



# Minutes of 28th AGM and Newsletter

No 64 - 2009

[www.mortonvillage.org.uk](http://www.mortonvillage.org.uk)

## Morton gains a SILVER award in 2009 Yorkshire in bloom village category

Yes the result has been announced and we are proud to say that Morton has gained a fantastic Yorkshire Rose SILVER AWARD.

For a group that has only been in existence for 12 months this is a stunning achievement.

Lee Senior who co-ordinates MIB's efforts was delighted with the progress the village has made in a relatively short space of time. He said to come in at a Silver in our first year is wonderful. Many new entrants start out with Bronze or less, but we have come in at a standard much higher than this. It is a recognition of all the hard work that has gone into our campaign. I would like to thank all villagers who made a special effort to help with our bloom campaign. Many put extra pots outside their front door, others weeded and tidied the street and driveways. It all helped make a big difference and we got many favourable comments

from the judges saying how clean and weed-free our village looked on the day.

All the benefits of entering the it are long term for the village, and there are many indirect benefits too.

The Morton Village Society has been wonderfully supportive and Bradford Council Streetscene department and Keighley Area Committee have played important roles too.

Although we have done well, we must aim to progress next year to the next award which is a Silver Gilt. This is achievable, so long as the group keeps up the momentum and carries on with it's good work. One day we would like to be crowned as best village in Yorkshire.

To that end - we are working through the autumn on our campaign for 2010 and our exciting plans include: a brand new long border next to village entrance sign on Carr Lane, which is progressing now and a revamp of parts of the Village Green - kindly supported financially by the Village Society.

To enable our village to continue to progress - we always need more helpers and donations of spare seeds or plants. Can you spare several hours per month on an occasional basis, you don't need to be a gardening expert! We are in need of a small compost bin, so if anyone has a spare, please get in touch. We also need villagers

who are handy with DIY and general duties. Help us to keep moving Morton forward - together we can all do it.

Contact Lee: 01274 563377 or email: [leeseniorgardening@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leeseniorgardening@yahoo.co.uk) for more info and a no obligation chat!

### AGM Report

David Miller extended a welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Village Society, together for the first time with the Memorial Institute.

#### 1. Apologies

Dorothy & Bob Dennis, Lee Senior.

#### 2. Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> AGM

Agreed to be a correct record.

#### 3. Matters arising

From the minutes - none.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

David reported things to be going well, Institute merger proving very helpful, Village Society was generating funds and once the refurbishment of the Institute had taken place it was hoped increased use would make managing the building financially viable. £20000 had been received from the Leeds Bradford airport funding and £4000 from the Area Committee. A further £32500 had been applied for through WREN. It was planned to use the £20000 to implement Phase 1 of the Institute work which would involve extending the existing kitchen into a part of the boiler house and making a hatch through into the extension. Both kitchen and extension would be refurbished. The past year had seen the installation of a new and more efficient boiler.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report.

Stephen presented his 28<sup>th</sup> report. Since the Lottery began £29000 had been raised and £11500 been distributed in prize money. Village Green and graveyard maintenance accounted for a large part of the expenditure over the past year - the Stepping Stones II group providing very good value for money. David urged residents to show their appreciation of the SSII personnel if they passed whilst they were working. Steve Foster proposed the accounts be adopted and he was seconded by Pauline Horne. If anyone would like full copy of accounts please contact Stephen.



## 6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

There have been seven resignations from the Society and Institute committee during the past year, there is certainly room for anyone wishing to join. Stephen proposed the officers and committee be elected en bloc and he was seconded by Val Muff. David commented that although there was now a joint committee, the finances of the Society and Institute were kept separate. There had been no-one to deliver the spring newsletters to the 480 houses off Swine Lane. David had delivered them all and asked for volunteers to cover this area in future. Town Councillor Ian Wilson offered to assist. About 50 residents there held lottery numbers.

## 7. Election of Auditor

Michael Millar volunteered to audit the accounts for the coming year and he was thanked by the Chairman.

## 8. Village Green Maintenance

Pauline said that the centre bed was to be renovated and approval was given to a MIB request for funds of £160 to carry out the work. Dog waste was being put into the bin adjacent to the benches and a request was to be made to the Council for the bin to be repositioned away from the seats. The possibility of a politely worded sign

requesting residents not to allow their dogs to foul this area was discussed. Three maintenance visits had been made to the graveyard this year.

The re-siting of the post box was taking forever! The latest email, full of apologies for the delays (now well over a year), assured that the box would be removed and re-sited within the next six months and that contact would be made with the Society for approval for the new site. That was on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, so maybe by Christmas.

A telegraph pole had been replaced at the top of the village opposite Green End Road. Unfortunately the postbox that had been affixed to the old one had not been replaced - not current policy apparently. Enquiries resulted in information that the box also **maybe** re-sited and they are looking at locations. The bottom of Alma had been suggested. A forceful argument was put forward that a box needed to be re-sited near the previous one to allow residents at each end of the village to have access.

## 9. Morton Lottery projects

Mick Craven said this was going well and they were working hard to maintain 500 numbers, which they felt to be the right amount. David commented that the Lottery was a tremendous benefit to the village and wished to thank Mick and Karen very much for their hard work in keeping it going.

The view from the seat on Carr Lane overlooking the golf course was now obscured by trees. David Heaton had offered to move it. A letter of thanks was to be sent to Mr Heaton who had been very generous over the years in many ways, and having lately entertained the 'Yorkshire in Bloom' judges twice at the Golf Club.

The constructing of a path across the top of the recreation ground to Clifftone Drive was mentioned. A quote had been obtained last year of £2445 which was felt to be quite competitive. Val Muff suggested trying for funding from Safer Routes to School.

David wished we could buy our own speed camera! Our local councillors had lodged an official complaint about lack of a Police presence at KNF meeting to discuss traffic matters on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

## 10. Morton in Bloom

Pauline gave a resume of what had taken place this year. The MIB committee had worked as hard as they could and more helpers would have been really helpful, although many residents had improved their own 'patch'. The judges had visited twice, to different sites, giving pointers after their first visit. David said that the MIB volunteers had made a tremendous difference to the village, transforming several areas. A letter of thanks was to be sent to Malcolm Ward for the donation of

the wooden wheelbarrow made from recycled wood. Work was scheduled for Carr Lane - more bulb planting and an improvement to the area on the east side of the sign, introducing shrub planting to a very poor area of grass. If anyone had any shrubs they wished to donate they would be most welcome. The judges had noted the rusty East Morton sign. Improvements to that would be looked at.

## Any Other Business

**Institute Account** - Mick Craven presented his first accounts. Hiring had increased by 76%. A good amount of income had been generated by the dance and quiz. No grants had been received during the past year and income was insufficient to cover expenditure, which included very little maintenance as refurbishment would soon be taking place. Sufficient funds are available for Phase 1 but WREN do not wish this to begin until they have made their decision on the application for £32500. A dialogue would be set up about this. Looking towards the future, it was hoped that following complete refurbishment, revenue would be increased. However fundraising activities must be initiated to make the building viable. There were questions on the cleaning and Mick said that a more professional approach would be used once the renovations were completed. More use of the building was urged, and

**SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2009**  
**MORTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE**  
**FANCY DRESS PRIZES**  
**50s, 60s, 70s, NIGHT**  
**FANCY DRESS PREFERRED**  
**GROOVY DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC**  
**DOORS OPEN 7.30 PM**  
**Get Your Ya Yas Out..**  
**..and come to this**  
**Supper Included**  
**bar**  
Please send cheque (Made out to Morton Village Society) & SAE to: 6 Studley Close, East Morton, BD20 5TW.  
Tickets: £8 each if bought before Sept 30th, £9 thereafter  
Entrance by ticket only  
Contact: karenredhead@hotmail.co.uk or 01274 560279

## Best kept gardens & tubs competitions

Our thanks to the 'Best Kept Garden' judge. The following gardens and frontages were chosen after spring and summer walks around the village, congratulations go to:-

### Gardens

**First Prize - East Morton Primary School.** Now maturing into an established garden, it shows a lovely balance of shrubs and flowers as well as fruit and vegetables. Obviously very well cared for - congratulations to the whole team. (see pictures opposite)

**Second Prize - 9 St Luke's Terrace** (the end of the terrace opposite the school). The owners are clearly very keen gardeners surrounding every inch of their house with plants wherever possible. Careful use of climbers, tubs and hanging baskets on the front and side of the house give colour and life to what would otherwise be bare stone walls. The back garden is packed with colour and can be seen from across the field behind.

**Third Prize - 133 Morton Lane** (modern detached house next to terrace on bend in road) Borders filled with a huge selection of plants giving all year round interest and colour.

### Tubs & Baskets

**First prize - 15 Wensleydale Way** (up Saxilby Road on Waterside Fold). Very impressive view from the main road below - long stretch of railings covered in wisteria and beautifully and imaginatively planted tubs. The back garden is enclosed, but I suspect is a joy to behold!

**Second Prize - 5 Otley Road** (next to the old co-op building - with two front doors). A challenging spot without a great deal of direct sunlight, but always well tended and colourful - bound to be noticed by all passing through the village.

**Third Prize - 2 Thorneycroft Road** (first house on right hand side on entering to road into Waterside Fold). A very pretty and frothy display of hanging baskets to welcome all into Waterside Fold.

many suggestions made including a monthly drop-in event as had been mentioned last year.

**Pre-School group** - this would be formed on completion of the work in the Institute. They had requirements, as did the Institute, but the plan was for five sessions per week to fit around existing bookings.

**Busfeild Arms** - still believed to be for sale, understood that the present landlord had a 12 month lease.

David thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

## Accident on Alma/Traffic problems in village

In response to public opinion following the fatal accident to Colin Chew in the spring, a Senior Highways Engineer, Bruce Andrews, was invited to attend the regular Keighley Neighbourhood Forum meeting to address local concerns on traffic issues. The Institute was full - standing room only - reflecting the strength of local feeling on the subject of road safety within the village. It was felt that the incident in which Colin was killed was an accident waiting to happen and that East Morton as a community needed to work together to ensure significant improvements were made. There was dissatisfaction at the time being taken over the accident investigations.

Immediately following the accident, David Miller, as one of the ward town councillors, had called for a ban on heavy vehicles using the route through the village. This view was held by the majority of those at the meeting. He felt the installation of speed cameras would address the issue of cars exceeding the 20mph limit - also a popular suggestion.

Residents reported several recent incidents of cars passing through the village at excessive speed, and the Police had been informed. The Police did not enforce the 20mph limit but were willing to train local people to operate the speed guns. So far, this offer had not been taken up. Sue Gledhill who chaired the meeting, knew of no-one who had been prosecuted for speeding within the 20mph zone and she urged the use of the Crimestoppers number for reporting incidents, not 999.

The inclusion of Alma within the 20mph limit was generally thought to be a mistake, it was not impossible, but difficult, to maintain this speed on the hill and there had been instances of large vehicles losing traction. Reducing from 50mph to 20mph did not seem to make sense.

Sue Gledhill introduced Bruce Andrews who said he would address issues on lorries, speeding traffic and facilities.

**Lorries** - the Abnormal Loads Section based in Leeds facilitates the movement of wide/heavy loads throughout the district and the route taken by the crane at the time of the accident was the only route that could have been authorised because of weak bridges. (Morton Lane and Swine Lane). This advised route had been used for 11 cranes in 2007 and 2008 and 2 more since the accident. There was much strong feeling against the use of this route and mention made of previous fatal accidents. Residents urged further investigation into the weight limits of the bridges, including the one at the bottom of Alma, and priority given to any required strengthening. Bruce said that the Structures Department had an ongoing programme of checking bridges. When future requests are received for the passage of large/heavy vehicles through the village, local (Police) knowledge should be sought. Satellite navigation had caused some complications with routing. Residents were sceptical of the figures from a recent traffic census which had taken place over a 12 hour period showing, on average, only 2 HGVs using the route from the mini roundabout along Carr Lane (classed as one manoeuvre) in every hour. Examples were cited of repeated use of the route by lorries, particularly during the recent construction of the new Asda store in Keighley. Why did these lorries have to use the route through the village? One resident queried whether the local authority carried out origin destination surveys. **Calming** - we have a 20mph zone but no calming. There was budget for two additional permanent activated signs, one just before Alma and the other by the school on the approach to the build up. Additional signs did not seem popular at all and Bruce was willing to put forward traffic calming as an alternative. Pneumatic tubes were suggested as a means of slowing through traffic. Speed cameras were the best method of speed restriction but the required criterion was that three people would need to be killed or seriously injured in a five year period over a certain stretch of road. Bruce commented that some felt they were a means of raising revenue. Should not road safety take priority?

**Facilities** - parents with small children and older residents experienced great difficulty in crossing the road safely due to volume and speed of traffic. To have a crossing in the centre of the village would make a real difference. This was an improvement everyone would like to see.

The local councillors and Sue Gledhill agreed to set up a future meeting between themselves, the local Police Inspector and a small group of residents to look at all the issues raised at the meeting.

# East Morton School

## East Morton in Bloom

On Friday 10th July members of East Morton CE Primary School's gardening club met with judges of Yorkshire in Bloom as part of their visit to the village.

The school gardening club is very popular with children attending every Wednesday afternoon for an hour after school, under the guidance of Angela Kennedy, parent and gardener. The young gardeners work in teams, each team having their own plot of garden to grow vegetables. This team spirit encourages children to work cooperatively as they care for their produce.

The judges were taken on a tour of the garden, from the greenhouse, the compost area, the vegetable plots and the enclosed willow seated area, where children love to sit at playtime.

The young gardeners impressed judges with their horticultural knowledge, naming plants and explaining why certain vegetables - sweet corn - had been planted in blocks rather than rows. (This process allows for pollination.) They also showed the judges the unique planters ranging from a Wellington boot, a kettle, a wicker basket to massive baked bean cans that had been recycled from the school kitchen and filled with flowers to brighten the entrance to school.

Jake Smith, a Y5 pupil and member of the gardening club, explained why he enjoyed spending time in the garden. 'The garden is a good place to be calm, relax and even chill out.'



Y2 member, Lois Crowder, said: 'I like gardening club because I've not got a garden at home.' Lucy Marsh, a Y5 pupil said: 'Gardening club is a fun way to learn new things and Mrs Kennedy is a good gardening teacher.'

Overall the members consider gardening to be fun and they enjoy working outdoors. As they showed the judges the school garden they were justifiably proud of their achievements.

## Morton Village Lottery

We now have around 500 members in the Lottery, remember after prize money all proceeds go to Village Society. You will see the details on opposite page for our next Lottery party.

### Latest winners:

#### May

£100 L Leggat; £50 C Langhorn;  
£25 C Hooper; £15 J Atkinson;  
£10 J Foster

#### June

£100 A Hiley; £50 H Howarth  
£25 S Brear; £15 S Davies;  
£10 B Rhodes

#### July

£100 J & D Blight; £50 H Crabtree  
£25 S Brear; £15 P Collett;  
£10 D Taylor

#### August

£100 A Clough; £50 D Davies  
£25 C Bullock; £15 L Leggatt;  
£10 S Nicklin

### Gala Day winners were:

£200 S Pounder  
£50 M McCormack

## WANTED

Are there any budding web-site designers in the village?

We need help from someone with both the time and skills to turn our website into a useful and informative source of information, please contact

Stephen on email  
stephen@prestset.co.uk  
if you would like to help



## Christmas Cards

### in aid of Morton Village Society

10 cards @ £5 · 50 cards @ £24

100 cards @ £45 · 200 cards @ £84

Includes red envelope. Personalization also available - minimum 50 cards - 50 @ £44, 100 @ £75, 200 @ £134 (for different quantities, contact Karen) Details to Stephen at Prestset - Email [stephen@prestset.co.uk](mailto:stephen@prestset.co.uk) or Tel 518299

10% discount if ordered before Monday 12th October

Cards available from Monday 9th November from Prestset, Bethel Hall, (back of Congregational Chapel).

If ordered through school please collect from school.

Contact details - Karen Redhead - Tel 560279 Email [karenredhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:karenredhead@hotmail.co.uk)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Total £ \_\_\_\_\_

Send order form with cheque (payable to Morton Village Society) to Karen Redhead, 6 Studley Close, East Morton, BD20 5TW

### *Village Christmas card original painting for sale*

Based on a watercolour of the village pub which has been kindly painted by local fine artist, John Morris to help raise funds for the village. We are selling the original painting which can be seen at Prestset, (behind Bethel Chapel) and offers (above £150) should be made in writing (before end November) to Karen Redhead, 6 Studley Close, East Morton BD20 5TW Tel 560279

Prints are also available, either framed (£20) or unframed (£10) contact Karen for details.

### *Another great Quiz Night*

A very successful Quiz night was held in the Institute on 2 July 09 to raise funds for 'Morton in Bloom', total raised was £220. St Luke's were the winning team (does this sound familiar) - comprising of Barbara and Tony Cullingworth, Tony Davies, Elaine Pitt and Dave Thornton. Well done!

Our thanks again go to the Compiler and Question Master Jack Doyle, who was assisted by Nancy Gore. Many thanks to all who helped in making this evening such a success. The Institute had a great atmosphere – full of people enjoying themselves.

*Important date for your diary*

*Institute Quiz 4th February 2010*

## East Morton Gala 2009

This years East Morton Gala was perhaps one of the best yet – and that is the comment of visitors not a relieved committee!

Combining new attractions with old favourites is a fine balance and judging by your comments we seem to be hitting the mark.

All the planning in the world though would not work if the weather was against us but again this year the sun shone! It seemed a miracle that after the torrential overnight rain the recreation ground was dry enough to set up the stalls.

The greatest pleasure for the Gala committee is that so many people turn up to enjoy the day – and that is what it is all about. The Gala is for everyone in the village young and old – whether you come to take part in the parade, enter competitions, have a go on the stalls and side shows or just want to walk round and have a cuppa and home made cake in the Institute. It is that chance for the whole village to come together.

So a huge THANK YOU to everyone who came to support the day, to those we don't see all year but who come to set up in the morning and those giving up a little of their time to man a stall and most of all for the kind comments.

You have all helped us make the 2009 Gala a huge success and one of the most profitable. Money raised goes towards next years event and any surplus is donated to village groups. Any ideas for next year? Would you like to join our small friendly committee? Call Kathy Myers 01274 567174.



# Morton Village Society

## Aiming to preserve your village