlers
- £1,009.34 for Windfarm Grant Administration
- £310 for Community Shop Group to set up a Community Benefit Society
- £25 for a cinema voucher to promote uptake of a youth survey in the village.

Who can apply?
Individuals and groups (both constituted and un-constituted) can apply for funding for a range of activities and benefits. Small grants (under £250) can be used to help support individuals themselves e.g. costs to go on a sports tour, or for individual ideas about things that can be done to improve things in our community e.g. painting a bridge. For more expensive projects the Development Trust can help un-constituted groups access larger sums of money - last year 44% of funds were awarded to groups sponsored by the Trust. The Panel are always looking for ways to make the application process easy to follow and recently agreed that small grant applications do not need to attend the Panel meeting.

What is the Panel?
The Windfarm Panel is made up of community based volunteers including representatives from the Development Trust and the Community Council. Thanks to Nathan Anderton who has now stepped down from the Panel to join the Trust as Director, and a warm welcome to Lee Masson who will be joining us as a new community rep at our May meeting. The Panel is responsible for making awards within the Gargunnock Community Council area from Renantis (previously FALCK Renewables fund). In 2022 the Panel awarded funding which amounted to £17,354.37.

Deadline dates for this year are:
24th April and **18th September** are our next 2 deadline dates.

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

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 Primary School

There's No Business Like Show Business

Now that we can all mix together there is no stopping us! At Christmas we enjoyed two performances of our School Nativity and Christmas Concert. Thanks so much to The Community Centre for lending us their staging. The pupils thoroughly entertained their audience and revelled in the excitement of being on a stage.

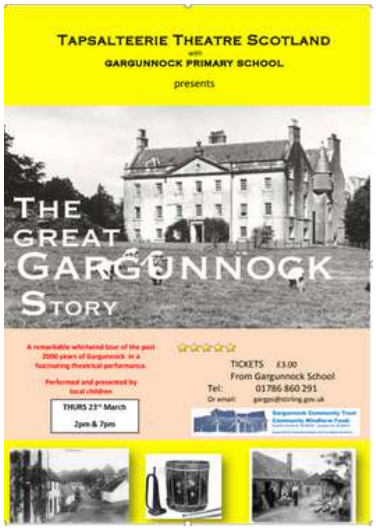
We followed this up with our Scots Poetry competition in January with all pupils learning a piece of Scots verse and representatives from each class performing to the whole school. Afterwards we had a whole school Ceilidh in the hall which was great fun. One pupil was even heard saying 'Is it home time already!' Results were as follows:

P1/2
1st place John Brodie
2nd place Callum Jackson
3rd place Disa Pine

P**3/4**
1st place Patrick Rolley
2nd place Raana Johnstone
3rd place Eilidh Stewart

P5/6/7
1st place Andrew Dunn
2nd place Zoe Hart
3rd place Kara Sutherland

As if that is not enough we are really excited to announce that we will be performing **'The Great Gargunnock Story'** on Thursday 23rd March in the school. This is a production in collaboration with Tapselteerie Theatre Company and spans the fascinating history of Gargunnock over the last 2000 years. The show will be open to all who live in Gargunnock and we are keen to make this available not just to parents of our pupils so watch out for posters around the village.
Parents can buy tickets for £3 via ParentPay with wider members of the community getting tickets by phoning, emailing or calling in at the school .



Did You Come To Gargunnock Primary?
We are looking for old school photos, memories and testimonies of Gargunnock Primary School from previous pupils young and old. We have a 'rogues gallery' of class photos going back to 1901 on display but are still looking to fill in a few missing years. We are creating a timeline of significant events in the school's history from old log books that we have and known world events. Nothing however beats the stories of the people who actually experienced their education here and our current pupils would love to hear from you.

If you want to share your memories then please email the school **gargps@stirling.gov.uk** with your account of your time here or a specific memory that you have. We look forward to hearing from you.

Young Leaders of Learning
This programme was developed by Education Scotland to give children and young people an increasing say in their education and their schools. Zoe and Sula in P5 along with Ewan and Zac in P6 are our leaders of learning and they have been working with pupils from Cornton Primary, Thornhill Primary and Kincardine in Menteith Primary. This term they have been taking part in reciprocal visits to each other's schools to identify what is working well, areas for improvement and effective practice.

When we were hosting our visit we showcased how we used our outdoor spaces effectively to support our learning. We spent an afternoon participating in teambuilding activities including den building which was very popular. Our visiting pupils also joined us for lunch and the lunchtime break so they could also experience the outdoors from a play perspective. There was some impressive football skills on show and our leaders of learning are going to invite them back for a football match at a later date.

Bite and Blether

On Wednesday 1st February the weather outside was depressing but inside the community centre it was far from sad! What a fantastic turnout there was. The place was packed and buzzing with chat. For the first time ever, we actually ran out of soup! Three large pans full disappeared. Luckily our wonderful home baking managed to cope so nobody left hungry. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us and again, a big thank you to our bakers for providing such mouth-watering treats.

We were so sad to hear about the death of Elizabeth Mansion who ran Bite and Blether for several years with Jane Bayne. She encouraged, helped and guided Barbara and I when we restarted the event and regularly supplied us with baking and meringues right up until last month. I hope we live up to the high standards she set.

Police Report

Community Engagement
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.

Road Safety
Various road traffic offences have been detected around the Gargunnock area, predominantly focussed on the A811. These include a drink driver, speeding and a driver reported to the PF for careless driving after pulling out of a junction into the path of another vehicle.

Livestock worrying
This time of year presents the problem of livestock worrying which has been reported previously in the Gargunnock area.

What are livestock attacks and worrying?
Livestock attacks and worrying is the phrase used when a dog attacks or worries livestock animals in rural and farmland areas.

This crime usually takes place in the countryside and is a particular problem when dogs, even those that are well trained, are off their leads or are roaming without an owner or person in charge with them. In doing so, they often scare or attack livestock animals.

Whilst many owners are unaware of the impact their dogs are having on livestock, it is their responsibility to ensure attacks and worrying don't happen. They should ensure their dog doesn't disturb or attack these animals, otherwise there are consequences under the law if it does occur.

Reporting livestock attacks and worrying
Call 999 if the crime is ongoing and animals are being injured. To report a crime which isn't ongoing call 101**.**

Credits to Anne Marie for her beautiful photography!

Hand Painted Pet Portraits by Gay Burt

For that special forever gift, perfect for birthdays and anniversaries.
Spoil yourself, or other, with a long-lasting keepsake artwork of a well loved pet.

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Andy & Ann Mayhew Diamond Wedding Anniversary

60 years ago on March 6th, 1963, Andy and Ann got married in Bridge of Allan. This year it is their Diamond Anniversary. Ann grew up in Gargunnock and went to school here whilst Andy is from Twechar. They didn't meet until they were older.

They met when Ann was at her friends 18th birthday party, Andy and his friend were told to pick her up from the party and all three ended up going to a dance together. Ann and Andy left together without Andy's friend!

After they got married they had three kids, ten grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. The minister for their wedding was a man called Willy Turner. Everyone though his wife was an Atheist but she was actually an anaesthetist and they had all been mishearing him.

Since their marriage Ann and Andy have been together for sixty years and lived in five houses in Gargunnock.

Smiddy Farm Shop

The Smiddy Farm Shop and Farrah's Milk are excited to announce the arrival of our new fresh milk and shake vending machine! The milk is produced and gently pasteurised every morning at Wester Borland Farm, just outside Thornhill. It then makes the short trip along to The Smiddy, ready to be sold within a couple of hours.

This project is the brainchild of Alan and Sophie, they are the third generation in the family to farm at Wester Borland. Located six miles from The Smiddy, and alongside grandparents Willie and Norma; husband and wife Alan and Sophie have their three young children helping out on the farm!

The herd at Wester Borland Farm is made up of 220 Holstein cows. These cows produce great quality milk all year round. For them to do this, the cows must have the best possible environment to live in, farmed with care and provided with great nutrition. All of these factors ensure the milk they produce is of a high standard and full of natural fats, proteins and nutrients. Nothing is skimmed from the milk (unlike that found on supermarket shelves), meaning it is smooth, creamy and delicious!

There are many reasons we think this milk is superior, but some of the benefits are:

Farm Fresh, fully traceable
Re-useable glass bottles
Produced and available within hours
Minimal food miles
Supporting local, family run businesses
Available as milk, or flavoured milk!

Gargunnock SWI

As we venture into Spring it seems a long time ago since we celebrated our Gargunnock SWI Christmas meal at Gargunnock Inn. Our glamorous ladies enjoyed Christmas bingo, a tasty meal, all followed by Santa arriving with gifts. Great fun was had by all.

After the festive season our first meeting was with Lois 'Move it' Simpson. Lois gave a really interesting talk about her life and how she started getting into physical exercise. Her talk finished with everyone taking part in fun physical exercises. Lois was very encouraging to all ages. It was a great start to the year and Lois may have collected a few recruits!

Our 'drop in' afternoon on January 24th was well supported . Our upcoming dates are March 14th and April 11th. 1-3 . This 'drop in' is open to everyone, female or male who fancies a cup of tea / coffee/ cake and a chat or even play a card or board game or do a craft activity.

March 21st our meeting is flower arranging with spring flowers by the very talented Janet Iffla.

April 18th we are going to visit Kaleidoscope (Boquan) to hear all about quilting.

The village will appear more colourful as April and Easter approaches and various trees around the village are decorated. Members will also decorate their own trees and anyone from the village can join in.

Finally we are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 22nd April to raise funds for a local charity Green Routes and our funds (50/50). Green Routes is a charity which offers young people with support needs an opportunity to learn and grow, to develop life skills and even skills for work. They are transforming the Gargunnock House walled garden and so we can all enjoy visiting the garden again.

New members and visitors to Gargunnock SWI are always welcome . We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30. If you are interested in joining us please contact me on 07815552247 or email bmountford31@gmail.com.

Beverley Mountford -President Gargunnock SWI

Dog Fouling

Pet owners in the Stirling area are being urged to make sure dog poo is their business – or risk an £80 fine. Inconsiderate owners who fail to bag it and bin it will be targeted over the coming weeks by enforcement officers.

Patrols of uniformed and non-uniformed officers will challenge and educate irresponsible members of the public when they are out and about with their pets. Repeat offenders will be fined as a last resort.

There has been a threefold increase in complaints on dog fouling across Stirling in the last 12 months to almost 300. There are over 1000 litter and dog mess dual bins or specific dog mess litter bins that can be used by the public. However, fouling is still an issue in public parks, foot paths and even school playing fields.

Drew Leslie, Head of Infrastructure, said: "The people of Stirling are telling us unequivocally that they have had enough of thoughtless dog owners creating this health hazard.

We're encouraging our children to walk and cycle to school and we cannot expose them to the level of dog fouling we're now seeing on our paths, pavements and public spaces.

"Hopefully, the outcome of our action will be a cleaner, safer environment and a reduction in the number of complaints about dog owners who don't bag it and bin it. They must understand the consequences of their thoughtlessness and change their behaviour for the benefit of all."

Defibrillators: Just in Case!

They are something you hope you will never need but if you do then you will be pleased that they are within reach. Gargunnock has two Defibrillators and while their positions are probably known to most, some residents may not be aware of their exact locations. One is in the telephone box on Main Street, next to the shop and the other is on an outside wall at the Community Centre.

Both have recently been checked over by the Trossachs Mountain Rescue and new pads have been installed where they have been needed. A software update is also due. These upgrades have been paid for by the Gargunnock Windfarm Fund Panel while the Community Trust has taken responsibility for their on-going maintenance. They are there just in case.....

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ONE WOMAN, ONE BOAT, ONE OCEAN

In December 2022 Miriam Payne set off from La Gomera in The Canaries to row solo 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to Antigua competing in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

Many people in Gargunnock may know Miriam as she was a regular visitor to the village coming with her Mum Alison to visit her Granny Sheena (Gillespie) who lived in Rosebank on the Main Street for over 30 years until she sadly passed away in February 2019.

After almost 3 years of planning, preparation and lots of hard work, Miriam crossed the start line of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge on 12th December 2022. In this year's race 43 boats crossed the start line of which only 6 were solo rowers. In the 10 years the race has been running only 2 female solo rowers have gone before Miriam.

With good reason the race is billed as the world's toughest rowing race. Rowers must start the race with everything they need for the crossing, they cannot accept any help with repairs, extra food, medical supplies or extra water, doing so would forfeit their race. Rowing 3000 miles, battling 40ft waves, sea sickness, sleep deprivation, and salt sores, their mind and body are put to the ultimate test.

From the start of the race Miriam quickly settled into a good routine of eating, rowing and sleeping. For company Miriam had a music list on Spotify and numerous audio books to listen too, Harry Potter being her favourite. Two satellite phones, one for keeping in touch with home and the other kept for contact with the race organisers and safety team. She spoke to them most days being able to discuss any issues or concerns.

On a twice daily basis Miriam received a weather report from her weather router. This allowed her to help plan the best way forward taking into consideration the weather and sea conditions.

During the race Miriam had to consume 5000 calories daily. This was a challenge as she struggled to tolerate the freeze-dried food packs the rowers use as their main source of calorie intake, thankfully she had snack packs to graze on each day too. Anyone who followed Miriam's progress online will know she packed treats to celebrate every 500 miles rowed, a can of Irn Bru, a chocolate orange and a tin of fruit! Food cravings are real for all of the rowers, Miriam's being hot buttered toast and a chip butty!

Throughout the race Miriam managed to remain in good spirits and maintain steady progress despite battling the elements, head winds, a storm where she had to lock herself in her cabin for safety, heavy rains which soaked everything including her bedding and baking temperatures.

There were highs too, surfing the waves, sunrises and sunsets, amazing night sky's and wildlife! Miriam was visited by three beaked whales, a rare site we're told as they rarely surface. She has been hit by flying fish and at New Year her first foot was a shark circling around her boat!

By doing the race Miriam has chosen to fund-raise for 2 incredible charities, Wellbeing of Women and Hull and East Yorkshire Mind. Both charities are close to her heart for the pioneering work they do and the causes they champion. 75% of funds raised will go to Wellbeing of Women and 25% to HEY Mind.

As the Bugle goes to press we can report Miriam crossed the finish line in Antigua exhausted but safe and sound after a gruelling 59 days and 16 hours and 36 minutes at sea.

Waiting to welcome Miriam to Antigua along with all the crew from the Atlantic Campaigns were Miriam's Mum Alison and Dad Christopher, her brother Fergus, and a crew of other family and friends who made the journey across to Antigua, waving Union Jacks, the Yorkshire Rose flag and of course a Scottish Saltire in memory of Granny Sheena.
After an emotional reunion, first on the agenda for Miriam was hot buttered toast and a chip butty!

Please check out Miriam's website www.seastheday2022.com, where you will find lots more information including Alison's blogs, links to Miriam's facebook, Instagram and tiktok pages full of photos and videos of her journey. A link to donate to her amazing charities is on her website and social media platforms too, any donations made will be gratefully received.

And finally, Miriam's epic row has been followed by many people from all over the world, including Gargunnock, so thank you very, very much for taking an interest and playing a part to support and encourage her throughout this incredible race that is the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge!

Eleanor Graham (Very proud Auntie)

Down at the Farm

Along at Old Leckie February brings with it an opportunity to sit back a wee bit and catch breath. With many of the animals in to avoid the worst of the weather the daily routine is well established. Winter calving is finished, but spring calving has not yet started. The sheep are scanned but not yet lambing. Seeds for Leckie leaves bought, but not yet getting planted. But, if you've been out and about, it's hard to ignore the carpets of snowdrops. Their verdant green stems heralding the very early stages of spring and the descent into the daylight chaos on the farm as the year speeds up. As we get closer to lambing at the end of March / April please could we remind everyone walking through the farm to be aware of livestock and vehicles moving on the farm tracks – if you see animals coming please stand quietly, well back off the track – ideally out of sight until they have passed. If you have a dog with you please make an extra effort to keep it under control – preferably on a lead – at all times, and please leave any open gates open, and closed gates closed.

As well as the usual tasks we've welcomed visitors from France this month. Our volunteer Ambroise has been made to feel very welcome by the village – enjoying both Church and Ceilidh. We also had a group of 11 French farmers here to tour the farm – they are involved with a European wide project on mixed farming – and it was great to share experiences and practises with them. Our next volunteer Kristen from New Brunswick, Canada arrives soon and she will be here until the end of April to help us through lambing – say hello if you see her around!

More than ever folks are thinking about where their food comes from – who and how is it produced? The online shop where you can order our grass fed highland beef and outdoor reared pork is working well and we've really appreciated hearing some great feedback from our local customers who've enjoyed our meat over the festive season. We've got highland beef and lamb coming back from the butchers at the end of February, and with plenty of pork in the freezer we should be well stocked to keep you well supplied with great tasting, thoughtfully produced meat and eggs. It's easy to order through http://shop.oldleckie.co.uk and with free home delivery it's super convenient.

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
gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Deadline of next issue: Articles, letter, photographs, adverts & submissions may be made anytime up to and including 30th April 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.

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The Bugle

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