



Magazine for Gargunnock and the surrounding area

Gargunnock is proud to be a **20** zone

Issue 62

October 2020

www.gargunnock.org



Need an extra hand with cooking and shopping?

As we approach an uncertain autumn and winter I wanted to share the work of a great local charity that I've been volunteering with since the start of lockdown back in March. It's called the 'Food Train' and you may have spotted their red vans if you've been driving through Stirling.

It's a wonderful organisation, offering a variety of services for the over 65s, especially those who find cooking and shopping increasingly difficult. Food Train can do a weekly or fortnightly shop for you and deliver it to your home (you just need to tell them what you're needing over the phone) or

they can link you up, through the 'Meal Makers' service, with someone to cook you a home-made hot meal every week. And their very latest service is called 'Phone Friends', where you can request a weekly call from a volunteer for a friendly blether. I know first-hand what a life-line the Food Train has been for many people over the last six months, particularly those who live alone and don't drive. If you think you could benefit from one of their services or you have an older relative or neighbour who might appreciate finding out more, then please do give them a call on **01786 450536** or you can look up their website:

www.thefoodtrain.co.uk

Jo Dallas, The Glebe

Gargunnock Walking Group

Since the recent relaxation of the Coronavirus regulations we have managed two walks. On the 6th August we walked to the Woodhouse at Kippen and back again. Whilst this walk is well known to most members it was still a great pleasure to be out enjoying good company and good food again. The next walk was on 10th September when we did the Dunmore Pineapple and Dunmore Village circuit. This is a fascinating area taking in a several features of great interest. Not only is the Dunmore Pineapple a great curiosity but the Village is also of great historic interest with many original features still intact. Regrettably the current regulations are now too rigorous for us to be able to meet without forming an illegal gathering. The limit of two households would mean at best a meeting of four people. We will now have to wait until the Pandemic subsides sufficiently to allow unlimited households and up to a dozen people. This looks some way off for now. When we are able to resume our meetings, and 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.

Edmond Mansion

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the 'Masks for Charity' fund raising effort. So far it has been possible to donate £600 to SCAA (Scottish Charity Air Ambulance) and £600 to TRAR (Trossachs Search And Rescue). Without your help, either by buying the masks, or donating fabric, thread and elastic, these figures could not have been achieved. A special than you to Violet and Alistair in the shop, for displaying and selling them.

The masks will continue to be made for as long as we all need to use them. Again, many thanks for your support.

Gill Bell

New to Gargunnock

Tracy Lafferty

Home Based Beauty Therapy

For the past 14 years I have run my Beauty Therapy business mainly in schools around the central belt.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, I have now decided to work from home to follow government guidelines.

Therefore I would like to let local residents know that I am open for business! I already have several local clients/ friends.

If you are interested to find out more about treatments and prices, please contact me on **07974 718170**

Thanks Tracy

Down on the Farm

In the seasonal calendar it feels like Autumn has arrived a bit early this year. There's a coolness to early mornings, the grass is slowing up and darkness arrives with a sharp knock at the door. On the farm we still have the cattle out in the fields – working their way through the last of the good grass, often followed by the sheep who can graze the pasture that little bit lower. We have moved the pregnant cows into 'Gallow Hill' – a field in close to the sheds so that we can keep them nearby in case they need a hand. Young cattle stock are being sized up against market conditions to decide whether to sell some of our 1 year olds now, or house them through the winter and wait for the spring trade.

Lambs sales continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays, slow loaded trailers getting in the way of morning commuters, albeit there are still noticeably fewer of them on the roads. We are used to a seasonal pattern with lamb prices – they peak mid summer when supply is low and then enter a predictable decline as the 'glut' hits the auction ring. This year, somewhat unexpectedly, prices have held well. Lamb is such a naturally grown meat, reared only on grass, with amazing flavour. I wonder if the UK consumer has understood the nuances that eating meat grown in Scotland on grass is an environmentally sound way to eat meat, or perhaps it's just with more folks at home and cooking demand has risen. Whatever the reason the holding prices are good news, especially to offset the losses on wool this year – it's value currently less than the shearing cost.

Farms all over will be working their way through jobs to do before the winter – eyeing up weather windows to plant winter barley, getting the last of the straw bales in from the fields, clearing gutters and drains. At Old Leckie we're trying to muck out hen poo from underneath the new hen house whilst we can get access for mechanical help through the dry field and we will have to stop putting off the season-end clean-out of the polytunnel which looks a bit like a rainforest. Looking to the next few months we'll have the cows coming into the sheds, the tups checked before turning out with the ewes and hopefully some new piglets born to first time mums Spotty and Dotty. With lots more people interested in buying our beef, lamb and pork I'm also hopeful our new online ordering system will be up and running to help folks check stock levels, do card payments and reduce errors. If it works it will be great!

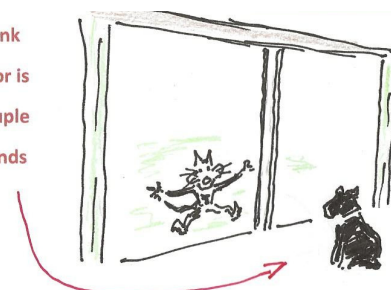
Alison Younger, Old Leckie Farm

The Gargunnock Rural

After the great success of the girl guides scarecrow event during the summer, Gargunnock rural and friends are making preparations for a Christmas event....more details to follow, keep a look out for notices throughout the village....

Janet

I'll let him think
this patio door is
shut for a couple
of more seconds



Douglas Barr



Join us to taste our winter specials and browse our
Christmas products

'November nights'

25% off food in the café and

10% off in the farm shop

5pm – 8pm every Thursday in November

The Woodhouse

www.thewoodhousekippen.co.uk

Gargunnock Community Council and Community Trust Updates

September 2020 Community Centre Covid-19 Update

Gargunnock Community Trust are carefully managing a gradual re-opening of the Community Centre. As part of this process we have prepared the following guidance, in addition to that contained in the conditions of let, available when making your booking for the centre and on the Gargunnock Community Trust's website.

What the Trust will do:

1. Ensure that there are supplies of sterile wipes, hand sanitiser, disinfectant spray and paper towels at each entrance to the building.
2. Before reopening, the main building has been completely repainted inside so surfaces will be sterile.
3. The kitchen and toilets have been subject to a deep clean and will be deep cleaned once a week after opening.
4. Clean the premises once per week
5. Provide signage for the safe use and navigation through the building.
6. Close the centre if we are notified of any incidence of Covid-19 by any user and only reopen following a deep clean.

Each Group using the centre will:

1. Carry out their own risk assessment prior to using the centre.
2. Record who attends each event and hold a record of their address and contact details.
3. Inform the Trust (gargunnocktrust@gmail.com) of any incidence of illness or suspected illness of any member of their group at any point within two weeks after using the centre.
4. Be responsible for cleaning door handles, light switches, window catches, equipment, toilet handles and seats, wash basins and all surfaces likely to be used during your period of hire before other members of your group or organisation arrive and to keep the premises clean through regular cleaning of surfaces during your hire, paying particular attention to wash hand basins and kitchen sinks (if used), using the products supplied. You will be required to clean again on leaving.
5. Wipe clean all items used with the materials provided when putting away all equipment used, ready for next user.
6. Keep the premises well ventilated.
7. Make sure that everyone likely to attend your activity or event understands that they **MUST NOT DO SO** if they or anyone in their household has had Covid-19 symptoms in the last 7 days, and that if they develop symptoms within 7 days of visiting the premises they **MUST** use the NHS Scotland Test and Protect system to alert others with whom they have been in contact.
8. Ensure the correct number of people attend appropriate for the safe operation of your activity bearing in mind the requirement for physical distancing.
9. Remove any rubbish generated at the end of the event.
10. Ensure that only one person uses each set of toilets at any one time.
11. Manage access to and around the building to ensure appropriate social distancing.
12. Use the dishwasher if any cutlery or crockery is used.
13. Ensure only one person uses the kitchen at any one time.



STAY SAFE AND COMPLY WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AT ALL TIMES.

Save the Dates! Upcoming Events at the Community Centre



Diary of events, further information and contact details plus how to book the Community Centre can be found at www.gargunnock.org

CONTACT EMAILS

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

Wind Farm Funding - can you make an impact?



**Funds
Available!**

Funds for Gargunnock Village-based projects available.
For application information go to www.gargunnock.org

ADVERTISE IN THE BUGLE

Full page - £45

Half page - £25

Quarter page - £15

Email for info: gargunnockbugle@gmail.com

Gargunnock Community Council and Community Trust Updates

Proposed Shelloch Wind Farm

By Jeremy Wilkinson & Geoff Peart

In June, Gargunnock Community Council was notified by Force 9 Energy of their plans for a potential windfarm on the Fintry Hills. The developers have submitted a Proposal of Application Notice and a Scoping Report to Stirling Council (with public notices in the Stirling Observer and on Facebook) providing details of their proposal.

Force 9 Energy also created a virtual consultation room where members of the public could view and comment on the proposals. Details of the project website and the consultation room have been communicated to the residents of Gargunnock on the Community Council Facebook page, the village noticeboard, and in The Bugle newsletter.

Overview of the Proposals:

Force 9 Energy and EDF Renewables have a Joint Development Agreement on this project. Force 9 are responsible for the up-front design and planning aspects of the project; and if planning consent is received, EDF would then take over the construction and operation of the wind farm.

The proposed development is on the site of the previously consented seven-turbine Craigton and Spittalhill Wind Farm (just West of the existing Kingsburn and Earlsburn windfarms). The Craigton and Spittalhill Wind Farm, although consented, was not constructed as the government changed their financial support incentives for wind farms and the project became non-viable. The developers have gone back to the drawing board and are now proposing a five-turbine farm with slightly taller turbines that give a greater generation capacity. The proposed development is following as closely as possible the previously consented plan, but with small changes to the turbine locations due to the longer blades, whilst avoiding “deep peat” and maintaining similar landscape and visual impacts.

On 13th August, Jeremy Wilkinson (Chair, Gargunnock Community Council) and Geoff Peart (Director, Gargunnock Community Trust) met with representatives from Force 9 Energy via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was for us to hear more about the developer's proposals, and to raise questions about the project on behalf of Gargunnock residents. Following is a summary of the meeting in a Q & A format, based on information from Force 9 Energy and questions posed by Jeremy & Geoff.

Q. You have submitted a “Proposal of Application Notice” and a Scoping Report to Stirling Council. Have you received any comments from the Council?

A. We have not yet received any feedback from Stirling Council.

Q. The project website and public consultation have been active since mid-June. What feedback have you received so far?

A. There have been 4,000+ visits to the project website. A formal summary of the results from the consultation will form part of a future planning application to Stirling Council.

Q. Two residents have raised a concern about the lack of time for the consultation. Jeremy thanked Force 9 Energy for promptly responding to the request from Gargunnock Community Council for an extension to the deadline for public comment. The consultation will now end two weeks later on 28th August. Do you have any further comments?

A. The developers confirmed that they were happy to extend the consultation period to the 28th August as it is important that all those with an interest have an opportunity to view and provide comment on the proposal. The consultation period is now 10 weeks.

Q. Two residents have raised concerns about the negative visual impact of wind turbines on the Scottish hills, and specifically the effect on the view of the Gargunnock Hills. What are your comments on what has been called “Industrial development of the Scottish Landscape”?

A. The developers highlighted the visual impact assessment information on the project website, and pointed out that in general the turbines would not be visible from Gargunnock. The pros and cons of windfarm developments and the wider debate about renewable energy versus traditional power generation is a personal issue. However, the Scottish government appears to be committed to supporting onshore wind as the most desirable method of electricity generation.

Q. A group of local walkers and mountain bikers are interested in trying to connect up existing footpaths and cycle tracks on the hills around the windfarm development. How can you help?

A. The developers stated that they obviously can only work within the area of the development (where they have landowner agreements in place), and it's also not clear which paths could be connected. The developers suggested that linking footpaths could possibly be achieved using money from the Community Benefit Fund, but clearly would require approval from the landowners.

Q. You have mentioned that the windfarm has an expected life of 25-30 years. What are your plans for removing the turbines and returning the land to its former state at the end of this period?

A. The developers commented on the importance of a sensitive removal of the turbines at the end of their life. The developers will submit a Decommissioning & Restoration Plan to Stirling Council, and will also provide a bond to ensure that the finances are available to implement the Plan. There is currently limited experience with decommissioning wind farms, however, as technology improves and decommissioning experience is gained, it is likely that the Plan would need to be reviewed regularly to ensure it is up-to-date.

Continued.....

Gargunnock Community Council and Community Trust Updates

Q. What is the expected timing for this project?

A. The developer currently expects to submit a Planning Application to Stirling Council in October 2020. They expect a minimum of 4 months for determination by the Planning Authority, so a decision on moving forward on the project could happen around April 2021. Construction could therefore start in late 2021 or early 2022.

A possible grid connection date (ie when the wind farm starts to provide electricity) has been identified in 2023.

Q. Will there be any overhead power lines on the hills?

A. No. The grid connection from the wind farm site will be underground to around Gribloch, then overhead on wooden poles (no metal pylons).

Q. There will clearly be additional HGV traffic on local roads during the construction. What are you doing to minimize the negative effects on residents?

A. Due to the longer turbine blades in the current proposal, the original access route through the Carron Valley has now been changed to: A811 – Arnprior – Kippen – Gribloch – Glinns Road – Spout of Ballochleam track. The developers expect there to be strict time controls on when heavy equipment can be brought in by road (eg to avoid school start/finish times).

Q. You have stated that a section of Glinns Road will be used for construction access, and will need to be upgraded. Will Glinns Road be closed during the upgrade?

A. No. Only a short section of Glinns Road will need to be upgraded. The road will not be closed for the work, however there may be a need for a traffic management system to be in place.

Q. What opportunities are there for further involvement of Gargunnock residents in the planning process for this project?

A. It is important to note that comments made as part of the current consultation are only to Force 9 Energy, and are not representations to the planning authority (Stirling Council). If a planning application is eventually submitted, residents will then have an opportunity to raise comments on the proposals with Stirling Council

Q. We understand that Gargunnock is one of six communities that may benefit from a Community Benefit Fund from the Shelloch Windfarm. Gargunnock Community Trust already successfully manages a fund provided by Falck for the Kingsburn wind farm, however, negotiating the details of the fund was a long drawn-out process resulting in the six communities finally agreeing a six-way equal split of the fund. We would prefer a similar equal split of your proposed fund. Can you tell us more about how your fund would work?

A. The developers expect the permitted and prohibited purposes for their fund to be very similar to the constraints on the Kingsburn fund. As the Community Trust successfully manages the Falck money, the developers indicated that they would strive to avoid a new benefit administration mechanism as an effective one is already in existence.

Q. Can you tell us about the Shared Ownership opportunity?

A. EDF Renewables is committed to providing an opportunity for local community groups to collectively have up to 10% Community Ownership of the Shelloch wind farm.

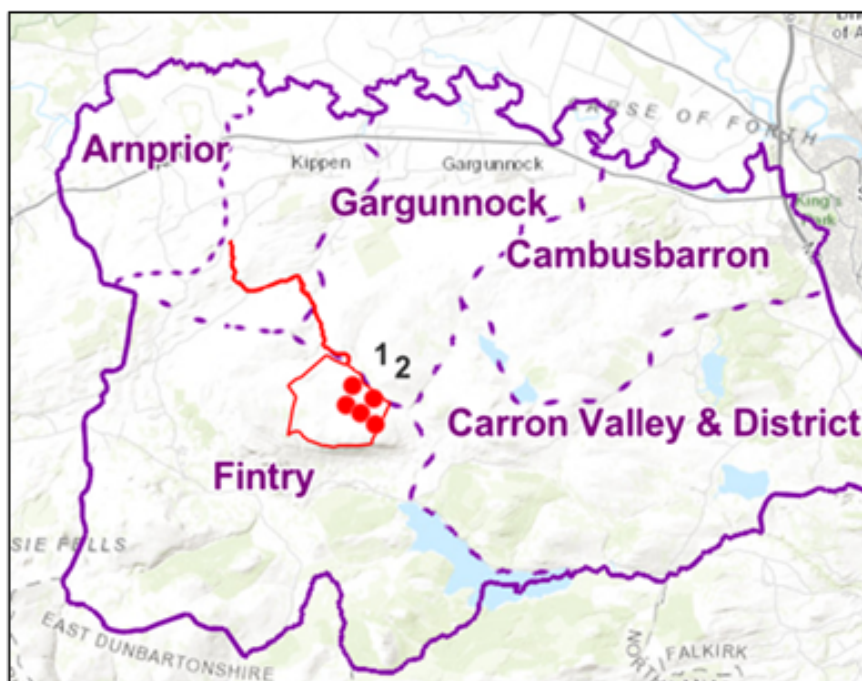
- Opportunity is for community groups (not individuals) to share in the profits of the proposed Shelloch Wind Farm over its operational lifetime.
- Interested communities would need to come together to form single community investment company (a legal entity).
- The communities' share of profits would be proportional to the amount invested divided by the actual construction costs.
- Investment would likely require communities to borrow money.
- Minimum investment is £250,000 (total for all communities).
- There is no guarantee on the returns from the investment.

Q. Are there any opportunities for local businesses to be involved in the project?

A. Yes. There may be opportunities for local businesses such as accommodation providers, plant-hire companies, fencing contractors and tradesmen in relation to the construction and operation of the windfarm. Interested local businesses should contact the developers direct.

Q. Do you have any closing comments?

A. The developers pointed out that the project is a long way from becoming a reality. There is no planning consent, and even if consent is received, EDF still need to decide to invest in the project.



THE GARGOYLES OF GARGUNNOCK EXCITING NEWS!

Anything's exciting at the moment but this really is! Because we have sung at Bannockburn House over the last few years to help raise funds for essential works to the old place, we have been invited to take part in the photographing of all volunteers, and then have our portraits hung around the House. A semi-professional photographer, Mark Leslie, has been commissioned to create them whose his main interest is in the Old Masters like Caravaggio and Rembrandt, and his aim is to create picture portraits in that style. All being well, if we're allowed, then we will be going individually to have our portraits taken. Apart from hanging them in the House permanently, there is also going to be an open month this time next year for the public to view the finished products and we have been asked to perform for the opening cheese and wine evening. There is also going to be a book produced and postcards and prints of all the photographic portraits! We have no idea at the time of writing, if we will be allowed to go, even one at a time, into the House with Mark but it's nice to think it will happen at some point in the future!

Helen, Liz and Zoe

THANK YOU TO CAROL

The Trust would like to express its sincere thanks to Carol MacGregor who is standing down as its administrator after several years. Carol has provided the Trust and Windfarm Fund Panel unstinting support. She helped the start-up phase of the Windfarm Panel and has continued to ensure that its meetings have been arranged, minuted, competent applications made, follow up information provided and grants awarded. She has also arranged the publication of the Bugle, made sure the booking system for the Community Centre ran smoothly and kept the website up to date. She has provided a great service to the Windfarm Fund Panel, the Trust and the village, often going well beyond the call of duty. As we look ahead the Trust is now looking for a new administrator (see advert) so if you are interested in the role please contact one of the people mentioned in the advert, they will be able to give you more details. The role is remunerated and might well suit someone who is self-employed as it is a contract for service. Carol has agreed to provide handover support to whoever is appointed.



Dean Lockhart MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
For Mid-Scotland and Fife

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Please feel free to contact me
if you think I may be able
to help you :

Parliamentary Office
Room M2.12,
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5995

Email: Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot
Website: deanlockhart.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/DeanLockhartMSP](https://www.facebook.com/DeanLockhartMSP)
Twitter: [@DeanLockhartMSP](https://twitter.com/DeanLockhartMSP)

The costs of this advert have been met from parliamentary resources. The SPG is not responsible for the content of other internet sites.

WANTED

Gargunnock Community Trust Administrator

The Trust is currently looking for an administrator. Their main duties are to:

- Provide administration support for the Windfarm Fund Panel working closely with its Chair
- Manage Community Centre bookings and invoicing, provide financial information to the Trust Treasurer and liaise with the caretaker about Community Centre user requirements, etc.
- Keep the Trust website/Facebook page updated
- Arrange collation of articles/adverts and publication of the Bugle, the community newsletter.

The appointment is from the start of 2021 and the successful candidate will have the opportunity of having a handover with Carol MacGregor who is currently in the role.

You will be working as part of a team including all the volunteers who serve on the Community Trust and the Windfarm Panel as well as the Community Centre caretaker.

If you are interested in discussing the role please contact any of the following:

Douglas Johnston Community Trust Treasurer on 860384 or djohnston@thehaven.eu

Alison Younger Chair Windfarm Panel Chair on 07825241196 or alisonyounger472@btinternet.com

Stuart Ogg Community Trust Minutes Secretary on 07715160751 or stuartogg54@gmail.com

The post will particularly suit someone who is self-employed.

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers

Gargunnock Playgroup and Toddlers runs sessions weekly throughout the year for all children up to school age. If you are new to the village and have young children or are expecting a baby please do get in touch.

Gargunnock Playgroup runs every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-12pm during the school term in the Community Centre. Our qualified staff run a varied set of activities suiting all ages and interests. We are an independent Playgroup, registered with the Care Inspectorate, managed by parents and welcome children from 2½ yrs to pre-school. Please contact playgroup@gargunnock.com for more details.



Gargunnock Toddlers (currently closed due to Covid-19) provides lots of toys, snack time and a warm welcome for parents-to-be, parents and children from 0-5, or their grandparents/childminders etc. Every Wednesday morning (10-11.30am) in the Community Centre. Sessions are £2.50 + 50p for siblings. Why not come along and see for yourself!

EVENTS!

Halloween Duck Race! Buy a duck for £2, if it wins the race, you win a cash prize! Ducks for sale at the shop. Duck numbers will also be raffled for more prizes. Race will take place on Gargunnock Burn on Saturday the 31st October. There is no need to attend, winners will be notified!

Spring clean car wash – date TBC.

We are following all regulation and guidelines around Covid-19. At time of writing (21st September) playgroup is open, whereas toddlers remains closed. Please contact us for the latest information such as opening times!

If you want to get in touch at any time please contact;

Rea Gourlay (Playgroup Leader) 07851175815, playgroup@gargunnock.com,

Debbie Masson (Chairperson) 07779727209, debstarmasson74@gmail.com,

Nina van Rooijen (Toddler Representative) 07521499280, n.v.rooijen@outlook.com



Andrew Anderson & Sons Funeral Directors

Est.1969

"Stand Sure we will look after you & your family"

We are proud to offer a 24 hour caring and professional service to the local community.

A wide range of memorial stones are available.

We can also clean and add further inscriptions to existing family memorials.

CALLANDER, Funeral Home, Glenartney Road, Callander, FK17 8EB, Tel: 01877 330398

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

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

Email: info@anderson-funerals.co.uk • www.anderson-funerals.co.uk

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

Life in the Army by Amy McCabe

It has been a while since my last post to the Bugle but now that I am back from a 6 months' operation in Cyprus working under auspices of the United Nations and I am now able to share my experiences with you.

Preparation in England

It is day 1 out of 7 on the 21st of June 2019 and it is the first part of our Regimental Public Order training in Longmoor.

My squadron and I are all kitted up ready to go with; fire retardant overalls, body armour, shield, baton, balaclava, full face helmet and gloves, and I feel relatively safe. All that faith in my equipment still didn't prevent my heart from almost beating out of my chest, but opting out isn't an option, and I'd best get on with it because we all have to do the drill 4x rounds each!!

All this training was preparing us for what we could possibly encounter out in Cyprus during our peace-keeping duties on the border, the only differences being that we wouldn't be wearing overalls on top of our full body armour protection, carrying a wooden baton and we would be wearing our blue (UN) helmet covers. Our operational tour was going to be during the winter so whenever we had on our Public Order kit – Riot Gear, we wouldn't be sweating as much as during our training in England.

Deployment in Cyprus

Fast forward to September time, when our regiment deployed out on "Op Tosca 31" and arrived to pleasantly warm Autumn weather in Cyprus. We flew in on the Military Version of the A320 Airbus - called the AirTanker - to the main RAF base in Akrotiri, where we boarded a UN bus to take us across the island to our base near Nicosia.

We shared the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly camp - which was also called Blue Beret Camp - with soldiers from different nations, e.g. Slovakia, Argentina, Hungary and even a few Australian soldiers. Our Squadron role was "Mobile Force Reserve" which basically means if there are any riots then we are on standby to assist the local police force – CYPOL.

Our base area held a swimming pool, which was maintained by individuals from our squadron who were Lifeguard qualified, of which I was one. My 2 main roles were as; a Physical Training Instructor - keep the soldiers fit - and as and a section 2IC – second in command.

It wasn't all work, we had some weekends when we went out as a Platoon for some RnR to various tourist locations around the island.

Christmas was a memorable time, we got given an "Operational" gift box from her Majesty the Queen and as a Regiment we all had Christmas dinner.

During our time on Op Tosca we had the opportunity to do some Adventure Training. I chose a week's Mountain Biking course in various locations around the island and a BSAC Ocean Diving course at the British military base in Dhekelia, in the South East of the island near Ayia Napa.

I had 2 weeks off in January for R&R, so I stayed on the island whilst my family came over to visit. We made a trip to Troodos Mountains in the centre of the island and amazingly, if I had my gear with me. I could have gone skiing.

During our time on Op Tosca, there was the opportunity to go on a UN border monitoring flight. The pilots were Argentinian and flew two different types of Helicopter, one was a 10 - man transport and the other Helicopter had a seating capacity of 4 which I later found out was over 40 years old and had a big crash in 1984 :-)

It was hard to imagine tourists used to visit the place before the Turks took control over it in 1974, it was like the City had been frozen in time.

It was the same case for Nicosia international airport as well.

Still owned by the Royal Air Force, it was the main airport for the island before it got invaded and was completely abandoned. I remember looking around inside, there was a poster from 1968 – 'NOTICE TO PASSENGERS, still intact on the wall.

Walking around the once running airport was rather eerie. The only form of life I saw was the pigeons, although there were probably some other creatures lurking amongst the building.

So much history surrounds the Airport. When you are standing on top of the airport building and look out, you can see the prominent Turkish flag situated on the mountains where the Paratroopers of Turkey landed in 1974.

Hence the division of Cyprus and the Buffer Zone.

There is still a bit of tension between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to this day. Graffiti written all over the Island mainly with the start date and year of the invasion. Not forgetting the Mine fields and Ordnance clearance; Over 27, 000 land mines have been removed from the Buffer Zone and 81 minefields have been declared mine free. 10,985,338 square metres of land have been released and returned to their original use. We were warned about land mines before deploying. Our training was if we ever encountered a minefield what to do but more than anything it is common sense. The area would be cordoned off and be warning you that there are live mines.

Tragically in the 1974 invasion by the Turkish Army, 33 Greek Commandos and an aircraft crew were killed in action, as well as three aircraft destroyed. This was the result of blue-on-blue incident!! Simply due to human error and the lack of communication. The aim was to transport a Battalion of Greek Commandos from Crete to Nicosia and unfortunately the aircraft was engaged in friendly fire.

This was certainly one of the most interesting stories I heard during the whole tour and one of the reasons why we are still being deployed to Sector 2 - which is where the British Armed Forces are based. The British Army used the Airport has a defence post during the 1974 Turkish invasion.

My favourite part of the whole Operation was patrolling around the perimeter of UNPA.

Collecting information and reporting any suspicious or suspected objects or people that could interfere or raise danger.

Even though more than 95% of the time there was nothing serious, the only exciting occurrences were the wild fires (which we fought) that were caused by the high temperatures and wild dogs that sometimes chased you in your vehicle and occasionally tried to bite the tyres.

Other highlight were, visiting places like Famagusta which is in the Northern part of Cyprus (Turkish side).

My family came to visit and they definitely found the whole trip interesting with the likes of the UN Buffer Zone which is patrolled by Peacekeeping Forces (MFR too) and the country's Greek history. Due to COVID 19, we had to be extended by two weeks since the reservists travelling from the UK relieving us had to be placed in quarantine for 14 days. A lot of us soldiers, like many civilians, had to cancel our plans for when we got back to the UK as we were forced to have a months rest leave.

So overall some great memories, a decent tour - many of us including me it was our first. If I could I would do it again.



Police Report

Community Engagement and Reassurance

PC Steven Graham and PC Gary Martin are based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted on **101** or at **ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk**. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at:

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland

COVID-19

During this pandemic we are continuing to provide all the essential services you expect from us.

We urge everyone to do what they can to comply with the advice from government and the health service. We need your continued support to ensure that we are able to help those that need us most during this time of this crisis.

Please only call 999 if a crime is taking place or if a person is in immediate danger.

Comments have been made regarding the time it takes to answer the 101 service. We are experiencing a high volume of calls about COVID-19. These calls reduce response times for real policing matters. Before phoning 101 or 999 please ask yourself, is this a policing matter?

Theft

With the earlier dark nights in we have the potential for daytime Housebreakings which unfortunately have been a seasonal trend in the past. We remind residents to be ever vigilant and contact the Police should anyone see anything suspicious. Please remember to follow basic home security rules and help to make it make it harder for the thieves.

Please consider the following:

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave and when you go to bed.
- If possible use secure lighting at the front and back of your property.
- Make sure all garden tools and ladders are locked away when not being used. Don't give the thieves the tools to break into your house.
- Use a good quality lock on any garden sheds and outhouses.
- Make a note of all makes, models and serial numbers of expensive items in your home.
- If your house is fitted with an alarm then please use it. This is a good deterrent should thieves manage to force entry to your house.
- create a FREE and secure inventory of all your personal property at **www.immobilise.com**
- If you note anything suspicious in your neighbourhood report it on **101**.

There are guides on the Police Scotland website giving other ideas to protect property in rural areas:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

Hare Coursing

Hare coursing is the pursuit of hares with greyhounds and other sighthounds, which chase the hare by sight, not by scent. Hare coursing was banned in Scotland in 2002 however it is still an ongoing issue in this area. Coursers will often use binoculars to spot the hare. Their dogs, usually lurchers or greyhounds, are on a slip lead threaded so it can easily be released. The coursers will walk along an open field to frighten the hare into the open. The dog catches the hare and kills it by shaking the animal in its teeth. Sadly, the dead hare is merely left in the field or thrown in a ditch.

This is of course a very serious offence and if these persons are identified and apprehended they will be dealt with accordingly at court.

There have been reports of such activity in fields surrounding Gargunnock so all calls regarding suspicious activity are always welcomed.

Road Safety

The Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership have continued to operate on the A811 and local officers have and will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to improve road safety.

Prepare for the winter by keeping your vehicle well maintained before you take to the road.

Take special care that brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, windscreens and wiper blades are in good condition. In addition, washer bottles need to contain an additive to stop the water from freezing.

Tyres should also be checked weekly to ensure they are legal and at the correct pressure (consult your vehicle handbook). The minimum legal tread depth for cars is 1.6mm across the centre 3/4 of the breadth of the tread around the entire circumference. They should also be checked for bulges, cuts or tears which weaken the tyre. Failure to maintain your tyres could lead to a maximum of £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Please ensure that vehicle windscreens are defrosted and you have a full view of the road ahead prior to driving off. On that note, please do not defrost the windscreen by leaving your engine running unattended on the road or driveway.

Gargunnock Primary School



An update on the re-opening of School in August. It was just wonderful to welcome all of the boys and girls, and staff, back into school in August. All pupils returned at once; not 50% at a time as we were half planning for. In many ways school looks and sounds just the same! However, there are several (temporary) changes that have been put in place to follow current government guidelines.

Boys and girls are entering and exiting school via their classroom fire doors, and each class has their own 'zone' of the school grounds to play in. We do feel very fortunate to have such great grounds. These measures have been put in place to keep our class groups separate from each other, and to minimise the mixing of households. We have many wall mounted hand sanitising stations which the children use when they enter and leave rooms. In class, the children are seated mostly in rows as they have not to face each other. We are being careful to minimise the sharing of resources. Children eat their lunches outside, or in their own class if it is raining. P.E. must take place outside. The children do not need to social distance from each other, but social distancing is still required between the adults in school, and between adults and children.

We have several new permanent and temporary members of staff. Mrs Megan Ross joins us as a new Support for Learning Assistant (SLA), following the retirement of Mrs MacEachern in June. Mrs Mandy Nisbet joins us on a temporary basis as SLA; Mrs Nisbet would usually be teaching swimming in The Peak! Mr Steven Bruce is an additional daytime cleaner, ensuring toilets, handles and other touch points are cleaned several times throughout the school day.

The boys and girls have adapted really well, as have staff. We are used to our 'new normal' but do look forward to the time when the classes can freely mix again, when we can meet in our House groups, as a whole school for assembly, and when we can once again welcome visitors into school.

Janine Rushton, Head Teacher

"One of the differences in school is that there are hand sanitisers everywhere. One thing that is the same is that everyone goes to school. The best difference is that we always eat outside." **Beth P6**

"It is weird for me to only be allowed a packed lunch because usually I would be a home lunch. Everytime you enter the building you have to use hand sanitiser." **Daniel, P6**

"Currently in school it is very, very different. We do PE outside, we eat lunch outside and let's just say there are a quite a lot of hand sanitisers. But lots of things are the same and as good as ever like the lessons, the teachers and more. And, everyone is back and it is great to see everyone." **Finlay, P6**

"I like that we eat outside. The worst difference is playing just with your own class. Being back at school is OK." **Summer, P4**

"I like that we are all back and seeing our friends. You could feel happy, sad or nervous to be back but it is OK to feel that way." **Iona, P4**

"Personally, I think the best difference is that we get to have lunch outside every day. I think that the worst difference is that we can't see other classes in school. The things that are the same are that we still play outside with our friends." **Zane, P5**

To wear a mask or not wear a mask ? That is the question



It's the answer we can't agree on !! **READ MY LIPS !!**

douglas Barr

Primary School 200 Club launches

The Parent Council of Gargunnock Primary have launched a 200 Club to help fundraise for the coming year. With a whopping prize pot of £250 the purchase of a number between 1 – 200 (£10 per number) will see you entered into 10 Prize Draws – each with a cash prize of £25. This year Sponsors for each draw have been secured meaning the money from every number sold will go directly to help the kids at the Primary school. Fundraising goes towards things like transport to allow pupils of all ages attend 'mixer' events with pupils from other small schools, IT equipment and school grounds improvements to enhance learning opportunities.

"This year will be a really challenging year for fundraising as it looks like our usual event based fundraisers may not be able to go ahead," noted Chair Nathan Anderton, "I would encourage everyone in the community to help support the prize lottery if they can, it's a great way to support the learning of our young pupils and be in with the chance to win a prize yourself!"

If you would like to buy a number, or numbers, and join the 200 Club please contact **Nic Brodie – 07709 420569**

nic16mar@yahoo.co.uk or **Alison Younger 07825 241196 alisonyounger472@btinternet.com**, alternatively any parent with children at the school can purchase numbers on your behalf through the online Parent Pay system. Numbers can be bought at any time but to be entered into all 10 prize draws and have the best chance of winning we need your numbers by 28th October. A huge THANK YOU to our Prize Draw Sponsors: RTA Builders, Blairdrummond Smiddy, NFU Mutual, Forth Valley Vets, Total Landscapes, Decor9, Touch Business Centre, Bandirran Stud, H&A Brand Consultancy and Design Studio, Zetotech Forensic Investigators.

Gargunnock Women's Institute

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Past President Margaret Dunn, formerly of Redhall Farm and latterly of Bannockburn. She was president in 1973, 74,75 and again in 1982, 83,84.

Margaret was renowned for her baking and liked nothing better than to have people drop in and join her for tea. She was also an active Bridge player in the Village. Margaret was a good neighbour and friend to many to and will be sadly missed.

Thank you to the village for supporting the table top sale event for the Gargunnock Women's Institute fundraiser. The idea for the table top sale came from committee member Cathy Rowley who hosted the event. It was all organised within 10 days. We raised £450 for club funds. Thanks to all members for giving crafts, baking and donations and those who manned the tent over the weekend.

Picture Janet Iffla, Anne Christie President, Cathy Rowley. Social distancing in operation!!

The competition for guess the "number of pasta in the jar", won by member Fiona McNicol who received a cuddly rabbit, made by Janet Iffla.

President Anne Christie welcomed the committee to their meeting, in her carport with social distancing, on Friday 11th September 2020.

It was decided that until further notice no meetings will be held in the Community Centre due to Social Distancing. This does not mean the Women's Institute will close.

We will continue to be involved by means of a Buddy System. Each Committee member will have Buddies and keep in touch during the coming months until "normality" returns.

This month we will have a Treasure Hunt compiled by Maitland Clark, round the village to be completed by mid October.

We will have a Quiz later on, compiled and provided by the Federation at £1 a go to assist in funding the Federation Office.

Jessie Wyllie our Points Convenor advised the scores for competitions throughout the year. Cathy Rowley 16 points, Anne Christie 14 points, Heather McPhee 10 points, Fiona Johnston 9 points. Well done to Cathy Rowley who is this year's worthy winner with the cup being taken over from last year's winner Heather McPhee.

In these uncertain times stay safe and take care.

Kind regards

Anne Christie President.



GARGUNNOCK VILLAGE STORE

OPEN 7 DAYS
01786 860703

Email address:
aweir.gvs@gmail.com

Monday - Sunday 8am - 5pm



- **Skinner's Steak Pies**
- **Leckie Produce**
Eggs and sausages

Many thanks to all the people who have been supporting us during this period - Alistair and Violet

mortonsrolls
the only way to start your day



The Gargunnock Inn

Good Food, Good Beer, Good Friends, Good Times

Autumn and Winter 2020

During these difficult times we thank you for your support. It will be an uncertain time ahead, but we are determined to serve the village and local community to the best of our ability.

Deliveries and takeaways will continue, along

with our steak night and

upcoming Friday night theme evenings (hopefully some good memories of your favourite destinations abroad).

We are running a slightly reduced menu, but if you give us notice we are able to accommodate personal preferences (e.g. A nice seabass dish or Scallop starter).

Steak Night

Every Thursday evening, 2 steaks, either 10oz Ribeye or 8oz Fillet with a bottle of wine for £40.50 (a saving of nearly £30)

Takeaways and Deliveries

We are continuing our Takeaways and deliveries throughout the Autumn and Winter. Collections are available Wednesday to Sundays, and deliveries will be available from 5pm - 8pm Fridays and Saturdays. The regularly updated takeaway menu is available on our website:

www.gargunnockinn.co.uk

Where you can also place your order. If you prefer to phone, please give us a call (01786 860333).

We can also serve Pints to takeaway and if the shop is closed, all of our wines are also available at takeaway prices.

Reservations

As we are running at reduced capacity we do appreciate if you could reserve a table (even if it is a few minutes before). It allows us to safely monitor how many people are arriving at the same time.

Reservations can be made by calling us (01786 860333), or by our new online reservation section of our website (www.gargunnockinn.co.uk)

Day	Bar	Restaurant
Monday & Tuesday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	5-9pm	5-8pm
Thursday & Friday	5-10pm	5-8.30pm
Saturday	12-10pm	12-8.30pm
Sunday	12-10pm	12-8pm