



Bite and Blether

This year's B and Bs have been following a trend - early group of post yoga folk for coffee and scones followed by a gradual build up before the lunch rush when things become manic until suddenly it's time to close the doors and clear up! Thank you all so much for coming. Where would we be without our loyal customers?

Thank you once again to Sally for her lovely tray bakes and incredible scones, Jessie, Rowena and Gill for their super light sponges, Allison for her wonderful tea loaves and tray bakes, Morag for her delicious baking, Jean for her light as air meringues and Bernadette, Barbara and Moira for their tasty soups. I have to own up to making soup too!

A huge thank you must also go to Steve and Stuart, ably supported by Douglas, Jane and Edmond who fill in when they're not available, who come along and help us put out the tables and chairs and then lay out the cups, saucers, etc., etc. while we "girls" get busy in the kitchen and then they come back again and help to put everything away and clear up. As you can see, it's a real team effort and we cannot function without you.

Jill Patrick



GARGUNNOCK FLOWER SHOW

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 21st March at 7.30pm

At the Community Centre

£3 per person, teams of 4

RAFFLE

BYOB and Nibbles

As this is the Flower Show's main fund raiser of the year please come and support the event and help keep the annual Flower Show going.

This is a General Knowledge Quiz

Questions and attempted control by "The Professor"

Gargunnoch Community Shop VOUCHER

This voucher entitles the bearer
to £10 to spend in the
Gargunnoch Community Shop
(no cash alternative)

Voucher is valid until
31st March 2025

nadara

Funded by the Nadara Kingsburn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnoch Community Trust

Gargunnoch Community Trust

The trust had a successful AGM at the end of November last year when the audience heard a comprehensive update on everything that we have achieved over the last year. Importantly we gained a new trustee, Lois Simpson, who as many of you will know runs Move It, keeping many locals fit and healthy. As a significant user of the community centre, she will be an enormous asset to the trust helping us ensure that the centre, which is owned and managed by the trust, continues to deliver a quality venue for local groups and organisations.

Following the AGM the office bearers were appointed and responsibilities allocated including:

- Chair - Nathan Anderton
- Treasurer - Gavin Fleming
- Secretary - Gill Bell
- Community Centre - Crawford Gordon
- Bite and Blether - Jill Patrick
- Paths Group and Local Place Plan - Geoff Peart
- Cycle project - John Steele
- Communications (Bugle) - Mairi Jackson
- Windfarm Fund Panel representatives - Steve Barnet and John Steele
- Meetings secretary - Stuart Ogg

We still have a vacancy for another trustee so if you are interested in helping develop and deliver local projects for the village, please get in touch either by talking to one of the existing trustees or email gargunnochtrust@gmail.com

Some may have noticed the new cycle accommodation recently installed at the rear of the community centre. This will house the 15 cycles which will be available to rent once the booking software has been set up. The trust is also contributing to the preparation of the Local Place Plan which is being led by the community council and we are working with the council on the upgrade of the community website. New tree planting along the Beeches Path will take place next month. Finally, we are still pushing for progress on the Gargunnoch to Stirling path although this continues to be difficult in the light of funding priorities and the way in which funding is now being allocated by the Scottish Government. However, we will continue the quest!

Stuart Ogg

Editorial

Welcome to the first Bugle of 2025 and thank you to everyone who sent articles, it was a bit of a squeeze fitting everything in, and it has meant some of the lovely photos are a little bit small. In this edition, at the top of this page, there is a £10 voucher to be spent at our new village shop. The voucher has been funded by the Windfarm Fund, and you can read about that and other local initiatives being supported on page 12. Special thanks also to John McLaren for producing the walking map in the centre spread, and the links to maps you can download on page 7.

All contributions and feedback can be sent to gargunnochbugle@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is 11th May 2025.

Louise Crawford, March 2025

Local Place Plan

We're now moving towards the final version of the Local Place Plan, incorporating feedback from the draft we distributed with the last issue of the Bugle. (It's also online via the GCC page on the Gargunnock website.)

To recap, the LPP is required by Stirling Council as part of the national planning framework from Scottish Govt. So, it's a proposal by a community body about the development and use of land, and captures where we, the community, see the next 10 years. The aim is to improve people's engagement and involvement in the planning system. The LPP is a way for communities to achieve change in their local area by proactively feeding into the overall development planning process.

Gargunnock Community Council wants to ensure the voice of the community is at the centre of the LPP and this there have is why been – and will continue to be – extensive consultation with residents as we move towards a final version. We'll be arranging another consultation and review meeting soon to share where we are at this point and gather further views.

It's important to recognise that the final document is not a statement of what will happen. It is an opportunity for us to highlight what we see as our collective priorities to improve the area we live in. And spotlight the areas we want to organically and sympathetically preserve and protect, while ensuring the continued sustainability of our community overall.

Please contact us via gargunnockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com with comments and suggestions.

Gargunnock Parish Church

Since the start of 2025, I have been reflecting upon all that continues to change over the years. What a privilege it has been to share in ministry in Gargunnock with my friend Rev. Iain Armstrong as we serve the community and congregation in Gargunnock within the new linkage with Port of Menteith, Kippen and Norrieston. Over time, we get to know more people and experience community life. I have had some fun afternoons getting to share in assemblies and skills academy activities with the Primary School. I have been the minister in Kippen and Norrieston for 9.5 years and Iain has lived in the area for much of his life. While we are both familiar with the general area, getting to know the particular of Gargunnock with its shows, events, the shop and the especially the people have and continue to be wonderful.



On Wednesday March 5th the church will begin the season of Lent counting the 40 days (not including Sundays) up to Easter. While we have a pattern of worship across the new linkage, there may be changes in times yet as we figure out how we all work together and share times and places for worship. For March Sundays, worship in Gargunnock Kirk will be at 11.15 am except for Sunday 30th March when worship will be in Kippen Kirk at 10.30 am for a joint service. That is also the day the clocks 'Spring Forward' and is Mothering Sunday. We look forward to celebrating Easter in Gargunnock Kirk on Sunday 20th April at 11.15 am.

As spring is showing us new life through flowers blooming and the fields bursting with life, we hope for the promise of life in all the fullness through the faith in Jesus and the joy of sharing time together worshipping, serving and caring for one another.

God bless, Rev Ellen Larson Davidson
elarsondavidson@churchofscotland.org.uk or 01786871249



Prepared by
Gargunnock Community Council



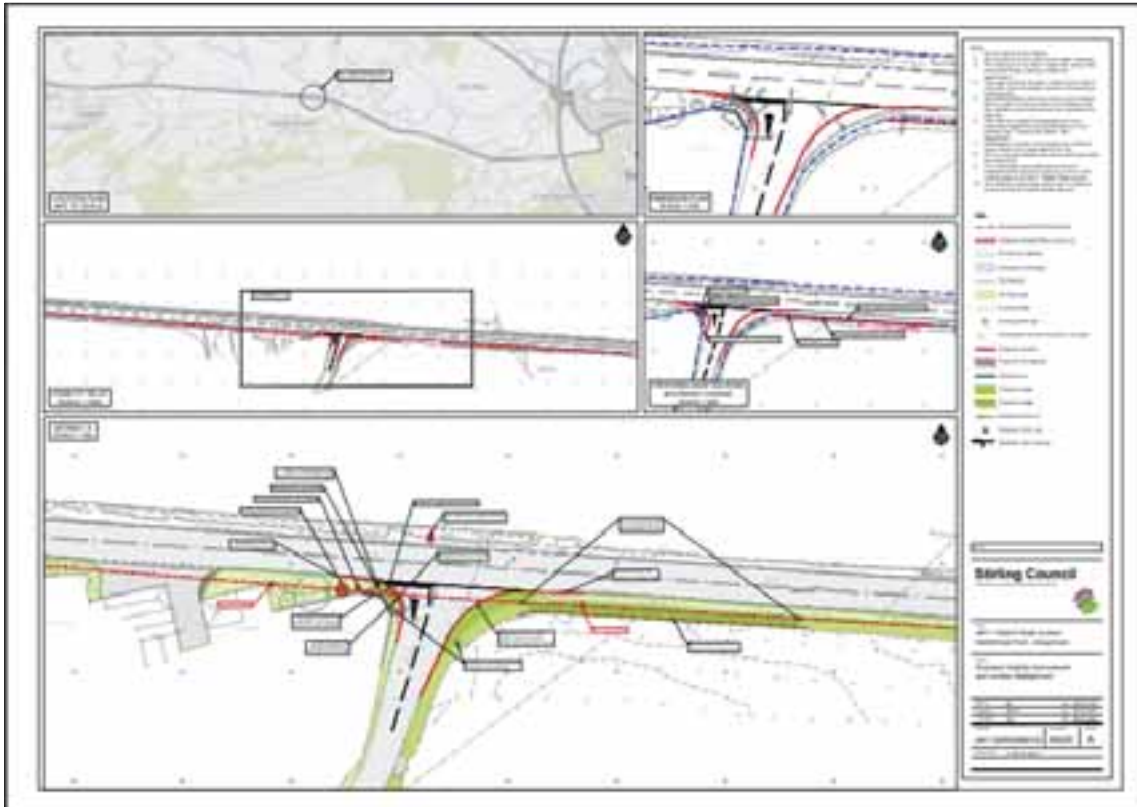
Gargunock Community Council

Project updates

A811

GCC has been campaigning for improvements to the road junction from Station Road onto the A811 for many years. The recent accidents on the A811 near Gargunock have reinforced the need for action. An agreement was reached with Stirling Council that improvement works to the visibility splays at the Station Road / A811 would be planned in 2024 and that work would be carried out in 2025- 26.

A topographical survey was undertaken in October 2024, and this was used to inform the preliminary design for a visibility improvement at the junction. Contact has been made with the agent acting on behalf of the landowner. Once the proposals have been agreed with the landowner the detailed design of the proposals will be developed. It is expected that the junction will be constructed in 2025/26.



Fountain Clean Up

We've reached agreement with the relevant people in Stirling Council as to what can be done, we have a specialist contractor to do the work, and we have the funding to do it. (Thanks, WFP and GCT). We're now just waiting for the licence from Stirling Council to allow this work to progress, and hopefully this will be forthcoming before too much longer.

Website Development

We're now at the point where we can build on the excellent foundations of the original website, and we're about to appoint the web developer to move this forward. A joint project team from GCT and GCC have been looking at layout and functionality. We expect to have some outline layouts shortly, and then we'll be able to start gathering content. (Again, thanks to WFP and GCT for supporting this important project.)



Members

We said goodbye to our Vice-chair, Carolyn Johnston, who had to move closer to Glasgow for family reasons; and David Millar is stepping back from Chairing Council for the moment but will remain with us. We thank them both for all their efforts. An Interim Chair has been identified and will be appointed at the next GCC meeting at the end of March. We are also keen to co-opt some additional members so if you'd like to join the team that is working to support our community with projects like these, do get in touch with any Council member for an informal chat, or contact us via gargunockcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

We also have an upcoming opportunity for a minute taker, this is a funded role, and pays £40 per meeting.

Gargunnock Community Council - Membership

Chair & Vice-Chair	Roles Vacant	
Secretary	Christine Philips	cpPhillips16@gmail.com / 07919 917 792
Treasurer	Tom Jamieson	tfj1@btinternet.com / 07732 696 517
Social Media / Comms Wind Farm Panel Rep	Mike Buckley	mb_j@btinternet.com / 07967 830 144
Planning & Licensing Cycle Path Lead	Julie Cole	juliecole67@googlemail.com / 07773 391 747
Roads & Transport	Lovat MacGregor David Millar	lovatmacgregor@gmail.com / 07971 513 144 dwjmillar@gmail.com / 07553 016 754

PLAYGROUP UPDATE

JANUARY-MARCH 2025

PARTY TIME FOR JOHN OUR LEADER, 40 YEARS YOUNG

LEARNING TO USE SCISSORS, FOCUS, THERE, DONE

ACTION PACKED SESSIONS. OUTDOORS AND IN

YUMMY SNACKS ARE ALWAYS A WIN

GARDENING TOGETHER AND FINDING WORMS

RACING THE TRAINS, TAKE YOUR TURN

OUTSIDE. UP THE TREE. YOU CAN'T CATCH ME

UP AT THE TOP. TIE THE KNOT

PLAYGROUP IS AWESOME. WE PROMISE YOU THAT
IF YOU WANT TO COME ALONG THEN GET IN
CONTACT

GARGUNNOCKPLAYGROUP@GMAIL.COM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN!





COME JOIN US



GARGUNNOCK TODDLERS

At Gargunnoch 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

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

GoFundMe

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:
hcm22moore@gmail.com



Funded by the Renantis Kinghorn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnoch Community Trust!



COME JOIN THE

GARGUNNOCK PLAYGROUP

At Gargunnoch Community Centre
Term time Mondays and Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am



THINGS TO NOTE

- For children aged 2 years and above - You can drop and go!
- Snacks provided
- Zipper session, £6 for siblings

SUPPORT US WHEN YOU SHOP WITH EAST FUNDRAISING! SCAN THE BARCODE BELOW

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

GoFundMe

For further information please contact:
gargunnochplaygroup@gmail.com



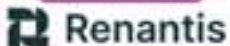
Funded by the Renantis Kinghorn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnoch Community Trust!

ACTIVITY CLUBS AFTER MIND THE GAP BEFORE



At Gargunnoch Primary School
Mon-Thurs 8am - 9am
Mon-Thurs 3.15pm - 5.15pm

£4.50 per child Before and £9 After School



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

GoFundMe

Funded by the Renantis Kinghorn Community Fund administered by the Gargunnoch Community Trust!

For bookings and information email:
gargunnochvillagechildcare@gmail.com

Toddlers Update

Toddlers, which runs on Tuesday morning from 10-11.30am and Friday from .30-11.30am in the Community Centre, continues to be a fun and friendly little group for parents, carers and children under 5.



Children (and adults!) can socialise, play and enjoy a tasty snack together too. We sometimes have messy play, arts and crafts, gardening, music sessions and the fantastic outside space and climbing frame is accessible all year round for the little adventurers too! Each session is £3 per child and runs all year including school holidays when older siblings are welcome along too! It's a lovely little group and there is no need to book, just turn up! We hope to see you and your little ones soon.

Any further enquiries please contact -
hcm22moore@gmail.com

Village Walking Map

Anyone who knows me knows that I enjoy drawing maps. Usually, reproductions of ancient historical maps but modern maps too, hence the village map on the notice board. About 20 years ago a walking map of the area was produced in fold-up concertina form but that's long out of print (and maybe a bit old-fashioned now) so in response to one or two hints a while back I decided to have a go at a replacement and here it is.

Of course, nowadays everything has to be available on a smartphone or tablet so if you scan the QR code on the map you should get, nicely proportioned for your phone, 2 maps: the one here in the magazine (see centre spread overleaf) plus a simple street map of the village. Following on from that as you scroll down, you'll find a short history of the village followed by detailed descriptions of no less than local 7 walks. You can zoom into the maps without any loss of quality.

So, if you have any visitors coming to you this summer why not give them the link to check out what the village has to offer.

If you have any problems with scanning the QR code, just type the following links directly into your browser or email them to someone.

This is the link to the 2 maps & walk descriptions behind the QR code on the map overleaf:

<https://tinyurl.com/odwalkstext>

This is the link to the main map alone: <https://tinyurl.com/garwalkmap>

This is the link to the basic street map: <https://tinyurl.com/garbasicmap>

John McLaren

GARGUNNOCK CHURCH WELCOME TEAM

The Welcome Team of Gargunnoch Church will be advertising more Talks in the Kirk in the autumn but haven't planned anything yet. Watch this space!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS GARGUNNOCK



Residents and friends of Gargunnoch have raised the truly magnificent sum of **£2153.00** for **PARKINSON'S UK**.
We'd all like to wish **EVERYONE** in the village a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025!

Best Wishes from:

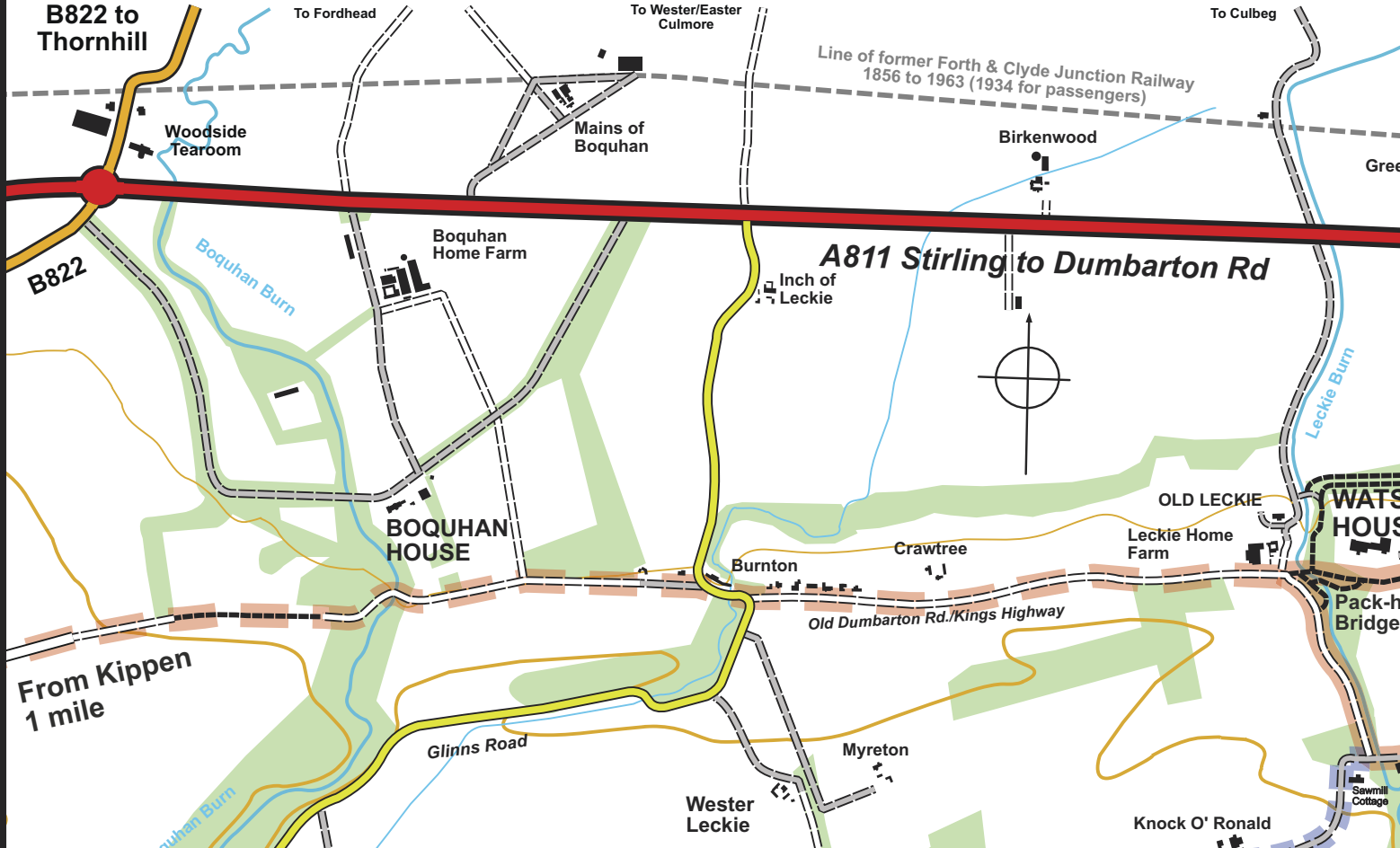
Sandra Anderson; Corinne & Jonathan Anderson; Sylvia & Jim Bedwell; Gill Bell; Helen, Peter, Susan & Lynn Bennett; Robert & Sheena Blackwood; Martin Bonner; Janene, Kevin, Hope & Niamh Brodie; Gilly, Gavin, Amy & Chloé Bruce; Chris, Jackie, Chris & Heather Campbell; Diane, John, Julie & Luke Christie; Anne Christie & Maitland Clark; Scott, Julie, Andrew & Alexander Coubrough; Douglas & Moira Coupethwaite; Jon & Marie Claire Cross; Marshall, Jo, Andrew & Eva Dallas; Eric & Alice Dempster; Graham, Helen, Rachel & Cameron Dingley; Norman & Iona Donaldson; Max & Barbara Drummond; Paul Marshall & Jean Duffy; The Evans Family; Helen & Dave Fallow; Mike, Sue, Jamie, Andrew & Gregor Fitches; Andy, Hilary, Max & Archie Flett; Grant, Sam, Esme & William Fraser; The Gill Family; Stuart, Helen, Fraser, Fergus & Hughie Hansom; Claire, Sam, Ethan & Zoe Hart; Rowena Boome & Tony Heath; Elaine & Russell Hendry; Louise, Craig, Kyle & Innes Heron;

Jane, Ewan & Sam Hunter; David & Helen Hyland; Philip, Ruth & Naomi Irvine; Caroline, Paul & Ross James; Tom, Fiona, Anna & William Jamieson; Eadie McCallum & Tom Jenkins; Martin & Fiona Johnstone & Family; Alison & Michael Kay; David & Issy King; The Leask Family; John & Tracy Lafferty; Ian, Sandra, Katherine & Hamish Lewis; The Lindsay Family; Martin & Barbara Linklater; Jan & Johnny Loudon; Robin, Alison & Finlay Lunn; Hilary, Gordon, Duncan, Lynsey, Scott & Abbie MacArthur; Lindsay, Gregor, Skye & Bryce MacCallum; The MacGregor Family; Lynda, Murdo, Catherine & Sarah MacLeod; Edmond Mansion; Lucy & Conor McAllister; Tina Peek & Charlie McAllister; Ewan, Louise, Amy, Frazer, Lottie & the IFC McCabe; Fiona McCartney; The McDonald Family; Kirsty, Mike & Alex McGirr; Cath & Paul McGlynn, Cara & Jack, Kieran & Cayla; Eric & Suzanne McKeich & Family; John & Helen McLaren; Zoe & Ailister McLean; Linda Carson & Kenny Melkiejohn;

The Milne Family; John & Joan More; The Mitchell Family; Anne, Hamish, Jane & Seonaid Muirhead; The Muirhead Family; Hugh, Jean & David O'Connor; Sheena & Stuart Ogg; Sally, Sarah & Fraser Park; Morag, Jon, Matthew & Angus Park; Jill Patrick; Vanessa, Derek, Kate, Anna & Ben Paynton; Kate & Geoff Peart; The Peddie Family; Christine & David Penman; Pauline Perry; Hector, Trish, Darren & Alistair Petrie; Chris & Sarah Price; Lorna & John Rodger; Pete & Helen Rowell; The Scotts of Culbeg; Agnes, Mark & Neil Sheriff; Lois, Andrew, Tom & Finn Simpson; Claire, Doug & Bryony Smith; Bill Shankie & Lindsey Stevenson; Gillian, Greg & Logan Stokes; Jon, Jacqueline, Miller & Kara Sutherland; Ally, Sarah, Euan & Ava Thomson; Colin, Morna, Freya & Andrew Tinto; Catriona, Kirsty & Eilidh Vass Payne; Mark, Lorraine & Steven Welsh; Elaine Whiteford; The Young Family; The Youngs at Glenfoyle; The Younger Family

Creaghan Hill 536
 Balcnoch 638
 Beinn Ruisg 593
 Beinn Chaorach 713
 Binnean nan Gobhar 586
 Beinn Uird 597
 Sron Aonaich 577
 Barr a Ghartain 168
 Ben Lomond 974
 Beinn Narmain 926
 Beinn Ime 1011
 Beinn Dubh 508
 Ben Vane 918
 Craigmore 387
 Beinn Chochan 703
 Craig of Monievreckie 400
 Ben Venue 729
 Meall Mòr 747
 Beinn Chabhair 930
 Slob a'Choin 850

Panorama of mountains as viewed from an altitude of 1000ft



Gargunnock Walking Map

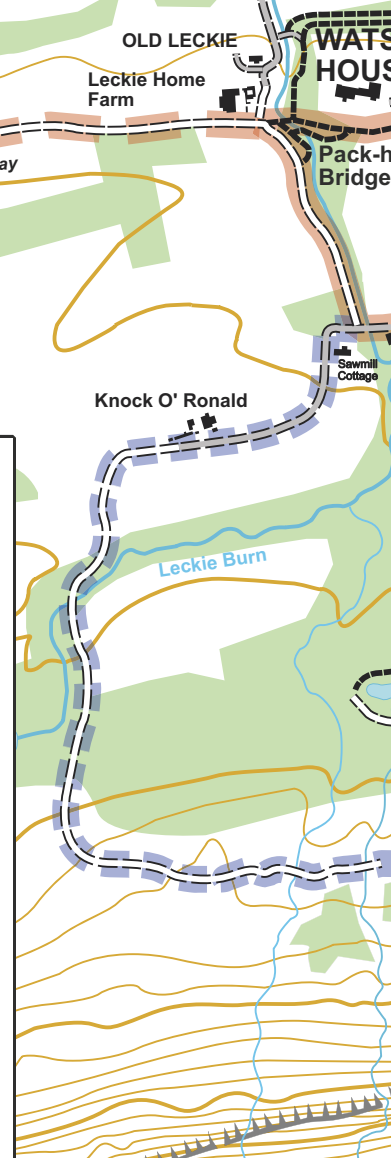
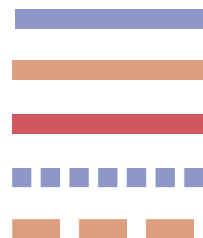
You can walk on almost all of the roads and paths shown here provided you do so responsibly and obey the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

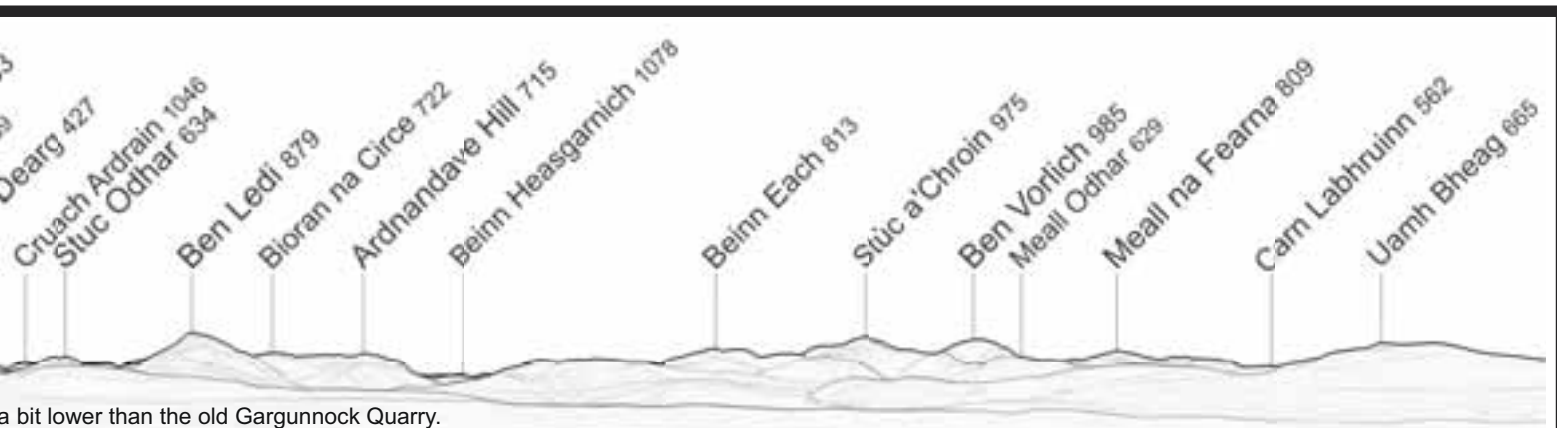
<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>

Scan the QR code for 2 maps plus walk descriptions for the following.

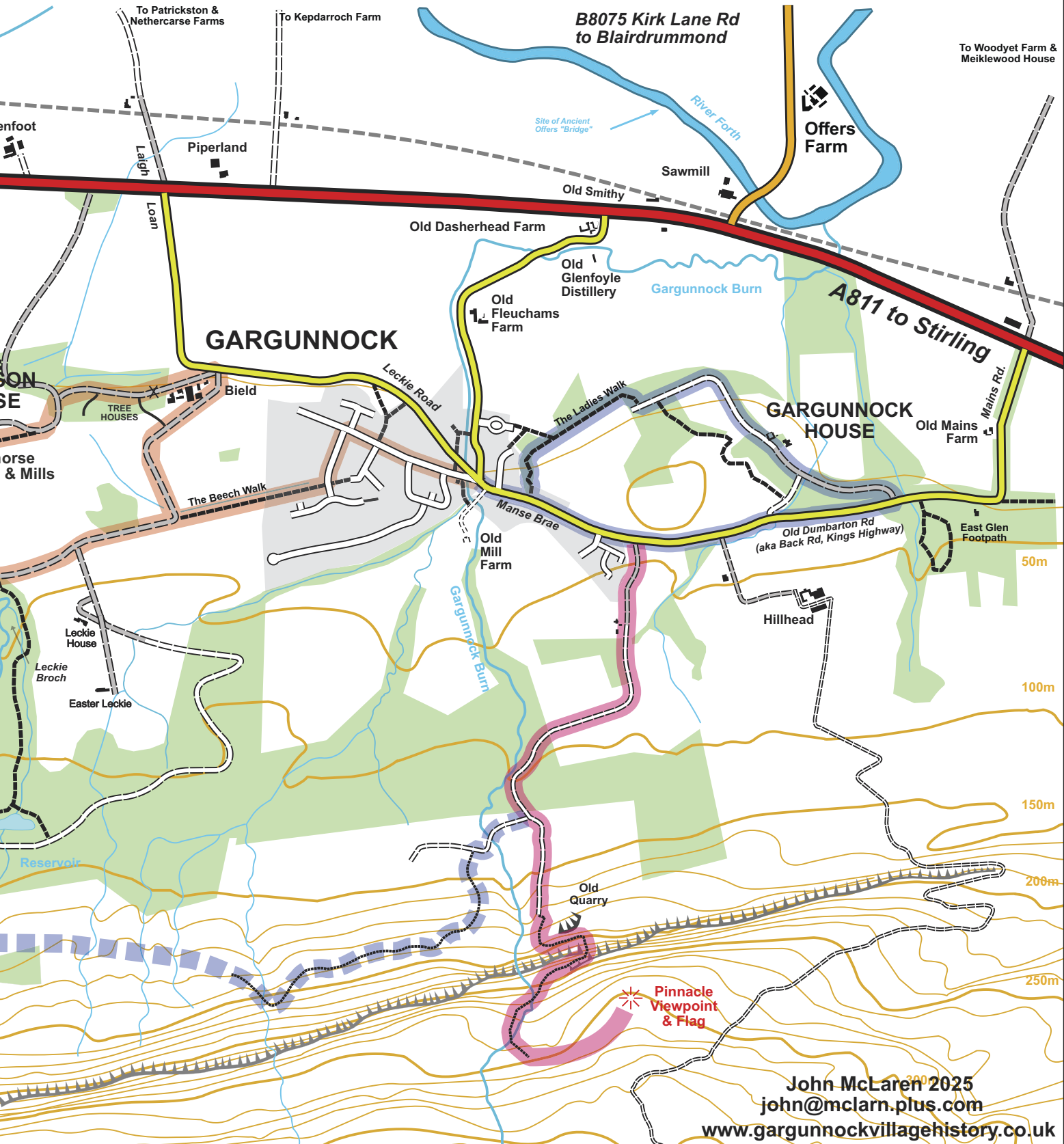


- The Ladies Walk
- A Walk Round Leckie Estate
- A Walk to the Waterfall & the Pinnacle
- A Walk Under the Craigs
- A Walk to Kippen





a bit lower than the old Gargunnoch Quarry.



Before and After School Club



THANKS TO THE SCHOOL AND THE WINDFARM PANEL FOR THEIR SUPPORT THIS YEAR. PLUS, GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM THE GALA AND MONEY PRESENTED BY ROBERT HAY FROM LODGE BAILIE NICOL JARVIE 1036.

The Before and After School Clubs currently run Monday to Thursday 8-9am and 3.15 to 5.15. Please note timings may be expanded slightly depending on staffing.

We are delighted to expand our provision to include a Friday morning and we will gauge interest in the afternoon.

We take regular bookings but we also happily accept ad-hoc bookings too. We are asking for bookings for the next academic session and we would be delighted to welcome any new PIs who are starting.

We do provide a small snack for pupils if required.

Any questions, or if anyone would like to offer help or support to running a session at the after school club please email: gargunnockvillagechildcare@gmail.com



This year before school we have encouraged the children to have a quiet morning with crafting and quiet activities available with *free choice* too. Although, it's not always quiet when Uno is being played!

After school we give the children a chance to be outside everyday to ensure they have an opportunity to use the wonderful facilities we successfully helped to apply for which are used by the school and community. We have enjoyed themed afternoons and encourage a variety of crafting, reading and sports outside.

Old Leckie Farm

January and February can often be the least cheery of all the months on the farm. With the cold weather and stagnant growth it can feel like the colour has leached from everything. Out and about everything has a brownish tinge to it, not helped by the flat light from low arc of the sun. Then, thankfully, the snowdrops finally push up their white bells, followed closely by the bright yellow flowers of the low lying aconites. Returning from a half term break the crocus brings the first purples and as I write this I can see the first orange trumpet of a daffodil celebrating the move into more colourful times.

Winter has brought with it the usual high and lows of farming. Like everyone else there has been no escape for farmers from the inflationary cost pressures of the last couple of years. It has felt like a long wait for the live market sale price to catch up but the last few months have finally brought a welcome uplift in both lamb and beef sales. Here on the Carse farms are nervously waiting to see the impact of the Schmallenberg virus on the 2025 new born lambs. Of no risk to humans this midge borne virus effects fertility in sheep and can lead to malformations of the lambs as they develop. There has been wide exposure amongst our own sheep so we wait nervously for the April lambing season to begin. Schmallenberg aside it's really important that pregnant sheep aren't subject to stress so - as ever - please make every effort to keep dogs on a lead and under control if walking through the farm.

Before we get there we will have a busy March with the retirement of our current Leckie Layers and the placing of new hens. As long as we get no formal avian flu lock down we will work again with the British Hen Welfare Trust to rehome our ladies before we crack on with the deep clean of the hen houses before our new younger birds arrive. Along with our next batch of pigs almost grown, and a regular through put of our grass finished native beef we'll then be well placed to keep growing great local food through the year – thoughtfully produced by us, for you. If you don't already enjoy our produce you can buy our eggs in the village shop, or order eggs and meat for home delivery via our online shop at www.oldleckie.co.uk – we deliver to the village every Friday. Thanks for the ongoing support and custom – roll on the Spring!

Alison Younger



- Leckie Free Range Eggs
- Leckie Meat: Beef, Lamb, Outdoor reared pork
- Leckie Leaves and Tatties
- Self catering accommodation
- Farm tours

Order online at www.oldleckie.co.uk

Local delivery every Friday



Windfarm Fund



Latest grants awarded: since our last update, we are delighted to share that there have been another eight successful grants awarded by the Windfarm Panel,

- £420 for foraging workshops that will be happening this spring and summer
- £936 to print local place plan you received with last Bugle
- £93.49 to plant some additional trees at Glebe Park
- £113 to replant along Beeches Path
- £250 supporting a young person in the village to take part in a rugby tour
- £4,250 providing each house a £10 voucher for local shop in this edition of Bugle
- £300 for safe parking signs at the school
- £4,794 has been allocated to improving the village website

The panel was pleased to support these applications and would like to encourage continued applications from across the community.

Our new updated forms and Fund Guidelines are up and running on the village website, <https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications>

As a reminder we made the following changes in January-

- Individuals are now able to apply for grants up to £500 (previous level was £300).
- Quotes are now not required for individual and group grants up to £500 (previously £300).
 - 1 Quote should be included with grant applications between £500 and £999.
 - 3 Quotes need to be included for grant applications £1,000 and over.

The next deadline date for applications is not until 11th August but if you have something you would like to apply for between now and then please do drop us an email at windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org

We should also have the ability to accept online applications once the village website has been updated.

<https://www.gargunnock.org/wind-farm-applications>

We will be looking for a young person to join the panel as our youth rep later in the year- please do get in touch if you are interested in having a chat about what is involved!

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the application process (including options for confidential applications) or would like to discuss the potential for funding, please do reach out to Ashley Fleming or Jackie Campbell or email windfarmpanel@gargunnock.org.

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

Gargunnoch SWI

The run up to Christmas had a number of activities for our members. In November they had an opportunity to try different Christmas crafts. There were origami boxes, various gift tags, gnome decorations and a repeat with the popular snowmen.



Our members enjoyed a fantastic trip to see the Pantomime 'Snow White' at the MacRobert, Stirling. It was a super show put on by the MacRobert with laughter flowing we even had a few shout outs to make it the evening even more special. It had been a while since many of us had been at a pantomime but we will return!



Our Christmas meal was held at the Gargunnoch Inn. Party games were played with Santa appearing and handing out secret Santa presents. It was a great atmosphere and excellent food.

January we had a talk by the Stirling Reuse Hub which proved very interesting. We heard how the hub operates and networks with numerous charities and organisations. Also its library of things from DIY items like a drill to camping and leisure equipment like a paddle boards. The future plans and expansion of this organisation look very exciting and hope to change the way we shop in the future and make us become more sustainable .

February Frances Carlaw 'The Pearl lady' visited with a beautiful extensive array of jewellery for sale in aid of a charity supporting education in the townships in South Africa she supports. Her talk was outstanding full of information about pearls and Frances's life also full of humour. She had us all totally mesmerized with her tales. Many members bought jewellery from her, she not only had pearls but also art deco jewellery. We will definitely need her to return.



In March it's a hands on demonstration by Anne Marie Stewart making material Easter wreaths.

April the Blood Bikes are coming with a motor bike . They deliver essential medical items for NHS Scotland on demand. It is also the judging of our Easter pairs with members randomly paired up - one baking an item and the other pair crafting.



This year is the Centenary of Stirling, Clackmannan and West Perth Federation of which Gargunnoch is a member. To celebrate the centenary there are a number of events taking place throughout the year. There will be a display of crafts from five local Rurals – Gargunnoch, Kippen, Buchyvie , Ruskie and Drymen held in Gargunnoch Church Thursday March 27th – Saturday March 29th 10 - 4 . Everyone is welcome so please come along, there will be teas/ coffees and cakes available. Look out for the posters.

Easter decorations will be again appearing around the village a week before Easter to brighten the village and get everyone in the mood for Easter.



Our meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month (September – May) at 7.30 at the Gargunnoch community Centre. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

The meeting in March is on Tuesday 18th. If you would like more information or are interested in joining please contact me on 07815 522 247 or email bmountford31@gmail.com.

Beverley Mountford – President Gargunnoch SWI



Gargunnock Walking Group – February 2025

The Gargunnock Walking Group has continued to meet at regular intervals enjoying new walks and repeating old favourites. Our most recent walk was the Bochastle Hill circuit north of Kilmahog. As often happens the weather was better than predicted and we had fine views of the surrounding hills and lochs. The walk was followed by an excellent lunch at the Lade Inn.



The last report for the Bugle also referred to a walk at Beecraigs Country Park. This was also an excellent walk with nice forest paths and fine views from the top of Cockleroy. The walk was followed by lunch in one of the excellent pubs in Linlithgow.

At the time of writing the next walk will be on 27th February, and we will go to Forest Lodge at Aberfoyle and do a circuit through the forest there. The dates for walks in March will be Tuesday 11th March and Thursday 27th March.

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 through 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

The Village Flagpole

For some years, Gargunnock has enjoyed the display of a myriad of different flags at The Square - flags that celebrate events and flags that celebrate nations. It has been a joy to see them.

But, since April 2012, there has been one flag conspicuous by its absence - the St George's flag.

On 24th April 2012, the St George's flag was torn off the flagpole, set alight and thrown in the burn. And, in case we failed to get the message, the following was spray painted at the foot of said flagpole.



I was born in Derbyshire, not Scotland. I don't live in England now because I prefer Scotland, but that doesn't mean I reject the country of my birth. To see something like this happen, in the village I had called my home by then for 20 years, shook me to the core. I struggled to understand how someone should do this: effectively saying that I wasn't welcome in this village. But not just me - I'd guess that probably a third of village residents are either English or have English connections. That's an awful lot of people that someone here wanted to hurt and insult.

Anyhow, the graffiti was removed and we all got on with our lives again. But, despite my pleading, we've not had a St George's flag since. The argument being that they didn't want to provoke a repeat of what had happened.

After a bit more discussion, we agreed that if I bought the flag, it would be flown again on St George's Day.

So, I've bought it and look forward to seeing it flying at the end of April. And I sincerely hope that it will fly unmolested as a symbol of what I believe Gargunnock to be - an open, welcoming community to people of every race, nationality, and background. Our diversity is something we should celebrate and acknowledge that we're stronger for it.

Yours sincerely, Helen Hyland

Gargunnoch Primary School

A Nativity and a Pantomime – Oh Yes It Was!

We were very ambitious this year putting on both a Nativity and a Pantomime at the school. Staff and children put a lot of work into this and we were delighted with the audiences that came to see us. First it was the older residents from the village, 37 of them, and we were delighted to give them a cup of tea and mincemeat pie while they enjoyed our dress rehearsal. Then it was two sell out performances to families and friends of the school, a great experience for the children and a Christmas delight. Performing on a stage can be quite terrifying and it always amazes me how confident our pupils are in front of a large audience.



Scots Poetry

Our annual Scots poetry assembly was also a great success, after a bit of a false start when the school was closed on the day of the event, due to Storm Eowyn. It went ahead however on the following week and I am delighted to announce the winners.

P1/2 – 3rd = Gregor Brodie & Lucie Mathieson

2nd Angus Dobie

1st Kaitlyn Steele

P3/4 – 2nd = Fearne Baillie & Noah Hamilton

1st Sophie Coy

P5/6/7 – 3rd Raana Johnston

2nd Annabelle Webber

1st Sula Clokie

Fish in the Classroom

P5/6/7 are getting out and about with a John Muir based project. So far this has involved them in climbing up to the flag, bird watching, camera trapping and hatching and growing trout which they will then release into the Gargunnoch Burn. The trout project has been supported by Gargunnoch Community Windfarm Trust, applied for by one of our parents Thomas Coy, and as we work alongside Forth Valley River Trust we feel quite privileged to be responsible for and to care for our trout eggs. It has been really interesting so far, keeping the water temperature low enough with iced water (between 5-10 degrees), learning about how to care for them and now we have them on site, watching as they develop and grow. We'll update on how we get on in the next edition of the Bugle.



Egg



Alevin



Fry



Parr



Sleeping Policemen

You may have noticed the new signs outside the school to ensure that cars don't park on the far side of the road. So far these have been effective in making pupil entry and exit from the school grounds safer and again we have Gargunnoch Community Windfarm Trust to thank. The children in the Pupil Council helped in the choice of sign and we think that they did a great job.



Shop Update

Since opening at the beginning of Dec 2024 the shop has been thriving. Business is good and the tenant (Ashok) is pleased with the welcome from the village. A shop Facebook page will be developed by the tenant who will advertise special offers etc; at the same time the shop will look for feedback and ideas from the village. The road signs are now in place, the awnings are ordered and expected to be fitted at the end February/beginning March. Liquor license is approved but we await the issue, from Stirling council, of the actual certificate/license. In the meantime, occasional licenses (renewed every 2 weeks) are being displayed.

For any correspondence regarding the shop please contact any of the committee member or shopcommittee@gargunnock.org



Scotland's Gardens Scheme 2025

After a cold rather bleak winter the gardens of Stirlingshire will bloom again for us to enjoy. There are many favourite Sunday Open Gardens on the list this year as well as some newer ones. Here for your diaries are dates to write down.

- May 11th. Oakmore near Port of Menteith
- May 18th. Shrubhill, Dunblane
- May 25th. Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane.
- June 1st. Thorntree, Arnprior
- June 15th. Gartmore Village.
- July 13th. Oakmore, Port of Menteith
- July 27th. Mollan House, Thornhill
- August 10th. Braehead Community Garden, Stirling.
- August 17th. Bannockburn House, Stirling.

OPEN BY ARRANGEMENT FOR SNOWDROPS:- KILBRYDE CASTLE, DUNBLANE and GARGUNNOCK HOUSE GARDEN. Please contact garden by prior arrangement. (Not on the morning of intended visit please.)

Opening by arrangement later in the year are:- Thorntree Arnprior, Arndean by Dollar, Gardener's Cottage Walled Garden Killearn, Bannockburn House as well as Kilbryde Castle and Gargunnock House.

Full details are to be found on the SGS website. Yellow Books and Leaflets will be available soon.

The Stirlingshire SGS Committee thank all who supported our Open Gardens last year and we hope to see you again in 2025.

Fiona Campbell

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.

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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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