



# Winter Newsletter

No 65 - 2010

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

Snow coming before Christmas, and staying, lent a particularly seasonal feel to the festive period. The frosty evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> December saw a large group of around seventy residents, including many children, gather around the Christmas tree on the Green to take part in carol singing. Musical accompaniment was provided by Rev. Mike Cansdale on trombone, Jonathan Crossley on accordion and Charlotte Crossley playing the flute. This cannot have been easy with fingers becoming numb with the cold very quickly and there was a general shifting around and stamping of feet, but how much everyone appeared to enjoy themselves! People called out choices of carol from the sheet provided and a good sound was made. After a while, everyone processed up Back Lane through the snow and further singing took place at the top. On with careful slithering round to The Square for more of the

same, the children capering around and thoroughly enjoying themselves, and finally singing at Heath Grove. It was then over to The Busfield Arms, kindly hosting a pub full of cheery, cold, carol singers with very welcome mulled wine and mince pies. This popular addition to the Christmas calendar, singing carols around the Christmas tree on the green, felt like being part of a scene we are only used to seeing on a Christmas card.

It is hoped next autumn to hold a day class to make lanterns to use at carol singing. These are made of tissue paper and willow canes and when lit, appear golden. Two feet is usually the minimum size. The class would be for about 20 people, including children over 8+, and there would be a cost involved, depending upon take up. We shall keep you informed.

## Best Kept Garden competition

This will take place again this year – a reminder of how this works. Three gardens, first, second and third, are judged to have maintained a standard and given pleasure throughout the spring and summer season. Also, the same for pots, baskets and window boxes.

There is a new judge this year, and we are grateful to the retiring judge who enabled the competition to be held again after a gap of a few years.

## The Open Spaces Society

Through the above organisation, we are in the early stages of looking into registering the Recreation Ground as a village green. Why do this?

- secure permanent registration of the land as a village green
- protect the land from development – it is an offence to build on a green or to interrupt its use or enjoyment by the public (Commons Act 2006)
- secure the right of local people to enjoy the land for recreation
- give it a new status as land for the community, to be valued and enjoyed

- ensure that prospective owners are aware from the outset of the established recreational function of the land, so helping to avoid any future conflicts

If you have any objections to this initiative moving forward, please let us know.

## Other news

The best bit of news recently is the **WREN** grant of £32,564, which, together with the funding from Leeds/Bradford Airport and a grant from the local councillors, has enabled the refurbishment of the Institute due to begin in mid February. Huge thanks go to David Miller and Mick Craven for their efforts in achieving this.

## Greenhill Action Group

They have approached us for support in their aim to stop the building of 698 homes off Sty Lane, Micklethwaite, it was agreed to object citing –

- access, including the use of the swing bridge
- querying the need for that number of homes when there is empty property in Bingley
- traffic implications including through East Morton whilst building takes place and whilst Micklethwaite Bridge is closed (six months scheduled)
- pressure for school places

- unwelcome changes to canal area
- the joining of Bingley to Crossflatts and Micklethwaite

## Noise from the Institute

Following a complaint by a local resident about noise from the Institute, it was agreed that hirers' attention should be drawn to the conditions of hire and emphasizing that the building should be vacated by midnight. Abuse may debar future use. A recent hirer lost their bond after leaving the rear of the Institute covered in litter. An appeal here for consideration to residents when hiring the building.

## Safer Routes to School

The Community Governor has agreed to take this forward through the school.

## Deliveries on Waterside Fold

Lately this had become a problem but three/four residents have recently offered to deliver 40/50 newsletters each. This is a big help and it is hoped that future coverage of that development will be undertaken by local residents.

Thanks to Rhona Emmott for the generous donation of 30 mugs to the Institute - an additional item of refurbishment.

Re-siting of the **Post Box** – sadly no progress here but we still have our teeth into that one!



## Landing in East Morton: Views from an incomer.

It was June last year that I moved here. I remember that the neighbourhood looked bright and colourful in that month, and it seemed clean too. Much of the colour was provided by flowers in pots and hanging baskets, or in garden bedding. But it was these qualities that contributed to my wanting to live here in the first place: it had the feel of a village people cared about. I'm not just an incomer to East Morton, but to West Yorkshire too. I moved up from Hampshire just over a year ago.

I believe that how you see a place depends on where you come from in life, where you've been, what you've experienced, what you are used to, and your interests, circumstances and values. So by way of declaration, I don't have children, I love open spaces, the great outdoors, natural history, and the arts. I work in Leeds and quite often travel to London and other cities on business in the week.

When I moved to West Yorkshire I first rented a Victorian cottage in Riddlesden. It proved to be damp and difficult to heat, so after a few months, though reluctant for more upheaval, I was looking for another place to live. I had first visited East Morton on walks, often coming down into the village by way of the Moor, or through the Glen and Sunnysdale, and was struck by the views, the preponderance of trees and also the friendliness of people who would often say hello as I walked by their gardens. I was curious about the various layers of history here, and a little saddened to see that the Post Office marked on my 2006 Ordnance Survey map no longer existed. I was glad the pub still did though. When I came to look for somewhere to live, I kept feeling drawn back in this direction, and eventually found a place to live that suited.

Since moving to West Yorkshire I've got involved in various activities in the surrounding area: a community choir in Skipton; the Stanbury Hill archaeological project up on the Moor; planting trees with the Forest of Bradford scheme, and even a drumming circle in Shipley. I've got to know quite a few people and have made some good friends, but I've had

no social connection with East Morton itself other than, well, just living here. I was enthralled when I read the Morton Village Society's booklet 'East Morton: A Thousand Years of History'. It helped me appreciate the village more and see it in a new light; that of a living evolving community across time. It made me want to contribute in some small way, so I found myself contacting the Morton Village Society who I knew had made very tangible efforts to make this village a good place to be, somewhere where I wanted to live. However, for some reason I imagined that as an incomer of a few months I might not be particularly encouraged in the Society. Imagination can be deceptive and I could not have been more wrong. It was Mary Appleby who on learning about my relatively recent arrival in the village suggested I write in the Society Newsletter. So there's a start, and somehow I know that once all this harsh winter weather is over, I'll be out there helping to bring back the flowers to East Morton.

- Roger Steel

## Morton in Bloom - the 2010 Campaign starts now.....

It may have been cold and uninviting outdoors recently, but spring is just around the corner, indeed it is only approximately eight weeks before our village has its spring judging, in this our second year in the Yorkshire in Bloom village competition.



The wheels have been turning through the winter, with funding from Keighley Town Council we have purchased a dozen wall baskets to affix near the bus turnaround area, this will provide a splash of colour in that area.

We aim to build on the wonderful foundation of last year by progressing to an even higher level this time around to a Silver Gilt Award.

Our group is a small but dedicated band, but we need more volunteers if we are to one day bring the coveted Gold award to East Morton.

We need volunteers who are not necessarily gardening experts, perhaps you may be handy at DIY jobs such as fixing baskets to walls. Or you may be a good fund raiser, or fancy organising an event that we put on throughout the year, it could be a sponsored walk or a beetle drive, or any other idea you may have. Alternatively you may want to plant a few flowers or maybe even do some weeding or litter picking on the "Green".

During May we will be in desperate need of any spare bedding plants. We also need volunteers to adopt a basket to water during dry summer weather. All these jobs will all help us to make our village even nicer.

## Morton Village website

In the last newsletter I put out a request for someone to take over the village website, and I had two kind offers. So now Mark Barrett has taken over, I would like to see the website develop into one of the major focal points for the village, so if you have any events to publicise, any interesting stories/events to tell us about, then please send them onto Mark. With the major refurbishment of the Institute shortly taking place, afterwards there will be much larger 'Institute' presence, booking forms, availability of dates etc

In time there will be an archive of old items, a 'forum' to discuss items. If you have any ideas of your own please get in touch with Mark or myself. Below is a screen shot of our 'new look' and Mark's email address is mark@mortonvillage.org.uk

Morton Village Society

Home Morton in Bloom Womens Institute St Lukes Church Morton Village

### Aiming to preserve your village

Formed in 1980 with the aim to preserve and enhance the village of Morton. Since we were formed we have achieved much in the village - our main achievement being 'The Village Green' that we were responsible for. However that is also our biggest drain on our resources and we are always looking for sponsors and donations to help the funding of the Society. Our Annual General Meeting is held normally in July every year, where all members are very welcome to attend to hear what we have done in that year or to discuss any other issues.

**Membership**

Our Annual General Meeting is held normally in July every year, where all members are very welcome to attend to hear what we have done in that year or to discuss any other issues. Membership includes four newsletters that the Society publishes and distributes to all members.

Please give your membership to a committee member or [Stephen Duxbury](#) (Treasurer) daytime office is Bethel Hall (behind Congregational Chapel) or home address of Redwoods, Morton Lane.

**COMING EVENTS**

Sat 13th Feb - Morton in Bloom are holding a coffee morning / tombola / seed swap / face painting event at the Institute which will open to the public at 10am. Any unwanted Christmas gifts would be gratefully received by Stephen on our behalf to enable us to hold a tombola.

**FOR ALL MORTON**

This web site is for the benefit of all the villagers of Morton, if you would like anything advertising or notices on here then please contact us by [email](#)

## Community lunches

Members of the local community are invited to come into school on a Thursday lunchtime once a month at 12.15pm and have a two course meal at a cost of £2.40 they sit in the hall along with the children. A poster is also put up in the Institute window advertising this. Please book the week before by ringing the school office so that the extra food can be ordered.

The community lunch dates for the next few months are as follows:- Thursday 25th February, 18th March, 22nd April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July.

## Remembrance Day

This year it was lovely to see a few members of the village community there, too: Mrs Walker, Mrs Bramall, Mrs Hiley (who kindly opened up the Chapel), Mrs Sampson, Mrs Jefferson with a German visitor.

When standing outside the Institute at 11am for the minute's silence we were even joined by the driver and one of the passenger's from the bus. It was quite a moving experience. This service is for the whole village, we should still ALL remember those who have lost their lives for this country.

# East Morton School

This term Year 6 has been working on banners for the school hall. The first of the banners to be finished was the Christmas one which was displayed in St Luke's church during the KS2 Carol Service.

Altogether there were five groups working on the banners, with the Christmas one being finished first. Other themes were the seasons, living and learning, harvest and friendship.

In the Christmas group there were six boys working on the project but not always all at the time. The person who thought of the idea to do a Christmas banner was Alex Underwood. We first drew a rough design on four pieces of A1 paper and then created the final banner in cloth. When finished, the banners will be hung on permanent display around the walls of the school hall.



## Forthcoming events organised by 'Friends group' - open to everyone

Quiz Night 5th March - tickets on sale at school

Cake Stall 12th March @ 3pm in the school hall

Table Top Sale 24th April 1-3pm; ring school if you would like to book a table.

# Social & fundraising

## Christmas Cards

"The personalised cards were excellent value" - we are very lucky to have such a great artist in the village and pleased to say that John has offered to do another painting for next years Christmas card, it has been suggested that the church would make a fine picture. We sold around 3000 cards and the original painting making around £784 profit for village improvements.

Approximately 1000 cards were personalised for various people thanks to a small group of volunteers painstakingly sticking in the inserts. The personalised cards were particularly good value and much cheaper than catalogue ones so do consider ordering some next year. We will be advertising the cards early once again with a discount for early orders. Any local groups can raise funds for themselves by selling the cards -further details from Karen.

## Institute Social Committee

Wouldn't it be great to have regular social events, particularly now the hall is being fully refurbished? We can do it but need volunteers to help - you may not want to do much but even offering to set up, to wash up or to clean up helps.

## The dance floor was full all night-again

Another fantastic evening with the majority of people dressed up in anything roughly based on the 50s 60s and 70s. The band, Amnesia were on top form and once again everybody had a great time.

If you didn't come because you think the institute dull and boring, think again, come and see. I really don't know what makes it one of my best nights in the year but it really is. Probably because you can just let your hair down and have a great bop as we did in our teens, there are not too many occasions when that seems to happen now; yes, there are dinner dances and night clubs but somehow they are just more formal and not the same raw fun. If you came, I hope you enjoyed yourself; let me know your thoughts and any ideas for the future.

So get involved, give me a call - NOW, before you forget on 560279 - Karen Redhead



## Call My Bluff Wine Tasting

Friday 19th March 7.30pm

East Morton CE Primary School

Tickets are £10 from Barbara Cullingworth on 01535 601187

Those of you who have attended these evenings in the past will know they are great fun, organised jointly by members of Booths Supermarket wine department and St. Luke's Church. Do come along and join in. Proceeds in aid of St. Luke's Church funds.

## Steeton Male Voice Choir concert

Steeton Male Voice Choir are performing a concert at St Luke's on Saturday June 26th, look out for further details.

Grand opening of Institute on May 3rd

## Morton Village 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 village. For a new number or to re-new contact Karen (560279) or Mick on (510667).

## Situation vacant!

We are looking for a new cleaner for the Institute due to retirement/ill health. Perhaps with some care-taking duties as well, please contact Mick Craven for further details on 510667 or email mick@mortonvillage.org.uk

## Designer - soft furnishings required for Institute

We are looking for help with interior design; donation/supply of fabrics; making/sewing curtains/soft furnishings for the Institute when the builders have finished the refurbishment, any one in the village like to help us? please contact Karen on 560279 or email karen@mortonvillage.org.uk

## Morton Village Institute

Many of you will have been hearing for a while that modernisation of the Village Institute was being planned. It is most pleasing to report that the work is due to commence in mid-February with scheduled completion by the end of April.

It has been some time since the possibility of such a project was first investigated but funding through grants and other means has had to be obtained. A great deal of work has had to go into submission of the associated applications which have required enormous amounts of preparation in order to justify the expenditure and provide evidence of how much Morton and its residents will benefit from the result.

The enterprise is a major one requiring a re-structure and complete modernisation of the kitchen and refurbishment of the main hall, annex and snooker room. Consequently the institute will be closed completely from 15th February and re-opened on 3rd May.

Your East Morton committees work very hard to keep the village community spirit alive and well with the annual gala, Morton in Bloom and Village Society projects aimed at providing better amenities and environment. The Institute also plays a significant part of this village life and we are very proud to have got to a position where we can bring it back into prominence with our modernisation project.

Without the funds obtained from external sources, it would have been impossible to have undertaken this project. Income materialises almost solely from hire of the Institute Hall to regular group users and individuals for parties etc. and this has been barely adequate to run and maintain the premises let alone build up funds to improve it. However, once the project is complete we do hope that more use of the Village Hall will be made in order for us to run it successfully. Indeed the grants have been obtained only through our demonstration of how much the village should benefit from the result.

There are plenty of hours available for more regular group hire to take place. Have you ever thought of running a group associated with your own hobby or interest? E.g.: Amateur Dramatics, Art, Bridge, Carpet Bowls, Chess, Film, Gardening, Local History, Model-making, Music, Photography, Table Tennis etc. Let us know and we will be only too happy to help you set up your group. Also, we are always looking for new committee members who would like to help run more social events at the Institute such as dances, shows, cabaret nights, drop-in coffee mornings etc.

Do bear in mind that the hall can be hired by any Morton Villager for parties and other social events.

Finally, remember there are a number of activities up and running which you may be interested in joining:

|                    |                             |                   |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Brownies           | Monday 18:30 - 20:00        | Diane Knottingham | 01535-656377 |
| Young Farmers      | 2nd Monday eve, each month  | Sarah Priestley   | 01274-832893 |
| Mothers & Toddlers | Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30        | Suzanne Worsley   | 01274-563705 |
| Women's Institute  | 2nd Tuesday eve, each month | Mary Morgan       | 01274-563919 |
| Children's Dance   | Wednesday 16:00 - 18:00     | Jennifer Craven   | 07792-523719 |
| Yoga               | Wednesday 19:00 - 20:30     | Barbara Martin    | 01535-665910 |
| Walkers & Talkers  | Friday 10:00 - 13:00        | Chrissy Blakeley  | 01274-563609 |
| Snooker            | By Arrangement              | Bob Dennis        | 01274-567222 |

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

|              |           |              |                          |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| David Miller | Chairman  | 01274-569286 | damiller67@aol.com       |
| Bob Dennis   | Secretary | 01274-567222 | bobdennis@hotmail.com    |
| Mick Craven  | Treasurer | 01274-510667 | mickeycraven@yahoo.co.uk |

### LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS OF THE RE-OPENING EVENT AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON 3RD MAY.

East Morton Village Institute modernisation is being largely financed by Bradford Council Ward Investment Funding and by the Landfill Communities Fund of Waste Recycling Group (WRG), administered and distributed by Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN).

## East Morton Gala 2010

### Gala News - Sunday July 11

This year's Gala will be held on Sunday July 11 and fingers crossed for super weather again so we can equal last year's amazing crowd numbers!

As you will know the Gala aims to provide fun for all the family...and that includes the extended village family – those people who perhaps have moved away or who still maintain contacts with Morton. We know that many of you make a point of putting the Gala date on your calendars year after year...this is what the Gala is all about.

After Gala 2009 we had enough surplus funds for a children's Christmas party in the Institute when around 90 children enjoyed two hours of fun and games followed by a surprise visit from Santa.

The Gala aims to distribute any monies left over to local organisations which contribute to village life. This year those to benefit were: East Morton and Crossflatts Schools, St Luke's Church, East Morton Institute, the Women's Institute, Congregational Chapel, Toddlers and Brownies. We have also donated money for the planter we are sponsoring and to a local charity "Toys for Smiles" which aims to give children in hospital a toy to make them smile.

We are always on the look out for enthusiastic new people who might like to contribute to the village by joining the Gala committee. We meet every four to six weeks in the Busfeild from February until Gala day and if you feel you may be interested please contact Kathy Myers 01274 567174.

### Looking 18 months ahead, 2011 sees our Golden Jubilee!

Would you believe the Gala will be 50 years old in 2011? We have 18 months to plan this special event and we have a number of ideas in the pipeline.

- BUT we would like to hear from anyone who has any memorabilia from the years gone by which will make the 2011 weekend one to remember.
- Did you take part in any of the Galas' in the last 50 years?
- Do you have any photos, cine film, Gala programmes, memories...were you a Gala Queen – we want to know!

We are planning a weekend of celebrations around the 50th Gala in 2011 and urgently need historical details from anyone about their Gala memories throughout the decades.

This could turn out to be an amazing village memory of the recent social history of East Morton...so if you have anything you think may be of interest please contact Kathy Myers 01274 567174 or John Foster 01274 512838.

## MIB Event

On Saturday 13th February

10am - 12 in the Village Institute

– Morton-In-Bloom are putting

on a fully interactive fund raising

event. There will be a chance to swap

any surplus seeds you may have so please

bring any seeds still in date to swap. We are also

holding FREE seed planting sessions for children, come and sow a tray of

seeds and make seed labels to take home. There will also be a chance

for children to have their face painted!

There will be teas and coffees available with a selection of delicious home-baking. Come and try your luck with our tombola and browse the selection of plants available including Aloe Vera.

**Entry is free, so why not call in and support your village.**



# Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village