

The Bugle

Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

www.gargunnock.org

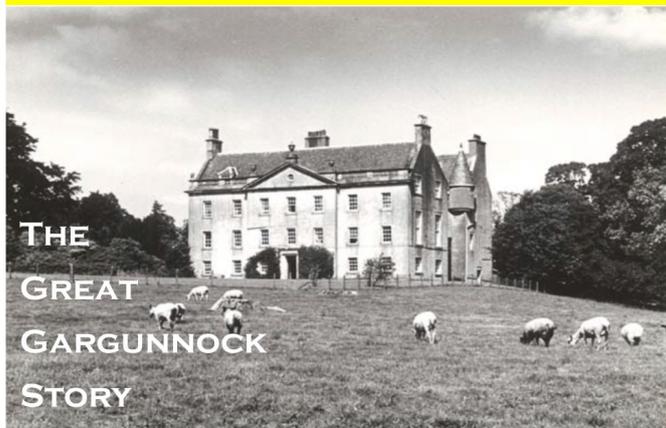
**Issue 51
March 2018**



TAPSALTEERIE THEATRE SCOTLAND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**THE STIRLING SMITH ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM
PRESENTS**



THE GREAT GARGUNNOCK STORY

**A remarkable whirlwind tour of the past
2000 years of Gargunnock in a NEW play.**

**Performed and presented by
the children of Gargunnock Primary**

*Wed 7th March 1.45pm and 7pm
In Gargunnock Community Centre*

TICKETS £2.50

From Gargunnock School

Tel: 01786 860 291

Or email:

gargunnockps@glow.sch.uk



Windfarm Funding update

The most recent round of Windfarm Funding applications led to 6 new grants. The Gargunnock Guides were allocated up to £1100 to enhance the quality of their residential trip to add more adventurous outdoor activities for the girls. £1,563 was agreed to improve the capacity of the staging in the Community Centre so that it is safer for larger groups to use it; this is a project promoted by the Songsters. Up to £300 was approved to help purchase materials to refurbish the village footbridge which would be carried out by volunteers led by Peter Rowell. A further £300 was approved to undertake a technical assessment of extending the existing sound system at the Community Centre following a project brought forward by the Gala Committee. Also £1000 was approved for the Gargunnock Old People's Welfare Committee and the Trust agreed that they should reapply for the remaining £500 later in the year if they are unable to raise this amount through other means. Finally, it was agreed that the Outdoor Learning Zone would be allocated a total of £15,000 which would include the funding already approved.

heArt of Gargunnock

A fun family event on Saturday May 12th 3pm, Community Centre.
Let's show Gargunnock is a community with a big heart!

- We are asking people, this means YOU, for art work which is their impression of Gargunnock.
 - A painting, photo, collage, sewing, drawing...almost anything!
 - All the art work will be displayed for people to enjoy.
 - There will be refreshments and good chat.
 - The art will be auctioned to raise funds for the Ripple Retreat.
- The Ripple Retreat is a very special place for families with children who are going through, or have had, treatment for cancer; it gives families the chance to escape for a few days on the beautiful shores of Loch Venachar. You can find out more about the Ripple Retreat online.
- Gargunnock Church has initiated the event to mark the Year of Children and Young People but it is very much open to everyone.
 - More details will follow. <https://www.facebook.com/HeartofGargunnock>



Charity No. SC041416

Gargunnoch Curling Club

Before the warm and wet winters of today, this time of year in every town and village in Scotland meant time for curling on local frozen ponds. Gargunnoch was no exception.

The Gargunnoch Curling Club was instituted in 1790 and in 1844 became a founding member of our national body 'The Royal Caledonian Curling Club' (RCCC), now known as 'Scottish Curling', and was a part of the Forth and Endrick Province league. Club members in 1844 can be seen in this excerpt from the RCCC's annual publication.

The club operated continuously and successfully for 170 years as seen in these two reports of Gargunnoch victories from the Stirling Observer in 1851 and the Dundee Courier in 1893. More recently ex village resident Mrs Mary McGregor remembers in the early 1950s the Gargunnoch teams returning triumphantly from competitions in Glasgow having won large cheeses for their efforts.

Loch Lagan (or Logan) at Leckie was one of the local ponds where curling took place while there were also two curling ponds at Watson House. The first was to the South West on the Leckie Burn then latterly a second pond to the North East was utilised. Reportedly at some point in the early 1900s the curling hut here collapsed down the steep embankment sending all of the club's heavy curling stones deep into the mud below. Many were retrieved but some may still be buried there today. A fourth pond closer to the village is now under part of Drummond Place.

This further excerpt from the RCCC annual shows the Gargunnoch Curling Club membership in 1960 when the club ceased to be affiliated. The Forth and Endrick Province is however still going strong today with 12 member clubs, now including Buchlyvie and Fintry among others, but sadly to date still without a Gargunnoch team.

With a view to re-establishing the Gargunnoch Curling Club for the new season commencing in the autumn 2018, there will be a short block of 'come and try' coaching events for Gargunnoch to be held in April in Stirling's new National Curling Academy at The Peak. Stirling coach and 2014 Olympic silver medallist Michael Goodfellow will be running these sessions and all villagers are warmly encouraged to give it a try.

Whether you are a complete novice interested to try out the game or a seasoned curler keen to get involved in re-establishing the club, please register your interest with us before Fri 16th March by contacting:

Gavin Fleming; gavfleming@hotmail.com; 07803 856546; OR
Gordon Webber; gordonwebber@btinternet.com; 07917 336197
Good curling!

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Want the best vegetables in the village?
Fed up with coming 2nd in the flower show?

Then come and help yourself to as much FREE top quality horse manure as you can shovel, bags provided.

Interested?? Call Alice On 860668 or Helen on 860630

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW QUIZ

Yes it's that's time again, our annual fund raising quiz.
Friday 16th March at 7.30 in the Community Centre.
£3.00 per person, teams of 4.

As this is our only fund raising event in the year please do come along and support it.

BYOB

Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

WORD OF THE MONTH

This year we have had a cold Winter, but there are some words which have the power to to make us feel comfy and cozy on cold Winter nights eg toasty, fuzzy, cuddle.

So today's comforting word is -

CANOODLE (v) To caress, fondle or pet amorously.

eg overheard in the pub "I can't stay for yet another drink on this cold Winter's night.

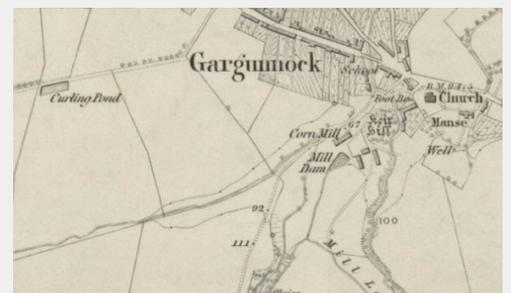
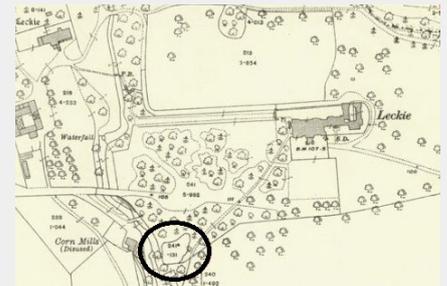
I need to go home to canoodle, which will keep me warm and cozy."

46.—GARGUNNOCK CLUB.
As at 1st November 1844.
County of Stirling—Post Town, Stirling.
Instituted 1790—Admitted into the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, July 25, 1844.
Mr JOHN McNIE, President.
Mr JAMES FORRESTER, Vice-President.
Mr WILLIAM FORRESTER, } Representative Members.
Mr HENRY COWDRO, }
Mr ROBERT LANG, Treasurer.
Mr WILLIAM FORRESTER, Secretary.

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Committee, or Council of Management.
Mr John Dunn
Mr George Forrester
Mr James Forrester
Mr Alexander Watt
Extraordinary Members.
Mr William Melles
Mr Charles Forsyth
Mr John Kay
Ordinary Members.
1.—Regular.
George Forrester
William Forrester
James Forrester
John Forrester
John McNie
Robert Lang
James Forrester
John Dunn
Henry Cowdro
George Lang
Alexander Watt
Robert Paterson
William Miller
2.—Occasional.
James Stirling

On Wednesday the 3d inst., a curling match took place on Loch Lagan, between Henry F. Campbell, Esq., Boquhan, and Robert G. Moir, Esq., Leckie—12 players a-side; and after an animated contest of 3½ hours, Mr Moir and his party gained by a clear majority of one.

BORESTONE v. GARGUNNOCK.—A friendly match between these clubs was played on the ice of the latter—three rinks a-side. The ice was good, and a keenly-contested game resulted in a win for Gargunnoch by a majority of one shot. Scores:—
BORESTONE. GARGUNNOCK.
W. Jamieson, .. 22 G. Kay, .. 7
Colonel Murray, .. 14 R. Mailer, .. 18
W. Boswell, .. 11—47 J. Sands, .. 23—48



*GARGUNNOCK (STIRLINGSHIRE), Forth and Endrick Province
Instituted 1790. Admitted 1844
Representative Members—J. WATSON, A. CAUTION
Secretary and Treasurer—JOHN NICOL, 67 Port Street, Stirling

REGULAR MEMBERS
P. Rutherford Lt.-Col. Connal Robert McCulloch Miss Stirling
Geo. Horsburgh Rowan J. Nicol C. McKechnie
Don McFarlane Angus Caution Jas. Kay T. Hill
Geo. Strang Viscount Younger J. Watson Jas. Harvie
A. S. McQueen

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*XV. FORTH AND ENDRICK PROVINCE

President—D. S. BUCHANAN, Vine Cottage, Kippen
Secretary and Treasurer—ALEX. EDWARDS, The Beches, Kippen
Representatives—D. S. BUCHANAN, A. EDWARDS

Aberfoyle Ballfron Gargunnoch
Kippen Lochard Port of Menteith
Strathendrick

Coffee Morning & Bake Sale

Organised by Playgroup & Toddlers
Sunday 4th March, 11.30am-1.30pm

The Great Gargunnock Story

by the Gargunnock Primary School
Wednesday 7th March, 1.45pm and 7pm
contact: 01786 860 291

Flower Show Quiz

Friday 16th March, 7.30pm-10pm
contact: janiffa@aol.com

Cateran Yomp Bite & Blether

Saturday 17th March, 10am-4pm
contact: helen@dingleys.me.uk

Pig Race

Organised by Playgroup & Toddlers
Saturday 21st April, time - tba
contact: allyorr31@gmail.com

Heart Start Training

Defibrillator Training open to all,
Sunday 22nd April, 2pm-5pm
contact: cfitches@btinternet.com

heArt of Gargunnock

12th May, 3pm-9pm

Barrel Race

Organised by Playgroup & Toddlers
Sunday 20th May, Time - tba
contact: veefletch@gmail.com

Gargunnock Gala

16th June

Gargunnock Teams Sweep up the Honours

At the recent Quiz Night, run by Blair Drummond Curling Club, Gargunnock teams swept (see what I did there!!!) to first and second places. The trophy was won by the "Conkers" consisting of Jessie Wyllie, Grace Smellie, Anne Muirhead and Julia Hay with a little assistance from guest Claire McDonald. Runners up were Jimmy Ferguson, Tina Peek, Agnes Sheriff, Trevor Boyd and Angus Harris. Headmaster Maitland just about managed to keep reasonable order and ensured that there was little (or no) favouritism!!). The sum of £647 was raised and this will be used for club development and attracting new members. The Club is a very vibrant one and anyone interested in trying the sport should contact **Anne Christie, Chair, on 07977441108.**



New Contact Details for Gargunnock Village Trust

Community Centre Email: gargunnockCC@gmail.com
Gargunnock Trust Email: gargunnocktrust@gmail.com
Bugle Email: gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Bugle Articles

Items submitted are the personal opinion of the author and, as such, are not endorsed by the Bugle

Do you book rooms at Gargunnock Community Centre?

If you have answered Yes
Have you created an account on Hallmaster?
Once you have a Hallmaster account you can

- Create one-off bookings
- Create recurring bookings
 - View invoices
- View details of all your bookings

Hallmaster is available 24/7

To log on to Hallmaster click the Book Now tab on our village website

www.gargunnock.org

When you book a room please remember

- Time for setting and clearing up should be included in your booking
 - To leave the room clean and tidy for the next user
 - Take excess rubbish home with you

Proud to be sponsoring Callander Cricket Club again in 2017

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.co.uk



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- AGAs, Rayburns & Boilers
- Central Heating & Hot Water



Your Heating is a family run business based in Thornhill that works on domestic Oil Heating systems

We work on all makes and layouts of Oil Cookers, Oil Boilers, domestic hot water and central heating systems.

tel: 01786 599771 / 07398 510771

email: contact@yourheating.co.uk

web: www.yourheating.co.uk

A Wartime Evacuee Recalls Gargunnoch 78 years On

"G'day from Australia.

I'm from Glasgow originally, but have lived in Australia for the last 50 years.

I'm going to visit Glasgow in Sept/Oct this year. My elder brother Billy was evacuated (with my elder sister Nancy (now deceased) to Gargunnoch during the war. They stayed with an elderly couple (who had no children) who were called McLaren who owned a nearby sawmill. Across the road there was a petrol station owned by the Orrs. These are all vague memories from 70 years ago during the War. I'm thinking of hiring a car, picking up my brother from the Retirement Home he now lives in and taking him on an a reminiscing trip to Gargunnoch. Are my memories anywhere close???? Best regards, Ron Walker"

Through my Gargunnoch Village History website I get a fair number of emails like that from the USA, Australia & New Zealand etc but this one was different. He was talking about part of my family and that my uncle and aunt had had evacuees staying with them during World War 2! Why had I not known this? Why had my Mother, my Aunt Jean, the minister, any other relatives or acquaintances around at that time never mentioned it? **Well**, to cut a long story short I still don't know why but that's unimportant, what I did learn proved to be immeasurably more interesting.

As it turned out Ron Walker did come across but Billy wasn't strong enough to make the journey to Gargunnoch. At the time, early October, I was in New York but on my return arranged to go visit Billy in his Care Home in Possilpark, Glasgow.....and what an experience! **On** 25th November Alison Birrell and I journeyed to the Care Home. Alison had a strong connection to the house called Larenan (now Applegarth) as a toddler. There we met Billy Walker and listened to his stories.**Later**, from the Gargunnoch School Diary at the Stirling Council Archives in Springkerse I learned that in September 1939 the 37 children at the school here were joined by no less than 34 evacuees from Hyndland Primary School in Glasgow plus two temporary teachers. Quite a culture shock to all concerned no doubt. **Billy** and Nancy Walker, his younger sister, were allocated to the home of Mr & Mrs Archibald McLaren, at Larenan, Gargunnoch, the bungalow which sits opposite the old petrol station on the A811. Mr & Mrs McLaren were to be addressed by them as Uncle Archie and Aunt Cathie. This was to be their home during the war years and they didn't return to their real home until towards the end of the war when it was deemed safe to do so. Their younger brother Ron stayed with his parents.

The family sent comics to them and their mother visited occasionally at weekends. **While** at Larenan they both slept in a big bed in the attic. Access was via a pull down hatch and ladder and upstairs the hatch area was fenced off so they wouldn't fall back down. The attic was large and there was only a big bed and a wardrobe up there. They kept wondering what was inside the wardrobe and eventually curiosity got the better of them so they opened it, but there was nothing other than a big box of sugar lumps in it. They took one apiece and closed the door again. Obviously that was stored there during the time of rationing when hoarding was prohibited. **They** attended school at Gargunnoch and Billy's best friend there was Sandy Richardson (now living at West Carse) At that time Sandy stayed in the Offers cottages which were just over the river, beyond the Offers farm and thus in Perthshire but not too far away. Mrs Richardson worked at that time for Mrs McLaren at Larenan and that may be one of the reasons for them becoming good friends. Each day they walked to school on roads which were very much quieter then, especially with fuel being rationed. At school the other kids called them Glesca Keelies so in turn they called them Tattie Bogles. Billy and Sandy also went to Sunday School and Boys Brigade in the Church Hall. **Billy** said Uncle Archie was very down to earth but Aunt Cathie was different, a sort of latter-day version of Hyacinth Bouquet. They weren't allowed to do certain things. If they were good Sandy and Billy were allowed to go to the Saturday afternoon cinema matinee in Stirling, but only to the Regal or Allanpark cinemas. The other two, the Picture House in Thistle St and the Queens Cinema at the top of Queen St, being referred to by Aunt Cathie as "bug-houses." **There** was no mains electricity in the house to begin with and he recalls having to take the glass accumulator wireless battery to Jimmy Orr's petrol station across the road to be recharged but Aunt Cathie warned he had to be very careful not to spill the acid inside. At the time they used paraffin Tilley

lamps for lighting. Jimmy Orr, a redoubtable character, was patrol leader of the Home Guard during the war and carried out much of their training in the field behind Larenan. It was said that his voice could be heard in the village while doing so. **On** a Sunday they went to Sunday school in the Church Hall then on to the Church for the big service there. Uncle Archie had a special pew which was up the stairs to the Gargunnoch Gallery then in to the right hand side. The bell rope was near them. On Sunday afternoons Aunt Cathie would not allow them to read comics but read them a piece from the bible and they were given a picture relating to that reading which they had to colour in. **On** Sundays, Uncle Murdo, Cathie's brother and a minister in Glasgow, and his wife came to visit and the children would be asked to perform something while standing on top of the long log box at the side of the fire. Billy said his piece was "In the bleak midwinter." "Nancy didn't like performing" he said, "I wasn't bothered, I was more forward. " They got half a crown for doing their piece but weren't allowed to spend it. "I don't know what happened to it; possibly it went into our bank or something" **Aunt** Cathie's sister Mary McLennan sometimes came to visit and she was different from Aunt Cathie being much more relaxed. She stayed in Darby Street in Glasgow. Aunt Cathie liked Ludo and she would play that with them but Nancy got a bit fed up with it. He said Aunt Alice came to stay and they liked her as she was good fun and told them her jokes and asked them to tell her theirs. She slept in the attic with them.

He also mentioned other people who came to stay who slept in "The Green Room" which was the guest room to the right of the front door. He said much of the furniture in the house came from the Empire Exhibition of 1938 in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park. **One** night an increasingly loud, droning noise was heard as many bombers passed overhead heading southwards over the hills. He remembers seeing, from the kitchen window of Larenan, flashes of light from beyond the hills as Clydebank was blitzed. **They** used to visit Miss Philp the Postmistress in the village and her niece Jessie McFarlane at the Post Office opposite the Inn. Nancy and he would play quietly on the fireside carpet listening to what was being said.

He remembers one time the adults discussing the fact that Mrs B..R..O..W..N (Billy committed that to memory for later) was having a B..A.. B.. Y (that was memorised too) the spelling, of course, was so the kids wouldn't realise that local gossip was being passed on.

Little did they know! The headmistress, Miss McKechnie, informed him one day that he was the Dux in the class so spelling wasn't a problem for him. At the time he didn't know what that meant, thinking it was something to do with ducks! **Billy** recalled the Ladies Walk which from that end was accessed via door in the wall opposite the station and brought them out opposite the Manse near to the Church. He wondered if it was the Ladies Walk or actually the Lovers Walk! He was asked who was in the Station House at the time and he couldn't remember but when Alison mentioned the Blair's he recognised the name. Alison mentioned Peggy, Willie and Jimmy and he recalled that they used to do some wee sketches outside the Station House.

He remembers Elsie Boag's shop (now Ferndale) and Mrs Hunters shop too (long gone), although he thought more people went to Miss Boag's. Alison mentioned how Elsie's shop was part of her sitting room with a curtain dividing the two parts and also, for the interest of his niece and nephew, that Andy Cameron the comedian used to deliver Welma's bread there and that when there was snow they had to leave the van at the bottom of the brae and carry the bread up the road.

Andy later would mention this on his radio programmes occasionally.

Continued over.....



Billy mentioned a house in the village which they called the "dirty house" and I explained that that was something called a "Model Lodging House" part of a network of such houses where itinerant travellers passing through the village could rest for a short time, freshen up and have a proper meal before moving on. **He** could remember that "Aunt Jean", Archie's sister, lived "Behind the Church" but they didn't seem to go there often. (Aunt Jean lived in Viewfield, Manse Brae, the original site of the McLaren sawmill before it burned down in 1919, hence McLaren's Park) Certainly he was never inside the house. Aunt Jean kept the books at the mill and paid the men their wages etc. He remembers the sawmill and how some of the men stayed in bothies there. He said Uncle Archie and Aunt Cathie were sort of Lord and Lady as they employed quite a number of men from the village. **There** were two other boys who were evacuees staying with a Mrs Johnston, (possibly in Waterside) but they didn't like it and didn't stay very long. I asked if their surname was Cherry but Billy couldn't remember. He did remember the Square and I pointed out McNair Cottage where Mr Harvey, the head joiner at the mill, lived and where evacuees called Cherry had been billeted. **After** leaving school Billy went into the Cinema industry full-time, initially as part of the projection team but later he became the manager of the Hillhead Salon in Vinicombe Street, Glasgow (near Queen Margaret Drive of BBC fame) which, although surviving as a Grade 1 listed building is now a pub & restaurant called Hillhead Book Club. He has a comprehensive collection of DVD's of Old Films in his room cabinet, his favourite film being Casablanca. He has a panel on the wall portraying this film. He showed us a folder of autographed photos showing him with many stars of the day and also framed on the wall are personal letters from Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. **We** did not hear too much of Nancy's time at Gargunnoch but his niece Nancy said her Mum didn't care for it there. Her son Jim said she was a very outgoing person and full of life. Aunt Cathie kind of looked after Nancy who sadly died in the early part of 2004. **We** gave Billy a folder of photos of Gargunnoch as it was when he was here and also a copy of a poem written by the late Catherine Richardson about the old school when it closed in 1977. Drawing on her own experiences there but also those of older folks it was found to contain the following verse actually mentioning Billy and Nancy.

**During the war, there cam' the evacuees
 "Keep them safe frae Hitler please"
 But they brought wi' them all the childhood diseases,
 And Gargunnoch got Measles, Mumps and ither sic wheezes
 The Heidmaister thocht that they could dae nae wrang
 It wis local lads did the mischief and got the belt wi a whang
 They a' got fed up wi' oor quate countryside
 And went back tae Glesca, the toon on the Clyde
 But their classmates still mind them, where are they noo?
 Nancy, Willie, Theo, Harold, Denis and Hugh?**

The family were amazed at what we had produced for Billy and the difference it had made to the visit. Sometimes when they visit him they'll ask if there is anything he requires and if so they collect it from the shop. On their return he'll say "Thanks, I'll not keep you!" When we were there he got Jim, his nephew, to go into his cabinet for his bottle of Famous Grouse and a wee bottle of Irn Bru which he sipped contentedly throughout the rest of the visit! In all we were there for the best part of two hours at which point it was plainly time for us to take our leave and allow him to assimilate all the information he had received. **All** in all a very enjoyable afternoon for us all. For Billy because of all the pleasant memories recalled anew. For Alison and I for all the information gained about the McLaren family and the village during the war and for Billy's nephew and niece Jim Neil and his sister Nancy for an unexpected and unusual visit to their Uncle. Jim said afterwards, "I had heard from Billy over the years a few Gargunnoch memories but pretty much all that he recounted today was new to Nancy & I and it was extremely interesting for us to hear his stories especially since many of them were fond and often funny" **Jim** also said that the visit, the photos and accompanying information would be read and re-read by Billy, providing him with great stimulation for some time to come, something which isn't always available in his current situation. **So** there you go. Who says local history is boring when you can have an afternoon like that with the opportunity to meet such an interesting character able to provide us with a glimpse of Gargunnoch 70 years ago. **John McLaren, Nov. 2017.**

POTORAMA

Spring is in the air, (maybe!) so let's get thinking about our plans for this year's Potorama. Previous entrants are well aware of the event but, for new folk in to the village, the concept is simple. Get a flower pot, any size, plant some flowers in it and (if you wish) decorate with a theme of your choice. All the pots will be displayed around the Square, Main Street, Leckie Road, Station Road and Manse Brae areas, creating a lovely colourful entry in to the village over the Summer. Completed pots should be on display in June. Valuable prizes for individual and group winners. If anyone wishes further details please contact **Sandra at 07488 303365 or Maitland at 07763 098247**

The Tree at the Community Centre

Some of you may have noticed that the big Sycamore tree in the corner of the Community Centre garden is no more. The poor tree was suffering from heart rot and the Community Trust had to get it professionally felled. Many thanks are due to Stevie Buchanan and his colleague for doing an excellent job in bringing the tree down safely. The tree then had to be logged which was no small task and I would like to thank Jeremy Wilkinson, Stuart Ogg, Dave King, Jane Arneil, Gavin Fleming and the Buckleys for helping out with the heavy work of transporting, splitting and logging the timber. The Community Trust has agreed, in order to recoup the expense of the tree felling, that we would make each metre square bag of logs available to anyone that wants them for a donation to Community Centre funds of £50. The wood will be in ideal condition for next winter. We still have a few bags left so if anyone would like to take up the offer please contact me on **860384. Douglas Johnston**

CATERAN YOMP
 SUPPORTING ABF THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY

ABF THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY

The CATERAN YOMP follows the majority of the CATERAN Trail, leaving and returning to Blairgowrie. Those who sign up can choose from 22, 36 or the full 54 miles which they need to cover in just 24 hours. 2018 is the year that 4 intrepid ladies from the village have decided to challenge themselves, and complete the FULL 54 miles! Under the banner of The Gargunnoch Wives Grand Day Out, Helen Dingley, Alison Lunn, Gilly Bruce and Sandra Lewis are going to put their best feet forward to complete the challenge. Training for the event, which takes place in June has started, and alongside the training there is an additional commitment to fundraise. All the fundraising goes towards ABF –The Soldiers Charity, with each team member committing to raising £400. To support this, we are holding 'The Yomp – Soup and Cake Cafe' providing homemade soup, and home baking in the Community Centre on Saturday 17th March, from 11 – 3.30pm. We would be delighted to see young and old. Come and enjoy some food, whilst donating to this good cause, and showing your support to the team. For those of you who would like to support online, our team fundraising page is found at <http://fundraising.soldierscharity.org/Thegargunnochwivesgranddayout> We look forward to seeing you!



Our friendly, informal ladies' group continues to meet monthly in the comfortable Kilmadock Church in Doune on the last Tuesday of the month, and this season we've extended our programme to May to include an outing. A warm invitation is extended to ladies living in the area who would like to enjoy friends, faith and fun!

The meetings for 2018 are :-

Tuesday 27 Feb : Mr Stephen MacDonald will give an illustrated talk on St Kilda. This is an Open Night, so guests and gents are welcome. We meet at 7.30pm and the talk is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits.

Tuesday 27 Mar : Maxine Shreter will demonstrate how to fill a colourful hanging basket.

Tuesday 24 April : Rev Mike Goodison, who did part of his training in this area, will give an illustrated talk on his work as an Army Chaplain at home and abroad. This is also an Open Night, so guests and gents welcome. 7.30pm followed by tea/coffee/biscuits.

Tuesday 29 May : Outing. Meet at Flanders Moss Car Park at 6pm for a guided walk, followed by a buffet supper in The Woodhouse Farm Café at Kippen Station. Cost for supper to be confirmed.

All meetings are £3.

Spring Bible Studies

The Kirk door at Gargunnoch is open every Sunday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 and we're always pleased to welcome folk from around the village.

However we know that lots of people have commitments on a Sunday, or it's their only time to relax with the family. If Sunday Church is not your thing, but you would enjoy a relaxed evening discussing the good book over coffee, then a warm welcome awaits you at the Spring Bible Studies. Don't worry about being put on the spot by a minister – we don't let them come! The group is hosted by Fiona Campbell in The Manse at 7.30pm on the following dates.

Thursday 8 March : Rest with & rely on God : Mark 6 : 30 - 46

Thursday 15 March : Remain in conversation with God : Psalm 16

We'll be using discussion questions published by Scripture Union.

Please give Fiona Campbell a ring or email if you are interested.

Tel 01786 860 678 or artistatwork@btinternet.com

Faith in Farming – Advance notice

2018 sees our fourth event in the Faith in Farming series. Hosted by the local Church of Scotland congregations, this event focuses on the experiences and needs of the farming community, and aims to offer all who live and work in the industry our interest and support. These are challenging times for farming and its allied sectors, so it's good for all of us to gain an understanding of the issues around the production of our food, the management of the countryside, and the livelihoods of our neighbours. Whether you've been along to previous events, or haven't yet managed to get there, put Sunday 22 April in your diary. We gather at Briarlands Farm Café at 6pm. There will be hospitality, guest speakers from around the country, our local RHET Choir and much more, led by Revs Andy Campbell and Lynne Mack.

A warm invitation to all – further details in the next Grapevine or from Rev **Andy & Fiona Campbell Tel 01786 860 678 or acampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk**



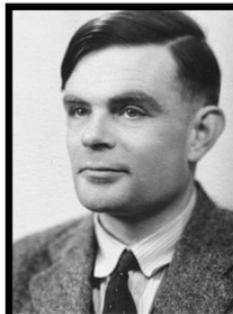
Local History & Heritage

In Gargunnoch and Blair Drummond we are surrounded by evidence of the lives of our ancestors. It's not always immediately easy to see, but remains of buildings – powerful or religious – the small things of everyday life or indeed the bones of ancient creatures from when the Carse was filled with the sea are the hidden gems of our history and heritage. If you would like to know more about the area you live and work in, there are what promises to be two fascinating talks coming up in April. They will be given by Dr Murray Cook, the Stirling Council Archaeologist, who advises on all matters archaeological in the Stirling, Clackmannanshire and North Lanarkshire Council areas. With a PhD from Edinburgh University, Murray says, "I am passionate about public engagement with archaeology and regularly run free excavations, walks, lectures and other active engagement with the public".

Murray will be speaking on the following dates, and both talks are free.

Saturday 21 April from 10am in Gargunnoch Kirk – we start with coffee and home-baking and hear a talk by Dr Murray Cook on the history around Gargunnoch. This will be followed by a guided walk from the Kirkyard to Keir Hill, for those who wish to do so.

Monday 30 April at 1.15pm in Blair Drummond Hall. The monthly gathering of Blair Drummond Blethers will be followed by a talk by Dr Murray Cook on the history of the Blair Drummond area.



Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things that no-one can imagine

Alan Turing

WANTED

your old computers

The Turing Trust is a charity which mends and sends second-hand computers to schools in Africa, including the one that my school partners.

If you have a computer that no longer works or you do not use, the Turing Trust would be glad to receive it.

Please give me a ring and I can collect it.

07950407875 or 01786860629

Thanks, Calvin Clarke



The Turing Trust

The following residents and friends of Gargunnoch have raised the magnificent sum of **£1164**
for ALZHEIMER SCOTLAND

We'd all like to wish **EVERYONE** in the village a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Best Wishes from:

Corinne, Jonathan, Emily & Julia Anderson; Mairi, Nathan, Brianna & Iona Anderton; Jill Bell; The Blackwood Family; The Bonner Family; Janene, Kevin, Hope & Niamh Brodie; Gilly, Gav, Amy & Chloe Bruce; Gay & Harry Burt; Chris, Jackie & Heather Campbell; John, Diane & Julie Christie; Alec & Helen Clark; Maitland & Anne Clarke; Bernie & Brian Corbett; Scott, Julie, Andrew & Alexander Coubrough; Douglas & Moira Coupethwaite; Bryan, Shona, Ella, Daniel & Louise Crawford; Anne Dando; Carolyn, David, Bruce, Murray & Jason Dickson; Graham, Helen, Rachel & Cameron Dingley; Pauline Dingley; Norman, Iona, Susan & Peter Donaldson; Max & Barbara Drummond; Mike, Sue, Jamie, Andrew & Gregor Fitches; Bill, Doreen & family Gardner; Peter, Claire, Grace & Madeleine Gill;

Iain, Jaime, Carra & Evie Marriot Gulland; Stuart, Helen & Fraser Hansom; The Hay Family; Rowena Boume & Tony Heath; Elaine & Russell Hendry; Ewan, Jane, Lauren & Sam Hunter; David, Helen, Gail, Thomas & Alasdair Hyland; Philip, Ruth & Naomi Irvine; Ian & Fiona Johnston; Martin, Fiona, Katie, David & Euan Johnstone; David & Isobel King; Karen, Duncan, Stewart & Megan Leask; Ian, Sandra, Katherine & Hamish Lewis; Martin & Babs Linklater; Jan & Johnny Loudon; The MacArthur Family; Lindsay, Gregor, Struan & Bryce MacCallum; Ali, Sam & Holly MacLachlan; The Malone Family; The Mansion Family; Tina Peek & Charlie McAllister; The McGlynn Family; Carol, Lovat, Amelie & Nina McGregor; John & Helen McLaren; The Milne Family; Billy, Fiona, Helen, Catherine & Alison Mitchell;

Anne, Hamish, Jane & Seonaid Muirhead; Hugh, Jean & David O'Connor; Stuart, Sheena, Rosie & Hannah Ogg; Boyd, Sally, Sarah & Fraser Park; Jon, Morag, Matthew & Angus Park; Jill Patrick; Kate & Geoff Peart; David, Christine, Camille & Innes Penman; Hector, Trish, Darren & Alistair Petrie; Andrew, Lois, Tom & Finn Simpson; Claire, Doug & Bryony Smith; Matt, Jackie, Kirsty, Matthew, Liza, Addy & Minnie Stevenson; Sarah, Ally, Euan & Ava Thomson; Colin, Morna, Freya & Andrew Tinto; Catriona Vass, Kirsty & Eilidh Vass Payne; Sandra Anderson & Colin Wales; Mark, Lorraine & Steven Welsh; Elizabeth, Iain, Chris, Jemma, Laura & James Whyte; Liz & Jeremy Wilkinson; Ian, Margaret, Gordon & Catriona Young; The Youngs at Glenfoyle



THE GARGOYLES OF GARGUNNOCK SUMMER TOUR!

Helen Rowell, Elizabeth Wilkinson and Zoe Fouracre are costumed balladeers, singing songs of love and loss, battles and drinking, jolly or sad, all of life is here!

Dates for your diary, in case you want to see Gargunnoch's only Medieval trio in action - or avoid us!

STIRLING CASTLE

April 22nd Sunday, 12 noon to 4pm (TBC)

TRAQUAIR MEDIEVAL FAYRE

Weekend of May 26th and 27th

KINNEIL HOUSE OPEN DAY

August 26th Sunday, 12 to 4pm

HOLY RUDE OPEN DOORS WEEKEND

September 16th Sunday 1.30 to 3.30pm

CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY

September 22nd Saturday, probably 3pm to 5pm

We're also doing 2 private performances for The Orchard Care Centre, Tullibody on May 22nd and The Town Break Friendship Group, Stirling on July 11th.

If you are involved with a charity that you would like us to support, then please get in touch via our website or call **860630** and if we can fit it in, we will!

<http://www.spanglefish.com/TheGargoyles/index.asp>



Gargunnoch Rainbows is seeking replacement Leaders to continue running this popular girl guiding group within the village. The current Leaders Shona and Carol are leaving in Summer 2018 and are able to support a comprehensive hand over-period before then. If you are interested in applying or finding out more then please contact asap:

Shona Crawford - shonacrawford3008@gmail.com / 07766 943125
or **Carol MacGregor** - carolmac2709@gmail.com / 07788 628869

Reluctantly, if replacement leaders cannot be found then the unit will close down.

Gargunnoch Walking Group

The Gargunnoch Walking Group continued to meet on alternative Thursdays and enjoy some excellent walks. We have enjoyed some fine winter weather and no walks have as yet been curtailed because of weather.

During the coming months we have planned a variety of walks some local and some further afield, but still with refreshments to be had after the walk.

Dates for March walks will be 8th and 23rd. Proposed walks are to Menstrie Glen and Menteith Hills.

Dates for April walks will be 5th and 26th. On the 5th we plan to go to Stronachlachar and walk on the banks of Loch Katrine. On the 26th we travel beyond Loch Lomond to Glen Kinglas where Pete Rowell will lead us to Abyssinia Bothy.

As usual these are subject to the weather, but we have not had any problems so far!

If you are interested in participating in the walks, call me on 01786 860608 or drop me an email to edmond.mansion@btinternet.com

Edmond Mansion



Darn Walk between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane
The bridge has been swept away!



North Third Reservoir – Great views



Superb Views from Ben Gullipan



Gargunnoch Gala Saturday 16th June

**STALLS • TEA ROOM • BBQ & BAR
FANCY DRESS • TUG OF WAR
GARGUNNOCK'S GOT TALENT
RAFFLE • LIVE MUSIC • GAMES**

**CONTACT STEVIE BUCHANAN 07825 768771
OR PAULINE EVANS 01786 860398
TO GET INVOLVED OR OFFER A STALL**



/GargunnochGala



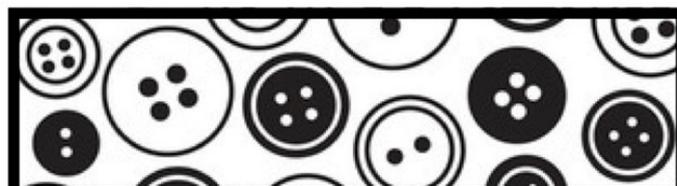
@GargunnochGala



Gargunnoch Primary School makes a world of difference for this year's Gala.

It was another year of brilliant suggestions and ideas from the pupils at Gargunnoch Primary School for this year's Gala theme. It was a close call with the chosen theme being 'Our World'. The 'Our World' theme gives lots of room to play with ideas for the dress up parade and activities for the day. So save the date Saturday 16th June for another exciting Gargunnoch Gala with stalls, tea room, bbq, bar, fancy dress, tug of war, raffle, Gargunnoch's Got Talent show, live music, games and much more.

If anyone is wanting to lend a hand or offer a stall please contact **Stevie Buchanan** at 07825 768771 or **Pauline Evans** at 01786 860398 or talline.evans@googlemail.com



Brownies

Gargunnoch Brownies are looking for Buttons for some craftwork we will be doing in April.

If you can help out, please drop them off with Jackie (2 The Glebe) or Jill (Dasher Cottage, Station Rd)