



Spring Newsletter

No 66 - 2010

www.mortonvillage.org.uk

Grand re-opening of the Morton Village Institute

On Monday 3rd May it was the grand re-opening of the Morton Village Institute. The building was originally opened in 1922 as a First War Memorial and had served the community very well but 88 years later it was greatly in need of a face lift. The Committee was delighted when our three ward councillors (Doreen Lee, Steve Pullen, Malcolm Slater and later Dorothy Clamp) put forward the idea that the monies from the sale of Bradford Airport should in Keighley East Ward be given to the four Institutes (Hainworth Wood, Long Lee, Morton and Riddlesden).



We were delighted to be allocated £20,000 but soon realised that we would need much more to make the renewals that were necessary. Sue Gledhill of Neighbourhood Forum fame found us some more (bless her) but we were not even half way to the sum needed by the plans that Steve Foster and Mick Craven had produced. Fortunately, I was able to call on the super fund raiser at Keighley Voluntary Services Lynn Burns who works magic for those in need! She put us in touch with WREN (Waste Recycling

Environment Ltd) and Mick Craven, our most efficient and hard working treasurer and I filled in the forms (which took weeks) But we got our grant in full. The contractors (Farrars) did a splendid job, and their agent Mike Hall who works in the village at Bethel Hall (even though like the Village Society Treasurer Stephen Duxbury and Mr Hall they were delayed many days abroad by the ash cloud) Ben Hall the local agent for WREN was present and gave us their blessing.



At the actual ceremony of the opening John Foster of Gala fame introduced the speakers, which included our own Doris Beanlands since she had been on the committee for the last 58 years, and then David Miller welcomed all our distinguished guests including Ward Councillors Margaret Ward and Ian Wilson). David said that he and Kathleen had lived in Morton for only 19 years, but found it a delightful place to live with its continual improvements thanks to the Village Society and also the splendid work of the Morton-in-Bloom committee led by Lee Senior and his team of volunteers. All members of the Institute Committee had worked extremely hard to clean and prepare the building for the splendid Grand Opening.

We had arranged that our local Look North presenter Jenny Hill would perform the opening

ceremony but she was despatched to Corfu for the BBC at the last minute. She had to ask her colleague Phil Bodmer to stand in for her, and although not quite as pretty, he did the job remarkably well even though he was reading the late news the previous evening and was due back on duty in the early afternoon while living in York!

The members of the Committee feel that Morton can be really proud of its Institute, though it will need more monies spent on it to bring it up to the standard that the village deserves so we hope that it will be well used and become the main focal point of this pleasant place to live.



Monday 15th March, apart from being St Patrick's Day, marked the end of the most prolonged period of cold winter weather we have experienced for many years. Gardens suddenly burst into life, hurrying before mother nature changed her mind. Spring had arrived - monochrome to glorious technicolour, how good that was!

Spring has the effect of kick starting life and the Morton in Bloom group were first out of the blocks tidying and planting ready for judging in mid April.

After ten years of maintaining the green, Stepping Stones II have had to withdraw due to a heavy workload. A letter of thanks has been sent to them. This provided a good opportunity for evaluation and Lee Senior came up with a specification for future maintenance which will take the green forward with the Morton in Bloom ideas and plantings very much central to its future. A new contractor has been appointed and it is hoped the condition of the grass on the green will be improved over the coming season, it has become very mossy.

During last autumn, the Country-side Ranger service undertook a great deal of work to improve the path over to Micklethwaite. Over a number of years the rising path, after crossing the bridge, had become badly eroded and dangerous underfoot and the improvements made have addressed the drainage issues quite comprehensively. All the brambles have been cleared from the walls at either side revealing setts that were probably laid to drain rainwater. The path has been filled in and surfaced but unfortunately the onset of winter came two days too early for the work to be completed. There is still some surfacing to be finished at the bottom and cross drains are to be installed. I regret the loss of one of my blackberry patches but welcome being able to use the path and enjoying the view, without worrying about falling down or twisting an ankle.

Bill Hanson seat

I am sure lots of you will have noticed the new seat by the bus stop, the planter beside it and the large hay rack above and to one side. Pauline Horne and her family have donated the seat in memory of her father Bill Hanson, who was stationed in East Morton during the war and on his marriage to Pauline's mother, adopted Morton as his home. Quite a thing for a Welshman! Also commemorated on the seat are Pauline's two uncles Jack and Ronnie Hiley, very well known and popular figures in the village all of their lives. This kind donation will be much appreciated

by those who can use the seat whilst waiting for the bus and the planting will be enjoyed by all of us.

The Greenhill Development

There has been much publicity recently about this building proposal, generated by the energetic and committed Greenhill Action Group. Local Morton residents, Kirstie and Myles Talbot have delivered leaflets locally but if you have not received one and would like further information, it can be found on www.greenhill-action-group.co.uk. The GAG suggest that increased traffic levels during building, and closure of Micklethwaite Lane, may be an issue for East Morton residents. Pressure for school places would certainly be experienced at Crossflatts and Bingley Grammar School and another 1800 people living in an area would stretch local public, medical and transport services.

The Post Box - a potted history

On 14th April 2008 I wrote to Royal Mail Customer Service about the positioning of the box which used to be in the wall of the Post Office, and its relocation to the village green. There had been no discussion with anyone about this course of action. I also suggested that a larger box would have been more useful as residents were no longer able to leave large envelopes behind the counter at the PO. This was the beginning of a two year long campaign and at least twenty-four pieces of email and correspondence (I lost count) containing many apologies and assurances, but actually no action. After about six months a rather uncomfortable meeting took place with a representative of Royal Mail on site. He said that a larger box was out of the question but was pressed into agreeing a move to the bottom of the path across the green. This would involve liaising with the Highways Authority to obtain clearance and the Utility Companies to ensure no interference with existing pipes or cables etc. This would take a number of weeks but should take place within six months! After the six months passed with no contact at all and the Royal Mail man not answering any telephone calls, we began again. Many times I was assured that things were happening and someone would contact me, but never a word!



Spring judging has now been and gone, and we await written comments from the judges during May. We hope you agree the Green has never looked so good for years and we are very proud of our efforts.

Verbal feedback from judges and residents has been encouraging, with positive comments about the colourful planting we have done on the Green, the sustainability of the perennials near the toilet area and the water butts.

I'd like to thank David Heaton at the golf club for kindly allowing us to once again use his clubhouse as a base on judging day.

Also our thanks go to Morton Village Society, Bradford Council's area committee, Keighley Town Council and Keighley in Bloom all of whom continue to help us with funding in many different ways, along with our own fundraising efforts.

Last but not least I'd like to thank the many individuals, who have out and supported us by litter picking, weeding and keeping their front gardens tidy. This all helps us to progress.

On a negative note there is currently a problem with a small minority letting their dogs foul on

the green. Urine has killed some primroses as dogs wee on the outside area first! Please don't let your dogs use the grass and beds as a toilet area as it will undue the work we are doing.

We must not rest on our laurels as we are only halfway through the 2010 campaign! Indeed we now turn our attention to summer judging when we have to go through it all again!

The Summer judging date is Monday 12th July at 2pm

We have therefore arranged a series of working party dates (see below) where we meet at the wheelbarrow on the Green at the time specified.

We would be very grateful for any volunteers on these days, whether it be for ten minutes or an hour. If you can't make the working parties, please do your bit, by putting colourful containers out, checking your front garden, litter picking on your patch, on the days leading up to judging. Thank you to one and all for your assistance and support.

We will be having a small stall on Gala day, please come along and chat to us then!!

Lee Senior, (Morton in Bloom coordinator) For further info: Email: Lee at leeseniorgardening@yahoo.co.uk

Dates and times of Morton in Bloom working parties

Monday 31 st May	10am
Saturday 5 th June	10am
Wednesday 23 rd June	6pm
Saturday 3 rd July	10am
Thursday 8 th July	6pm
Sunday 11 th July	10am

A new community group

Feast Morton, is the name of a new group focusing on the Providence Row, Sunnysdale, Uppermill Row and Green End Road areas of the village. The voluntary group started by three friends; Jane, Ann and Rowan, has keen local support and is assisted by horticultural consultant, Lee Senior. The aims are to promote gardening and grow your own in that part of the village. Although still in its early stages, the group intends to plant trees, wildflowers, grow herbs and vegetables and encourage composting. **Feast Morton** intend to have a small stall at Morton Gala and they are encouraging people to come and have a chat and find out more.

For further information: contact Lee on 07963 288743 or email at leeseniorgardening@yahoo.co.uk

Monday 10th May I wrote for the third time to a higher authority in Glasgow and I have heard not one word since, but on the Friday of the same week, hey presto, the box appears by the bus stop. What a farce! If anyone would like to take up the cudgels and enquire as to why it has been sited there, be my guest.

Pilates class

Every Wednesday morning between 9:30am and 10:30am I am having a pilates class in the Village Institute - my email address is lizkwalker@aol.com or telephone number 07989 378757 - Liz Walker.

'Morton Meet'

Thursday 13th May saw the first 'Morton Meet' in the village institute. The hall will now be open every Thursday afternoon from 1-3pm serving tea or coffee and homemade cake to anyone who wants to call in, at a cost of £1. Whether you stay for 10 minutes or two hours there is the chance to bump into old friends and make new ones too. I would like to see a growing band of regulars, both

young and old and hope that people will feel comfortable to walk in alone, confident of a warm welcome and some good company. I would also like to thank all those who have offered to help - I hope the event proves a success - but that can only happen if enough people join in, so please pass the word and offer a lift to those who need it, then the whole village can be involved - Rhona Emmott.



School Corner

Community Lunches

The dates for the community lunches up till Christmas are Thursday 23rd September, 21st October, 18th November, 9th December. We have a new Samba Band, open to anyone, its held on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm term time only. The cost is £2 per person per week. We are hoping to perform at the school Fun Day and Village Gala. For more information people can e-mail me at hilary05@live.co.uk

Eldw hool

For all children aged over 2.5 years old. Set in the Methodist Church Hall, it offers a safe, caring, fun and educational environment. From September 2010, we will offer a truly tailored approach and you can choose sessions to suit your needs from the following:-

Monday morning; Tuesday morning and afternoon; Wednesday morning and afternoon; Thursday morning and afternoon; Friday morning; Lunch club is available every day and can be used to link morning and afternoon sessions.

For further information, please contact: Susan Barber on 07968274149 or Jane Courtney on 07981124093



Rev Mike Cansdale - St Lukes

It's great to have this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you something of what is going on at St Luke's. I've been here now for 10 months as Vicar of Morton and Riddlesden and I'm really delighted to see the community spirit and the range of things going on in East Morton. It is my hope that St Luke's can continue to play its part in village life and serve the community in different ways, whether it's through our involvement with the school or as a part of Morton in Bloom, or in new initiatives such as the youth club launched in March as a joint project with St Mary's, Riddlesden. We meet every Monday evening in term time and we now have about 50 registered members and a regular attendance of 25 to 30. The main aim is to have fun and we enjoy games and outings and also allow the young people space to be themselves and think about life. Thanks to the willingness of volunteers we have a good team and through the Wine-tasting evening earlier this year and the match funding from Barclays Bank, we have raised some funds to buy equipment and resources. I want St Luke's to be at the heart of village life and we want you to feel that it is your church. If you've got ideas or have seen a need maybe we can work together? We've enjoyed working with members of the Chapel, as we did with the Carol Singing at Christmas and we're currently planning a BBQ and Games for early September, so watch this space!

I'm looking forward to events coming up this summer like the Fun Day and Gala and being able to call in at the Morton Meet on a Thursday afternoon, so if you see me do say hello. Our main Sunday Service is at 10am with a Family Service on the second Sunday of the month and Sunday School on the 4th Sunday. You will be most welcome at any of our services or events.

Rev Mike Cansdale Tel 01535 603419

Institute Corner

You will see from the front page that we had a very successful re-opening ceremony, with this Newsletter is a questionnaire, we are looking for comments and suggestions from everyone in the village regarding future uses/events that can now take place in the Institute.

We have completed the major part of the refurbishment, to help finish the project and to enable the Institute to pay its own way in the future we need to see it being made use of by the local community.

The Institute is available to hire for numerous activities, from club meetings, children's parties, grown up parties, wedding receptions etc. The enclosed questionnaire is to give the Institute Committee some feedback about the type of events/activities you would like to see hosted or indeed may like to host yourself using the Institute.

As an encouragement to fill in the questionnaire, we are offering a **FREE** lottery number valid for 12 months, the prizes range from £10 to £100 each month, with an extra £250 prize at the Gala.

Currently there are regular bookings as follows:- Monday - Brownies, Young Farmers; Tuesday - Toddler group, yoga, keep fit; Wednesday - Pilates, dance class, yoga; Thursday - Morton Meet; Friday - Toddler group, keep fit

See the website for names of the organiser and contact details

Morton Lottery

We have around 500 members in the Lottery, remember after prize money all the proceeds go to Village Society for the benefit of the whole village. For a new number or to re-new, contact Karen (560279) or Mick on (510667). The list of winners is displayed every month on the notice board on the Village Green. The Lottery is a great fund raiser for the village and we need to keep the numbers up to sustain a regular income for the Village Society

Morton village web site

Have you looked at our website recently, it has undergone a major revamp, shortly there will be a calendar for the Institute to see when times are available and you will be able to email Rhona via the website to request a booking.

We are also looking at a 'Forum' for the village where we can discuss items 'on-line'. The website is also meant to be like our 'notice board' for the village, so if you have any events you want publicising, then send an email to mark@mortonvillage.org.uk



East Morton Gala 2010

Change of date to Saturday July 10 Theme - cartoon characters

It is just two months until the East Morton Gala and all is set for yet another family fun afternoon with some new and unusual attractions!

For one year only we are changing the date, from previously advertised, to Saturday July 10 to avoid the World Cup Final.

The Gala is a community event and we rely heavily on volunteers to help set up, run and take down the stalls, tents etc.

As the World Cup final falls on the Sunday we did not want to compromise the good will of our helpers, many of whom are keen football fans. So with the Gala on the Saturday and the Final on the Sunday the village will have a very busy weekend...

The Gala procession will start 10 minutes early this year, to avoid delaying the village bus. It will be led by our new Gala Queen with floats and walking groups following behind and arriving on the recreation ground at about 12.55. If individuals or groups would like to take part in the procession - remember the theme is Cartoon Characters - contact Gill Clarke on 01274 566504 as soon as possible.

The Gala Committee was delighted to be asked to take part in the opening of the Memorial Institute. With so many people attending there was a great community spirit and the work done has really transformed the building into one that can be showcased as a quality place to hold an event. Well done to all who worked so hard to make it happen. A number of people came to our stand volunteering for this years Gala and if anyone else would like to help or have any new ideas for the Gala - they can call Kathy Myers 01274 567174 or John Foster 01274 512838.

See you at the 49th East Morton Gala

'Call My Bluff' wine tasting

This is the third event of its kind that St. Luke's Church has held in recent years. As popular as ever, on 19th March the school hall was filled with those eager to guess the true identity of the eight wines described. The event was hosted by members of Booth's Supermarket wine department and funds raised were to be matched by Barclays Bank. The matched funding was earmarked to be spent in the community, on the newly reformed Youth Club for Morton and Riddlesden, held in Riddlesden, Morton in Bloom and other projects. £800 was raised on the evening from ticket sales and the raffle. There were two winners each correctly identifying the eight wines (more by luck than judgement I imagine - certainly by number eight!) and they were able to take home a wine of their choice.

Keighley Blues Club

At Cougar Park, within easy reach of all Mortonites, we're a not for profit organisation run by volunteers dedicated to bringing the best blues music to the district. John - www.keighleybluesclub.net or www.myspace.com/keighleybluesclub

**Notice of 29th Annual General Meeting
of the Village Society to be held in the
Institute at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd
July 2010 - please attend - vacancies
available on the committee**

Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village