

Possible Diamond Jubilee Event

In order to explore how the Queen's Diamond Jubilee should be marked in Garvald, a brain-storming meeting (with coffee) is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24th March at 11am.



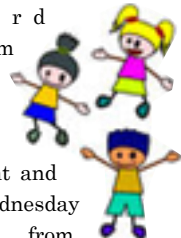
All those interested are welcome to come along and put their suggestions in to the melting pot. It may help to have a look at the website www.thebiglunch.com

before the meeting as a guide to what may be possible. If you have any suggestions, but can't manage to come along on 24th, please let Katy, Caroline (tel: 830349) or Shirley (tel: 830270) know your ideas.

Gifford Playgroup



Gifford Playgroup meets on Thursday and Friday mornings at Gifford Village hall from 9.15 - 11.15am. Children aged from 2 - 5 years are welcome.



There is also a Parent and Baby group held on Wednesday morning from 10 - 11.30am. Please feel free to drop in. For more details, please contact us at giffordunder5s@hotmail.co.uk

Garvald to Gifford Walk

A Walk along the Core Paths from Garvald to Gifford

- Distance: 9 kilometres, 6 miles
- Time: 2½ - 3½ hours

About the Walk: This walk generally follows the steep sided valleys formed between Garvald and Gifford by the large rivers that were flowing with melt water at the end of the last ice age. The Core Path

passes pasture, 2 lochs, wooded plantations, an arable field, estate woodland, and finally Gifford Water. Some of the fields are, at times, used to graze cattle with calves; hence care should be taken particularly if walking the route with young children or dogs. The route involves very little ascent but in places it is rough and can be muddy so for this reason stout footwear is recommended.

Transport: There is no direct route from Gifford to Garvald by public transport, so the options to get to the start are either arranging a car shuttle with friends or to take a taxi. Fortune Taxis based in Gifford (Telephone 01620 821000) will take up to 4 people between the villages for £9.

Refreshments: Garvald has an inn and Gifford 2 hotels and a coffee shop.

The Route: From Garvald go SW to the end of the village and then straight on along the minor road towards Carfrae. After ½km turn left towards Garvald Mains and almost immediately right onto the track which leads you to the Donolly Reservoir. Follow the path on the left side of the reservoir and then continue on the track which leads to a minor road. At this road turn left and, after 100m, right to follow the path round the edge of a field. Follow this path for 200m until a track which enters the wood is reached. This track is followed down to Danskine Loch and on to the road at Danskine Lodge. The road is crossed and the track continues to the right of the Lodge. This track follows Danskine Burn and then Gifford Water to the village with a small signed detour to avoid the garden of Yester House. About 1km from Danskine a track goes to the left, crossing a bridge and then uphill. This track leads after ¾km, to Yester castle and is a possible extension to the walk. However, it should be noted that the castle is in a dangerous condition and great care should be taken if visiting the site.

More information can be obtained by contacting David Habgood at davidhabgood@yahoo.co.uk (tel: 810270).



It's almost spring again and everyone's looking ahead to the clocks going forward at the end of the month. We managed to escape the snow..... so far, so fingers crossed that the lovely weather will continue and thoughts can now turn to getting our gardens cultivated and possibly even planting some worthy specimens for entry to the Village Show later in the year.



Garvald Village Hall News

After the last two extreme winters, most Garvald residents probably thought they could take whatever the elements threw at them this year. But then came the winds. The two storms were a real test of fortitude, especially with the power down for a number of days. The physical environment suffered too – with trees snapping like matchsticks and tiles flying from roofs. The Village Hall was not immune, but thankfully damage was limited to a few slates coming adrift. In the orchard, a large branch broke off one of the aged plum trees, and a few of the trees growing near the wall were blown over. All in all though, things were relatively unscathed. Which is a relief, given hefty recent maintenance spending.

Over the last few months, the Hall has hosted a number of events. The pre-Christmas Fair was a success yet again, with Santa entertaining the children whilst parents browsed for gifts. Over £350 was raised for Hall coffers, so a big thank-you to all that helped out. At Hogmanay, revellers were regaled by the band Kilty Pleasures. It was wonderful to see so many people of different ages having so much fun, although there must have been some sore feet as well as heads the next day.

One event which didn't happen, however,

was the Burns Supper. Despite appeals for a willing organizer, no volunteer was forthcoming. Perhaps somebody could be persuaded to organize a village disco or games night instead? If you do have any bright fundraising ideas, please do get in touch with a member of the Hall Committee. And don't worry, you will not be co-opted and forced to come to meetings! Unless you want to be, of course ...

There are two events already confirmed in the dairy: firstly, the Plant Sale on 29th April; and secondly, the Jumble Sale on Sunday 24th June. So as thoughts turn to Spring, please keep the Hall in mind. Maybe plant a few extra seeds, so you've excess seedlings to donate. Or whilst you tidy out, put aside a bag of clothes, bric-a-brac or books. It's maybe a cliché but every little does indeed help!

On an ongoing basis, there is still Badminton in the Hall on Monday evenings' and Pilates on Tuesdays. The mobile Post Office comes on a Thursday morning, offering normal postal services as well as cash back. Moreover, the table tennis table is always available for use – please pop round and see Hazel Clark, Barrie Ash or Katy Mowat for a key.

Hiring of Garvald Hall

And finally, please remember that the Hall, and its meeting room, are available for private hire. If you are interested, please

contact Barrie Ash to discuss dates, times and requirements (tel: 830322) or email barrieash@aol.com.

Garvald Village Show

The 61st Flower Show is to be held on Saturday 25th August. Schedules will be available late spring, and will be put up on the web-site. The handicrafts section is unchanged, but the classes for photography have a new look, and to give you notice of what to focus on the classes are as follows:-



- Wildlife
- A Beautiful View
- Good Enough to Eat?
- The Character of Garvald
- In Bloom
- Taken at Night
- A Portrait
- East Lothian in 4 Photographs
- Action

Morham News

Morham Hall Activities

We had a busy run up to Christmas. Two Christmas parties were held at the hall, one for the children and one for the adults.

The children's party was a great success. The hall was almost full to capacity and all who attended had a fantastic afternoon. The children enjoyed a magic show from Peter Pepper and afterwards there were party games and a full banquet of party food. We were delighted to have a visit from Santa and one of his fairy helpers, which made the event very special for the children who attended. All went home with a present and a smile.

This event was then followed in the evening by a party for the adults.

Thank you to all who helped organise, coordinate and support the party and a huge thank you to Santa and his Fairy helper. The party would not have been the same

without you!

Morham Hall Committee and AGM

A date has been confirmed for the Morham Hall Committee AGM. It will be on Wednesday 21st March 2012, commencing at 7.00pm. If anyone is interested in the hall and its activities then please come along. All are welcome to attend.

Hiring of Morham Hall

Morham Hall continues to be a popular venue for birthday parties and celebrations. If anyone is interested in hiring the hall for a party or an event then please contact Davie Murray to book (tel: 824836).

Crystal Rig Funding

It's time again for community groups in Morham and Garvald to be putting your ideas onto paper and submitting applications to Garvald and Morham Community Council for the 2012 Crystal Rigg 2 Community Benefit Fund. If your group covers a wider area than this, please specify in your proposal how people living in Morham and Garvald will benefit.

The list of grants awarded in 2011 is:

- Garvald and Morham CC Woodlands sub group, Improvement of Garvald woodlands **£17,000**
- Gifford Cub Scouts, Mountain leader training **£950**
- Knox Academy Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award walking expedition **£350**
- Haddington/Gifford Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expeditions **£300**
- Gifford Guides **£100**
- Carers of East Lothian, Supporting rural carers **£750**
- Morham Village Hall, Improvements to Hall heating system **£3000**

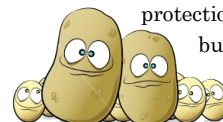
Application forms may be downloaded from the old GMCC website at www.gmccbroadband.org. Please return before 31st May to:

Ms Julia White
Chairperson G&MCC
Old Schoolhouse, Morham
Haddington, EH41 4LQ
Email: julia@traprain.org.uk

Gardening tips and hints

Spring Awakening

After such a mild winter it is tempting to get the spring work in the garden off to an early start, and it is certainly very beneficial to make the most of this dry spell. After a general tidy up, leaves and weeds can go on the compost heap, perennials can be split to give more plants, and rose and shrub prunings can go through the shredder or in to the "brown bin". If you want to hurry the rhubarb along give it some dark and protection such as an old bucket.



If your vegetable patch is ready, there is no harm in planting a few early tatties, but in case we should get a wee nip of late frost, put them in 6" deep, and cover them with a bit of fleeces for protection. Hopefully the weather will be kind, and you can enjoy the first boiling early in June. Maincrop varieties should



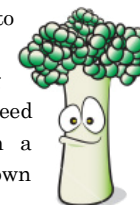
be laid out on trays in a light cool room to encourage chitting before planting them in mid-April. Shallots and onion sets can go in now too,



as can a sowing of parsnips. By the end of March, it is time for early peas, broad beans and carrots, but leave the beetroot until the end of April to prevent it bolting.



Remember the sowing dates recommended on the seed packets are for folks with a more favoured climate down south.



Garvald Website

The new village website is now up and running! See www.garvald.org.uk. It is designed as a blog, where latest posts (news/photos/posters) will be added to the home page, with supporting pages available too. Access these by clicking the links below the header photo.

The website is being hosted free of charge by the local G&M community broadband cooperative, Lothian Broadband.

If you would like to contribute news at any time you can contact the team via the contact form on the website or by emailing: info@garvald.org.uk. Each edition of the newsletter will be uploaded to the website and the website will essentially become an online version of the newsletter that can be updated whenever there is any news.

Bits and Pieces

Any Takers?/For Sale

- FREE to a good home - A child's IKEA loft bed, a yellow bedouin style wardrobe and a "vintage" chest of drawers. Contact garvaldcaroline@hotmail.com or tel: 830349
- For Sale - Lovely cream Mothercare Moses basket/Carrycot stand. Like New. £15. Contact sawalker106@hotmail.com or tel: 830270.

GARVALD INN

Come along and enjoy some folk music. Regular dates posted on the notice board at the pub entrance. Open Mic Sunday afternoons are also on-going fortnightly.

A 'Blues Night' is planned for 22nd April 2012. Details to be posted on the noticeboard.

Pilates

Pilates classes are on-going in the hall on Tuesday evenings between 6.30pm - 7.30pm and 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

Please contact Sue Kelly (tel: 07710 642254).