



# Winter Newsletter No 76 - 2014

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

May we wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Lots of you will have purchased the attractive East Morton calendar, initiated by Kirsty Fawell and produced by our Treasurer, Stephen. Kirsty was unaware of the significance of the plaque featured as a photograph on the January page, so it may be a good idea to explain it. Placed adjacent to the steps at the back of the village green it would go unnoticed unless you used that route. The Albert referred to was former committee member and keen gardener, Albert Braithwaite. When the old school was



demolished and the Government funded group Volsec undertook the work of clearing and tidying the land, and laying it out to the design drawn up by Donald Pinder, Albert volunteered to head up a sub committee to create the garden. It is hard to imagine now but in the mid 1980s he and I set off with a car and trailer to purchase the "bones" of the shrub planting from a Council nursery in Shipley, prior to its official opening in the autumn of 1985. Over the years as the garden grew, Albert worked tirelessly and voluntarily leading other volunteers and young helpers, and developed the basis of what can be seen now, nearly thirty years on. The Christmas tree was a very poorly looking little specimen in those days and we despaired of it ever being sizeable - how wrong we were. He also sourced and planted the oak tree but was always mysterious about its origins! As the years passed and Albert had to restrict the hours he spent on the green, the committee decided to put up the plaque as a surprise and to thank him for his huge input

into this village centrepiece. He was delighted. After he died the work was taken over by the group Stepping Stones II from Skipton, who some of you may remember, and they carried out this paid work for many years before the formation of the Morton in Bloom group, the fruits of whose labour we have all enjoyed for several years now.

Our grateful thanks as ever go to Steve Foster for attending to the lighting of the Christmas tree which has looked splendid throughout the season, a real picture in the centre of the village with its new lights.

Perhaps I should mention here the graveyard in Green End Road. The subject came up at a recent committee meeting so I looked back at the records to clarify how the Society came to be responsible for its maintenance. In the spring of 1986, because the Trustees of the graveyard advised the Methodist commissioners that they could no longer maintain it, they approached the Society for assistance. Since it was considered part of the village's heritage, the commissioners were pleased to sell it to the Society for a nominal sum. At the time it was really overgrown, an eyesore, with a high wall bordering Green End Road. After purchase, the height of the wall was reduced thus improving the outlook of the cottages opposite, and over the years, various individuals have had a hand in keeping it tidy.

*Mary Appleby - Secretary*

## **Memorial Institute Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday March 18th 7.30pm at the Institute. Doors open at 7pm. Not the wildest of nights I know so to entice you along to show support for your village, we will be offering you a glass of wine, tea or coffee and then further commiseration after the meeting at the Busfield Arms.

We have 3 positions up for re-election on the committee; Vice Chairman; House Chairman and Bookings Secretary

If you feel you have something to offer please ring Karen to discuss. The jobs don't entail too many hours and give a lot of satisfaction. We urgently need a volunteer for the Bookings Secretary as the current secretary is retiring after two very successful years in the position for which we are extremely grateful. Anyone wishing to stand for the committee should send their nomination to Karen Redhead (Via Institute Post Box) before the end of February.

If you want to be involved but not on a committee, still ring to have a chat, as there are all sorts of ways to help.

## **Social - Bingo - March 28th**

Our ever popular sell out Bingo Night is just £10 again including a finger buffet and your cards. Tickets available from Barbara on 567345.

*See article on back page*



**SEE INSIDE FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE**

## Miss Jemima Morrell

A Victorian lady, Miss Jemima Morrell was born in Selby on the 7th March 1832. Her father was a bank manager so the family was middle class and relatively prosperous.

Jemima was a keen holiday maker. She recorded in her journal in 1862 that the annual holiday had become 'an anxious question' bemoaning the fact that she and her brother William had just about exhausted the possibilities in Great Britain. She was particularly scathing about Scarborough deeming it as only fit for 'children and invalids' and Fleetwood she said 'was even worse than Scarborough'.

Thomas Cook, whose name eventually became one of the ten most famous in the world, had started his career as an excursion organizer in 1841. In that year he ran the first ever rail excursion from Leicester to Loughborough to a temperance rally for a fare of one shilling. In his early years his purpose was not commercial gain but to further the cause of temperance. Subsequently he realized the business possibilities and ran tours to Scotland and North Wales. These came to an abrupt end in 1861 and he turned his thoughts abroad.

After a brief tour to Paris, in 1863, just 150 years ago, he announced an 18 day tour to the Swiss Alps to be led personally by him. This was just the adventure that Jemima was looking for and she recorded the she and her brother were ready to participate providing the tour was 'adequately supervised'.

They duly travelled for an approximate price of £15/12s/7d and as she recorded 'had a thoroughly enjoyable and educational holiday'.

In 1867, a few years later, Jemima married John Broadley Greenwood of the wealthy Keighley landowners. John already had three children and he and Jemima had a further son Robert. John eventually died in 1906 and Jemima passed away in 1909. Both of them are buried in St Luke's churchyard close to the gate. East Morton was the village from which the Greenwoods originated.

Not quite a celebrity but a lady of some note. If you Google 'Jemima Morrell' there are several websites recounting her adventures.

## TOTS sports sessions

Wednesday mornings in the Institute from 11am to 12 - contact Jonathan on 07827 966775 or [www.fisical.co.uk](http://www.fisical.co.uk)



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'Feast Morton' held their annual Apple Day in October 2013 and successfully raised £150 through the first sale of freshly pressed apple juice, along with a range of activities within the Institute including another first, 'Coin Art' designed and supported by Rhona .

An apple press was used to crush and juice fresh apples, many of which were donated by residents within the village. It was particularly gratifying to see the children involved and keen to have a go. There were a few aching shoulders the next day but overall a success, and thanks to all those who helped on the day.

The Orchard and community should benefit this Spring from the planting of 150 native Daffodil bulbs, around the trees. Feast Morton has also donated a number of fruiting trees and shrubs around the village, provided by the 'Woodland Trust'. These have been planted in the school garden and in a few public places near footpaths and around the allotments.

The group will develop ideas for an Interpretation Panel for the Orchard in the new year. Any comments/feedback as always welcome.



To purchase tickets for any event contact:-  
Barbara Evans on 01274 567345  
email [barbara@mortonvillage.org.uk](mailto:barbara@mortonvillage.org.uk)  
or Karen Redhead 01274 560279  
email [karen@mortonvillage.org.uk](mailto:karen@mortonvillage.org.uk)

Alternatively there is now a secure postbox where you can place envelope with cheque made out to Morton Institute with your name, contact details, which tickets you require and a stamp addressed envelope. This postbox is located on side of the Institute.

## St Luke's Church

If I had a pound for every time someone asked me how we got the star on the top of our magnificent 18 foot Christmas tree, I'd be a rich man by now! It wasn't the easiest job but the effect was worth it.

We've had a great Christmas at St Luke's this year; from the wonderful atmosphere and beautiful music at Carols and Candles to the hilarious Sunday school nativity at our Family Carol Service; from the fun of Carol singing around the village and in the Busfield Arms to the 500+ people attending our double Christingle service on Christmas Eve; it's been great to welcome so many of you from the village to celebrate Christmas with us. And throughout it all our new heating system has kept us warm for the first time in years!

There's a growing mood of confidence and life at St Luke's and as we move into 2014, we are introducing a new pattern of Sunday services starting on Sunday 12th of January. There will now be two services every Sunday morning; a more traditional service of Communion or Morning Prayer at 9.30am, with music led by the organ and choir and then a more informal and family friendly service at 11am. This will be an interactive time of singing, Bible stories, prayer and activities and will normally last about 30 minutes. (more info on our website [www.stlukesmorton.org.uk](http://www.stlukesmorton.org.uk))

The Bishop of Bradford has recognised the good things going on at St Luke's and St Mary's (Riddlesden) and has decided to place a Curate (trainee Vicar) in the parish for the next four years. Revd Jenny Ramsden will be arriving in July 2014 and we'll introduce her more fully in the next Newsletter.

From me and all at St Luke's, may we wish you God's blessings in the year ahead.

Revd Mike Cansdale



## **The Jigsaw Festival - a first for East Morton!**

Surely it is safe to say that the jigsaw festival, held at the beginning of October, and organised by members of St Luke's Church, was a first for East Morton - indeed it seems a fair bet to suggest that Morton was a trailblazer for the whole of the Aire Valley - unless of course you know different!

Many thanks to the school, its staff and pupils, for offering the use of their premises for this village event. Thanks also to everyone who helped both before and during the weekend (lots of people constructed jigsaws ready for display, and one or two star assemblers worked tirelessly for months beforehand and made up dozens of jigsaws each) and of course thanks also to those residents of all ages who came along and helped make the event such a success.



The school hall was filled with over 200 jigsaws, all made up for viewing and available to buy. It was quite a spectacle! We were amazed at the number of people who turned out to be jigsaw enthusiasts (what is the word for someone who loves jigsaw puzzles?!) and who enjoyed swapping ideas about which makes and types are the best ones to do. Over the weekend, jigsaws were bought, competitions were entered, faces were painted, bacon sandwiches and cakes were consumed - and most important of all £2300 was raised. We also received some matching funding from Barclays Bank, for which we were extremely grateful. The money has been shared between Breast Cancer Research, and the fund for the village church's much need heating replacement.

Many thanks again to all who made this such a great weekend, and good luck to those of you who bought jigsaws - hopefully your purchases are giving you hours of pleasure during the long winter evenings.

### ***New Years Resolutions - participate in your village - it is only a community if you get involved - how? give some time***

- Just two or three hours even once a year helping at a function, setting up, behind a bar or clearing up would help. Ring Barbara

- Serve tea and coffee at Morton Meet and make new friends, just three hours. Ring Rhona

### ***No time, I hear you say***

Then at least purchase a lottery number (just £12 a year) so giving us the funds to ensure the village stays looking as lovely as ever and its amenities are retained. Lastly - support events at the institute - some are totally free and all are great fun and excellent value.



## **East Morton Memorial Hall Everyone Welcome tea/coffee & cake £1 East Morton Art Exhibition**

Following on from last year's success, East Morton's second art exhibition took place in the Morton Village Institute on 18 and 19 October 2013. The event kicked off on the Friday with a preview evening for family and friends of the exhibiting artists, followed by the main show on Saturday which was open to the public free of charge. Wine and canapés were served on the Friday evening, with a cafe selling tea, coffee and homemade cakes at the main Saturday event.

Visitors were able to view almost 100 framed works of art produced by the attendees of East Morton's very own weekly art classes and had the opportunity to purchase from these and a selection of handmade cards, bookmarks, etc. In addition, local professional artists and class instructors also had a selection of their work on display. Other attractions included a raffle, with a wide range of generous prizes, and another prize competition to identify village locations from a series of obscure photographs. Visitors had the chance to vote for their favourite amateur painting and the winner was Sheila Witham for a watercolour picture based on the lanes and cottages of East Morton.

In total, over £900 was raised from the event which, apart from a significant donation to the Parkinson's Disease Society from raffle proceeds, will go towards improvements to the Institute building. The organisers would like to thank everyone who came along to support the event, in particular the volunteers who worked hard to make it all possible. The continuing success of the show means that it will definitely be repeated in the future.

## **Lottery**

Just £12 a year purchases you a number. I would love to see all villagers with a number but that's a long way to go. Roughly half of the income is returned in cash prizes, currently £200 a month and an extra £250 at the Gala.

Forms in the institute or ring Karen. If you are already a member - THANKS - can you get a neighbour to join? Would you be willing to try to sign up others on your road? Ring Karen.

## **Web Master - Can you help?**

Chris from WebDoggy is very kindly putting together a new web site for us. This is a fantastic start but limited use without a volunteer to keep it up to date. Stephen already gets news for the newsletter which would need adding to the site. Just a few hours a month would see the job done well. There must be someone out there who would find this easy. What about a sixth former? it would be a fantastic accomplishment on your CV. Contact Stephen to discuss if interested.

## **School Corner**

Following the promotion of our Deputy Head Julie Brewer to the Deputy Headship of a larger school, we are delighted to welcome Emma Petts to East Morton as her successor. Emma is well known in the area having spent all her career in the Bradford District, latterly as Assistant Headteacher at Sandy Lane Primary school. After specialising in Dance and PE at University, Emma made the career choice to focus on Primary education and hasn't looked back since. Away from school Emma retains a love of sport, dance, theatre and music as well as spending time with her young children.

Emma has quickly settled in to her new role: "I am delighted to become a part of the East Morton School community and have been made to feel very welcome by both children and parents. I am excited about the future and how I can help shape the school in the years ahead to become even better."

Emma joins the school with Acting Headteacher Michael Latham. Mr Latham will be working closely with the school's Governors, the local authority and school colleagues to ensure



East Morton's reputation and high standards are maintained during a period of change. (Photo shows Emma Petts)

The first event of 2014 to be organised by Friends of Morton will be Quiz Night on Friday 7th February. This popular evening is now in its 7th year and continues to go from strength to strength. New quizzers from within the community are always welcome and tickets are available from the school office for just £7, which includes a pie and pea supper. A very reasonably priced bar and a great atmosphere, make this an affordable and fun night out.

Funds raised by Friends of Morton from events such as the quiz, help purchase additional equipment and resources to enhance the experience and education of all the children who pass through our village school. A love of books and reading is something that we desire for all our children and Friends' main fundraising project for this school year is the re-development of the school library, including updating books, purchasing kindles and making the library a bright and appealing place that children will want to visit. We appreciate the support we receive for our fundraising events and would like to thank everyone who attended the Friends of Morton events last year, in particular our Christmas Fair at the end of November.



We are entering Yorkshire-in-Bloom again this year, people on the route will be notified. We will start preparing first Saturday of the month from February. Any one wishing to help please get in touch with John on 01274 562729, even if its just few minutes watering. Our annual fund raising event is at the Institute on Saturday 15th February from 10am to 12.

A big thank you from John for all the donations towards his Christmas light display on his house which raised £351 for MIB.

## Table Top Sales

Sunday 2nd Feb & 9th Mar 2014

Free Entry 10am - 1pm

East Morton Institute

Grab a bargain!

Contact for information / sales  
TEXT Rhona on 07777637363

### Morton Christmas Lunch

After much anticipation, Thursday 12 December arrived and, despite waking up to a wet and drizzly day, our spirits were undampened - today we were off to the Institute for our first attendance at the renowned East Morton Christmas Lunch!

On arrival we were warmly welcomed by a very smartly clad doorman where we were greeted with a glass of bubbly to start off the proceedings. We could hear the festive buzz and then to our surprise found the familiar main hall transformed into a beautifully decorated and expertly prepared dining room laid out with tables individually named after Santa's reindeers and catering for around 80 lucky people. What a wealth of artistic talent to admire! Soon we were seated in a room filled with chattering villagers full of seasonal cheer, sharing crackers and jokes and savouring the tempting aromas floating from the kitchen.

One by one the reindeers' names were called and as our table companions joined us in the buffet line we were wowed by the feast of traditional festive fare laid out for us. We were served freshly carved turkey with all the trimmings and helpings from huge dishes of perfectly cooked vegetables, all piping hot and delicious, later followed by warm mince pies and coffee.

The children of the East Morton school choir joined us after lunch and rounded off the afternoon with a selection of beautifully sung Christmas songs and carols, prompting some enthusiastic participation from their jolly and mellow audience.

There were many people pulling together to make this splendid Christmas lunch so enjoyable and everyone was full of appreciation for all the hard work involved, so congratulations and many thanks to all concerned. We make a special mention of Stephanie and Jason who must take a bow for being superb cooks and caterers and emerging from the kitchen looking cool, calm and fresh as daisies. What an achievement to applaud! *Kathy and Ken Symes*

# Gala - 13th July

## Theme: Tour de Morton

### Record breaking Gala - record breaking donations!

Thanks to the fantastic support of the village the 2013 Gala was the most successful yet and we have been able to donate an astonishing £2,895 to village organisations. The Gala was set up as one big combined event over 50 years ago to give the children of the village a super day of fun and activities.

Still with the interests of children at its core the Gala committee was very pleased this year to hear that the scouting association was planning to set up Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the village. This will be a super extra option for boys and we have given £150 to help with expenses to get things going. They will be run on a Thursday evening in the Institute and will offer much needed activity clubs for boys. Girls are now well catered for with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and each of these has also received a donation.

St Luke's Church had been struggling without heating for months and faced a massive bill for a new boiler so we were delighted to be able to give £1,000 towards this. Gala profits have also sponsored a Christmas party for the younger village children for several years now and this year we have been able to paid for a Halloween party as well. Each of these events brings not only the children together but their parents and carers too and hopefully encourages village community spirit.

Here is a full list of donations: WI £200; Morton in Bloom £300; East Morton School £300; St Lukes Church £1000; Rainbows £50; Toddlers (1) £50; Toddlers (2) £50; Feast Morton £125; Flyball £50; Bingley Grammar £100; Morton Meet £50; Cadets £100; Halloween party £120; Christmas party £120; Guides £50; Brownies £50; Beavers/Cubs/Scouts £150; Bethel Chapel £30. Total £2895

None this of course would be possible without the amazing support on the day from village residents, their families and friends who come and spend money on the stalls and activities and watch the arena entertainment.

BUT this success brings the problems of manning the day. We need more people to come forward to offer just half an hour of their time to help on things like the bouncy castles (there are three), hook a duck, games etc. So if you would like to be involved in East Morton's biggest event or have ideas for this year please call 01274 567175.

### Morton Christmas market

This went ahead on December 1st and was well supported, with a lively atmosphere throughout the day. There was a good range of local produce and street food for sale as well as some good quality gifts. We were pleased to be able to support local businesses and provide an opportunity to showcase new ventures. This year we had a raffle and through this and the contributions from stall holders we raised £200 which this year will go to Feast Morton. Many thanks to visitors for their support and to stall holders who worked hard on the day to make this a successful event!



### Saturday afternoon workshops

Two new workshops were held at the Institute this December. We learnt to make willow wreaths and table decorations for Christmas with some pleasing results. The event proved to be relaxed and sociable and provided an opportunity to release out creative talents.'

# Morton Village Society

## Aiming to preserve your village