

Morton Village Society

Minutes of 31st AGM and Newsletter No 73 - 2012

www.mortonvillage.org.uk



Take the enthusiasm of Barbara Evans, the wonderful support of the Village Society, Institute committee, Busfeild Arms, Gala committee and many, many residents. Add a large crowd in the mood to celebrate, a benevolent day of weather, and what do you get? A recipe for success! The village Jubilee celebration in The Recreation Ground during the afternoon and early evening of June 4th were an occasion enjoyed by everyone who was there. It feels like ages ago now and since then there have been the school Fun Day, the Gala, Institute events - not to mention the Olympics. However, I believe that this particular celebration will be remembered in Morton for many years to come. Several residents have commented said that this type of event should be held every year, but if so, it would not be special. Anyway we have our great Gala Day, which is still going after 50+ years and enjoyed by successive generations - definitely an unbeatable local event of its kind.

Perhaps the future will provide another opportunity to come together and celebrate in the way we did on our Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Jubilee Report - East Morton's Picnic in the Park

East Morton's Picnic in the Park for the Queens Diamond Jubilee was a massive community success. Villagers in their hundreds arrived at the recreation ground on Bank Holiday Monday to celebrate together, listening to live music sponsored by the East Morton Village Society and the Busfeild Arms. Remarkably the sun shone while families and friends sat together for the six hour event listening to a busker, a jazz band and an Irish Ceildh band.

Children enjoyed a bouncy castle and face painting, while a BBQ was run by volunteers and a bar was run by the pub. An ice cream van was also booked for the afternoon. Village resident Nancy Gore was "Queen" for the day, welcoming everyone onto the recreation ground and chatted to her "subjects".

A magnificent three feet by two feet Jubilee cake, made by resident Maxine Sains, was officially cut by Nancy and served to those attending. A raffle for the Parkinson's charity raised a total of £546 and Barclays Bank matched this amount. A collection was also made during the afternoon in aid of the charity which raised £630. Further money was raised from BBQ sales and a £50 donation came from the ice cream company. The total raised for Parkinson's came to a massive £1946

As the sun continued to shine young and old set up an impromptu cricket match rounding off a unique event which was all about a community getting together to celebrate a very special 60 years on the throne for the Queen.

"I am absolutely staggered at the numbers who arrived it was almost like Gala day! Families and friends kept arriving all afternoon," said organiser Barbara.

"We had a magnificent hamper and vouchers for the raffle and had official Parkinson's buckets and just asked for donations the face painting, bouncy castle and teas and coffees - people were so generous. "There was just a small committee to head up this Jubilee event who all worked really hard to come up with ideas which would appeal to everyone." "The Gala committee kindly gave us some of their contacts, put up bunting and the tent for the Busfeild Bar. Richard Tassell helped with music contacts, Mary Appleby and Dave Willoughby with banners, the Maughan family and friends ran the BBQ and others offered their time on and before the day selling tickets and clearing up after the event. "I think the whole village should pat itself on the back for making this such a special event," said Barbara.



Silver Gilt for Morton-in-Bloom

We are delighted to announce that East Morton has for the second year running been awarded a SILVER GILT award by Yorkshire in Bloom.

This award is the second highest award possible and we are particularly delighted to be able to retain this high level that we achieved in 2010. Our aim in 2012 was to be able to consolidate and build on the progress we have already made, we are delighted to have achieved that.

The judges said the route was well presented and we had a lot of impressive on going projects for the future months. Other areas that were commended include the toilet area, the new wildflower project and the Village Green. Recognition was also made of the work we do with other groups in the village, which was pleasing to us as this is a community based project. Mention was made of the Busfeild pub and the donation of the wheel on the Green. All in all this year has been a big success. It would be nice if we could gain more volunteers to include a larger area of the village in the future. Photo below shows Pauline holding the Certificate with Lee and John all looking very pleased with the hard work that went into achieving this prize.



SEE SUPPLEMENT FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE



Orchard Update and Apple Day

The fruit trees in the community orchard have had a hard first summer in the ground, although thankfully the majority have survived and are doing well. Feast Morton are holding another **Apple Day** to celebrate the orchard and all things apple-related, which is taking place on Saturday 20 October from 2pm at the Institute. As last year, we'll have a variety of events taking place for children and adults, including apple-bobbing, teas and cakes, showings of Russ Jeanes' film about planting, plus the opportunity to find out more about future plans for the orchard.

We also hope to start an East Morton **'apple map'**, showing all the different fruit trees in and around the village. So if you have a fruit tree in your garden come along and tell us about it, plus you can bring one of the fruits which we'll log for the project records.

Over the summer we have carried out several weeding sessions to keep the area around each tree weed-free, and we have lightly pruned the trees to remove some of the excess growth from inside the tree guards. We keep a regular check on the trees and their guards, but if you do spot any problems please let us know by emailing feastmorton@hotmail.co.uk. This is also the address to use if you would like to get involved with the group, we'd love to hear from you.

We are also busy planning the next planting phase over the coming winter which will see around a dozen more fruit trees planted to complete the orchard. Alongside this we are continuing to work with Bradford Council on managing the orchard area as a meadow, as set out in our original plans last year. We have had very helpful support and advice from Bob Thorpe, Tree & Woodland Manager, and Mel Smith, Area Parks Manager, at the Council who are keen to work with us to turn the site into a meadow managed for wildflowers. This means getting the mowing regime right, encouraging the spread of interesting flowers and grasses and, of course, ensuring that there are well-mown paths through the site so that people can easily walk through. Many thanks to Bob and Mel for supporting the orchard.

We look forward to seeing you at the Village Institute on Saturday 20 October for Apple Day!



Best Kept Garden Frontage Results

After carrying out their spring and summer walk around the village, the judges have selected the following as winners this year.

Best Kept Garden - Sheila and Mike Witham of 1 Whitestone Drive;

Runners up - Mary and Trevor Appleby of 24 Morton Grove.

Winners of the frontage - Christine and John Crowther of 12 Green End Road;

Runners up - Alison Standley and Malcolm Scatchard of 5 The Square.

The judges wished to commend the Morton in Bloom planting on the village green, which they felt deserving of special mention.

The Best Kept Garden has been run informally by the Society since 1990, with a break of only two years when a judge could not be found. Gardens and frontage have to be visible to passers by. During that period, several different people have carried out judging anonymously and the winners have been their choice alone.



Minutes

The Chairman David Miller, extended a welcome to those attending the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Rhona Emmott and Michael Millar. The Minutes of the 30th Annual Meeting had been published in newsletter No. 70 and there were no matters arising from them.

Chairman's Report - David commented that East Morton is a nice place to live and thanks to Morton in Bloom, in recent years has looked beautiful. He referred to the energy of the various groups in the village - the Institute committee driving its refurbishment and its subsequent popularity creating a venue for all sorts of events, the team of volunteers who opened the local toilet facility, the Gala and more recently, the successful Jubilee event one of a very few in the area, all contribute towards making East Morton a great community. These things and many more have given residents an enviable quality of life here. He regretted the loss of the shop and Post Office but we now have a popular and attractive Busfeld Arms.

Treasurer's Report for the Society - Stephen Duxbury reported on the 31st set of accounts, which recorded a deficit for the past year. He was comfortable with that as funds raised by the Lottery, the biggest source of income, should be spent on projects within the village. Stephen urged residents to support Karen Redhead and Barbara Evans who run the Lottery. There were still about 100 copies of the Morton booklet remaining. It was suggested the Society try to obtain the Ben Rhodes photographic record of the village. Ben's son had recently died and David would contact the family after a due period of time. It was approaching the time when an update of the booklet could be undertaken.

The expenditure on insurance covers the public liability of the Green. The expenditure on signs was

for two notice boards erected at Waterside Fold. These were maintained by Geoff Finnerty, who commented that they were working effectively.

Treasurer's Report for the Institute - Mick Craven reported on a very good year with plenty of hirings, both regular and one-off. The current year will be as good if not better than 2011 and the facility had been turned around from three/four years ago. There were a cross section of events and the committee comprised a small hard working group of people.

David added that the village institute had put the money received from the sale of Leeds/Bradford airport, a portion of which had been donated to various village institutes locally, to very good use and Morton now has one of the best village halls in the area.

Both sets of accounts would be displayed for inspection in the entrance hall of the Institute.

Election of Officers and Committee - from the current committee, Steve Foster had stood down this year. The Society committee functioned as an umbrella to the other organisations - Institute, Feast Morton and Morton in Bloom, and members of those groups sat on the Society committee. This seemed to be working well. There were no volunteers or nominations for the coming year and Lee Senior proposed that the current committee and officers be elected en bloc. This seemed a popular move with everyone!

Election of Auditor - Stephen proposed that Michael Millar continue to audit both sets of accounts and all were happy for this to take place.

Institute Report - Karen Redhead reported on a fantastic year. The committee recognised the need to keep the building refurbished to a good standard and would set aside about £6,000 per year to be used for this purpose. Recently a new carpet had been laid in the entrance passage and soon the hall floor would be stripped and resurfaced. Things were quiet due

to the summer holiday period although Morton Meet continued to be a popular place to be on Thursday afternoons. They were very pleased to welcome Nicola back to do the cleaning after the birth of her baby and Geoff Finnerty was now undertaking the bookings.

Village Green maintenance – as always the green looks really good thanks to MIB and Stephen confirmed that the rental was £10 per annum. The Green End Road chapel graveyard has also been maintained this year.

Morton Lottery - this is an important source of income and Karen asked for volunteers to chase up their neighbours who had either not joined the Lottery or who had let their number lapse. A record number of people had joined at the Gala this year. Stephen said that since 1st July, to date £1,120 had been received in lottery funding. David said that this income keeps the village looking nice which benefits all who live here.

Morton in Bloom – Lee extended thanks to everyone who had helped this year. Judging had taken place and results would be announced at York racecourse on 18th September. The weather had caused problems and a supplier had let them down with bedding but after a four-week delay, the green looked good now. There were plans to revitalise the heather and conifers and areas of wildflowers had been planted around the village. They looked to do more of this. The judges had commented that an interactive panel on the green/a series of heritage walks would be something to consider. Feast Morton looked to develop their community orchard as an educational resource for the school. Stephen commented that the trees at the top of the Recreation ground adjacent to Cliffstone Drive could do with thinning out.

David thanked people for lots of good ideas to be thought about and hopefully put into action.

Any other business – David introduced Sheila Barton who explained about setting up a monthly produce market in the Institute. Four were planned as a trial run, beginning in September. The aim was for a variety of quality stalls set up by people starting small business. There was a lot to do to get this established and it was hoped it would be a popular and successful addition to the events held in the Institute.

Pauline commented that the Gala had been particularly good this year, especially as the Gala committee had been unable to fully use the field due to the weather.

Lee informed the meeting that Keighley Town Council had taken over responsibility for adopting the telephone kiosk and it would be repainted. He also thought that BMDC were looking to offload responsibility for the toilets. This was to be monitored. Geoff said that there had two theatre bookings for the Institute this autumn. .

David thanked all those who volunteered to make East Morton such a good place to live.

Beware - burglaries

There have been five burglaries and at least one attempted burglary in the village in the last month - please be aware and keep your doors and windows locked and valuables out of sight.



Morton Market

Village Hall · 10am - 3pm
Sunday December 9th

Come along to a pre-Christmas Market, on your doorstep. There will be a range of fresh, wholesome, and healthy produce on sale. Talk to the stall holders and find out what they do and how passionate they are about what they make and grow. Order your Christmas roast if you haven't already done so, from a high quality traditional butcher who only buys the best local produce. Take advantage of the chance to order a regular veg boxes from one of the few organic growers in the region, or a 'bread bag' for the freezer, from the innovative and newly opened 'Creative Bread' Kitchen.

Look forward to choosing from a wide range of health foods, Yorkshire cheeses, eggs, local honey, jams, preserves and pickles, herbal health and beauty products, fresh cut flowers and plants, take the time to restore yourselves with freshly baked cakes and a cup of tea.

There will be something for everybody with a range of gift possibilities. So come along and support your community and small businesses in your area.

We are still open to anyone with an interest in selling their products and any volunteers interested in helping with refreshments. Please contact: Sheila at smbarton1@live.com. 01274 564653/07512 063437 or Jane at jane@slaterandclay.co.uk 01274 564122

School Corner

The Diamond Jubilee and build up to the Olympics certainly made school a vibrant and colourful place to be in the Summer Term and our Y6 leavers finished the term off with a fantastic production of The Wizard of Oz. Their residential visit to Robinwood Activity Centre was extremely wet but they all had a fantastic time. Already the new term has started well with lots of exciting learning including a Toy workshop for Y1 pupils and a visit from the fire service to Y2.

We have a number of volunteers from the village who support our reading programme as well as offering other skills; if you could offer some time please contact the school office on 569447. Our community lunch programme also continues on the 3rd Thursday of the month - if you would like to attend, again please contact the school office.

Upcoming events: 9th November Race Night; 24th November Christmas Fayre.

St Luke's Church



At St Luke's this autumn we have a full programme of the regular weekly and some special events to look forward to; our main Sunday service is at 11am with our Family Service once a month (14th Oct, 18th Nov & 9th Dec) and a Parish communion with Sunday school on the other weeks; our Youth Club meets every Monday evening during Term time from 7pm – 8.30pm at the Meeting Room, Banks Lane Riddlesden; our choir practise every Wednesday evening in church from 8pm - 9pm, going on to the Busfield for a drink after; and I and others from St Luke's have a regular involvement at East Morton Primary. Do get in touch if you want to get involved or find out more.

Harvest Festival 11am on Sunday 30th September - A celebration of the amazing world we live in and a chance to give thanks to God for all the good things we enjoy. As previously please do bring donations of tinned and dried food which will go to Keighley Salvation Army and Bevan House, who work with asylum seekers in Bradford.

Remembrance Sunday 10.30am on Sunday 11th November at Morton Congregational Chapel - A united service of Remembrance for East Morton with a procession to the Memorial Institute where wreaths will be laid.

St Luke's Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1st December at the Institute

May God bless you. Revd Mike Cansdale. Tel 01535 603419 or michael.cansdale@bradford.anglican.org

Jigsaw Festival

St. Luke's Church, East Morton - we are holding a Jigsaw Festival next year and are hoping to make it a huge success. Proceeds will be shared between the church and a cancer charity. Hundreds of completed jigsaws will be on display and they will be available to buy, dismantle, take home and do them, safe in the knowledge that all pieces are there! There will also be refreshments available - tea, coffee and cakes.

We are looking for people to donate jigsaws and for people to make them up. If you think you can help in any way, do contact Sally Dow on sallydow@btinternet.com or 01274 565479 or 07891 904721.



We have had a positive year inspite of the well-documented wettest summer on record! our bedding plants were later to flower then we would have liked, but they got there in the end.

The new tub we have at the top of Alma has attracted some good comments and it is certainly exposed to the weather in that location! It is doing very well, now let us see what winter brings.

This autumn we are turning our attention towards wildflowers and bulb planting. We are planting in excess of 100 kg of daffodil bulbs around the village. In particular we have planted bulbs and wildflowers around much of the Institute area of the rec and along the wall side leading to the church. This will supplement the work we have already started along The Butts, next to St Lukes Church. This wonderful lane, is already starting to benefit from the wildflowers we have put in this year, with more to come next year. The village lends itself to more wildflowers being planted in general and we should all try to do more to encourage bees and insects, many of which are in national decline. Wildflowers are cost-effective, permanent and provide a variety of colours during the summer months.

Our final advertised working party of this year is the usual first Saturday in the month (Oct 6th). We are then having a break until we resume on the first Saturday in February 2013 (Saturday 2nd Feb) it is likely we may be about in between times though as we still have the Green to re-plant for winter, with primroses recycled from last winter, to save costs and resources.

Finally we would like to thank all at the Fardew Golf club for their continued support to MIB and we send our condolences at this sad time.

Morton Women's Institute

Our programme this year started with a surprise/shock for some of our members. The programme showed that in February Rob Senior would talk to us about his project "MacMillan Minibeasts. Unfortunately some members just scanned the programme and thought they were coming to a talk about McMillan Nurses, only to be confronted by a display of stick insects, snakes, small turtles and rats! The speaker was very good in ensuring that those who were afraid of these creatures were kept well clear and asked to wait outside, while more enthusiastic members were able to stroke or nurse our "guests". This was an opportunity for the WI to cover its remit of empowering women by challenging them to try something new, but at the same time protecting those who did not want to participate. We are pleased to say that no creatures escaped and were taken home safely!

Other meetings have included a cake icing demonstration by our President and a talk on how to take everything we would need for a week/10 days holiday in Greece, using only one piece of aircraft hand luggage. Beachwear to posh evening wear, and sun glasses to reading matter were all included. A story teller has entertained us with amusing and interesting anecdotes and we are looking forward to being entertained with Magic, Mirth and Mystery, and to hearing about the Rebuilding of Windsor Castle after the Fire. We will also learn how to make Origami Boxes before our Christmas party.

An evening visit to ASA Nicholson bakery allowed us to bake our own small loaves and enjoy a pleasant meal. The Aire Gap Group of WIs summer outing was different this year because instead of visiting a Stately Home or Garden we had a very reasonably priced coach trip to York. The coach park was very close to the City Centre and everyone was free to spend the day as they wished. While some visited the attractions, others spent their time exploring the shops. The weather was kind and the consensus was that this had been a very pleasant day. We have also visited Leeds Grand Theatre where we had talks from Opera North staff, after which we were given lunch and then taken to the Theatre Auditorium where we watched "Carousel". Our more energetic members had a "taster" day of Nordic Walking on Ilkley Moor.

Despite a couple of members moving away or leaving through ill health, our numbers continue to increase. If you would like to join us come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.20 p.m.

Gala 2012

We all doubted, it but the weather shone down on the Gala bringing out villagers to support in their hundreds! With heavy rain falling for almost a week before the event and a huge area of the centre of the recreation ground was unusable but the quickly rearranged the layout worked really well.

Everyone came dressed for the rain but when the sun shone all afternoon there were smiles all round. We wondered how we could top last year's 50th anniversary Gala success so we worked hard to find new attractions which would interest all age groups...

The train, climbing wall, ponies, cub carts and the produce tent were a huge hit judging by the feedback. Old favourites like the coconut shy and tombola all sold out and BBQ made its best ever profit! Takings at the Gala were less than last year, which we put down to the threat of heavy rain reducing attendance slightly plus the number of village events held in the weeks leading up to the Gala, but we will certainly be able to once again make donations to village organisations.

The Gala committee's only disappointment was how few people came in the morning to help set up. There was a race against time to be ready for the parade arriving on the field at 1pm. We have some very large tents now and need six to eight people to help put each one up.

Manpower in the morning is vital to the success of the day - so strong willing helpers please put next year's Gala date of Sunday July 14th in your diary! We are always interested in new activities, games, stalls etc so if you have ideas you think may work please call Kathy 01274 567174.

East Morton Gala AGM on Tuesday January 15th 2013 - 8 pm Institute



Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village