



Spring Newsletter No 75 - 2013

www.mortonvillage.org.uk

One of our eagle eyed committee members, noting that the next issue of the newsletter would be a "significant" number suggested something be included from the first newsletter. This was duly located and although the inaugural meeting of the Society was held in July 1981, the first newsletter did not appear until the autumn of 1984. Here are a few snippets of what was happening in East Morton then –

- The Secretary (Marian Doyle) had slowly submerged under a sea of correspondence
- £5,000 had been allocated from the Community Programme for the landscaping of the old school site and the start of work to be done by the Manpower Services Commission eagerly awaited
- A public meeting could be held about the possible exchange of land in and around the Recreation Ground
- Canterbury Tenants Association, had spent time and money in improving Freedom Mill Dam where they had permission to fish. They requested villagers to keep an eye on the dam whilst enjoying the improvements as they had encountered several acts of vandalism
- A request had been made to the Local Authority to fence off the piece of land between Otley Road and Green End Road
- Requests had been made to move the 30mph sign on Carr Lane from outside the school back along Carr Lane, hopefully deterring aspiring grand prix drivers

The above, whilst not particularly gripping now, were locally important at the time. Some highlights nationally were the Band Aid single and Torvill and Dean winning gold. It was a year for disasters – the Brighton Bomb and lightening striking York Minster to mention just two. The Thames Barrier opened and it was the Eureka moment for DNA fingerprinting. The most famous person born in 1984 was probably Prince Harry although if football is your thing, you may prefer Glen Johnson!



Photo of Village Green from last year, lets hope it looks as good for this year's judging for Morton-in-Bloom

Reading the notes from the meeting held to form a Village Society, some questions raised then were –

- the disgraceful state of the toilets
- the great benefit that would be felt by having a policeman known in the village and who could be seen to patrol on foot
- the absence of litter bins
- the state of the bus shelter damaged by vandals
- footpaths had become spoiled due to motorcycle scramblers at Sunnydale
- there was no village of Morton and the Society should take the title of East Morton – but voted to remain as MVS
- a resident wanted reassurance that the Society would not be having sherry parties and the like and that there would not be petty interference with individual residents
-and so on

Institute builds on its success

The story of the building that is East Morton's War Memorial Institute has had its ups and downs over the years, but following its refurbishment four years ago it is currently riding high with more bookings, classes and clubs than ever. Before the refurbishment - under quieter times - the management of the hall was absorbed by the village society. But a busy hall means lots of work for the volunteers who run it and so they have re-instated its own separate management committee, agm and meetings. The first of these institute AGMs was held on 28th March and was well attended. The committee was elected and are now ready to move forward with some essential projects like addressing the lack of an up to date constitution, reviewing the fabric of the building and arranging the repainting of the hall's interior this summer.



Doris Beanlands
See inside for obituary on Doris

Launch of Village History Archive

A project has begun to gather a village archive covering all aspects of village life in a wide variety of forms; maps, photos, documents, verbal records etc. It is our aim that this archive be made secure yet accessible to all. Stage one is to gather as much material as possible, stage two to assess, sort and archive the material and stage three to allow public access to both physical and electronic version of the archive, followed by stage four - to keep it growing in the future.

Our public launch and appeal for material is to be on Sunday 9th June at the institute 1-4pm when we will display some of the fascinating material, maps and photographs we have already gathered. We would also encourage everyone to bring documents with them for scanning, however trivial, it is all aspects of village life that interest us, and to allow the recording of their verbal histories there and then or at a future time. So please put this date in your diaries and join us.

Local History Exhibition

Featuring a selection of maps, photographs and documents of East Morton over the last 150 years.

AND... launching a project to create a village archive which is secure and yet accessible to all.

Sunday 9th June 2013

1-4pm Free Entry

East Morton War Memorial Institute

Please bring any documents or photos with you, they can be scanned there and these so you can take them home again.

Morton meet
needs more helpers to work behind the counter making teas and coffees - just two hours every two or three months

SEE INSIDE FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE

Doris Beanlands 6.4.1923 - 22.4.2013

Doris lived all of her life in the same house in East Morton's Main Road, where she was born, until latterly ill health meant a move into care. Whilst never marrying or having children of her own she was part of a large and loving family and acted as surrogate mother to a range of cousins, nieces, nephews and in time their own children, allowing parents to go to work and offering a loving home to all. According to family information, the Beanlands had lived in East Morton since the middle of the 1500's, Doris being the last.

She began work in Keighley after leaving school and during the war joined the women's war effort by driving a gantry crane at a local factory, leaving that job when the driver returned home safely. One of her talents was with the needle, often being called upon by the family to help out in that department. Making beautiful lace was also an accomplishment.

Doris is perhaps best known within the village for her membership of the gala committee and Institute committee for many years. Indeed her knowledge of the history of the Institute and her passion for the purpose of "East Morton's War Memorial Institute" were second to none. She worked tirelessly to keep the building up and running, providing facilities for general use for an enormous number of years. Friday evening bingo was the highlight of the week for many locals contributing to the finances of the Institute in a big way. During the 1980s she was an active member of the "Old People's Welfare Organisation" which provided the country's first hot meal delivery service to the old people of the Keighley area through a network of volunteers.

Doris's selfless work in the community was recognised when she attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace with Florence Bramall. They had a wonderful day. Doris's input was greatly appreciated here in Morton and she will be sadly missed.

BT Infinity broadband

The saga continues for Openreach supplying Infinity broadband into the village, there have been numerous emails going back and forth between various villagers, our MP Kris Hopkins, BT and Openreach. We are still being given various dates for when it might reach us. One big problem is the cabinet on Morton Lane is not big enough and they are saying there is not enough space in that vicinity to enlarge it.

Please go to the link www.openreach.co.uk/orpg/home/submitFeedback.do?contactReason=general_enquiry but then click 'NO' and this takes you to a form you can complete, we need to all complain about this decision as it affects us all, also then send an email to Peter Rashbrook NI Customer Engagement on enquiries@openreach.co.uk - we need as many residents as possible to send these in.

We have organised a petition - www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/british-telecom-and-openreach-supply-infinity-broadband-to-east-morton - if you have not already signed it please do. If Openreach realises how many residents are willing to sign up and pay the small amount extra per month for Infinity they will certainly review their installation date. If you would like to make any comments which might back up our fight for broadband please email stephen@mortonvillage.org.uk



Childrens' Halloween and Christmas Village Parties

Over the past few years the institute has hosted successful parties for young children at both Halloween and Christmas - and we are seeking a group or individual to run this years' parties. It is an opportunity to raise funds for your own group or chosen charity - in previous years the village society and gala committee have helped subsidise the cost of an entertainer and are willing to do so again - so please contact Rhona on 07777637363 if you are interested.

East Morton Playgroup

They brought a ray of sunshine to the village last month with their Easter Fair, held at the Institute on Easter Saturday. This was a fun event aimed the whole family and had something for everyone. Children had fun completing the Easter egg hunt and naming the Easter chick, whilst the grown ups browsed the local craft stalls and enjoyed tea and cakes in the 'pop up' tea room.

Despite the snowy conditions, the Easter Fair proved popular and was well attended, raising over £400 for the playgroup funds. "We are delighted that so many came out to support our little people at the Easter Fair" said Caroline Symes, Playgroup Leader "The playgroup is an important and popular part of village life, offering children and parents the chance to come together to play and socialise, and the money raised will go a long way to help fund activities for the group and to buy new toys."

East Morton Playgroup currently runs during term time on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9.30 at the East Morton Institute. The group is aimed at babies and preschool children aged 0 to 4 years. There is a small charge per child to cover costs, however this also includes a drink and a snack for the children.

The group is popular, however there is no waiting list, so feel free to drop in and play.



Another view of Women's Institute Life

Well it's over for another two years -WHEW! I am referring to the Aire Gap Group Show which was held on 13th April. This is a forum for Laycock, Morton and Stanbury WIs to participate in a friendly competition to win cups for flower arranging, baking and any sort of craft. Rules & classes are received six months before the event, but a month before we are still trying to persuade members to "have a go". As the fateful day approaches members try to ascertain how their item should be presented and the week before the show is little short of a nightmare as we are aware that we may let the side down if we don't try hard.

On the day dawn sorters are made to deliver items to those who are going early to Haworth. I am taking Enid who explains, as she gets into the car, that she has taken her miniature flower arrangement apart half a dozen times because it doesn't look central. It has finally been put together again looking very like the first attempt. "Still", she remarks, "It's not as bad as poor Alma, who has baked three parkins and two coffee walnut cakes during the past week". I say that I spent a whole day stuffing my draught excluder snake and have used 5 days of my life in making him. Although having given him his face he has become a character and I am quite fond of him.

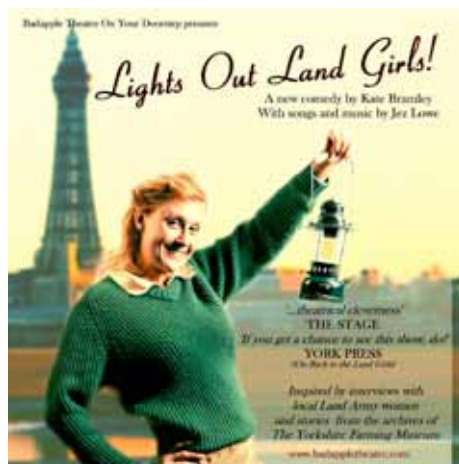
As our items are put on the tables, Kate admits that she was wrapping her flower display in cellophane whilst travelling to the hall. We tell her it looks great (and it does) and we assure each other as we leave the hall to the judges, that we have done our best and can't do any more now!

At 2pm our nerves are stretched again as we find out how we have done. First the Communal Table. Not good! Each WI has a display table which must have a flower arrangement, an item of food and two crafts all of which must clearly depict the chosen theme. This year it was "A Yorkshire Dale" Morton chose Airedale. Pam has knitted an Airedale Terrier. He is standing by a lamp post and has dropped his ball. The judge thinks the pompom ball is perfect but the stitching on the dog could have been better. I look very hard and can't find the stitching! And there was no indication that the judge had noticed the walking boot container for the flower arrangement. Our backdrop (made by Heather) was a "through the garden gate" patchwork. You look through fences to fields with animals. It was deemed to be exactly right by the judge, but the filling was a bit weak in places. Now the other tables. Here. Heather's draught excluder dog is overstuffed. You just can't win!

We join Joan with her home-made teddy bear. The judge thinks he has a lovely expression but his joints should have more stuffing. Joan says that the Judge has told her to get stuffed. We agree among ourselves that that is exactly how we feel towards the judge at this point in time! Depression attacks the group as we look elsewhere. But hang on!- Hooray! Alma has got full marks and a gold star for her coffee walnut cake, as has Enid for her miniature flower arrangement! You see - it does pay to practise!!! And among the flowers, Pam's decorated wooden spoon has won Gold and is deemed to be "brilliant".

Despite this success, we wait in quiet defeatism for the results of the competition. Can you believe it! Morton is joint first with Stanbury for produce - and then; Morton is joint first with Laycock for crafts - and lastly Morton has won the flower class cup. As it sinks in that we have top marks in all three categories - this show isn't so bad! We go home feeling absolutely exhausted, but we are not quite so adamant that "we will never do this again". Perhaps this friendly rivalry is quite fun after all. Let's see how we feel in two years' time!

NB Many thanks to the judges for giving their valuable time to offer us friendly and encouraging advice. They are lovely people and we are very grateful to them.



At East Morton Memorial Institute

Sunday June 16th June 2013 at 7.30pm

Tickets : £10 Adults & £6 U16s

Call Geoff : 01535 611652



Institute Snooker Table appeal for players

Are you aware that there is a full sized snooker table available for your use at the Institute? It is badly under used and the committee is eager to ensure Morton villagers have every opportunity of continuing to take advantage of this wonderful facility which has been used over the years by different generations. If its use continues to decline we may have to make the decision to remove it which would be another sad day if the village loses yet another amenity. You may not play the game but if you have friends who do then please pass the message on. Who knows, if we get a lot of interest we may be able to resurrect the annual competition for the old trophy which still remains with us after many many years. Perhaps you could start a ladies night, or snooker club open to all? Please contact Bob Dennis on 01274 567222.

**Phone number for the
bookings secretary of the
Institute is 07534 195446**



COD ... an informal get together for local ladies to have a few drinks and a good natter ...

COD house rules:

- 1 - No membership fee, but small donation to be made at each meeting to cover hall hire
- 2 - No blokes, no children, no moaning . . anyone discussing politics will be ejected
- 3 - Dress - definitely, or trousers! But too much effort will be treated with suspicion
- 4 - Bring a bottle of your favourite tippie and snacks (sweet or savoury, bought or made)

Dates for 2013 - 5th July; 27th Sept and 15th Nov



The "Morton Meet" is held at the Institute every Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm serving tea and cake for £1 to anyone who would like to call in. There will be a special charity meet on 27th June in aid of "save the children" with a raffle and stalls. New helpers are always welcome to serve the tea and coffees - if you can spare an occasional Thursday afternoon please contact Rhona on 07777 637363.

Morton Lottery

If not already a member of the lottery why not please buy your ticket to help support YOUR village by buying a number. At just £12 a year, it is not so much to part with but if more people join, we can do so much more to improve where we live for everyone to enjoy . DON'T DELAY JOIN TO-DAY



School Corner

Headteacher to move on

Our Headteacher, Louise Dale, will be leaving us at the end of the summer term after 8 years to take up the headship at Sandal Primary School in Baildon. Steve Foster, who has worked with Louise on the Board of Governors since the start, said "Louise has nurtured and developed all aspects of the school during her time at East Morton. She has encouraged individual staff members to take on more proactive roles and ensured individual voices are heard, and the building has benefited with several improvements and extensions over the past few years. The welfare and development of the children has been at the heart of everything she has done and the result is a happy and tranquil place which provides an excellent start to the education of future generations. She will be sadly missed". We wish Louise every success in her new school.



Science Week

Our Summer term started with a bang – literally – as we kicked off Science Week with a special assembly featuring a visiting scientist, James Boffin, who continued to wow the children with experiments and demonstrations at special individual class workshops throughout the day. During the rest of the week, each class ran their own scientific experiments and on the Friday afternoon the whole school came together to share what they had been learnt and hear the results of the Science Week competition, for which children had designed a product of the future. A great – and often messy – time was had by all during Science Week and we are looking forward to the next one!





Our scheduled Spring Judging was a victim of the adverse weather this year and was duly cancelled by Yorkshire in Bloom. This is an unprecedented decision and one that wasn't taken lightly, but as we know the snow was rather reluctant to clear!

That hasn't stopped us from being active and we are pleased to say the Village looked fantastically floral when spring finally did come! Daffodils have been great and the recycled primroses on the Village Green have once again performed well.

We now have three new baskets on Street Lane, erected with the backing of the school. These will add horticultural interest to compliment the excellent school garden.

Meanwhile our emphasis on wildflowers continues and with the backing of St Luke's Church we have created two new wildflower areas, in the churchyard to compliment the significant work we have done on Vicarage Lane and in the rec near to the play park. This play park bed has been weeded, several times now, in preparation for an influx of wildflowers, many of which we are growing ourselves at minimal cost.

MIB are not just about bedding plants we are also about sustainability. Increasingly so, like many other gardening groups nationally. Perennials and wildflowers are very much part of our focus as is growing vegetables. This year the RHS are promoting vegetable growing and we are doing our part by planting the raised beds near the Institute with some herbs and vegetables.

We continue to meet monthly on the first Saturday in every month on the Green at 10.30 and new helpers are always welcome. Why not come along and play your part in transforming the village into a horticultural oasis.

During the summer months we also have some evening working parties as we approach the important Summer judging day in mid July. Hopefully this will take place and there will not be any snow in July!

Morton in Bloom's driving force is the difference we have made to the village. This is our focus. Whatever result we get, we take immense pride and satisfaction from what we have achieved since our humble beginning in 2009. Hundreds of hours of labour have been given up by many, to help the village look as good as it does now, with so much colour and interest at every turn.

For further information, please email myself at: Seniorlee2000@yahoo.co.uk or telephone John Crowther on 562729

Cyril Hood, who has died at the age of 90, was born in Southowram, he began his teaching career in 1942, before being called up to serve in the Second World War, he resumed teaching in 1946

In 1953, aged 30, he was appointed head of East Morton Junior School. He went on to take the headships at Parkwood School, Keighley (from 1962); Grange School, Keighley (from 1967); and Old Earth School, Elland (from 1972) and was the Founder Treasurer of the Calderdale Branch of the National Association of Head Teachers. He retired in 1982. Mr Hood's wide-ranging interests included a lifelong love of football, cricket and amateur dramatics. He played in several amateur sports teams and was a founder member of Southowram Methodist Players, acting, writing and producing shows with them for many years. He was also secretary of the Northern Samoyed Association as well as a shower, breeder and open show judge; president of the Aire Valley Young Farmers; founder chairman of the East Morton Gala Committee; a governor of Withinfields School, Southowram; vice chairman of Southowram Community Centre Trustees and, for many years, chairman of the Shibden Valley Society.

Mr Hood was an auxiliary Methodist lay preacher for Bingley, Keighley and Craven Circuit and a church trustee and treasurer of Southowram Methodist Church where he was married to Lily Markwick in May 1947, their daughter Janet was born in 1950. A man who touched the lives of his pupils, colleagues and friends with humanity, kindness and humour.

Gala - 14th July

East Morton's biggest family event is fast approaching!

With fabulous new attractions and stalls, new field layout and amazing support of local businesses and individuals the 2013 Gala promises to be rather special. Each year the Gala Committee tries to bring something different to the day, it is very much a family day out and we hope to appeal to all age groups.

Visitors comment East Morton's Gala still retains its village fete appeal - and we could not be more pleased. But trying to balance a non commercial event with making it possible to put on the Gala is difficult. Public liability insurance is our biggest bill and other costs mean we need to make a substantial amount on the day to survive. The success of the day depends on how many people turn up and their generosity...so it is important we get your support!

The theme of this year's Gala is 'Best of British' and we might just need a little of that spirit if the weather plays games again this year! A waterlogged Recreation Ground last year meant a last minute change of plan for the layout which turned out to be a huge success! So building on this, we have new attractions and more stalls...making East Morton's biggest event better than ever!

Why not buy a raffle ticket - you could win a cash lump sum or one of the other brilliant prizes! Or try your hand at one of the games - some are new this year.

East Morton's Gala Queen 2013 is lovely 12 year old Olivia Rutter who will, of course, lead the parade through the village onto the recreation ground for the crowning at 1pm, this will be followed by the baby and pet competitions and arena entertainment.

Look out for the Gala's official glossy programme which will be dropping through your door a couple of weeks before the big day. This is supported by our local businesses and is packed full of information about the day. There are details about the Flower, Vegetable and Garden in Miniature competitions (entry form in the programme) and cake competition as well as a timetable and field plan. As always we will round up the afternoon with the fell race, children's races and the famous egg throwing competition.

Do you have half an hour to spare to help run a stall? Could you help set up or take down? If so call Kathy on 01274 567174.

We look forward to seeing you there! - The Gala Committee

PLAN B - Bring your wellies and rain coats! We have spent too much time planning this Gala to be put off by a bit of rain, so we will be on the recreation ground come rain or shine. Hope you will be too... after all this is a BEST OF BRITISH theme !!!

Jigsaw Festival - St Luke's Church

We are holding a Jigsaw Festival in Morton School in October 2013 - Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th - and are hoping to make it a huge success. Proceeds will be shared between the church and Breast Cancer Campaign. Hundreds of completed jigsaws will be on display and they will be available to buy, dismantle, take home and do them, safe in the knowledge that all pieces are there!

There will be activities for children, a cake and produce stall, a chocolate tombola, a raffle and other games. Bacon sandwiches, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits will also be available. Admission will be £2 per adult (£1 off any jigsaw purchased) and accompanied children will be free.

We are looking for people to donate jigsaws and for people to make them up. If you think you can help in any way, do contact Sally Dow by email sallydow@btinternet.com. Telephone 01274 565479 or 07891904721

The Village Society AGM will be on 28th June in the Institute at 7.30pm, please come along

Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village

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