

News from the Garvald and Morham Community Broadband service

The Broadband Group have decided to apply for another Leader Grant, to try to further improve the speed, quality, resilience and reliability of our community broadband service.

We are also continually searching for ways to improve the speed of the service in downtown Garvald, where contention (the number of folk simultaneously using the system) adversely affects bandwidth and seriously reduces the speed of service. In spite of this, a recent unofficial test on both systems showed our service to be significantly quicker than that supplied by "you know who".

You may not be aware of a side product benefit of the Community Broadband system. This is the automated capability built into our system to send an e-mail direct to the Scottish Power engineer alerting him-her that we have a power cut in Garvald or elsewhere with location, time and duration recorded. We have been plagued with many very short duration outages. It is possibly due to the automated alert messages that work to improve the power service was carried out last week.

We have much to thank our technical whiz-kid Ian Smith for, which includes this alert feature. We hope to involve another local software expert (Roy Evatt) as part of the Broadband group soon, mainly to enable Ian Smith some very short holiday leeway!

One last plea: Please use the website at <http://www.gbccbroadband.org>. It contains important items, such as this newsletter, Community Council Minutes, details about the Flower Show, etc. It is very much a developing project but needs your support and feedback. This includes a request to send news, information, comment, questions, suggestions, anything you like, for inclusion....in electronic format by email to david.walls@garvald.org.

For Sale:

- Garage Defender for up and over door. Never used. Best offer secures.
- Pond Pump with piping. Second hand no longer required. Best offer secures. Please call Rachel and John 830 294.

And Finally:

Are there any budding editors out there? After 3 years & 9 editions of the newsletter Vicky Short & I feel it's time to hand over the reigns to some new hands after the summer edition. Please call us (Vicky 830295/Lisa 810895) if you are interested.

The next newsletter will be published in August.

GARVALD & MORHAM NEWSLETTER

Spring



2009

Spring at last! After all that snow & bad weather it's great to see the first signs of the daffodils coming through.

There's a busy few months coming up in Garvald & Morham so please read on & get your diaries at the ready!

Garvald Village Hall News:

Well, what a fantastic way to welcome in 2009 - the Hogmanay bash this year saw the halls full to the rafters! Same time next year??



NEW LOOS & DRIVE!!!

After lots of hard work (mainly from Ian Marwick) & fund raising (mainly from the lovely residents of Garvald!) the new loos are finished & very splendid they are too. **A grand opening is planned for Friday 24th April**, so look out for your invitation.

Events:

The first of the 'Friday Club' events is this Friday 27th - A family games night which promises to be good fun. See insert for full details.

The **Plant Sale is on 26th April** so please pop it in your diary, & please

put aside any spare plants .

The Fun Day this year is changing & is now a **Family Fun Day & Run**. The date will be **Sunday 24th May** (so hopefully we won't get rained off). Get those training shoes on as there is a 1k race for the children & a 5k race for the adults. As well as the race there will be all your favourite stalls from the fun day - waterslide, splat the rat, beat the goalie & of course the tug of war. There will also be the usual excellent burgers & ice creams.

The **jumble sale** is on **14th June** this year, so dig out any unwanted clutter. Keep an eye out for more details on the village website & notice boards.

Tuesday night is pilates night at the hall so if you fancy joining the 7.30pm class still has a few spaces available - can we tempt any Morhamites to join us?

Morham News

Driving through Morham this morning it was lovely to see that the snowdrops and daffodils that have been planted coming through and brightening a dull verge. Thank you to the secret gardeners it will be really colourful.

We are well into 2009, but the Hogmanay Party went with a swing and the organisers are already planning the next one. The Burns Supper was fabulous and a great way to celebrate a 250th Birthday with such a splendid party.



We were entertained by very talented young musicians, delightful speeches and toasts, Holy Willie put in an appearance complete with nightgown and candlestick and the village was in fine voice raising the roof before a couple of reels were performed with gusto! Once again a splendid amount was raised and will help towards the completion of the hall. Thank you to all who helped in very many different ways.

Since the hall reopened at the end of last year we have had bookings each month and now have bookings up to Hogmanay and next year in the diary. Just this week the hall floor and the ceilings were completed although the roof has to be painted once the weather improves. I think we can all agree that the hall looks clean, fresh and welcoming at last. Please encourage your friends and family to use the hall. It is there for everyone's enjoyment!

Please put **Saturday, 6th June** in your diaries as this is the chosen date for the long awaited ceilidh. On two Saturday afternoon preceding this - 23rd/30th May come along to the hall to practise reels from 1.30pm. Notice will be posted on the hall board.

If you are interested in using the hall please phone 825 375 for more information. We are always looking for different uses for the hall so, if you have a good idea, let us know.

The Garvald Inn:

- On April 21st there will be live music so come along & soak up the atmos!
- High tea is now on offer every Tues-Friday from 5.30-7pm
- There will be an Italian Night on Saturday 23rd May, and as every runner knows, pasta is the perfect pre 5k run meal!

Farewell to the Post Office

Sanderson, Catleugh, Kerr, Dodds, Mitchell, Bannerman. What do all these names have in common with Sylvia Wood? They have all run Garvald's Post Office. In the 40's the business was run from Woodburn and then moved to the care of Margaret Catleugh at Papan Cottages. Wilma Kerr was the first post mistress in the 70's at it's present location but 10th March 2009 saw the closure of Garvald Post Office due to lack of turnover. However we will still be able to buy our stamps and lots more from the PO as it has taken up residence in the village hall on Thursday mornings 9 -11 am.

Has Sylvia enjoyed her years as post mistress?

'It has suited family life, especially when Lilly was small.'

Any drawbacks?

'It's been a bit restricting to be tied to the PO each Tuesday & Thursday.'

So how long have you been at the PO?

'Since October 1999 when Lilly was just 2½.'

What are you hoping to do now?

'Hopefully keep my job and finish my computer course.'

Bits & Bobs:

Ever happy to abuse my 'co editor' position I'm using this edition of the newsletter to let you know that I'll be doing the Moonwalk in Edinburgh on 21st June. This is a 26.2 mile walk that starts at midnight. Training is well under way, in fact as I type I'm slightly crippled from a long walk to the top of Ben Lomond yesterday. I know things are tight at the moment, but please sponsor me at www.justgiving.com/lisalyte. Many thanks.

Welcome to all the new residents in Garvald & Morham. We're a very friendly bunch so do come along to the planned events, they are great fun. If you have some spare time & fancy joining any of the village committees please, please get involved.

Papana Woodlands:

It may seem that nothing has happened to the woods apart from a few more trees falling down, but don't give up yet! We haven't.

The story so far Progress was halted when the Forestry Commission suspended its grant scheme. The new scheme took two years to announce and suits only projects far larger than ours.

Luckily, several alternative funding sources are available and enquiry applications are in hand. Also, the Nunraw Community, as the landowner, requires us to work through and in co-operation with their appointed agent. Nothing can proceed without its agreement/approval. Garvaldians have already approved our basic plans, but will be able to comment on the final proposals. Watch out for further news bulletins. For newcomers (and to remind those weary of waiting!) the plan is to remove the conifers and dead trees from the North wood (the one beside the park) and do pruning and path making as necessary. We also plan to restore the South wood (the banking across the Papana from the park) with natural generation and native trees and shrubs.

We are always delighted if anyone wishes to join the Woodland Committee involved with this project. Those who have recently moved into Garvald and wish to know more or join us please contact:

Chairman, Tim Flinn : flinntim@hotmail.co.uk (830261)
The Secretary, Barrie Ash: banddo@googlemail.com (830322)

Community Council:

At their February meeting, the Community Council decided to award £850 to Garvald Village Hall to help with the cost of installing lighting on the driveway. It was also decided to prepare a leaflet with details of the grant money from Crystal Rig Wind Farm. The money from this fund will not be available until electricity is actually being produced (hopefully in the summer of 2010), but it was felt that we should be considering suitable projects well in advance. Applications for a share of this money must be channelled via the Community Council, and further details will be announced shortly.

In order to help raise further funds for the renovations, whilst providing a variety of events for the local community, we present to you the **"All New Friday Club."**

This will operate on the last Friday night of every second month, beginning with a Family Games Night on the **27th March 2009**. Many of these evenings will be small scale events with cheap entry fees allowing everyone to take part. The format of the functions in May, July, September and November are open to suggestion. Please let us know what you would like to try.

FAMILY GAMES NIGHT

March 27th 7-9pm Adults £2.00 or £5 per family

Various games will be provided, but feel free to dust off your favourite board games and bring them along to play with your neighbours and friends. BYOB. Teas & coffees provided. Home baking, crisps etc. on sale.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY APRIL 26TH - PLANT SALE

SUNDAY MAY 24TH - FUN RUN AND FUN DAY

SUNDAY JUNE 14TH - JUMBLE SALE

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUR VILLAGE HALL?

A **Suggestion Box** will soon be placed by the notice board on the Green, or suggestions can also be left with Viki at 1 Burnside Court.

We are more than happy to consider all constructive ideas