



Autumn Newsletter 1988

Number 13

Once again the time has come round to give you an update on what the Society has been doing, or attempting to do, for Morton since our last newsletter in Spring. You will be excused if you hadn't noticed that Summer had occurred between that newsletter and this !

Our previous Editor, writer and collector of facts, John Cock, who has performed this task so ably, through pressure of his other commitments, can no longer spare the time for these activities and has regretfully resigned from the committee. We would like to express our appreciation for all his efforts both in the production of the newsletter and the many tasks he has undertaken for the benefit of the village - Thanks John.

Green Belt Enquiry

Since the Chairman's report at the Annual General Meeting he has attended the subsequent Public Enquiry on the 21st June as the Society's legal representative, where he put forward the reasons for opposing the granting of planning permission for the proposed Morton Lane, Swine Lane, Street Lane and Hawthorne Way sites.

Mrs Doyle was invited to speak at a further enquiry on 22nd June where she gave evidence of surveys done by herself and Mrs Duxbury on the traffic passing through the village between the hours of 8 and 9 in the morning. The results of these were considerably at variance with figures produced by other parties.

The Government Inspector subsequently visited the village on Tuesday 9th August where he listened to the views of anyone who was

prepared to speak. In this respect we would urge people who come into contact with enquiry teams in their locality to voice their protests personally to the inspectors, more voices make more noise !

The planners conceded to Mrs Doyle that we had done our best and put up a good fight. Let us hope so.

Any decision made by the Inspector will not be binding upon the planners but it is unlikely that they would go against it as they would very likely be appealed against on further planning decisions. Whatever the final outcome is, if it is felt to be in the interests of the village, we will continue to oppose any plans put forward that will adversely affect Morton in any way.

We must now await the result of all that effort. At least the planners have now agreed with the objections to the Morton Lane Quarry site and now consider it unsuitable for development, that's one victory !

Funds are still required to pay our legal costs of the enquiries and donations are still very much needed, so please send them, large or small, to our Treasurer Stephen Duxbury, 2 Hartley Square, or to your local committee member.

Sunnydale

No doubt you are all wondering what is happening up at Sunnydale reservoir, particularly our members in Green End Road, who are most affected at the moment by contractors vehicles. We have received the following information from the Yorkshire Water Authority.

Two options were considered for

the reservoir, the first being to lower the water level to the point where it would take it outside the Reservoir Act 1975. The second option was to leave the water at its present level and improve the dam facilities.

On examination of the first option it was concluded that removal from the requirements of the Act would be the most costly, maybe impossible legally, and would leave the normal top water level at 4.5 metres below the present top level which would be unsatisfactory for the amenity of the area (full marks Y.W.A.!) The second option has therefore been chosen, the dam improvements have been carried out and a new spillway is now being constructed by Gleeson which will leave the normal top water level as it is at present. In the short term however, during the construction stage, the water will be at a lower level.

This work is due to be completed in May 1989.

Yorkshire Water Authority have informed us that information leaflets have been distributed to those affected by the work. For those worried about possible damage to their properties, damage caused by sub-contractors should be reported directly to Gleeson and to Mr Day, the Y.W.A. representative on site, and any 'inevitable damage as a result of the works' to Mr D. Calvert, Insurance Officer at West Riding House, Albion Street, Leeds.

Yorkshire Water are expending the staggering sum of £700,000 on this project. Hopefully next year will see an end to the Sunnydale saga and all will settle back into peace and tranquillity.

Which brings us to the final item on Sunnydale - the motor bike scrambling. Residents of Sunnydale have been concerned about rumours to the effect that Sunnydale could be sold off to a Motor Cycle Club and the area used for scrambles. We are assured that this is not going to happen. Complaints have been received that motor cycles are in fact using Sunnydale and the Y.W.A. have informed us that no permission has been granted for this activity and any such should be reported to the police at the time. Hard evidence is required by the Y.W.A. and if names or registration numbers can be obtained please inform the Society. Two of our Committee members will attempt to monitor the situation.

Best Kept Garden Competition

Competition for the best kept garden and best house frontage this year was very keen and the village is really benefiting from the fine efforts of our green fingered villagers.

The winners of the cup and a £10 voucher for best garden this year were Albert and Olive Braithwaite of 8 Street Lane. This is a well deserved win considering Albert's efforts around the village, particularly on the Old School Green, some of us can't manage one garden !

Runners up were Mr and Mrs Brewer of 22 Morton Lane and Mr and Mrs Hardaker of 2 Morton Grove.

The first prize of £5 for best kept frontage went to Bill & Enid Hanson of the Old Post Office. The transformation they have made to their home since their retirement is really splendid.

Runners up were Miss V. MacLean of 4 Green End Road and John & Betty Gill of the Square.

Contrary to the report in the Target that only homes visible from the main roads were eligible, all the houses and gardens in the village accessible to the judges qualified for the competition so don't despair, next year it may be your turn.

Whilst on the subject of best kept gardens and villages we would like to thank Mr Devlin for obtaining over 400 plants for the Old School Green, Mr Braithwaite and Mr Robinson for planting them and Mrs Doyle for transporting them in her Metro. We are very fortunate to have such hard working volunteers. We now need volunteers to look after the graveyard in Green End Road. Is there anyone out there who can help us keep this little garden of remembrance pretty? Anybody who would care to help, even in the smallest way, would you please contact Mrs Doyle on 565375, thank you.

Best Kept Village Competition

As you may remember from the Spring newsletter we again entered for the Best Kept Village Competition and are pleased to report that from the entry of 24 Villages East Morton reached the final of the competition with four other villages, the eventual winner being Thorne.

As runners up we were awarded a prize of £10, collected on behalf of the Society by our new committee member Mr Norman Webb at Thorne on 24th September.

The judges' reported as follows:-

"We were very impressed at the considerable evidence of recent efforts to improve the village. The main street is pleasant and the recently laid out Old School Green is an attractive focal point and earned 2 bonus points. The churchyard was good and the trees and natural area inside are praised. The chapel garden was very tidy also the burial ground except for a pile of old litter. The school and surroundings were good and the Memorial Hall in a good state. The shops were well cared for and the Inn smart and welcoming. Some litter was present throughout the village and particularly on the otherwise attractive playing fields. Waste paper bins were well positioned. Various areas have been planted with flowers and shrubs and make pleasing features. Praise and bonus points were awarded for the recent cleaning out of the dam. It is clear that an enthusiastic community spirit exists here".

The Harvest of Labour

With gratitude and pleasure
I express our sincere thanks today
Your award for our endeavour's
A delight in every way

All around the village
Green fingers point the way
To making Morton beautiful
Long may this fever stay

With trowels and with secateurs
In sunshine and in showers.
Morton folk again produced
A festival of flowers.

This harmony with nature
Communion with the soil
The beauty of the harvest
More than compensates the toil.

Willing hands at Village Green
Deserve thanks from you and me
The product of their labour's
A joy for all to see.

A poem by Mr B. Hanson

Parish Chest

Some time ago the Society set up what is known as a 'Parish Chest'. This 'Chest' is a repository for items and documents relating to East Morton donated, generally by villagers, to the Village Society. To date we have collected copies of old maps, photographs, legal documents, and many other interesting items. Recently we were loaned old legal documents relating to the Greenwood family and their houses in the Stocks Hill Close area. The oldest of these dates back to 1767 and they are at present being copied and transcribed for future reference. These documents give an interesting insight to some of the people and houses in and around Morton.

The census returns relate to the inhabitants of Morton between the years 1841 to 1881, so if you need to trace your ancestors it may be in here.

The full list of what is available has not been compiled yet but if you would like more information contact Don Ward on 567570. We would welcome any deeds, books or other items you have to donate or loan to us, they will be well looked after.

Mr Ernest Davies has been looking at the Greenwood documents and has sent the following article to us for publication.

The Greenwoods of Morton

In 1851 there were 17 people called Walker in Morton, 16 Greenwoods and Earnshaws, 13 Mitchells, 12 Emmotts and Taylors. Some of these names are still with us, others have departed but the name that intrigues me is Greenwood. Who were they? Where did they live? What did they do? How did an important house become known as 'The Misses Greenwoods'?

A parcel of documents lent for copying for the Parish Chest looks like helping to solve some of these questions. The earliest, dated 1767, concerns John Greenwood and his family which consisted of three sons, William, David and Jonathan and a grandson called William.

The property referred to in this deed is:- "The house and barn occupied by John Greenwood, A Fold, Two closes of land called Town Ing and Intack

The close of land called Morton Mill (occupied by John Greenwood)"

Now this really is something specific! Look at those names! 'Town Close' suggest an enclosed piece of land in, or very near, to the centre of the town or, in this case, the village. 'Intack' infers that a piece of land has been won from the surrounding moor or waste. But 'Morton Mill'? In 1767? Does this refer to an old Corn Mill? Where was it? Is there anyone out there who can help us with any information on any of these locations? Do your house deeds make reference to any of these names? Do you know where they are? If you can help in any

way please get in touch.

Ultimately we will need assistance to interpret these deeds from someone with professional experience in this field. Can you help?

Old Tyme Night

On Saturday, November 19th, the ladies of the Womens Institute are presenting an Old Tyme Music Hall in the Memorial Institute at 7.30pm. Tickets £1.50. This is being produced and directed by Barbara Chaffer.

Look out for announcements in the local press later.

Beckfoot Bus

Finally we are happy to report that we have succeeded in getting a school bus to run from Beckfoot School to Morton at 2.30 every afternoon on weekdays. However due to a failure in paperwork regarding insurance on behalf of the bus company the service has been temporarily suspended. However the paperwork is being rushed through and the service will be resumed in a couple of weeks. We hope that after these teething problems the pupils will then use and appreciate the service. We hope that all the Beckfoot pupils in Morton are now aware of the service. Now what we need is one in the morning!

That completes the newsletter for Autumn and we hope to bring you more news in the Winter newsletter. If you have any items or articles of interest for publication please contact Marian Doyle, our secretary, with details.

Bonfire

The Society are once again organizing the annual bonfire on the Recreation Ground this year on Saturday November 5th and all are welcome.

This year there will be a cordoned off area for the setting off of fireworks which should make life a little less hazardous for all of us!

The Fire will be lit at 6.30pm and entry will be free.

Food will be available as in previous years, as will parkin and toffee, contributions of these last two items would be welcome and it would be appreciated if these can be brought along as soon after 6pm as possible.

Materials for the Bonfire will again be welcome and if you can bring these along please make it after Sunday 30th October to prevent premature combustion. If you have material for us to collect then please phone Ken Symes on 566943 and he will be happy to arrange for it's collection.

There will be a prize for the best Guy so do your best and bring one along!

Written and edited by Don Ward, any help or especially contributions would be very welcome.

Donations are still urgently needed for the fighting fund, as we have now received the bill for the legal assistance.

Monies can be sent to the Treasurer at 2 Hartley Square or given to one of the Committee members listed below:-

<i>Mrs M. Appleby</i>	<i>24 Morton Grove</i>
<i>Mrs F. Bramall.....</i>	<i>The Ridge, Morton Lane</i>
<i>Miss D. Beanlands.....</i>	<i>10 Main Road</i>
<i>Mrs F. Davy</i>	<i>7 St. Lukes Terrace</i>
<i>Mrs D. Dennis</i>	<i>6 Dimples Lane</i>
<i>Mrs M. Doyle</i>	<i>12 Dimples Lane</i>
<i>Mrs J. Duckworth</i>	<i>Otley Mount</i>
<i>Mrs M. Duxbury</i>	<i>High Point, Street Lane</i>
<i>Mr S. Duxbury</i>	<i>2 Hartley Square</i>
<i>Mrs P. Horne</i>	<i>Cliffe House, Dimples Lane</i>
<i>Mrs I. Holdsworth</i>	<i>Moor Cottage, The Butts</i>
<i>Mr J. Puddephatt.....</i>	<i>Rotherwood, Morton Lane</i>
<i>Mrs J. Robson.....</i>	<i>29 North View Terrace</i>
<i>Mr J. Stentiford</i>	<i>7 Providence Row</i>
<i>Mr K. Symes</i>	<i>Silk Mill Drive</i>
<i>Mr N. Webb</i>	<i>1 Green End Road</i>
<i>Mr D. Ward.....</i>	<i>9 Little Lane</i>
<i>Mr R. Wilson.....</i>	<i>4 Sunnydale Park</i>

MORTON VILLAGE SOCIETY
Aiming to preserve your village