



The Flower Show

Another very successful Flower Show was held on Sunday 30th August, when a good turnout of the public were treated to a fabulous display of flowers, plants, garden produce, baking and crafts. The weather this year was not conducive to good growing conditions, many beautiful roses for example were well past their best before the show with oncoming buds not yet developed. Nevertheless there were some fantastic blooms on show and the judges commented on the high standard. The main prize, for most points won over all the classes was won by Bill Nicol, and runner-up Anne Christie.

In the children's section, the winner was Amber Dunn . Runner-up was Emily Bedwell who, as you can see in her photograph, was delighted with her award, displaying the Rev Hepburn Cup, and her rosette.

Our committee is an excellent, hard working, group but some more (dare I say it) youthful participation would be welcomed. You don't need to be a keen gardener, just someone who is interested in helping the more elderly members. If you might be interested please message me for a chat 07763098247

Maitland



Editorial

Welcome to the September edition of The Bugle. Hope everyone had a lovely summer with all the heat and sun this year! Thank you to everyone who has sent me their articles and photos, I enjoyed reading them all and hope you do too!

All contributions and feedback can be sent to gargunnockbugle@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is the 10th of November.

Emma Hay, September 2026

Gargunnock Apple day

Come and press your locally grown apples into juice.

Sunday 11th October 2026

in the walled gardens, Gargunnock House, at the Green Routes Open day.

Bring your apples and a reuseable cup to drink your juice. If you'd like to take some home afterwards, bring a clean container (very clean milk cartons work well)

How does it work?

Can I help – yes please, just turn up and help crush your apples.

You bring your apples and help to chop and crush and juice them.

Everyone gets some juice who wants some, so bring your own cup.

Green Routes have lots of other activities going on too.

Can I take my juice away? Yes, bring a clean container. Be aware fresh apple juice doesn't keep more than a day or few. (unless you ferment it into cider).

Do I get the juice from my apples? Unlikely. We are making a Gargunnock blend, it will taste great...

The purchase of the equipment to juice our apples has been funded by the Nadara Kingsburn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnock Community Trust.

nadara

GREEN ROUTES

It's been another busy few months in the garden with the hot weather bringing its own challenges - extra watering, more wasps and daily sunscreen protection! The flowers and shrubs are providing lots of colour and the vegetables are all growing well. We now have a recently completed much larger poly tunnel. This will allow us to grow more plants including loofahs and peaches.

Our Open Day on Sunday 28 June was a great success with over 100 visitors coming to the garden. Everyone enjoyed wandering around, chatting and sampling the delicious buffet. Some people participated in the two workshops. One was led by Anne-marie Stewart making flapping butterflies and insects using clothes pegs. Paul Cookson was in charge of the other which involved making cord using tree bark. The lovely weather was certainly a welcome bonus! The next date for your diary is our Apple Day on Sunday 11 October when you can make your own apple juice. Why not come along?

Green Routes' new initiative is 'Bloom and Brew' which takes place in the Community Centre on the third Wednesday of the month from 12 - 2pm. On offer are teas, coffees, simple lunch options and delicious home baking. There is also a plant stall where you can buy a variety of perennials and herbs. The cafe and plant stall are run by our students who are gaining practical skills and experience in catering and customer service. We have had two very successful sessions so far and the feedback has been very positive. Come and join us at the next one on Wednesday 16 September. Green Routes is always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to join us please contact Gillian at gforster@greenroutes.org.uk

Beverley Mountford and Sandra Anderson



In need of food?



StartUp Stirling is a food bank
which serves **Gargunnoch**

To find out how to be referred for support, call:

01786 561 027

Food can be delivered
or speak to StartUp about where it can be collected.

Advert sponsored by Gargunnoch Church,
Gargunnoch Community Council and
Gargunnoch Community Trust



CALLING ALL STIRLING RESIDENTS!



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Are you out of work & looking to develop employability skills?

no one
left behind

CERT, The Submission Factory & Stirling Community Planning Partnership are working in partnership to deliver an 8-week Stage 3 **All-Age Employability** programme for 3 days per week that will support your journey towards employment.

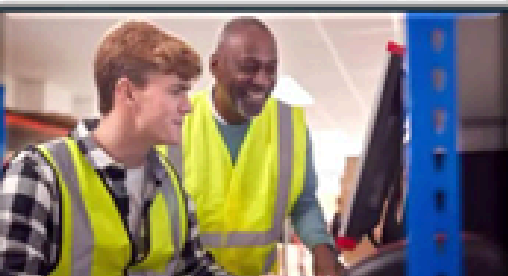
Our course can help you:



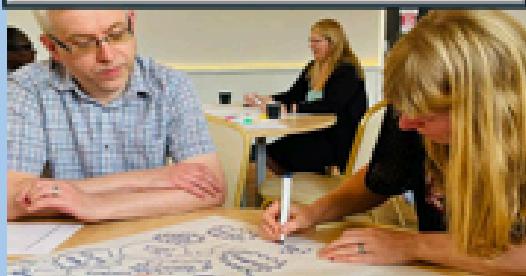
-  Achieve 5 Employability qualifications
-  Get 1:1 and group support on a range of topics
-  Boost your confidence, overcome challenges, improve wellbeing & reduce anxiety through martial arts sessions
-  Create a CV & improve job searching & interview techniques
-  Take part in Work Experience of your choosing

This course was awesome. I had so much fun and learned loads. The people were lovely and I really felt valued. Doors have opened and new opportunities have come about that I'm looking forward to. This course came to me at just the right time, gave me confidence, showed me new things and set me up for moving forward in my future career, my wellbeing and my life in general' Previous Participant

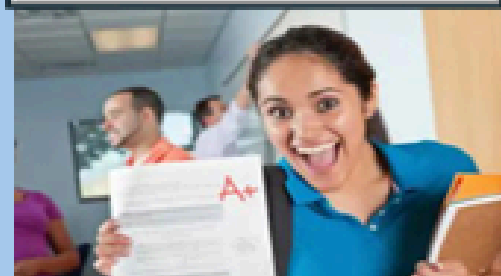
Work Placement Opportunities



One to One Personalised Action Plans



Employability Qualifications



FREE COURSE STARTING MONDAY 31st AUGUST 2026

Raploch Community Campus

Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1SD

3 days per week; 09.30am-16.30pm.

Travel expenses can be provided.

£33 weekly Training Allowance for eligible clients.

There are only 12 spaces available per course, so for more information, contact CERT NOW on:

info@clacksregen.org.uk

or

01259 272 017

How Far Can The Bugle Travel?

Never mind USA, Canada, Caribbean etc Maitland and Anne spent a lovely wet weekend in Millport and, of course, took their copy of the Bugle with them. ps the sun came out on the way home!!



Gargunnock SWI

Here we are at the end of August already and preparing for our next session. We had an enjoyable night at Briarlands in May for the AGM. It was a well attended night and we enjoyed a lovely picnic box of goodies. Thanks to Mary and her team.

A new committee was elected with three new members. They have been busy during the summer putting together a new syllabus which hopefully includes something for everyone. Our talented ladies entered the Drymen Show craft competition and delighted to report , they won first prize. !!

Well done Mary, Jane, Jessie, Rhona, Helen and Elizabeth.

The SWI Gathering will be held in Dundee in September and the ladies have a community entry ready for that. This covers the whole of Scotland so good luck ladies.

Our first night of the 2026/2027 session is on Tuesday 15th September. Community Centre at 7.30pm.

This meeting will be about news and chat but will include a chance to see and hear from Mary and Jane on their craft work which won top prizes at the Highland Show in June. Of course there will be tea coffee and home baking. All ladies in the area are very welcome to join us.

October sees Gargunnock SWI. 80 years old. We will celebrate this with a lunch on Sunday 25th October at 1pm in the Court Hotel, Stirling University. Members have been sent details already and new members are welcome too.

We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.30.

A warm welcome awaits and of course ' the tea '

For more information please contact me on 07799 116 445 or email gargunnockswi@gmail.com.

Grace Smellie. President Gargunnock SWI.

Windfarm Fund

The Windfarm Panel met in August to consider the latest round of applications. The following grants were approved:

- £400 towards the P7 activity day at Loch Fiscally
- £500 for a young person from the village selected to represent Scotland at the Youth International Bowling Championship in Malaysia
- £180 for adult and children's litter pickers
- £456.84 for the Charlie's Loan Drainage Project
- Up to £10,565 for works at the Community Centre

Youth bursary grants were also awarded towards:

- An overseas placement in Tanzania
- MSc fees
- Two laptops
- Driving lessons
- A D1 driving licence

All 3 application forms are now live on the village website-

Youth Bursary – grants up to £300 for 16-22 year olds and mature students.

Grants up to £500 – for individuals and groups.

Grants over £500 – for groups.

The online application forms will give you the ability to save and return to your application at a later date and once the application has been submitted you will receive an email which includes a copy of your application for your own files.

The last deadlines for 2026 is 16th November.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the application process, please contact Ashley Fleming or Jackie Campbell, or email windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org.

Finally, thank you to Vanessa for all of her support as a member of the Windfarm Panel. As Vanessa comes to the end of her term, we are looking for a new community member to join the Panel. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with Ashley.



Last year I was lucky to be awarded a £500 windfarm grant to support my participation in the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools' (CISS) Tianjin Scholarship, where I had the opportunity to study Mandarin abroad at Tianjin Normal University in China.

It was an immersive, once in a lifetime experience where I got to travel, learn about Chinese culture and make friends from all over the world. The classes covered reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as comprehensive lessons to better understand Chinese culture.

All of the knowledge was put to good use during the holidays where I travelled all over China with my new friends! This scholarship taught me so much and I would recommend it to anyone interested in studying Chinese. I am very grateful to Nadara Kingsburn Community Fund and Gargunnock Community Trust for helping to pay the cost of my flights.

More information about the Scholarship is available in the link below and if you click on to Scholarship Blogs, 2025-26 Scholar Blogs you can read more about my adventure.

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/confuciusinstituteforscotlandsschools/scholarship/>

Niamh Brodie

Gargunnock Primary School

Our school is continuing to grow in numbers with 10 new P1s arriving and 9 P7s leaving. With the addition of one new pupil in P3 and one in P2 we are now up to 77 pupils and we continue to have 4 classes. We are delighted to continue to have Miss Webster with us this session, teaching P6/7.

Pupil Council & House Captains

Our P7 pupils made their House Captain speeches last Friday and I am delighted to announce the following:

Red Foxes – Captain Ada Goundry, Vices Robert Barker & Robbie Mathieson

Eagles – Captain Amber Dunn, Vices- Jack Young & Olly Illian

Wildcats – Captain Eilidh Stewart, Vices Hadley Masson & Matilda Clockie

Gargunnock Flower Show

We have again worked with the children to produce entries for the Flower Show. Our entries this year include colourful pictures, painted stones and vegetable animals.

The gardening group also helped to grow and harvest potatoes, apples and courgettes, which have been entered into the show.



Health and Wellbeing at Gargunnock Primary School

Since returning to school the children have been learning all about the SHANARRI indicators and what they mean in their lives within our school. Through some fun and engaging activities in class, the children have been exploring the importance of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. It has been wonderful to see the children sharing their ideas, building their understanding and recognising how these important wellbeing indicators help them to grow, learn and thrive.

Each class took two indicators and contributed their ideas to a whole school display for our hall.



Laura Quintin (Head Teacher)

Local Businesses Interested in being on the village website?

The Community Trust invites anyone that lives and runs a business in Gargunnock who would like their details included in our local business page on the village website to get in touch.

Please email your details - name, brief description of your business, website or Facebook page and contact details to webadmin@gargunnock.org



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VENUE 37
EAST LODGE
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**Sat. 19th - Sun. 27th
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open-studios-stirlingshire.](http://www.scenestirling.com/open-studios-stirlingshire)

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**Brigh - Massage by Mairi - is having an open launch evening Friday 25th
September 6- 9pm.**

**Everyone welcome, have a wee chat, drink of fizz . You can experience
first hand what the garden treatment rooms are like, and maybe even
have a wee free taster if you wish!**

**Voucher for discounted treatment for everyone who attends. Whether
you can just pop in for 5 or 10 minutes or want to relax and stay for a
few hours, we would love to see you there. We look forward to
welcoming you to our beautiful space.**

4 Stevenson Street, Gargunnock

Website: Brigh.co.uk

Mobile: 07775621802

Helen McDade MSP - Mid Scotland and Fife - Reform

**I am absolutely delighted to have been elected to be a list MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife. It is a
particular pleasure to have another new Reform MSP in the region, Julie MacDougall, so there
are two of us to help constituents in this geographically large area. We will both take an
interest across Fife, Perth and Kinross-shire, Stirling and Clackmannanshire, although Julie will
be located in Fife and I will be based and cover the northern council areas. I have lived in
Perthshire for over twenty years and I am very much enjoying getting to know other parts of
the region now.**

**As a new MSP, there has been a lot of learning in the few weeks that we've been in parliament.
There have been many three or four hour debates and we must hope that concrete actions will
result. I gave my first speech and referred to the many people in our area who, sadly, are badly
affected by M.E. and other debilitating chronic illnesses. I have now been elected as the
Convenor of the Health, Care and Sport Committee and I hope as a group we will work together
in a non-partisan way to bring such important topics forward.. We will meet before the
summer recess to plan our programme. So it's an exciting time.**

**However, I'm very aware of many urgent issues locally - the A9, the potholes, the declining
town centres and, perhaps especially, the lack of transport at a time which enables people to
go to work or education around the area. I will be setting up an office as soon as possible but,
in the meantime, if you have a problem which you wish to bring to my attention, please email
me on helen.mcdade.msp@parliament.scot. I wish to assure all constituents that, regardless of
who you voted for, I will do my very best for all those in Mid-Scotland and Fife**

The Real Downies Loup



The real Downies Loup may be slightly higher than the other one but was perhaps accessible via the route marked in white

I came across this old photo only recently. It shows the real Downie's Loup, not the very visible waterfall you can see in the colour photo and which is prominently situated above and to the right of the old quarry.

I grew up calling it Downie's Loup myself, as did most folks, but there was always a mismatch between that waterfall and an old story attached to it. That story tells us that back in the 18th century Downie was a young horseman who, perhaps to impress friends looking-on, rode his horse over the falls. Having done so twice he attempted to repeat the feat only to perish in the process! An alternative version eliminates the horse and says there was a bet involved too.

Now, it's pretty obvious that no one would even consider doing that with the prominent waterfall just upstream of this one unless they had a real death-wish as it falls over a vertical cliff. No, Downie's Loup must have been this one downstream with its steep sided ravine, and that was accepted by the Ordnance Survey surveyors when they came to the area in the late 1850s to map the area. They interviewed prominent locals to confirm names of roads, streets, farms, and geological features etc. for their maps, in this case R G Moir Esq. Laird of Leckie Estate, Rev. J Stark and Schoolmaster Mr William Jamieson so that's how the cataract in this old photo is identified in the O.S. map. Their notebooks survive to this day.

You can see how it might be possible (if very fool-hardy) to ride a horse down to the bottom of the steep ravine as marked. But then what? Go back up by the same route and I reckon your mount would be a bit tired, not to say scared by then, so doing it again would have been risky. Go up there now and you'll find the gorse and furze has pretty well covered everything denying you access and a proper view of the gorge and the fall. Only during periods of very heavy rain can the fall be seen from well out in the carse. I think a drone would be required to replicate this photo preferably when the burn was in spate. Any volunteers?



So there you are. If you didn't know before you know now that the waterfall you see on the hill isn't the one where Downie perished. Farmers by that name inhabited Knock o' Ronald Farm from at least the 19th into the 20th century, in fact I bought our first house, Braehead, Main St. from a Miss Downie who had retired to there from the farm.

When was this photo taken? Well, I can see a large heap of rocks at the quarry which I recall as a boy. I think that was removed and reused in the early 1960s when an additional oil pipeline was installed along the hillside further down. The quarry itself is obviously not in operation as there's no machinery to be seen for the overhead cable transport of rock down to the crusher and it closed in the early 1930s.

John McLaren

The Gargunnock Village Childcare trustees stepped in to organise the Gala in 2025 with the Theme 'It's a Bit of a Circus'. This was lots of fun and offered our wonderful village community the chance to come together across the generations. However due to other commitments and in the absence of a Gala committee being formed it was not possible in 2026. It is hoped that the Gala will continue next year. If you would like to be involved in arranging future Galas and to help with this brilliant event please contact Ben Clokie chair@gargunnockvillagechildcare.org.

COME JOIN US

GARGUNNOCK TODDLERS

At Gargunnock Community Centre
Tuesdays 10am – 11:30am
Fridays 9:30am – 11:30am



THINGS TO NOTE:

- For children age 0-5 years old
- Snacks and a hot drink provided
- £3 per child

The group is a great opportunity for kids to play and parents to meet and chat - everyone is very welcome!

For more information please contact:
TODDLERS@GARGUNNOCKVILLAGECHILDCARE.ORG

SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP WITH EASY FUNDRAISING. SCAN THE BARCODE BELOW

You shop, brands donate
It won't cost you any extra!



nadara

Come along to our

GVC HALLOWEEN DUCK RACE

CASH PRIZE FOR WINNING DUCK
Dress up in your Halloween costume!

Race starts at 2pm (Rest Garden)
Followed by tea, coffee and cakes at the
Community Centre
BBQ and music (4pm–5pm)
BYOB £3 corkage

Home baking donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the community centre between 12–1pm on the day.

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER



nadara

COME JOIN THE

GARGUNNOCK PLAYGROUP

At Gargunnock Community Centre
Term time Monday 9:30am–11:30am



THINGS TO NOTE:

- For children aged 2 years and above - You can drop and go!
- Snacks provided
- £10 per session, £5 for siblings

For further information please contact:
PLAYGROUP@GARGUNNOCKVILLAGECHILDCARE.ORG

SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP WITH EASY FUNDRAISING. SCAN THE BARCODE BELOW

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It won't cost you any extra!



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ACTIVITY CLUBS

FTER MIND THE GAP BEFORE

At Gargunnock Primary School
Before School Mon–Fri 8am – 9am
£4.50 per child (£2.25 for siblings)

After School Mon–Thurs 3.15pm – 5.15pm
£7.50 per child (£5.50 for siblings)

You shop, brands donate
It won't cost you any extra!



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For bookings and information email:
schoolclubs@gargunnockvillagechildcare.org

Vacancies

If you're passionate about supporting and making a difference to our great village and all its facilities, we have a vacancy for a new Trustee to attend 5 meetings a year (Thursday evenings) and potentially help with some of the ongoing projects.

We're also looking for a new administrator for the Windfarm Panel. Meeting around 4 times a year and carrying out some admin tasks at home, this carries a small remuneration for the work involved.

Community Centre

The Trust is embarking on a large capital project involving the reroofing at the front of the Centre and replacing the windows in this part which accommodates four local businesses. We are also upgrading the wooden cladding at the rear and replacing the bio-mass boiler which is now beyond its life expectancy. Over the past two years the boiler has regularly broken down adversely affecting the comfort of users.

With the highly valued support of Douglas and Jane Johnston, we now have the necessary quotes for all the required work, which is going to cost over £50,000, so we are currently applying for various funding streams to help as well as digging deep into the Trust's funds. Thanks also to Stuart Ogg and Gavin Fleming in managing this.

We would also like to thank Jackie Campbell for her role in managing Community Centre bookings and invoicing, which is working most efficiently.

Website - <https://www.gargunnock.org/>

We've been making some minor improvements to ensure it looks fresh and is intuitive to use. Thanks to Jackie Campbell and Mike Buckley for keeping the Latest News up to date.

If you have any news that you'd like added, please email webadmin@gargunnock.org

Gargunnock to Stirling path

Geoff Peart and Gavin Fleming are still working hard on this and are in collaboration with Stirling Council and the Community Council with ideas to simplify the route and help reduce costs. This was sent to the Council's Active Travel Team several weeks ago awaiting a meeting to discuss further.

Charlie's Loan

With enthusiastic and skilled support from Alan Nicol, work is progressing to improve this path and drainage down to Leckie Road, which has been an issue for some time.

Bike hire/subscription service

Bikes are available for all users, so please contact John Steele or Gordon Webber for details, which you can find via the village website: <https://www.gargunnock.org/bike-hire/>

Defibrillator

We were notified by the National Defibrillator Network that the ambulance service sent a 999 caller to grab the Defib at the shop. It has subsequently been checked and is fit again to use.

Please email gargunnocktrust@gmail.com if you would like anything discussed or considered at future meetings.

The Trustees are:

Gill Bell, Stuart Ogg, Gavin Fleming, Jill Patrick, Mairi Jackson, Crawford Gordon, Lois Simpson, John Steele, Geoff Peart, Steve Barnett, Nathan Anderton

Future meeting dates:

29 October 2026 for Trustees

26 November 2026 AGM where all are welcome

On behalf of PARKINSONS STIRLING AND CLACKMANNAN GROUP, may I express my sincere thanks to all who organised and attended the Gargunnock Inn Quiz in August.

Matthew and his team worked tirelessly to satisfy parched tongues, and George the Quizmaster, who had set the questions, taxed our brains with his usual good humour.

There was a wonderful turnout to participate in the fun of the evening, and to try their luck at the generous raffle.

The magnificent sum of £738.39 was raised, and this will help those within the local community living with Parkinsons.

My sincere thanks to you all. Beth Warren

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Gosh! September already and after a two month break we're back again! We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Community Centre on the first Wednesday of the month for tasty soups and delicious home baking. We are open from 11:00 - 2:00 (or 10:30 for the yoga folk!)

Dates for your diary - Wed 7th October, Wed 4th November, Wed 2nd December and Wed 6th January 2027 🤖

I'll put a list of next year's dates in the next Bugle.

**Stirling Art Club
welcomes new members!**

Who?
Anyone who loves drawing and painting

When?
The second and fourth Thursday of the month,
19.00-21.00, starting 13th August

Where?
The Hillpark Centre, Bannockburn

What?
Workshops, demonstrations and critique
nights by visiting artists; drawing and
painting together on a variety
of themes. For full programme see
<http://stirlingartclub.org>.

How much?
£50 per year

Date	Session
13 th Aug	AGM and Show of Work
27 th Aug	Artist: Peter Quinn, Demo: Cityscapes
10 th Sept	Water – paint anything you like, with a water-related theme
24 th Sept	Artist: Pamela Bell, Demo: Line and wash
8 th Oct	Inspired by Music
22 nd Oct	Something Old, Something New – Do a new painting based on one of your old ones
12 th Nov	Artist: Gregg McNeil, Cyanotype Workshop
26 th Nov	Artist: Hania Smith, Critique
11 th Feb	Artist: Neil McDonald, Demo
25 th Feb	Artist: Nicole Stevenson, Collage workshop
11 th Mar	Photo challenge – Same reference photo to be used by all
25 th Mar	Artist: Lewis McKenzie, Demo: Landscape
8 th Apr	Art Clinic – bring a piece of work to discuss with members
22 nd Apr	Artist: Greer Ralston, Demo: Flowers
13 th May	Monochrome
27 th May	Artist: Bryan Evans, Demo: Urban Spaces
10 th Jun	Counterchange – Try this technique of light/dark contrast
24 th Jun	Open Night

For all

enquiries, message admin@stirlingartclub.org



CAMPBILL BLAIR DRUMMOND

As we continue Celebrating 50 Years of Camphill Blair Drummond, we are pleased to invite the wider community to join us for two special events this autumn. Each offers a different way to experience our community, learn about our history and celebrate the people, relationships and achievements that have shaped the last five decades. More information will be released soon.

Follow our Facebook and other social media pages for further updates and event announcements.



Discover the history of the estate and the story of our Community. Guided tours and our Celebrating 50 Years Exhibition will bring to life 50 years of connection, courage and growth at Camphill Blair Drummond.



Join us for a special Advent Sale as we celebrate 50 years of Camphill Blair Drummond, showcasing the stories, contributions and achievements behind the products, projects and people that make our community unique.

Unfortunately Splat the Rat hasn't been quite so busy this Summer. Gala Day didn't happen this year so that was one event fewer than normal. However the fun was very much normal, and even members of the Doune pipe band were persuaded to have a go, which turned out to be a very successful winning go. That was at the Gargunnoch Show when the sum of £348.08 was raised, thanks to the generosity of the village and visitors. The Kippen Street Fayre was a cold one and perhaps influenced the attendance. However £145.81 was raised there making a total donation of £490.89.



Gargunnoch Church

EVENTS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TALKS IN THE KIRK - AUTUMN 2026

2.00pm to 3.00pm Doors open from 1.30pm.

Entry by donation to the speaker's chosen charity

No booking necessary, just turn up!

Programme:

13th September: Jennifer Bulloch from , RBS : 'Fraud and Scams' –
How to Identify common scams and to protect yourself from fraudsters.

27th September: Representative from 'START UP Stirling :
What they DO & Who they HELP
Donations for the Food Bank will be accepted

11th October: Frances Carlaw : 'Passion for Pearls'.

25th October: TBC

There are 288 gravestones in the Kirkyard, the earliest dates from 1706. If you wish to trace ancestors who may be buried here , there is a plan of the locations of gravestones on the Welcome Noticeboard which is to the right of the steps at the main entrance to the Kirkyard.

Gargunnock Community Council

Yep – it's August and Gargunnock Community Council is starting to plan for Christmas. Plans are of course afoot for the Christmas lights display, and we're also hoping that we can engage with our fabulous school and that the pupils will help us as they did last year and Martin Harrick is working hard to bring this project to fruition. There's also another Quiz Night coming up to help with the funds needed for us to run this event, with Chris Phillips pulling some superb prizes together. Watch this space for more details as that's always a great evening.

We've still got some opportunities to be part of the team, so please have a word with any of us, or give Mike a call via email or phone.

Kings Highway

I

n other news, Stirling Council is forming a working party to help move the Kings Highway project forwards and asked us to nominate representatives from our team and one other. We're very pleased to have put Geoff Peart's name forward on behalf of the Trust, as well as Jullie Cole from GCC.

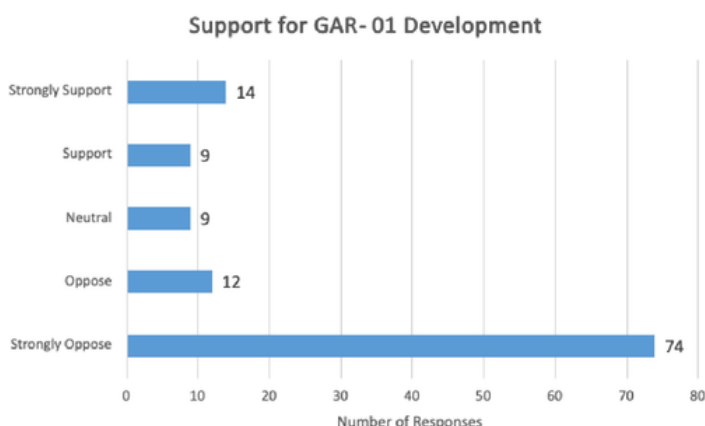
Windfarms

The plans for the Earlsburn Windfarm Extension, to be constructed by Nadara in Carron Valley, were approved in January this year. Nadara has confirmed that the meeting with GCC to discuss potential community benefits is now likely to take place in September.

Cairnoch Hill, also in Carron Valley and adjacent to both Earlsburn developmens, has just completed phase 3 of consultation ahead of submitting a formal planning application. We will continue to monitor the proposal and engage with Eurowind Energy, the developer, regarding potential community benefits.

Local Development Plan 3 and GCC Survey

Gargunnock Community Council carried out a short survey in July 2026, in its role as a Statutory Body, to gather views from residents and organisations on the proposal to build 75 homes at site GAR-01. The survey generated a strong response, with 118 replies from approximately 400 households.



While most residents recognised and welcomed some growth to help sustain the community and improve services and infrastructure, the survey also highlighted strong concerns about the 75-home GAR-01 proposal. Overall, 72% of respondents opposed the development, while 20% supported it. Most respondents favoured several smaller developments, with an emphasis on mixed affordable housing in line with the Local Place Plan (LPP) prepared and agreed in 2025.

There were major concerns about the scale of GAR-01, with half of respondents worried that infrastructure and services in Gargunnock are already at or beyond capacity. Key issues raised included water supply, sewage treatment, road safety, congestion, and the dangerous A811 junction.

The consensus was that new development could worsen traffic, reinforce car dependence due to poor bus services, and place unsustainable pressure on already overstretched local healthcare provision. There was also a widely held view that GAR-01 could open the door to a much larger, uniform housing estate, without clear details or guarantees on its form.

There were also widespread concerns about the proposed development's impact on the landscape, including the historic Ladies' Walk and the village sledging hill, both of which are within a valued Local Landscape Area (LLA) visible from the main village streets. Many respondents raised concerns about the potential loss of biodiversity, particularly for pine martens and red squirrels, as well as existing flooding and runoff issues that could worsen and affect nearby wildlife areas. Concerns were also raised about disabled access, given the steepness of the site and road.

Overall, the community supports growth, but believes that the scale, layout, location, and risks associated with this site mean its disadvantages outweigh the benefits. Based on the survey feedback, GCC has formally opposed the development in its current proposed form. The full survey results and our response to Stirling Council are available from the GCC page of the Community Website.

The Community Council will work with Stirling Council to explore alternative routes to small-scale, organic development beyond the single option currently presented. GCC will also seek to address local service and infrastructure challenges, ideally before any significant new development takes place. This approach has been acknowledged and welcomed by Stirling Council.

Stirling Council will review individual and organisational feedback over the coming months, investigate the points raised, and prepare a Proposed Plan for consultation in 2026/27. Thanks to everyone who took part, and to Tom McEwan for all his work on this.

Fountain and park

Maitland Clark is exploring what opportunities exist to potentially redevelop the green space west of the fountain, including replacing the memorial benches. Do you know anyone who does good landscape design? We'd love to talk to them!

Roads

Improvements to the A811 / Station Road junction should – hopefully – happen in 2027! Julie Cole also been working with Stirling Council and the Trust to deal with flooding issues on the loan running from Charles Street onto the park. The path floods in the winter. We've also put forward a request to Stirling Council on behalf of the Trust to have "shared space" signage placed on the approaches to the village – this sort of sign.



Mike Buckley, Chair, Gargunnock Community Council.
<https://www.gargunnock.org/community-council/>
gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

The new curling season is about to start and the club has a full programme of games this year. We had a successful and sociable season last year. We have about 30 folk from the village in the club, of all ages and abilities, but we would like to grow the club with new members and share the enjoyable sport that curling can be!

Using Windfarm Grant funds we are running free coaching sessions for our own members- AND for anyone who wants to come and have a try in a safe environment with 2 fully trained coaches.

There will be 2-hour sessions on Sunday 20th and Sunday 27th at the Peak in Stirling. Other club members will be there- you will probably know someone there!

Why not give it a try? All equipment will be provided, just dress warmly in loose gear, and wear clean-soled trainers. You can come to both sessions if you wish, and it's all free

We'd love to have you join us

Contact us on the club email-

Gargunnockcurlingclub@gmail.com

COME ALONG & JOIN!

DISCOVER THE THRILL OF THE GAME!

No experience needed - all welcome!

- Free come and try sessions for complete beginners
- Meet new people & join a supportive community
- Social events throughout the season

Gargunnock curling club is a family friendly club with members of all ages, get in touch to book a spot at our next come and try

2026 COME AND TRY SESSIONS:
20TH & 27TH SEPTEMBER & 1ST NOVEMBER 2026

Email: Gargunnockcurlingclub@gmail.com



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Gargunnoch Church

◆

Harvest Appeal

for

StartUp Stirling

◆

Canned or dried food may
be dropped off at the
church on:

Sunday 20th Sept 1–3

27th Sept 1–4

4th Oct 1–3

◆

Harvest Festival

4th Oct 11:15

◆

StartUp Stirling talk on their work

27th Sept in church

2–3pm

StartUp Stirling are
appealing for these items
for children's lunch boxes.



◆

Or Drop Donations in the box at the shop

Bee News – Autumn 2026

Our sixth year of beekeeping has been a strange one, reminding us that when it comes to bees you never stop learning, and that regardless of our intervention they end up doing whatever they want anyway!

Our main issue this year has been queens or more specifically lack of queens! A bee colony needs a queen to survive – by laying eggs she grows the colony's population and the pheromones she releases unite the worker bees in action for the good of the colony. Although she is very important her position as ruler relies on her health and egg laying performance – the colony may decide to replace her for various reasons such as not laying enough eggs or getting old. As she gets older her pheromones decrease and this may prompt the workers to kill her and start to raise her replacement.

A Queen may also disappear from the hive in a swarm, taking half the colony with her and leaving the rest to raise a new queen by building queen cells in which potential replacements are fed royal jelly. Re-queening can be a brutal process, with newly hatched queens doing battle with their regal sisters until one remains to reign supreme.

As beekeepers we use our weekly inspections to check on the health and productivity of the queen, and look for signs that the colony may plan to swarm or replace the queen, or may be completely queenless. We can then take steps to manage this, for example by providing more space to deter swarming, merging colonies or providing a donor queen cell from another colony to a queenless hive. Our summer has been spent taking many of these steps and although this has worked to the extent that we enter autumn with colonies that are "queen-right" there has been a reduction in the number of colonies and production of honey.

2025 was a bumper year for honey – our hives produced 360 jars (nearly 81kg) which was sold quickly thanks to the enduring enthusiasm of locals for delicious Gargunnock blossom honey. This year we were only able to extract 18kg. Although this is disappointing for our loyal customers it's just the reality of beekeeping and no doubt we will have another bumper crop next year or the next – only the bees know!

We continue to offer two places for skill development or volunteering for local young people working on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award – please contact us to discuss.

For updates and photos, join our Facebook page Gargunnock Beekeepers.

Email: gargunnockbees@gmail.com

Gargunnock Beekeepers, September 2026.

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

Editor: Emma Hay
gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Deadline for contributions to the next issue: Articles, letters, photographs, advertisements & submissions may be made any time up to and including **10th November 2026**.

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.

The Bugle accepts no responsibility for the return or condition of any unsolicited manuscripts, artwork, or photographs. While reasonable care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in The Bugle, the Editor, Gargunnock Community Trust and their agents cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

Content and views expressed in letters or articles published in the Bugle are held by the author and are not necessarily those of Gargunnock Community Trust or Editor.

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Distribution: The Bugle is distributed to around 420 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

Compliments and/or complaints: Please contact the Community Trust at gargunnocktrust@gmail.com. The full complaints policy and procedure is published on the website.

Gargunnock Community Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered charity (SC036793). The Trust is managed by volunteer trustees for and on behalf of the Gargunnock community.