



Winter Newsletter No 58 - 2008

www.mortonvillage.org.uk

Writing the newsletter at the beginning of a New Year provides a perfect opportunity for reflection. The content on this occasion gives a flavour of what has been going on since we delivered the last issue in September.

Seasonal shades were lovely on the Green during the autumn and the two extra sets of Christmas lights purchased for the tree gave added festive sparkle, **many thanks to Steve Foster** for his time and effort on this and the lights on the Institute, which gave the centre of the village a truly seasonal feel.

Toilet block

Work has continued on the upgrading of the toilet block and we believe that this will be opened shortly. The area is certainly much tidier, a great improvement on its recent run down appearance.

Green End Road

The removal of the two large trees in the graveyard in Green End Road has eventually taken place. Bureaucracy went a bit mad with that one, particularly as they were probably both self sown. Surely no-one would place trees that would attain such a height and spread in such small area, and one containing many gravestones and monuments. Work will be done soon to return this area to a tidy and peaceful state, and a contract set up for regular maintenance. Hopefully the additional light will be enjoyed by the residents

of Green End Road who were most affected by the growth of the trees.

Recreation Ground

At the end of their summer programme of work, the Council have been able to carry out the promised repairs to the eastern boundary wall in the Recreation Ground, which had become in a dilapidated state. We are very grateful to have this particular job done as children and tumbledown walls are not a happy health and safety combination.

Money from Leeds Bradford airport

Twenty million pounds has come to Leeds and Bradford Councils from the sale of Leeds Bradford Airport. When divided between the twenty main wards, this gives about £100,000 to each ward. Keighley has been asked to draw up a list of projects and, at really short notice, the Society was requested to come up with some ideas. As we had just had a committee meeting, past minutes were looked at for suggestions to put forward. An extension to the path across the top of the Recreation Ground to Clifffestone Drive, traffic calming adjacent to Clifffestone Drive and replacement of the Institute boiler were ideas which were passed on to the Council. At the time of putting forward these suggestions we were not aware that there were constraints on the spending of this money, but no time limit on a decision on how it should be spent. Projects should cost at least £10,000. If you have any ideas, please let us know. We understand from Councillor Slater



Do you know where this is?

How many of you knew that there was a new bridge over the beck? If you go through the gap in the wall just above Morton Lane canal bridge (taking care of the traffic) and cross the field, a little way along you will see a sign pointing to the right. Follow the path and you will find a sturdy bridge crossing the beck. Jumping across was quite good fun twenty years ago, but the bridge is now the preferred option. Again, we have the Countryside Service to thank for this.

that discussions are ongoing and it is hoped that the village will benefit in some way from a part of the money from the sale of the airport.

Unightly areas?

We are keen to collect photographs of unightly areas within the village, privately or publicly owned, to build up a bank of work on which Morton Lottery money could be spent. What are your views on this?

St. Luke's Church

It was a full house again for the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve! The event is always a very popular family occasion and this year was no exception. The children love standing in the aisle and waiting to have their Christingle lighted. It is a quite

magical moment when all the candles are lit and the lights extinguished.

This year the collection raised a wonderful sum of over £400 for the Childrens' Society.

Call My Bluff Wine Tasting

This fun event will be held on 29th February at East Morton CE Primary School at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include lots of tasting and nibbles. Do come along and bring your friends – it promises to be a good night. The event is held in conjunction with Booths Supermarket.

Call 01535 601187 (Barbara Cullingworth) for tickets, or 01274 567456 (Mary Appleby) who can get them for you.

The Pantry

One New Year's day back in the last century when Pat and Jess Taylor ran the Post Office and Village shop, Jess complained to me (as he did sometimes !) that they hadn't had a day off for five years let alone a week-end except for Christmas Day. Having recently retired and temporarily feeling full of goodwill I said that if they wanted a week-end off that Kathleen and I would run the shop for them. I heard nothing for a couple of months, and then Jess

said they had booked a fortnight in Greece. Well, I had offered but we had little realisation how long the hours were and how hard the job was. Almost all the customers however were really pleasant and very friendly in spite of our mistakes. We quite enjoyed in spite of the total exhaustion every evening that we did it again the following year! It meant 5.30 am start for the newspapers, since they had to be classified and named before opening at 7am,

with folk queuing at the door. We thought Sunday would be easier opening at 8am so came down at about 7am to find that it took at least two hours to put the papers and magazine sections together, and I have never read the Sunday Times since !

However we survived (just !) but it gives me a special insight into what a magnificent job that Kate and Mick McCormack have done in creating such an excellent Village Centre for the folk of Morton to use, except that too few of them have used the fine facilities provided, making their enterprise into almost a non-profit organisation. They have both worked extremely hard for us in our village, and it is perfectly understandable that they would like a (long !) rest. They have been at the centre of our village for an enjoyable five years, but sadly the restrictive Post Office regulations concerning what is no longer available at a Post Office, have minimised Kate's business. To say that many of us will miss the shop and Post Office is putting it very mildly, so the very least we can do is to thank them both for five long years of selfless devotion and excellent service. David Miller

Competition winners

The photographs show the Pantry last year after they had been awarded first prize in Keighley in Bloom 'Business Premises Section' with such a magnificent display outside the shop (and also how nice the garage opposite is well tended).

Editor's Note - on a personal note of someone who is a member of a family living in Morton since 1927 and has brought our business into the village by converting the Sunday School Hall into offices, we will very much miss the shop and Post Office. Stephen Duxbury



Morton Village Lottery

The Lottery continues to go from strength to strength with over 450 numbers entered. In October we increased the monthly prizes by a further £15 - we now give £165 each month in prizes. Thank you to all participants for your support, without which the Village Society could not continue. The main item of expenditure continues to be the maintenance of the Village Green, but if you have any suggestions on how we can use the funds to improve East Morton and its amenities let us know and we will give your ideas every consideration.

Latest winners:

September

£75 J Whitaker; £40 R Cowell;
£25 C Iwachiw; £10 D Marsh

October

£75 E Chapman; £40 J Briggs;
£25 J Dobbins; £10 K Holmes

November

£75 PS Maughan; £40 M Town
£25 JM Dix; £10 JL Cooke

December

£75 M Halliday; £40 M Wood
£25 M Millar; £10 I Wilson

January

£75 L Bailey; £40 D Beanlands;
£25 A Hughes; £10 PL Walker

*Please support
the Morton
Village Lottery -
all proceeds for
the village*

East Morton School



Competition.

On Thursday at 8-15am on the 5th July you would have seen 12 East Morton school children frantically rushing around the garden at the school. They were raking the gravel and generally tidying up the garden. Today was the day when we were being Judged by "Yorkshire in Bloom" Schools' Garden

The 12 children form the East Morton School Gardening Club which meet every Wednesday at 3-15 to play their part in the Garden. They plant seeds, weed, water and help to keep the garden looking so bright and cheerful. They also patrol the garden in their playtime breaks and lunch breaks!.

When the two judges arrived the children were quick to welcome them and give them a guided tour. One of the Judges was even allowed into the willow igloo, to sit and talk with them.

The Judges were very impressed by their knowledge of the plants and vegetables and also their enthusiasm about "Their Garden".

Early in September we were very pleased to received a "Silver Award" for the Garden. The children were really pleased with their award and are now talking about .."going for gold next year!"



Institute Notes



Picture above shows quiz winners from left to right who are - Helga Davies, Tony Davies, Barbara Cullingworth, Tony Cullingworth, David Thornton and Elaine Pitt.

Picture left shows Nancy Gore assisting with the questions



Institute Quiz night

Another successful quiz night was held on 22nd November. Everyone enjoyed the evening and some felt that it could be held twice a year - we will see. £200 was raised for institute funds. The winners were "Cully's Bullies" - St. Luke's Church again providing the winners!

Our thanks again go to compiler and question master Jack Doyle, ably assisted by Nancy Gore. Special thanks go to Florence Bramall and Angela Leach for their hard work in the kitchen preparing the pie and pea supper.

Committee

Keith Gore is resigning as chairman in February. Keith has worked hard in the running of the institute but more importantly liaising with Bradford Metropolitan Council to obtain funding for projects and for the carrying out of those projects. We are pleased to report two new members have joined the committee. The Institute AGM is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th February, any support would be much appreciated.

Boiler

We are still hopeful of obtaining funding for the replacement of our old boiler. Bob Dennis

Dimples Lane footpath repairs

The footpath from Dimples Lane to Acre Lane, a cause for concern due to its unsafe condition, has been much improved recently by the Countryside Service. Trees have been cleared and good steps put in, enabling a light and comfortable way down to the path by the beck. A large stone flag at the top should divert the water that runs down the lane during heavy rain away from the path. That had been a contributory factor to the erosion of the path over recent years. It is hoped the service will be able to fund improvements to the section of path on the Micklethwaite side of the bridge that is also badly eroded.

East Morton Gala 13th July 2008

East Morton Christmas Party

Nearly 100 excited village children enjoyed fun and games at a Christmas party on December 9th. The Institute was the venue for the party organised by the East Morton Gala Committee and formed part of an afternoon and evening of Christmas entertainment.

Those who were a little old for party games were invited to sing along to Christmas carols with members of the St Luke's Church choir in the Busfeild Arms.

After parents and grandparents had finished watching the children at the party many went across to the Busfeild where Matt and Maggie were hosting a pie and pea or hot dog supper. The packed pub was bursting with Christmas festive cheer bringing young and old together.

Two years ago members of the Gala committee, who have small children, suggested organising a Christmas party for the village children using surplus money in the Gala pot.

Two successful Galas in a row with the added bonus of fantastic sunshine had encouraged record numbers of people to come along enjoy the fun and spend money on the various attractions.

Even though the Gala needs a substantial amount of money for expenses in hosting the day - with the two successful years - there was spare money to consider a Christmas party. That first event was overwhelmingly successful with tickets for the party AND the pie and pea supper going within days.

In 2007 the Gala was all but rained off. The summer storms however did not stop hundreds of people stoically turning up in their waterproofs to support the reduced number of stalls hastily arranged near the Institute.

"Villagers were brilliant in still turning up to support us but with a shortened gala we ended up making a loss," said Gala committee member Kathy Myers.

"However as the first Christmas party had being such a success we decided to arrange a second this last December and charge a small amount for tickets to help cover the cost of an entertainer and a small gift from Santa for each child. Again the village did us proud and did not seem to mind the nominal charge for tickets. As you can see from the photographs some committee members even got into the Christmas spirit with festive costumes!

"We would like to thank all those who helped on the day including St Luke's Church choir who encouraged everyone to sing along and to Matt and Maggie for working so hard at the Busfeild for organising the supper...with this kind of village spirit we feel confident about holding another Christmas party this year," said Kathy.

but before that.....!

Your Village Gala this year will be held on Sunday July 13th!

Would you like to help?

Can you sponsor an event on the day? Do you have any new ideas for the Gala?

If so call Kathy 01274 567174 or John 01274 566328 - we would like to here from you.

The picture on the right shows how with good weather so many of the villagers take part in the Gala



Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village