



Spring Newsletter No 60 - 2008

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Well - there are flowers, blossom, lambs and we have had a spell of some warmth to go with them! Picture shows Honesty growing on the canal bank. The



Village Green is looking colourful, especially the nice red pedestal postbox(!), and Stepping Stones II will probably be into their seasonal programme of work by the time you receive this newsletter. The seat which the Nowell family have donated to the Green in memory of Derek is made now and should be put in place before too long. Unfortunately the bench which commemorated Marian Doyle, the Society's previous secretary, has had to be removed for safety reasons. Inspection revealed parts of the wood had become rotten, leading to the back and one side collapsing. The plaque has been

saved and will be replaced on the new bench commissioned to replace it.

Postbox

The new postbox appeared on the Green, but without any consultation. The committee feel that it could have been better placed, perhaps on the opposite side of the path to the noticeboard. Also, a larger box would have better met the needs of the residents and businesses. The aperture is not very big and previously, much mail would have been handed over the counter to Kate for her postbag, a facility no longer available. Additionally, its present position could result in a path being trodden across the grass over a period of time. Not the end of the world you might say, but it would spoil the rather nice slope of the grass on the green. Our enquiries may result in a change - let's hope so.

Public Loos

The official opening of the public toilets is imminent. All

work has been done apart from the installation of a new electric supply - a job for YEDL, and with a timescale of 8-12 weeks, we are advised. At the last Keighley Neighbourhood Forum (KNF) some residents offered to be part of a rota for the opening the toilets. So far, three have agreed to take keys and the toilets will be opened around 9am although of course, the timing does not need to be precise. A mobile toilet cleaner will attend the toilets as late as possible within his shift (approximately 5pm) to clean and lock them. This is a real result for the village. Yes, it is unlikely that you or I may need to use them, but they will be well used by those passing through, walkers and Stepping Stones II for example when they are working on the Green. Well done to all those involved in the re-opening of this public facility, particularly Jill Wilkinson, Manager of Ancillary Services in Bradford, Sue Gledhill (KNF) and Malcolm Slater, who was our local Councillor. The three volunteers who have taken a key - Gita Davy, Viv Kendon and David Miller demonstrate a real community spirit and hopefully more offers will be forthcoming making opening a less frequent task.

Green End Road

Now that the trees are felled, the graveyard in Green End Road is to be tidied and a new gate put on. Consideration will then be given on how best to enjoy the site. If you have any ideas, particularly those of you who live



nearby, please let us know. Maybe some of you would be willing to help with future maintenance, which we would hope to be kept to a minimum.

Dimples Lane Footpath

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. Further improvements to the rising section of path on the Mickethwaite side of the bridge are planned. The heavy rains of January were the final straw!

Institute and money from Leeds Bradford airport

The money available from the sale of Leeds Bradford airport could fund work needed inside the Institute, and perhaps outside too if there are sufficient funds available. Decisions on how the money will be used lies with our ward councillors and at the KNF residents were invited for their suggestions. A list of the work prioritised by the Institute Committee had been passed on to Malcolm Slater (our previous Councillor) and he had hoped that however the funding is used, work will be done before the winter, our



new Councillor Dorothy Clamp has taken over our case and is looking after our interests. As far as the Institute is concerned, a new boiler comes top of the list. Outside, we should like to see a proper path put across to Cliffestone Drive from the trim trail. This would be a big improvement on the trodden, track there now which, during a good part of the year, is very soft and muddy. The footpath down Morton Lane below St. Luke's Church is narrow, and using the Recreation Ground and Cliffestone Drive would be a much safer alternative, particularly with young children, pushchairs etc.

This summer could see some planters outside the Institute, enhancing the centre of the village, if things can be organised in time. Mick and Kate won an award last year for their displays at The Pantry which lent a lot of extra colour.

Jack Hiley 1926-2008



Jack Hiley a well known and much respected Morton resident sadly died on May 10th. Many older residents will remember Jack from his mobile fruit and vegetable van.

Jack was born in Morton and involved in many village activities over the years, including being a life long member of the Chapel, and will be sadly missed by many other organisations. We send our condolences to Alma and the family.

Do you like a good sing?!

Are you a closet singer, giving your finest performances in the privacy of the bath or car? Why not come along and add your voice to others and enjoy the pleasure of a good sing? The choir at St. Luke's Church in the village always welcomes new members. The group consists currently of about 12-15 regular members - if you've been in the Busfeild on a Wednesday evening between 9 and 10 you've probably seen us there, as choir practices (8-9 in the church) are always followed by refreshments, and plenty of laughter and chat!

Just as the church likes to feel that it is a significant part of village life, so too the choir is very much for everybody in East Morton and the surrounding area. We do sing mostly church music, but you don't have to be a formal church member or even a committed believer - all you need is an open mind, a sense of fun, and a love of singing. The items we practice each week form a part of Sunday services, and once or twice a year we perform music on a slightly larger scale for special occasions like Christmas and Easter.

As regards musical ability - our singers are enthusiastic amateurs, and not all of us can read music (or even sing in tune sometimes!) but we are fortunate in having a very capable and long-suffering choir mistress, who generally manages to produce something reasonably harmonious from her motley crew! If you like to sing, and fancy doing so with a group of similar enthusiasts why not get in touch? Drop in any Wednesday and give it a try - no obligation to join if you decide it's not really for you! To find out more you can reach our choir leader, Sally Dow, on 01274 565479. Or just call at the Busfeild any Wednesday after 9pm - you can't miss us!

Morton Village Lottery

From small beginnings we now have over 400 members, as the number of members has increased so has the number and value of the prizes. Now standing at £75, £50, £25, £15 and £10 a month with a Gala bonus prize of £150.

Our aim is now to have a regular 500 members and to be able to enhance your village even more.

Why not come along and pull the winning numbers and join us for a drink in the Busfeild Arms on 1st Tuesday each month at 8pm.

Latest winners:

February

£75 A Sohepme; £40 C Stansfield; £25 C Iwachiw; £10 D Marsh

March

£75 D Bradley; £50 R Holdsworth; £25 M Millar; £10 K Holmes

April

£75 JT Walton; £50 S Shin
£25 M McCormack; £15 V McCann

May

£75 L Booth; £50 J Whitaker
£25 SP & SC Foster;
£15 A Brown; £10 P Heaton

Watch out – the Best Kept Garden judge is about.

We are happy that this event will take place again this year - it could be YOU!!



We are looking for unsightly areas in the village that as the Society can tidy up - here is an area at the bottom of Green End Road, though we are not sure of



ownership at the moment, there were some old cottages here that were demolished in the mid 70s.



The 27th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Institute on 22nd July 2008 at 7.30pm

If you are interested in joining the committee then please contact Mary Appleby on 567456 before the AGM.

The Village Society is here to help you on local issues and together with the Neighbourhood Forum both aim to preserve your village. You are invited to come along and let us have your comments, ideas and suggestions to help us.



East Morton School



Anne Scott retires from school

Ann Scott retired from school after nine years working as a teaching assistant and lately Parental Involvement Officer. She has worked with many of our parents organising both dads' and mums' days in school and also evening events when parents and children can have fun together baking cakes, racing scalextric cars and making robots to name but a few. She also helped organise our very popular community lunch afternoons where Year Four children serve lunch and chat to members of the community.

Ann, along with her husband Dale, also ran the schools' very successful gardening club helping to create this beautiful area in the school grounds.

Ann previously worked at Grange Middle School before moving to East Morton nine years ago.

"She is loved by the children and very much appreciated by all the parents and staff; we will miss her but wish her well for a long and happy retirement.

Photographed with left to right: Harry Preston, Tom Grace and Fiona Bailey.

St Luke's Church

Hi there from St Luke's – we thought it would be lovely to introduce ourselves.

Each Sunday we enjoy meeting together, singing hymns, praying and sharing round God's Word and, at the same time, blocking Morton Lane for the couple of hours when we hold our main service, but there's more to us than that!

We love being part of the Community so you will find us fielding teams for the Village Quiz and, being the highly intelligent people we are, quite often winning it. Some may claim that, with God on our side we have an unfair advantage, but we don't see that as a problem! We also love to join in with the Gala, allowing our musical abilities (or otherwise) to show clearly and, six months later, you'll find us helping in the Busfield Arms with carol singing. In fact, those of you who frequent that hostelry, may already have met those of our choir who spend a time after choir practice on a Wednesday evening making sure their vocal cords are well lubricated after all their hard work.

Like all churches, finance is sometimes a struggle, especially when the organ runs out of puff as it did in February, but we have managed to get the blower replaced and are using some of the funds raised by the wine-tasting in January to start on the repayment of the loan. The Steeton Male Voice Choir are performing in early May and we trust that many of you will have enjoyed that, as much as you enjoyed the wine-tasting. We

Institute Notes

At the AGM of the institute committee, it was felt we should have closer ties with the Village Society to give us fresh ideas for moving forward, and with this in mind it was proposed the two committees should meet together under the chairmanship of David.

The first combined meeting took place in April and most people thought it extremely worthwhile. Two new members joined the committee, Paul and Stasia Lonsdale, they are most welcome. One of our members, Florence Bramall is ill, we wish her a speedy recovery.

Institute information from Gill Clarke - Bookings Secretary

The Institute continues to serve the individuals and organisations of the village and local community. The main hall area and annexe is in regular demand for private hire for family celebrations, mainly children's birthday parties where there is ample room for all, for entertainment, eating and running around. The booking number to ring for such events is in the Institute window.

Many organisations and individuals hire the Hall on a regular weekly basis to provide services, expertise and social

events for themselves or for the village. See the timetable below or make enquiries via the booking secretary on 01274 566504. In addition there are one-off social events held by various groups, the Sea Cadets, the Young Farmers, Church and WI Coffee mornings, jumble sales and lunches - the Village Quiz Night, the Gala Children's Christmas Party and the Gala event itself are regularly set around the Village Hall.

The Snooker Room houses a full sized table and can be booked for regular slots during the week by committed enthusiasts, under the supervision of at least one adult over 21 years of age. A newly constructed meeting room enables local MP surgeries, Neighbourhood Forum Meetings and various club AGMs to be held whilst other events are going on in the Hall.

Please note that the hiring rates have recently been increased to £10 per hour for private weekend and week day hire and £5 for the regular organisation bookings and meetings - still considered to be a very good rate!

It would be good to see the Institute building remain at the hub of the village. Please help support it with your bookings and participation in events.

Timetable of regular weekly bookings of the Institute building

AM	PM	
Monday	Brownies. Young Farmers 8pm	Cubs 6pm
Tuesday and Toddlers 9.30am-11.30am	Play Group/Mothers 7.30pm.	WI 2nd Tuesday
Wednesday Language Group	New pre-school	Yoga Whist Drive 2nd Wednesday
Thursday		Keep Fit
Friday		Dance group

are also looking at development within the church and are levelling the floor at the front and carpeting that and a bit more. Many thanks to those in the village who have been so generous in their contributions towards this.

When the church was built in 1851, church-going was almost

compulsory but numbers have dropped since then. However, the church is still there for those who live in the area and, if we can be of any use to you, please give us a ring. Meanwhile, we'll continue to remind you of our presence by blocking Morton Lane for a couple of hours each Sunday morning!

East Morton Gala 13th July 2008

Roll up Roll up its circus time!

Design
the
Cover
Competition

This years theme is
'The Circus'

So get your ideas down on paper, size to be A4 portrait (upright). You can use paints, felt tips, crayons, pencils, computers etc. Hand into School or post to 25 Northview Terrace (opposite Busfeld Arms). Entries to be in by 28th May. Don't forget your name, age and contact details on the back of your entry

Gala Queen & Attendants



Designs and Nominations required by 28th May

Anyone wanted to put their name forward for Gala Queen or Attendant, must live in the village and be aged 12 - 16 years for the Gala Queen or in year 2 at Primary School for the Attendants. Please send a letter saying who you wish to nominate for Gala Queen or Attendant with their date of birth and post to 25 Northview Terrace or send your nomination via email to eastmortongala@aol.com.

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Please get in touch if you would like to help in any way
Tel 01274 512838 for further details

Yes the circus is coming to East Morton. What could be more colourful than a circus theme for the 2008 village Gala?

So heading this years Gala we have the Urban Circus Arts, a group of special circus entertainers who will amaze us all with their skills. Watch open eyed at their demonstrations or unleash those hidden talents by joining in one of their workshops held during the Gala afternoon.

And not to disappoint those traditionalists we have many of the favourite events you all love at the Gala too. Try your hand at the side stall games, will you be lucky on the Tombola? There is a bouncy castle, a slippery slide and a strongman hammer challenge too.

This is all likely to make you hungry and thirsty so the famous BBQ and Beer Tent will be at the ready! Our East Morton WI ladies will open their doors mid afternoon for the very popular Gala teas serving tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.

The Gala begins with the procession of floats, unusual cars, musicians, the Silsden

Allstars Majorettes and circus fancy dress walkers. It leaves Sunnydale, led by our 2008 Gala Queen, at 12.30 arriving on the recreational field for 1pm.

In the main arena the Queen will be officially crowned followed by the baby and pet competitions. Then you can see musical displays by the Majorettes and the circus troupe then start their show. Along side all this there will be Uncle Nick entertaining young and old with his special magic tricks and returning by popular demand – the Crank-It-Up bikes. The gorgeous Blackpool Donkeys are travelling over from the coast and will be available for rides too. Rounding off the afternoon we have the childrens' races, East Morton tug of war and finally the very messy egg throwing competition...what more could you want!

Can you sponsor an event? Or could you spare half an hour on the day? If so please call Kathy 01274 567174 or John 01274 512838
Cakes and Buns needed for the Gala Teas! Please bring your delicious offerings on Gala day to Yvonne Todd in the Institute by 12 noon. If you would like to help call Yvonne on 01274 561366.

Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village