



Spring Newsletter No 63 - 2009

www.mortonvillage.org.uk

Morton in Bloom

Early on the morning of Monday, March 30th several locals were to be seen in the centre of East Morton grovelling in the gutters. Yes, we were looking for fag ends, for at 10am that morning we were to be visited by two judges from Yorkshire in Bloom for the first of our two assessments. Fortunately, in this last little clean up we felt we'd been aided by the villagers' concern for reducing litter - thank you.

Despite only being in existence for six months we felt confident of taking our judges on a route through part of the community to show the positive efforts made, not only by our group of helpers on East Morton in Bloom (MIB), but also the labours of individual householders and community groups.

The judges were met at the Fardew Golf Club where David Heaton's staff laid on coffee. Our route then took in the village entrance sign, improved by a small bed and some daffodil planting. Then on to the village school where a

group of schoolchildren proudly showed them the garden which they can justifiably call their own. We walked through the

churchyard where the groups recent work has cleared the lower overgrown section amongst graves, where we hope later to add some wild flowers, and reopened a path laid with old gravestones. Much was made of the improvement at the front and rear of Village Institute before the judges met children from the Toddlers Group who showed off the potted plants they had personally reared. Next was the area

around the public toilets which has been planted with perennial bushes and provided with a water butt, plus a general smartening of the bus shelter and its environs. Following a visit to Margaret Irving's impressive garden the judges walked through The Croft and along Morton Grove where residents make a real effort with their gardens. Finally we arrived at the Old School Green where, as fortune would have it, the gardening group called Stepping Stones were at work

and only too pleased to talk about their maintenance of this attractive feature.

The same judges second and last visit will be on Friday

July 10th when we take them on a different though as yet undetermined route. This is likely to include

some of the same features in order to show

their continued maintenance and development. July will be

a good time to show "bloom"

so we will be keen to visit our highly regarded allotments and the many colourful displays in gardens. The Best Kept Garden/Frontage competition has demonstrated our village's capacity for attractive summer displays. The type of housing we have in Morton lends itself to the impact from tubs and hanging baskets and we will be seeking to take the judges around many of the streets where these are to be found.

Those of us involved in MIB are deriving much pleasure from our work and would welcome newcomers. Skill in gardening, or knowledge of plants is not important as so much of what we do is unskilled labour and people decide on their own level of commitment. Essentially we are about work on public areas in the village and the encouragement of individual and group initiatives to improve our living space.

Newcomers are welcome at our next planning meeting on Monday June 8th in the Busfeild Arms at 8pm when plans will be made for coming work. Anyone not at the meeting but interested in joining one of our working parties can get information from Lee Senior on his e-mail address: See the box below for dates and Lee's email address. *David Flaherty.*

Craft Fair and Coffee Morning

The Institute was home to a craft fair and coffee morning on Saturday 28th March. The event was organised by myself and a number of local crafty and creative mums who wanted to show their handiwork and enjoy some good company at the same time. In fact having announced our intention to hold the event with only three stall holders on board I was astonished to find people owning up to a variety of craft hobbies and joining in to swell the ranks to 12 different stalls. It was a great success, with an impressive turnout to enjoy our homemade cakes with tea or coffee, and sales from the stalls went well. There were handmade bags, brooches, cards, gifts, bath bombs and chocolate truffles as well as books and toys for sale - something for all tastes and budgets. The Easter egg competition also raised over £50 for the Parkinson's Disease Society. So please make a note in your diary as another date at the institute has been booked - for our Christmas Fair - on

Future Morton in bloom working party dates as follows:

Sunday 31st May 10am
Saturday 6th June 10am;
Thursday 18th June 7pm;
Saturday 4th July 10am

Meet at the toilet area on all occasions, please bring gloves, trowels etc. You do not need to be a gardening expert to get involved!

All volunteers needed to help our village in the 2009 Yorkshire in bloom competition. For further info contact Lee Senior on 01274 563377 or email leeseniorgardening@yahoo.co.uk



PORTFOLIO FOR
2009 ENTRY
YORKSHIRE IN BLOOM



28th November 2009, I look forward to seeing you there. *Rhona Emmott*

Women's Institute

Walk past Morton Institute "Hall" at 7.25pm on the second Tuesday of any month and you will hear a buzz of conversation and laughter coming from within. That is because the members of Morton Women's Institute are starting their meeting by chatting to friends old and new and anticipating what activities are on offer in the coming weeks.

Our AGM, held in January, was followed by a "mock auction", and already we have had two brilliant speakers this year - the first was a lawyer who spoke about forensic science, and the second told us about life as a Governor of Bradford Hospitals.

Jam and Jerusalem is very old fashioned. Well! Perhaps just occasionally, we cook something, or sing our anthem, but actually our time is spent on activities which stretch us mentally and physically.

Morton WI organises trips to restaurants and theatres, and we have our own EXTREMELY Amateur Dramatic Section. We support other activities in the village organised by the church and local interest groups, and meet regularly with two local WIs which allows us to participate in activities that need greater numbers to be viable, i.e. our own Carol Service and a summer outing - this year to Beverley and Burton Agness.

As part of the West Yorkshire Federation, we participate in events taking place throughout the County. This year some of our members will be gliding over Sutton Bank, or attending a Golf Taster day where we will have professional coaching, lunch and a friendly competition at a very reasonable cost. We will have a team in a huge quiz night at Pudsey Civic Hall and will attend "The Last Night of the Proms" and a Christmas Concert at that venue. We will have the opportunity to learn sketching, new needlecraft skills, and how to play bridge. We have organised tours of Menwith Listening Centre and the Royal Hall in Harrogate and while our less

mobile members enjoy lunch on a canal cruise from Skipton, our more agile members will participate in the Spring and Autumn Rambles - 3, 5, or 7 miles. These are just a handful of the events and courses on offer this year, and we haven't described how we challenge or support Government initiatives.

The age range of our members at Morton covers groups in each decade from those in their 30s to those in their 80s, and everyone plays their part. Although our membership has increased by over 50% in the last year we are always pleased to welcome new members (and ideas for activities). Come along (as our guest for 3 meetings) to see what we have to offer. *Yvonne Todd.*

Popping corks at the Institute!

If you were walking past the Institute on Friday 13th February and heard the sounds of distant carousing you might have been tempted to press your nose to the window, and would have seen 50 or 60 Morton residents and their friends, rosy-cheeked and wreathed in smiles, enjoying the pleasure of sampling wines.

The wine tasting evening is rapidly becoming a popular regular event in the Morton calendar and if you haven't come across it before, keep your eyes open for the next time. If you like wine, an element of quizzing, a chance to win a prize, and the convivial company of fellow imbibers, you're in for a treat. And it's an ideal village event as, if you're a resident, the chances are you can stagger home and not have to draw lots for who's driving!

The format of the evening is "Call My Bluff" - partakers sample a wine and are then treated to two possible definitions of its origins and variety. All you have to do is tick one answer or the other (no danger of being shown up by an awful faux pas if you don't know your Chardonnay from your Cabernet Sauvignon!)

Eight wines are offered for the delectation of tasters, and at the end of the evening some lucky

winners walk off with a bottle of one of the featured wines. In between wines there are also generous supplies of nibbles and a hearty selection of bread and cheese to help clear the palate for the next wine. Buckets are provided for the delicate disposal of unwanted wine but it has to be said that very little use is made of them and most participants seem to enjoy most of the wines!

You don't have to consider yourself a wine expert to enjoy the evening - just someone who likes a glass of wine in the company of like-minded companions. And who, you might ask, is the organising force behind all this - a brewery? A wine superstore? Well, you might be surprised to know that the answer is - the Church! Ever ready to overcome any possible accusation that churchgoers might be puritanical killjoys, St. Luke's organises the wine tasting once or twice a year, and money raised goes to support the church and the work it does in the community.

The church is fortunate in having amongst its members the wine manager from Booths at Ilkley, who, together with his colleague, chooses and presents the wines in a very able fashion. Many thanks go to them from everyone who attended the event, and here's to the next one! *Sally Williams.*

Best Kept Garden/ Frontage and Tubs

Will take place this year again, thanks to a very willing judge. So...do your stuff and see who will be the winners this year.

Christingle Service

This is the most popular service for families in the Church calendar, certainly in East Morton. Those of you who attend with

Morton Village Lottery

We now have 500 members in the Lottery, to increase your chances of winning please contact Karen or Mick for extra numbers.

Latest winners:

January

£100 K Myers; £50 C Nichols
£25 P Crook; £15 A Hughes
£10 R Dunne

February

£100 Maxine; £50 N Brook
£25 R Fikkert; £15 J Atkinson
£10 B Crook

March

£100 F Fairlie; £50 A Idle
£25 S Nicklin; £15 ;
£10 P Bradley

April

£100 A Hiley; £50 J Leybourne
£25 B Carr; £15 C Mott
£10 A Ridley

your children know what a special time it is but you may also be pleased to learn that the funds raised from the service at St Luke's and all other churches nationwide were successful in raising £1.2 million pounds for the Church of England Children's Society. A further £2 million pounds is raised annually from collecting boxes in homes through the country. This information was provided by Rev. Tim Harford - Head of Community Fundraising for the Church of England Children's Society.

Civic Trust

We have been notified that the Civic Trust has gone into administration, we did use there services many years ago, but we are much more self reliant now, this does not however effect our insurance which is with a separate company.

Chairman's corner

All of us in Morton have been very concerned at the tragic accident which happened to our very cheerful, helpful milkman/farmer, Colin Chew in Otley Road at the bottom of Alma. I have been taking steps to try to prevent such happening again via the Keighley Town Council Watch and Transport Committee. After I had spoken to them this committee have sent a unanimous resolution to the Highways authority asking strongly that three notices be placed. The first one at the very top of Alma at the junction with Heights Lane, the second on Bradford Road at the entrance to Swine Lane and the third in Morton Lane above the swing bridge beyond the Gore transport depot banning heavy goods vehicles from the village roads. It may take some time to be actioned by the relevant authorities but it is most necessary. Many large vehicles navigate using Sat Navs when some models cannot discriminate between trunk roads and narrow lanes like the ones through Morton, I hope for some results. *David Miller*

Crossflatts Pharmacy is celebrating it's first anniversary and would like to thank everyone for their continued support! Save the hassle and take advantage of our FREE collection and delivery of prescriptions - we can order and pick up your prescriptions from the doctor's surgery. Call in or telephone 01274 565992 or visit www.cpharmacy.co.uk

Children's corner

East Morton Primary School

Building work on our new extension to increase the size of two of our classrooms is well on the way. This work is due to be completed in the summer holidays so children in Year 2 and 3 will be able to return to lovely spacious classrooms for the new school year.

Friends of Morton School have been very busy raising funds this year to improve the environmental garden. The pond has already been re lined and future plans include better pathways through the garden, an area of decking which will form a learning area and a bird hide is planned. It is hoped that the environmental garden will be open for community use including Bingley Wildlife Watch.

Two of our pupils have been successful in this year's Airedale

Writers' Competition. Ciara Wasylyk won first prize for her story "Peter's Journey" and Mollie Foster was highly commended for her poem "Reasons to Remember".

Louise Dale: Head Teacher



New Pre-School

As a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, our new Pre-School will provide early years education supporting the village of Morton and surrounding areas. Following the Early Years Foundation Stage and approved by Ofsted, we are able to accept Nursery Education Funding, which are the five sessions funded by the Government following the child's third birthday.

At the pre-school, children will have opportunities to:

- Make friends
- Learn through play
- Develop listening, language and communication skills
- Have their interests widened through interesting and challenging activities
- Make their own choices and grow their sense of identity
- Be creative
- Grow in confidence, be strong and independent
- Have lots of fun

Developing at their own pace, with activities tailored to their needs and developmental stage, we offer a safe and encouraging environment to help each child reach their full potential.

Our setting recognises the importance of parents being the most important educators of their children and we aim to support this learning and development by working in partnership together.

Each session is organised so that children can choose from a wide range of activities and resources and work at their own pace. We balance child-led and adult-led play and learning, so that the child directs their own learning, with the support and encouragement of adults as and when required. Children learn best when engaged in things that interest them and we will scaffold onto these preferences, to broaden their knowledge and understanding in a fun and enjoyable way.

We aim to run the pre-school from the Institute Memorial Hall in the centre of the village. As renovation work is planned later this year, for safety reasons we will be delivering the sessions at the Methodist Church Hall in Eldwick until the Memorial Hall is suitable for sessional child-care. The Church Hall in Eldwick is already used for a playgroup (running at different times) and is therefore already registered with Ofsted and provides a safe and enjoyable environment for children.

For additional information please contact either Sue Barber on 07968 274149 or Jane Courtney on 07981 124093.

Wild West is the theme of this year's gala, with a bucking bronco, lasso and strong man competition to add to the usual attractions this year's Gala could be the most ambitious yet!

Watch out for the Gala programme which will be delivered through your door before July 12th with lots more detail about the day.

After the expenses of running the Gala are met, monies raised from the day go towards village organisations. This year the Gala has also sponsored a flower planter which will soon be on display near the roundabout. This is to support the Village Society's campaign in the Village in Bloom competition.

Don't forget... deadline for 'Design the Programme Cover' Gala Queen and Attendants candidates competitions is May 22nd - watch out for details of these soon on village notice boards and posters.

Why not put something back? We know you all enjoy the Gala so can you help on a stall for half an hour on the day? If so call Pam Collett on 569950. Could you help set up in the morning? a few willing helpers really does make a difference, call Steve Foster 568349. Thinking of entering a float - Wild West theme of course? call Gill Clarke 566504. Any general Gala queries call Kathy Myers 567174.



East Morton War Memorial Village Institute

History

The Village Institute started life in 1828 as a Wesleyan Chapel doubling up as a Methodist School, known as The British School. In 1846 it was sold for £150 to the Non-Conformist Church and, in turn, the school became non-conformist. The headmaster did not receive a salary but took his fees from the 1/6 (5p) paid by each scholar for a week's tuition. The village suffered from closure of many of its mills through the late 1800/early 1900 period as a result of depression in the wool industry, fire and other events. Consequently the population of the village also declined and The British School eventually closed around 1914. As a consequence, the building remained virtually unused until after the First World War.

In November 1919, after the Peace Celebrations, the Board of Education gave its consent for a Memorial Hall to be built onto the back of the original building. The front portion was then adapted for use as a billiard and club room. The cost of the extension and conversions was met from public subscriptions.

In 1972 a further extension was erected to the rear of the building financed by the then Keighley Corporation. Other funds were raised by the Institute Committee for additional improvements. A sponsored walk resulted in practically the whole village turning out.

Over the years the Institute has had various uses, it was used for meetings by Morton Parish Council. From 1939 until 1977 part of it was rented by Keighley Library until cuts in expenditure resulted in the commencement of a mobile library service.

From 1960 until very recently, the Child Welfare Clinic was held there. From 1965 until the new Village School was built in 1976, the Education Department rented the kitchen and main hall for school meals.

Present day

Today, the building is used by a number of different clubs and societies including The Brownies, Mothers and Toddlers, Children's Playgroups, Pensioners Snooker Club, Keep Fit Class, Women's Institute, Dance Class and Yoga. It is available for hire to individuals for meetings, dances, social gatherings, wedding receptions and children's parties and so on.

The Committee is very keen to ensure that the Institute continues to play an important part in East Morton Village life, particularly now that the Post Office and last shop in the village has closed. It remains a point of contact and centre for the village and is available for all its residents to utilise for their own purposes. Unfortunately, the Institute has had access to only limited resources over recent years, barely enabling it to meet its ever-increasing running costs. Most recently it has only been kept going with the assistance of grants and legacies.

However, the Committee has now been enhanced and expanded by an amalgamation with the successful Morton Village Society funded by the Village Lottery. It is now developing a programme of improvements to return the building to a standard of which the village can once again be proud. These improvements will be financed by an allocation from Bradford Council, more frequent money raising events and attempts to obtain other grants and funding.

Villagers can all play a part in this objective by attending the social events and/or hiring the hall whenever an occasion demands it. Even

Is there anybody out there who would like to take on responsibility for the graveyard, or just to do a bit of weeding now and then? When the Society took over responsibility for the area some years ago, the idea then was that it be maintained but left in a natural rather than manicured state. There may be some adjacent residents who would like some input. If so, please let us know.

better, we would welcome enthusiastic villagers who might be interested in forming a group or club to function within the Institute. Examples of clubs and societies which take place at other Institutes throughout the country are: Art, Bridge, Carpet Bowls, Chess, Film, Gardening, Local history, Model-making, Music, Photography, Snooker and Table-tennis.

So, please let us know if you are interested in getting involved by setting up and running any suitable activity.

Current activities

Mothers & Toddlers	Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30	Suzanne Worsley	01274-563705
Women's Institute	2nd Tuesday eve each month	Mary Morgan	01274-563919
Keep Fit	Tuesday 19:30 - 20:30	Gill Clarke	01274-566504
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 - 1pm	Chrissy Blakeley	01274-563609
Snooker Club	Wednesday 14.00 - 17.00	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
Gill Clarke - Bookings Sec	01274-566504	clarke50@tiscali.co.uk

We welcome your booking enquiries by telephone or email.

Prices for hire of the hall: £10 per hour (reduced for preparation time).
£5 per hour for the small meeting room. Reduced charge for regular users.

**Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm
on Thursday 23 July in Institute,
please attend.**

**Keighley Neighbourhood Forum meeting
on Thursday 16 July in Institute.**

**There will be a Police and Highways Dept presence
following the fatal accident on Alma. Support for
initiative to restrict heavy lorries from using a route
through the village would be welcome - please attend
and make your views and comments heard.**

**Important date for your diary
Quiz night Thursday 2nd July in Institute
7.30pm, proceeds to 'Morton-in-bloom'
More details from Karen Redhead, Manor Barn, 6 Studely Close
or phone 5660279. Supper included - tickets £4. Entry forms
available from porch of 6 Dimples Lane - BOOK EARLY**

Morton Village Society
Aiming to preserve your village