



MORTON

Village Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Since any sign of the arrival of spring seems to be absent this year, it was decided to bring out the spring newsletter without further ado. After the terrible cold winter and non-existent spring, let us at least hope for a good hot summer.

Buses. By far the most pressing and serious problem at the moment is the threat to withdraw the bus service to Morton later this year. Considering how much everyone's rates have risen, we think this proposal iniquitous especially since it is the only means of transport for many people and the village is lacking in most services. A strong letter of protest has been sent by the Society to Bradford and we can only hope it has the desired effect. We will keep you posted of any developments as they come to hand.

Green End Road Graveyard. The proposed conversion of the Methodist graveyard in Green End Road appears to have sparked off several questions and some objections. There are several misconceptions regarding the proposed alterations by the Village Society and the motives behind the project. We wish to clarify the situation and hopefully allay the fears of the objectors and thus take this opportunity to put the record straight. Firstly, we are not about to dig up, remove or despoil any graves in some satanic act, nor is it proposed to create an area suitable for abandoned entertainment. Secondly, the graveyard in its present state is fast becoming an overgrown eyesore and is being used as a rubbish tip. The idea originated because the Trustees of the graveyard advised the Methodist Commissioners that they could no longer maintain it. It was therefore proposed to dispose of the site and interest was shown by a private prospective purchaser for the purpose of building a garage. The Village Society was approached to see if it could be of assistance and since the graveyard was considered to be part of Morton's heritage, it was suggested the Society buy it on behalf of the village in order to preserve the site.

The Methodist Commissioners were approached and were pleased to sell it to the Society for a nominal sum. All correct procedures have since been followed with regard to the legal position relating to graveyards. Any next of kin concerned have been contacted and stated their willingness

and consent for the proposed alterations.

The actual work of tidying the site will be hopefully undertaken by the Manpower Services Commission who have carried out similar tasks in the district, tastefully and reverently. The simple idea is to tidy the area, move some headstones within the site, leaving the larger memorials in situ. A pathway could be made through the graveyard with an entrance at each end and a seat be placed facing across the valley. The stone boundary wall along Green End Road which is in a dangerous state will be reduced to approximately three feet in height and the pointed coping stones replaced on top. The main object is to create a tasteful memorial park and we are sure that the end result will leave the site in a tranquil but much neater and pleasant state and yet preserve the dignity of the area. If after reading this you still have some doubts or queries, please contact any Village Society committee member.

Village Green In an effort to maintain the beauty of the village green we seek volunteer assistance. Any help however small will be gratefully received. As the green is owned by the whole village anyone is welcome to go along and do whatever they see is necessary at any time. If unsure what may be required, please contact Mr. Albert Braithwaite or any Society committee member.

Best Kept Garden/House Exterior Competition. Judging of this competition will take place during July when a cup (and £10. prize) will be presented to the winner. All the village will be included and all aspects will be considered by the judges. This will include gardens large and small, formal and informal, courtyards, patios and even window boxes.

Village Signs Because of the demise of West Yorkshire County Council this task has now been taken over by Bradford Met. who advise us that signs on the boundaries to the village will be placed as soon as possible. As West Morton is classified as an area not a village we are advised that it unfortunately does not qualify for a sign.

Annual General Meeting. The 1986 A.G.M. of Morton Village Society will take place on June 25th at 7.30pm. in the Village Institute. Nominations for new committee members must be sent to the Secretary (Mrs. Marian Boyle, 12, Dimples Lane) in writing, to arrive not later than 14 days prior to the meeting. Nominations require a seconder and the consent of the nominee. Members are reminded that annual subscriptions will be due on June 25th. Any new members who propose joining and required to pay their subscriptions before June 25th in order to be eligible to vote at the A.G.M. Do come along and air your views.