

Morton Village Society

WINTER NEWSLETTER - MORTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

Although winter is still very much with us, we look forward this Spring to a neater, smarter Morton, mainly thanks to our friends from Volsec. Aren't they doing a superb job of tidying up Otley Road and the hillside above it? The whole area is beginning to look more attractive with the walls being repaired and the abandoned building site tidied. It is hoped to do some planting on the hillside later in the year. For those of you who may have forgotten, Volsec are an organisation which arrange local projects sponsored by Government funds. We all benefit by living in a tidier village and getting a sort of rebate in kind on our taxes. The Green End graveyard project is progressing somewhat more slowly. Maybe they are not entering into the spirit of things!

You will have noted that the Volsec cabins have been re-sited at the rear of the village green on Elm Crescent. Apologies are sent to residents of Elm Crescent or anybody living nearby for any inconvenience. We hope they will bear with us whilst Volsec are in the village. The reason why the cabins were placed in such a prominent place was due to vandalism when the cabins were parked behind the Village Institute.

This leads to the general problem of vandalism in the village. Although as stated previously, we are extremely lucky in being relatively free in Morton from vandalism compared to some other districts, it seems we do have our share of mindless, thoughtless individuals. Recently the plastic swings in the Rec. were completely burnt by dustbins full of paper being placed beneath them and set on fire. As well as depriving younger children of pleasure, this was a case of criminal damage and the Police will not hesitate to prosecute anyone caught committing such acts. This type of damage must have been caused by people living in the vicinity. We can only hope that those concerned can put their talents to better use in the future. Parents of young teenage children please note - do you know where your children are and what they are up to when they are abroad at night?

We hope the new Youth Club will be a success and be of positive use to our young adults in the village. It is also hoped that they will be allowed a certain amount of responsibility so they can play a full part in the local community.

For the benefit of parents of younger children, representation is to be made this spring to the Governors of Bingley Grammar School to try and include Morton in the catchment area of that school. Also since at the moment upwards of 15 children (with an almost certain future increase) travel to Beckfoot Grammar School from Morton, the Village Society is to approach the authorities concerned to try and obtain a school bus for the village.

Worries are still being expressed about road safety in the village. We have written to the Police asking them to take whatever action they can to eradicate dangerous driving through the village.

We understand that residents of Providence Row were unsuccessful in their efforts to stop further building in their vicinity, as planning permission was granted for 17 houses at Sunnydale Park many years ago and cannot be revoked. However we have been advised that any builder wishing to develop the area will have to build a new bridge over Morton Beck by the Weir and cannot use the existing bridge.

As we are still collecting items for the Parish Chest, will anyone wishing to donate any objects or documents relating to Morton please contact Mr Don Ward, or any committee member.

Please note, Mr Ernest Davies, who you will remember gave the excellent talk on the history of Morton and also took another very interesting guided walk around the village at Christmas, has been appointed Voluntary Countryside Warden for the village. Any suggestions anyone has for improvements in the district can therefore be given to Mr Davies to be forwarded to the Countryside Wardens Department. We will make approaches once again about the possibility of having stepping stones placed across Morton Beck just below Upper Mill Row in order to give better access to Sunnydale. Mr Davies has also told us of an encounter he had when he and his wife were guests at a wedding in Harlow New Town last summer. Another couple from Middlesborough, when being told that Ernest was from Eldwick, near Bingley, asked him if he knew a village called Morton, which they understood was also near Bingley. When he told them that he knew the village very well they enquired whether he knew of anyone there named Pickles. Mr Pickles was his maternal grandfather and lived at a house called 'The Cliff' before the Second World War, and he was a local councillor for Morton. He wondered if he might still have some relatives living in the village. Ernest asked his name, which was Tomlinson, and he knew nothing about the Morton branch of his family, and was therefore delighted when Ernest was able to tell him that his forbear was the village carrier both of goods and passengers. If anyone knows any anecdote of the Tomlinson family, let Ernest know, and he will pass them on. Likewise if you remember the Pickles of 'The Cliff', or any other relevant information, Ernest will be very pleased to pass the information on to Mr Tomlinson.

Many new plants and shrubs were planted on the Old School Green in the autumn so hopefully when spring arrives, the Green should be a delight - and add colour to the village throughout the summer.