



Spring Newsletter No 56 - 2007

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The Pantry

At the Society's 31st January committee meeting, our attention was focused on the Post Office and shop. Local resident Heather Dale had been invited to attend the meeting to express the concern she felt about the possible closure of the shop and the effect this would have on the older residents of the village, and those without a car. She felt that in line with what was happening nationally, the Post Office would close, thus making the position of Kate and Mick very vulnerable. She saw the shop as the hub of the village with a very important social role.

Through the newsletter we have always urged support of our shop and Post Office and will continue to do so. We understand that it is likely that around 2,500 Post Offices are scheduled to close in the not too distant future, unless there is a change in the Government's plans. Mick and Kate have no news of how their future may develop as regards the Post Office, but expect to be contacted in June. At the moment, rural post offices can be within one mile of each other but this is soon to be changed to three

miles. Crossflatts, Riddlesden and Aireworth Road are all within this new three-mile radius, but would they be classed as rural? Would that make any difference anyway if the powers-that-be have already made up their minds?

Without the Post Office income which covers the overheads of the premises, the shop would have to generate a great deal more business in order to survive. Since Kate and Mick took it over, the shop has been completely modernised. They have studied the community and their other customers, and the goods and services sold have been carefully tailored to the market. Their service is always dispensed cheerfully, and on many occasions when help and support has been needed for whatever reason, it has been readily given. For instance, they look after the keys for the Institute, not an easy task and not part of the job description!

Mick estimates that passing trade accounts for 75% of their business., as a village community we should be able to improve upon that shouldn't we? Heather told us of a village in Devon that she had visited, where each resident tried to spend £10 a week in their local shop in order to save it. I daresay the village in question was a lot smaller than East Morton, was probably more rural and their campaign very subjective. You will say that £10 a week per household is not realistic, probably correct, but the spirit could and should be here to ensure that we keep our one remaining village shop. If this spirit could be channelled into using the shop on a regular rather than occasional basis, this

would make a world of difference to whether it survives or not. There is a wide range of different goods on offer including a wonderful and competitively priced selection of wine, and Kate makes marvellous sandwiches, just for starters. As far as the Post Office goes, banking would be a real help. You may have read of other rural post offices that have turned to providing a variety of services to their communities to ensure survival. Unfortunately we are too near the towns for some of those strategies to work here.

The role of the Post Office, like many other things in this technological world, is changing all the time. Not all that long ago, being able to run the lottery or process the car tax would have given a sense of security, but car tax can now be paid on line and the Lottery tickets are widely available. On the other hand, Kate reports an increase in the number of parcels she is dealing with – thanks to eBay!!

This proposed massive closure of post offices could be a very shortsighted move and needs to be looked at as part of the bigger picture. Perhaps if Dr. Beeching had been given different advice we could now be enjoying the benefits of a wider rail network and the roads might be less congested.

From her song Big Yellow Taxi, Joni Mitchell (showing my age here!), sang the following words which have some relevance –

"Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've
got till it's gone
They've paved paradise
And put up a parking lot".

Countrywide, so many pieces of the jigsaw that make up village life have been eroded over the past few years and if we are not careful, village life will hardly differ from living in a town. Mick and Kate are

doing a wonderful job and providing a good and friendly service in The Pantry. Get out there and give our remaining shop your support.

Sadly, since writing the above, Mick and Kate have decided to put The Pantry on the market. Many of you may be aware of the unsympathetic attitude shown by some individuals to Mick and Kate's perfectly reasonable requests not to park outside the shop for longer than ten minutes. There are good security reasons for this. Some other businesses locally have parking arrangements in place that specify no longer than 10 minutes in any hour and our local MP sees no reason why our shop should not have this facility also. It is not known how long that may take.

Meanwhile, through this newsletter, we should like to reassure Mick and Kate of our support, and regret that they have had to endure some very rude and unpleasant behaviour.

Post Girl

What a wonderful post girl we have in Ellie. Last year we heard so many positive comments that we wrote commending her to Keighley Post Office.

Speed sign

A permanent flashing speed sign will be installed on the Main Road at the junction with Heath Grove. At the moment it is not known exactly when this will be.

Memorial Institute

Work has begun on changing the bar area into a meeting room and hopefully the work should be completed in the very near future.

Graveyard

Things move mightily slowly in this particular project. We still await the OK from the Tree Preservation people to have the large ash tree removed. Plans have been drawn up



30th Anniversary Celebrations at East Morton CE Primary School

The School celebrated a very special occasion – 30th Anniversary of the school on its present site. To mark this event a wonderful day of celebration was held on Friday 23rd March, to which ex staff and ex pupils were invited. Rev Pete Rugen led a service of rededication at St Luke's Church, after which the congregation walked back to school via The Village Green, site of the former school. Here, both Mr Silverwood and Mr Wilson (Headteachers in the 60's and 70's) recalled memories.

On return to school our visitors were taken on a guided tour by KS2 pupils (all of whom were complimented upon their knowledge and mature demeanour). There was a special lunch for both visitors and children. (One kind mum had even made a wonderful birthday cake, of which amazingly all the children were able to have a small piece!)

The original village school had been in existence since 1845. In

1977 when Mr Wilson and his staff moved to the 'new' site, there were about 100 children on roll. Now in 2007 there are about 210 children on roll with a staff of 23, compared to just 4 in the old school.

As part of the celebrations each class was involved in looking at a different aspect of the changes that had been made over the years and changes that may be made in the future! Year 3 looked at the changes that have been made to the school garden. (A place where they like to sit quietly and chat at playtimes.) They began by taking photos of what they saw in the garden and then framed different parts of the images. These were then transferred to fabric and each child created their own stitchwork. Miss Head, Y3 classteacher, then stitched all parts together to make a quilt that now is on display – a piece of work of which all the class are particularly proud.

Year 6 used photographs and paintings of the old school as a basis of their art work. To accompany this display they had also written autobiographical accounts of life at school long ago. This had been made possible by letters and visits to school from ex pupils. (Thank you to all concerned, especially especially Florence Bramall for speaking to children about her schooldays and Eric Brunton for the donation of a painting of the old school, his letter and his visit when he was interviewed by pupils.) All in all, Anniversary Day was a great success, these are a few of the comments made by visitors:

'It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Many people have asked me if I have seen big changes, but the school hasn't changed in its essentials – still a lovely warm atmosphere and great friendliness. Thank you for such a warm welcome.' Len Wilson, Headteacher in both old and new school.

'A wonderful day. It has been so enjoyable to meet the children, friends and old colleagues and enjoy the atmosphere of a lovely caring school. Maureen Yeadon, teacher in both old and new school 60–91.

'Today has brought back many happy memories. It is wonderful to see the extended premises and lovely big classrooms – offering such great opportunities to the children.' Mary Creaser, teacher in both old and new school, 76–89.

'How delightful to be remembered after 40 years! It has been a sheer delight to see how the school has progressed and grown. The children appear to be happy and relaxed in encouraging surroundings.' Derek Silverwood, Headteacher of the old school, during the 60's.

I enjoyed meeting old scholars; not many as old as me! Doris Beanlands, pupil 27-37.

Very interesting to visit the new school. Even though it is 30 years old, it is new to me! Good to see some of the old photographs. Brings back lots of happy memories. M April Robinson (Margaret April Veevers), ex pupil. 'It's been super to take part in the 30th Anniversary Celebrations. An extra treat to meet previous teachers who have had such a great influence.' Sarah Crowther (nee Wynne), pupil 78–83.

And I'm sure there will be many more changes over the next thirty years; hopefully the school retaining its much valued atmosphere and place of learning. - Jackie Robson.



Morton Village Lottery

Latest winners:

December

- £75 M Whitford
- £40 K & R Crowder
- £25 A Brown
- £10 G Rogers

January

- £75 K Redhead
- £40 M & B Dawson
- £25 Dobbins/Glover
- £10 A Forsyth

February

- £75 A Scott
- £40 A Smallwood
- £25 A Foulds
- £10 S Reid

March

- £75 D Maher
- £40 M Dickinson
- £25 A Foulds
- £10 M Millar

We have updated the league table for support of the lottery by street/road:

	Houses in Street	Houses with one or more numbers	%ge
1. Elm Crescent	12	9	75
2. Elm Grove	9	6	67
3. Dimples Lane	23	13	57
4. The Butts	9	5	56
5. Buckstone Garth	17	9	53

Well done these neighbourhoods and thank you very much for your support. There are a number of streets with a higher percentage but only a few properties and worth a mention are: Badgerstone Close, Botany Drive, Cliffe Mill Fold, Upper Mill Row and Hawthorne Way.

Wooden Spoons go to: Highfield Mews, Shady View and Sunnyclyffe (All zero!)

Although no roads from the Swine Lane developments are yet in the top five, we are pleased to see that more and more of you are joining in and helping maintain a connection with the whole community.

As ever, the problem we are faced with is chasing up renewals for those of you who don't pay by standing order. To help with this we are printing a list of numbers due for renewal along with the monthly prize winners for the village notice board. Please help us by looking out for this and sending on your cheque before we have to chase you.

Recent grants have been made to the School (for the new garden) and The Toddlers Group.

Next draws at The Busfeild are on: 16th May; 20th June; 18th July

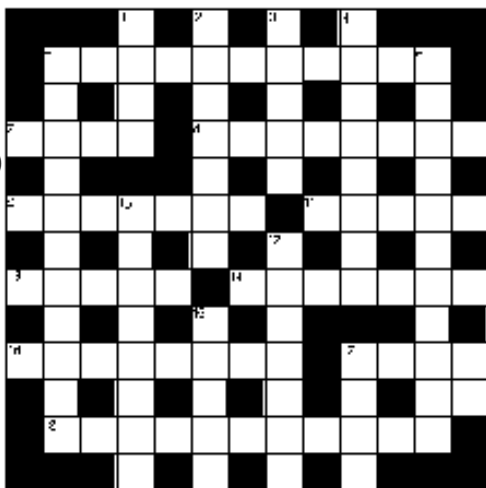
Crossword

Across

- 5 Food and drink concerning first year students with time (11)
 7 Just blonde (4)
 8 Little Florence at the gin is buoyant (8)
 9 The Italian in the French beach is guilty of looting (7)
 11 Teach or travel on (5)
 13 Go back to the bad actor and find an ancient language (5)
 14 Bow to an English degree and find evidence of spiders (7)
 16 Ron, a Scotsman and I cook pasta (2)
 17 Go to a couple of novices to hear the bell (4)
 18 Put cruets on piano to avoid disaster (11)

Down

- 1 Air Force up a long way away (4)
 2 Gala fee provides foliage (7)
 3 Firm has developed complete disorder (5)
 4 Is he worth a good place to land? (8)
 5 Bedside light from Berkshire (7.4)
 6 Ben in stalls - seen in court (6.5)
 10 Sounds like a vegetable getting old - may need new washers (8)



- 12 The big fellow lost his match with David (7)
 15 Ring O for the Busfield (5)
 17 Go to old shed and find what's in there (4)

Geoff Richardson who sadly died last year produced the Crossword in the Newsletter for many years, this is Geoff's last one which he did for the newsletter but until now we hadn't used, produced here in memory of Geoff and in appreciation of all he did for the Village Society. Please send your completed reply with your name and address by 31st May to Mary Appleby (address on reverse) **£10 voucher** for the Pantry is prize for first one drawn out.

to have the area cleared and tidied, and a site identified for a new bench. It is hoped the graveyard will again become a pleasant and quiet place to sit, and for those walkers passing through, perhaps a place for a rest.

Village Green

The additional bulbs planted in the autumn have really added to the spring colour on display and the new shrubs and specimen trees are growing well and will provide interest later in the year.

The family of Derek Nowell, who died in 2006, have expressed a wish to donate a new bench for the green. This generous offer has been accepted and the bench will be sited at the back of the green facing the Congratational Chapel.

Toilets

The Keighley Neighbourhood Forum on 21st March reached agreement on the refurbishment, rather than closure, of the public toilets!! A new woman council employee in Cleansing thought that the obstacle of DDA compliance (disabled access) was only one element in a "best value" analysis of district wide public toilets and

did not see it need be an obstacle to reopening ours. Inconsistency over a period of three or is it four years, but we shall be getting the toilets back.

The Treasure Hunt

St. Luke's Church held a treasure hunt around the village prior to Christmas, called **Follow the Star**. This was an enjoyable time for those families who took part.

The following is by Ellie Jane Kilcoyne – age 10 years old

In the Christmas holidays me and my Grandma decided that we would do a treasure hunt around East Morton. So we started at East Morton school. We had to look around the garden and the playground to see if we could see some stars and letters from the clues. Next we had to write the letters on a sheet of paper to make a word. We carried on looking until we had the work – stocking. When we got to church we found out that we were first to finish. I really enjoyed the treasure hunt because it was good fun and interesting.

Youth Club

During the winter, Rev. Pete Rugen has been successful in gaining £3,119



"Ready Steady Cook" Workshop at East Morton CE Primary School

50 Parents and the Children from the Reception Class and Years 1 and 2 joined together for a "Ready, Steady, Cook Workshop" in school.

The aim of the Workshop was to introduce Parents and children to different types of fruit and vegetables as part of our "Healthy Lifestyle" programme and also to the idea that "5 - a - day" was a necessary part of growing fit and healthy.

ASDA kindly donated all the fruit and vegetables to the School and the children were able to choose 5 vegetables and 5 pieces of fruit.

With the help of their parents they prepared the vegetables and then steam cooked them and ate them. The fruit was either made into a fruit salad or a smoothie drink.

"Fruit Bingo" was played and a "Frutie" story read to the children. Children dressed up as a banana, strawberry, tomato and a bunch of grapes.

Each family received a "5 - a - Day" booklet and the comments from the parents were good. Some were amazed that their children tried so many different types of vegetables, ate them . . . and said they actually liked them!

of funding from the Urban Village Initiative. The money has been used to provide equipment, which is now being used at the Youth Club he is running at St. Mary's Meeting Room in Riddlesden. A laptop, video projector and a set of bell plates were purchased and Pete hopes to use the bell plates at both East Morton and Riddlesden schools.

The club is for children from Year 6 to Year 10 ie. 10 to 16, and 12 of those attending are from East Morton. There are currently about 40 young people attending in total. Support in running the club is given by church youth workers.

Best Kept Garden Competition

Get those pots planted up, and keep mowing and weeding. We are holding our Best Kept Garden Competition together with Best House Frontage (pots etc) again this year and the judge will be walking around the village in the late spring and summer to look for some winners.

Use your local shop and Post Office to join the Morton Lottery, pay your membership and many other items

Membership can be sent to the Treasurer at 'Redwoods', Morton Lane or given to one of the Committee members listed below

Mrs Mary Appleby	24 Morton Grove	Telephone 567456
Miss Doris Beanlands	10 Main Road	Telephone 565420
Mr Michael Craven	5 Upper Mill Row	Telephone 510667
Mrs Florence Bramall	The Ridge, Morton Lane	Telephone 565177
Mr Stephen Brear	High Point, Street Lane	Telephone 563223
Mrs Dorothy Dennis	6 Dimples Lane	Telephone 567222
Mrs Jean Duckworth	Otley Mount	Telephone 564924
Mr Stephen Duxbury	Redwoods, Morton Lane	Telephone 567842
Mr Stephen Foster	19, Elm Crescent	Telephone 568349
Mrs Dawn Howarth	6 Paslew Court, Waterside Fold	Tel 01535 667457
Mrs Irene Holdsworth	Moor Cottage, The Butts	Telephone 563985
Miss Stephanie Holt	10 Silk Mill Drive	Telephone 567407
Mrs Pauline Horne	Cliff House	Telephone 567134
Mr Ian Kirkbride	35 Roedhelm Road, Waterside Fold	Tel 01535 663272
Mr David Miller	4 Cliff Mill Fold	Telephone 569286
Mrs Tracey Paul	14 Branby Avenue, Waterside Fold,	Tel 01535 680502
Mrs Karen Redhead	Manor Barn, Green End Road	Telephone 560279
Mrs Joan Sampson	3 Elm Crescent	Telephone 566443
Mr John Stentiford	7 Providence Row	Telephone 560676

Morton Gala - 15th July 2007

East Morton Gala is going green this year and doing its bit to help 'save the planet' when it holds its annual event on Sunday July 15.

Recycling will be the theme throughout the afternoon with fun workshops, displays, and competitions to entertain and inform. The gala will retain its traditional feel with stalls, games and activities – many with a recycling element.

For the last three years the gala has been held on a Sunday to encourage more people to help on the day.

"Many volunteers help set up, run stalls or dismantle at the end of the afternoon. With busy lives not everyone has time to attend meetings throughout the year but are able to give up a few hours on the day which is a massive help," said committee member Kathy Myers.

Money raised from the day goes back to local organisations which benefit the village.

Thanks to two very sunny days and great attendances during 2005 and 2006 the committee had enough money to also hold a free Christmas party for the village children in December. Almost children 100 attended plus lots of parents and grandparents!

"This was followed by a pie and pea supper in the Busfeild Arms with carol singing by the St Luke's church choir. Landlord and Landlady Julian and Vicky kindly provided the supper for nearly 200...plus mince pies making for a truly festive day for the village.

"The gala brings everyone together for one day a year. With funds available, the committee wanted to arrange something which would do the same at Christmas time and the event was very well received. If the gala continues to be such a success we may well be able to hold another childrens' party this year," said Kathy.

Further details contact Kathy h - 567174, w - 582946, m - 07712 871859



Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village