



# Minutes of 33rd AGM and Newsletter

No 79 - 2014

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

## The saga of the Morton Toilets! (to be continued)

It was Leslie Gore who actually built the toilets many years ago. Bradford then claimed them and have maintained them ever since.

However, Bradford Council will cease to be responsible for them as from 15th February 2015. What they have done for some years now, is expect the "Morton Toilet Army" led by David Miller who has eight other kind volunteers to open them each morning. At various times in the afternoon between 3pm and 5pm two cleaners appear, go in and five minutes later sit in their van to think and rest from their labours.

However, as from 15th February 2015, the toilets will become the responsibility of some other body. Morton Village Society have been asked to take on this responsibility - financially we are fortunate that Keighley Town Council will help very considerably thanks to Councillor Mick Westerman and Lee Senior the Allotments Officer.

So there is time to plan ahead. Ideas and suggestions include provision of an honesty box - suggested charge probably 20p to defray expenses. The 'Morton Toilet Army' will, I hope continue to open them but the toilets will need to be locked again - say at 6pm. Furthermore, they will also need to be cleaned, possibly twice a week for which a cleaner would need to be reimbursed provided that we can find a volunteer to clean them at a rate to be decided. If there should be anyone willing to undertake this task please let me know (01274 569286) or any member of the Village Society Committee. Fortunately we have time to prepare for the grand re-opening. David Miller



## It's GOLD for Morton-in-Bloom

Yes, at our 4th attempt we received the top award from Yorkshire-in-Bloom. Though our emphasis is on trying to add to the attractiveness of life in East Morton we can't deny being "chuffed" at winning the top honour, plus an extra Discretionary Yorkshire Rose Award for our display celebrating Britain-in-Bloom's 50th anniversary.

It hasn't been an easy year particularly with the dry weather in early summer which delayed the development of many plants, the demand for watering and the reduced level of street cleaning by the council. Gold has not come solely through the efforts of our regular working team. Significantly, more households made an effort with flower displays at the front of their properties. The Busfeld Arms' riotous colour is a magnificent addition to the charm of Main Street and it isn't surprising that the pub won gold again for their individual entry in the competition. Congratulations also to *Feast Morton* for their work on the orchard and attaining 'Outstanding' in the Community Awards category. The judges, who look beyond our standard of horticulture and to the equality of our communal life were impressed by our being able to introduce them to so many villagers who contribute to our village life through the varied activities offered at that vital hub - the Institute. It was also noted that we invited them to judge us the day after the village Gala because we had justified confidence in the Gala group's conscientious approach to cleaning up before the next morning. Well done to them.

These are a few of the judges' comments in their final report:

- "the village is very clean and tidy"
- "the judges were impressed by the number and friendliness of all the people we met"
- "good mix of plant material using both permanent and annual"
- "maximising opportunities to develop available land on the recreation ground and wildflower meadows"
- "involvement of the school was outstanding, especially the enthusiasm and knowledge of the children"
- "runner beans using a tree for support and community planters cared for by villagers"

Our thanks to all who have helped us this year and to those whose work in previous years helped lay the foundations for our success.

As always we call for more helpers; our band is small and even a little work is appreciated. We can be found on the village green at 10am on the first Saturday of every month.

Telephone contact can be made to either: Jo Dix 568472 or David Flaherty 01274 515844



**The Morton Meet**  
Every Thursday  
2 - 4pm

**Tea / Coffee & Cake £1**  
**Everyone Welcome**

## First World War Centenary A weekend of commemoration

8th and 9th November 2014

East Morton War Memorial Institute

- Exhibition 'Life in 1914' - free entry all weekend
- Edwardian 'High Tea' with poetry, readings and songs from 1914 on Saturday 2pm. Tickets £5 from Rhona 07777 637363 (any profits will be donated to Poppy Appeal).
- Ian Dewhirst MBE speaks on 'Keighley and the Great War' on Saturday 7.30pm. Tickets £4 from Rhona.
- Joint churches Remembrance Day Service on Sunday at 10.30am Congregational Chapel and Institute followed by tea/coffee in the Institute - Free of charge.

SEE INSIDE FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE

## Minutes of 33rd AGM

Minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting, held in the Institute on Monday, 28th July 2014, at 7.30pm. Councillor Malcolm Slater and Keighley Town Councillor Mick Westerman were present.

Apologies were received from Rhona Emmott, Ann Holden, Dorothy and Bob Dennis, Mick Craven and David Flaherty. The Chairman, David Miller, began by extending a welcome to those attending. The Minutes of the 32nd Annual Meeting were accepted as a correct record of events.

### Matters arising from the minutes

The splendid Village Green continues to be a great credit to all those who help maintain it. The telephone box has now "had a makeover" having been repainted and glazed. It was hoped to make a feature of it in some way. Councillor Westerman commented that Keighley Town Council would undertake any future repainting needed on the box.

### Chairman's Report

David Miller said all matters brought before the committee had been discussed and moved forward in a businesslike and amicable manner.

### Treasurer's report

Stephen presented and itemised his 33rd report, showing a small surplus for the year and £6,221 in the Bank. Morton Lottery, managed by Barbara Evans and Karen Redhead (and Stephen) accounted for this healthy figure. Although a lot of work, without the Lottery the Society would not be able to function in the same way. Karen Redhead proposed the adoption of the accounts and all were in favour.

### Election of officers and committee

The names of the current fifteen committee members were read out. These included Barbara Evans as a nominee from the Institute committee and another nominated from Feast Morton. The Secretary proposed David Flaherty as a new member, seconded by Jo Dix. There were no other nominations. The current officers were elected en bloc for the coming year.

### Election of auditor

Stephen proposed Michael Millar continue as auditor, seconded by David.

### Institute report

For the Institute committee, Karen said that the snooker table had now been removed and currently the specification was out to builders to tender for the renovation of the room to include soundproofing. In the longer term, they were looking at window replacement, which would reduce heating costs and were hoping there may be grants available to contribute towards the costs of this. Also improvements to the stone frontage and to outside doors were another project for future consideration. The Council were no longer able to carry out these replacements. Rhona had found an old document indicating how the stone frontage was planned initially but due to costs, never took place. The Institute committee hoped

the Village Society might make a financial contribution towards these projects. There were presently lots of clubs running and plenty of hiring out for private functions.

David commented on the good community spirit within the village and that we should be very proud of it and of those who help to make it so.

### Village Green maintenance

The condition of the grass was an area needing improvement and Pauline Horne said that any help on the Green would be gratefully received. The current contract for the grass cutting would be looked at, which Stephen felt was value for money. The gardener also carried out periodic tidying in the graveyard in Green End Road. Councillor Westerman suggested contacting the Keighley Area Co-ordinator's office re-help with maintenance. There are some youth schemes operating during school holiday periods. Karen said that a resident had expressed an interest in helping in the graveyard.

### Morton Lottery

Stephen reiterated that without the energy of Barbara and Karen, the Society would have very little money. Barbara said that about 30 new numbers were taken up at the Gala and there were now about 400 numbers.

### Morton-in-Bloom

The results of Yorkshire in Bloom would be announced on September 18th. Prior to judging, much work that would normally have been carried out by the Council had not been done and this involved the volunteers in some really hard graft cleaning and clearing weedy gutters and road edges that they did not wish to do again! Jo said it had been a mixed year and entry in YIB next year was yet to be discussed. She mentioned the areas MIB had developed and said a display board would be good. Local children had enjoyed planting sunflowers and she asked that anyone using the Institute during the warm weather would be helping lots if they could water the planters outside the extension. The Secretary commented on the before and after photographs MIB had displayed on judging day. It was good to see how the areas have been developed. Jo thanked Stephen for preparing the portfolios for the judges. Planting on the Green had been funded from the MIB coffee morning in the spring.

### Any other business

David explained the current position regarding the public toilets, built by Lesley Gore during his professional career. Jill Wilkinson (BMDC Ancillary Services Manager) had indicated willingness for the Society to take over the toilet block – a possibility the committee considered subject to various provisos. Lee Senior had brought this before Keighley Town Council at the beginning of July and Councillor Westerman said that providing the Society agreed to manage the opening and closing, and finding a cleaner, KTC would take care of all the bills. David was happy to continue to manage the opening rota. Lee was to survey the building to see if any remedial work needed to be carried out. David asked

the meeting to accept in principle Councillor Westerman's proposal. All were in favour. The new arrangements would not come into being until the spring of 2015, hopefully allowing sufficient time to find a cleaner and establish the opening and closing rota. Honesty boxes could be placed inside the two toilets.

There was discussion about the forthcoming change from green bin bags to brown bins. Residents would be invited to order a brown bin – some had already been notified. Only the brown bin would be emptied and not any other bags placed alongside. The green bags would be taken away on the last collection before brown bin collecting is implemented. The change is a time saving initiative apparently. Councillor Slater offered to invite a representative of the cleansing department to address the issue at the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting in the village.

David closed the meeting and thanked residents for attending.



### Obituary Eric Brunton 1925-2014

Sadly the village lost an old Mortonian very recently, Eric was known to many people in the village, he was the oldest man to have been born and still living in the village. Eric was well known for his singing and after his wife Muriel died a few years ago he wrote this poem for her.

#### She

She's not there,  
I've looked again today,  
I know that I looked yesterday  
And she wasn't there

I am sure she is here  
Her presence feels so near  
But when I turn to see  
She's gone again from me

I sit down at the table  
It seems strange on my own  
But one has to feel able  
To cope all alone

It's one plate, one fork  
One knife, no talk,  
What shall I have for sweet?  
before I have a walk

The washing up can wait  
There's hardly any to do  
It's one plate one fork  
A beaker and fruit dish too  
Bedtime comes and it's up the stairs  
She always went before me  
I follow up to see where she's gone  
But she's not there, you see  
Eric Brunton



## Tae Kwon-Do

New class Thursday 4.45 to 5.45 in the Institute, call Sabina 07791 328853.

## Weenyboppers

Preschool music, movement and song - Monday mornings at the institute - call 07748 103415



**Christmas Cake Decorating Course**  
At East Morton Institute  
Thursday 7.30-9pm  
5 weeks starting 6th Nov  
Course fee £20

Contact :  
Maxine Sains on  
0790 4973176



Presented by  
**Louise Ferne**

**EAST MORTON CHRISTMAS MAKERS FAIR**  
Saturday 29th November  
10am-1pm

Together with a variety of talented local folk we would like to invite you to this Makers Fair. Find a perfect gift, treat yourself and get into the festive spirit!

The Venue:  
East Morton, Memorial Institute  
11 Main Road,  
East Morton  
B32 5SP

For more information contact  
and @ Louise.ferne.co.uk  
07859132235

As seen on  
SANE  
ROSE KYLE  
BODY GOSHIP



**Tea n coffee at the Institute**  
8.45-9.45am Every Friday

**School Brew**  
Drop in & chat

Starting Friday 10th Oct

Don't chat at the school gate when you could be warm and dry indoors; or if you miss the playground natter now your child is older. Call in at the "School Brew" and catch up in comfort. Cost just £1 with biscuits & free refills.

slow the school run down .....



## French Night

Well the Grand Depart did not quite travel through East Morton but the village certainly welcomed the cycling circus with a special Bonjour le Tour event at the Institute.

The French themed evening was a sell out and raised a huge £946 towards the renovation of the Snooker Room. Guests were welcomed with French music and dined on a French menu!

There was a special quiz to test knowledge on all things French and guests were also invited to join Concorde's last flight by buying paper and making a "Concorde" to fly towards a Magnum of champagne - the nearest being the winner. A bar manned by two "garcons" selling French wines and beer helped raise more money too.

The evening rounded off with dancing to a professional DJ, Phil Crabtree, who also acted as MC for the evening. A massive thanks goes to French Night organiser Barbara Evans, along with her team of volunteers who staffed the evening - well done girls!

## Annual village Christmas meal

Will be held on Thursday 18th December at the Insitute. Tickets are £12 each and available from Rhona Emmott on 07777 637363. As always the event includes a full Christmas dinner, drinks, crackers, carols and the school choir.

## Institute NEW Beanlands Room

At last after a lot of hard work our new room is ready and looking fabulous, do have a peep through the windows, newly double glazed to help heat retention. At two thirds the size of the main hall it makes a great self contained room for meetings or seated classes. It has its own entrance, toilets and tea and coffee making facilities. For further details contact Mick Craven for regular bookings on 07762 230083 or mickeycraven@yahoo.co.uk. For one off bookings contact Judith on 07534 195446. This room is not suitable for children's parties .

## Linguists

Make languages fun for your little one! Come and try Teeny Linguists parent and baby/toddler group (up to 5yrs welcome too). French and Spanish available. Thursday mornings at the Memorial Institute. Call Michaela on 07729 461163 to book a free trial. Other clubs (after school times) are also available in East Morton for 3-11 year olds. Please enquire!



## School Corner

During the summer holidays, alterations were made to our Reception and Year 1 area, which has greatly improved our early years learning environment. A dedicated music room has also been created which is being utilised for music lessons; children at our village school now have the option, through the Bradford Music Service, of learning a variety of instruments including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, violin and cello, in addition to the existing guitar and keyboard lessons. The school choir are also making full use of the music room for their rehearsals, as are our newly formed Samba Band Club. Thanks to a generous donation by Friends of Morton, the music room has been furnished with a digital piano to accompany the choir and a set of percussion instruments.

In September we were delighted to welcome our new Headteacher, Mrs Kathryn Savage, to our school; Mrs Savage came to us from Baildon CE Primary School and has settled in very well. She has already made many positive changes within school and very much enjoyed the Headteacher Welcome Service led by Reverend Mike at St Luke's Church at the beginning of October.

The first of this year's fundraising events organised by Friends of Morton is a Christmas Fair, which will take place at school on Sunday 23rd November from 2-4pm. There will be a variety of stalls selling a range of gifts to help get your Christmas shopping underway, a café, a raffle and Santa's Grotto for the children. Villagers, family and friends are all welcome to attend, so we hope to see you there; by supporting these kinds of events you are enabling Friends to fund projects in school, such as the complete refurbishment of the school library which is currently being undertaken.

## Art drop in

Starting Wednesday 24th September 9.30-12. Come along to East Morton Institutes newly refurbished meeting room and meet like minded people for a morning of art, craft and no doubt chat.

There will not be a teacher but it will be a great time to practice your hobbies. Coffee and biscuits included. Initially there will be a 12 week term and the cost will be £18. For further information phone Karen on 07718 763309 or email karen@mortonvillage.org.uk





## East Morton Community Orchard

We've had quite a harvest, and it's been a community harvest! The two plum trees produced plenty of fruit and there were apples too. It feels like the orchard has come of age. No longer a collection of tubes and frames with some twigs sticking out, it does now seem like a real orchard of real trees, and a community orchard at that. To mark this we plan to place a log sign near the paths to let everyone know that is exactly what it is, there to be enjoyed by all.

We have more plans too, including some seating, an information board and some proper labels for each tree. Those who came to apple day last year will remember the apple pressing and sticky fingers among a range of other activities. If you then visited Feast Morton's stall on Gala day in July this year you would have had the opportunity to taste some of the cider made from some of that juice. Thanks for all the donations by the way. You helped raise £30 towards our plans for the orchard.



Richard and Anne did a talk about the orchard with the local scouts and it was great to hear how they were so interested measuring the trees and designing some labels.

But whoever you are, do join us! To make that easier we have started regular work sessions at the orchard at 10 am every third Sunday of the month, where we will be tidying up, checking the trees, doing bits and pieces to develop the orchard area, and a bit of planning.

### Apple Day - 1.30pm, Sunday 16 November

We are holding Apple Day 2014. This year we are linking the event to the installation of a bench in the orchard which - all being well! - will be in place on the day. Come along to the orchard to see what's going on, taste some local blackberry & apple jam and take part in apple pressing. Bring your own fruit and a container and you can take home your very own fresh apple juice. Put it in the diary - see you there!



Finally, we're immensely proud that East Morton Community Orchard has been judged as Outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood category of Yorkshire In Bloom - the highest award possible for this category. We're delighted to be part of what has been a fantastic year for the village with Yorkshire in Bloom.

For more information about East Morton Community Orchard please contact Anne Holden on 01274 511618.

# Morton Gala Invite 13th November

Thanks to a brilliantly successful Gala this year we have been able to donate a staggering £4,600 to village organisations and Airedale Hospital!

Following a debrief meeting the donations below were agreed: Institute £1000 - towards the renovation of the Snooker Room; WI £350; Morton-in-Bloom £500 towards the redesigning of the back wall bed on the Old School Green; East Morton School £300 for art projects; St Luke's Church £150; Toddlers 1 £50; Toddlers 2 £50; Feast Morton £50; Flyball dog demonstration £50; Morton Meet £100 for new table cloths and accessories; Keighley Air Cadets £200; Childrens' Halloween Party £150; Childrens' Christmas Party £150; Guides £50; Brownies £50; Rainbows £50; Beavers/Cubs/Scouts £150; Airedale Hospital £1000 towards creating a special area for children in the accident and emergency department. Plus £200 has been put aside for the possible set up of a childrens' cycling club in the village.

As you can imagine a lot of planning goes into running the Gala but the day could not be a success, were it not for the massive support we get from residents. We are also well aware that if the rain comes down, people will not attend and we will lose money - so we count ourselves lucky to have had sunshine all day long on Gala day!!

Now we need your ideas to make next year's Gala an even bigger success. ... **an invitation** - you are invited to come along for a FREE glass of wine or beer and let us know any ideas you have for stalls, games, arena entertainment etc. Thursday November 13 at 7.30pm, Place: The newly refurbished Beanlands Room in the Institute (formerly the Snooker Room)

See the invitation which comes with this newsletter for further details. You are the people who make the Gala a success so we would love to see you there. Have ideas but cannot attend the meeting? All Kathy on 01274 567174 for a chat.

Photographs from 2014 Gala.



# Morton Village Society

## Aiming to preserve your village