



Winter Newsletter No 62 - 2008

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The committee hopes that you all like the planters outside the Institute and agree they are an improvement to the centre of the village? Many towns and villages are greatly enhanced by flower and foliage planting and the committee hope that you will feel that it was worthwhile using Society funding in this way. It was a lengthy task researching the many products on offer and many man hours went into getting our planters in place before they could be planted up by Pauline Horne and Enid Hanson. Colour should be provided throughout the seasons and many residents have already commented positively on the attractiveness of the flowers and on the more cheerful aspect created at the front of the Institute building.

Improvements have taken place in the Institute this autumn and with the £20,000 airport funding which will hopefully be received next year, much more is planned. Our bid has been lodged with the Council. A new boiler was recently installed in the kitchen, funded

by the Council, and a radiator put into the Doris Beanlands Meeting Room. The committee's greatest concern at present is the state of the Institute roof as this will affect any work planned for the inside – and we have lots of plans! This is the responsibility of the Council and our local Councillors are supporting us in trying to address this issue.

The snooker table has been recovered and is available for hire most nights - and days. It costs £2 per session. Contact Mick Craven on 510667 or Bob Dennis on 567222.

Graveyard

The very wet summer resulted in a forest of ash seedlings appearing through the chippings in the graveyard and what was a tidy area earlier in the season, rapidly degenerated into a mess again. Substantial clearing/tidying took place at the end of October and the site is in good shape now. Daffodils bulbs have been planted in the long bed bordering the road, the hedge trimmed and care taken to leave

herbs, primulas, teasels and other plants which are growing through the chippings. The area looks natural and peaceful and if we can get organised with a seat, it will be a lovely place to sit next spring and summer.

Post Box

A meeting took place at the end of August between Society representatives and the local collections manager of Royal Mail. Our original contact was made on 14th April! It was a heated meeting



at times! He agreed, grudgingly, to set things in motion to have the box moved adjacent to the path across the Green, but further than that he would not budge. He stated it would take about sixteen weeks, so we are monitoring that one. We asked for a bigger box or one with



**Look out for this logo
- see inside for details**

a wider aperture. He offered to do a mail count to see whether a larger box was needed, but as it was not possible to post any but the smallest letters, it would have seemed a waste of time – a very frustrating meeting and one that had taken countless emails and letters to arrange.

The Quiz

Held on 6th November, this event organised by the Institute committee has been a popular occasion in the local calendar for a number of years. Fifteen teams competed to win the shield which had been held by teams from St. Luke's for the last couple of years. Winners this time were Friends of Homer, namely Julia and Colin Devine, David Sturdy, Sally Walker, Maggie Holliday and Stuart Grundy. It was a close





run thing, with a small margin of victory between the winners and several of the other teams. The Gala Numphties put up a spirited and happy defence of their booby prize of last year, but managed to hold on to it! Questions were set by Jack Doyle who chaired the quiz, assisted by his scorer Nancy Gore. It was a very enjoyable evening, with pie and pea supper prepared and served by Angela Leach and her family. Bob Dennis thanked everyone who had contributed towards its success. It was good to see the Institute bursting at the seams. £264 was raised from the evening for Institute funds.

St. Luke's Church

On the 4th September, during daylight hours, a large area of stone roofing slates were stolen from the vestry roof of St. Luke's Church. The thieves used a white van which was parked on the lane behind the Church, seen by several people. The thieves themselves were observed but were thought to be workmen carrying out scheduled work.

The first Friday of every month is a regular cleaning morning at St. Luke's. Entry to the vestry on 5th September was an awfully wet affair. Torrential rain had been falling for some hours and much water damage was evident. The room was emptied and containers to catch the water put in place, but by the time the roof was covered later in the day, due to the continuing heavy rain and the amount of missing slates, the vestry was awash. Two months later repairs were completed and Smartwater protection put in place.

It is not the first time that this type of theft has happened in the village and maybe we should all be a little more vigilant, curious

or questioning.hose reels have also been disappearing from outside local properties.

Keep your eyes open!

Busfeild Arms

At the time of writing we have no news to report, despite contact being made some time ago with Mitchell & Butler who own the pub. Many local residents are hoping that our local will stay open and thrive in one form or another. Times are very difficult at present with pubs shutting countrywide but we shall continue to hope that someone will come up with a business plan that will allow this local landmark to continue to cater for local residents.



Yorkshire in Bloom

Yes, we are entering the 2009 competition. We have so many good things here already, it was decided at the Annual Meeting to go for it! Lee Senior is leading the group with Karen Redhead and Pauline Horne from the village society and Kim Green who keeps the paperwork in order. Other members of the group include David Flaherty, Fay Stankler, Michael Miller and Angela Leach. but we need some input from all of you out there. We have been doing the Best Kept Garden/Frontage for many years now so we know there are lots of good gardeners in our village. Some of you may have advice/suggestions on things that could be done to improve our

environment, bits of the village that could do with a tidy up etc. One or two scruffy areas have been noted and hopefully these will be tidied up by springtime. Thanks to all of you who trimmed back overhanging shrubs – mentioned in the last newsletter. It is appreciated by all who use the footpaths.

Rubbish collects in corners, or pieces of land become overgrown and unsightly. The Council for the Protection of Rural England, headed up by their President, Bill Bryson, are campaigning against the dropping of litter. A Mori poll undertaken in 2007 indicated that people were more concerned about the dropping of litter than they were about climate change and our MPs get more letters about litter and dog fouling than anything else. Here in East Morton let's try and do our best to keep our environment a tidier and more pleasant place in which to live and for our children to grow up in. I am sure that in the New Year you will be hearing more of our entry into Yorkshire in Bloom and that you will enjoy taking part.

The Morton in Bloom group are up and running and seeking more volunteers for planting projects around the village next year. They have already planted up the village entrance sign on Carr Lane, and planted daffodils near the seat. Even offering just a couple of hours is a help and you don't have to know anything

Chairman's corner

Here are some notes on what has been happening and what we are hoping will happen in the future at the Institute

First of all we are dedicated in wanting to bring the Institute from the mid 20th Century into the 21st Century thanks to the 'airport money' from Bradford of a promised £10k or even £20k. Initially we have persuaded Bradford Council to move the boiler from the underground boiler house to the kitchen wall, where it is now far more useful, and secondly the mountains of stuff beneath the stage has almost all been cleared out, and much of it disposed of thanks to bonfire night and the large waste bin outside.

Further plans involve filling in the boiler hole, partitioning the old boiler house to make it useful and accessible store, and extending the kitchen through into the rear half of the old boiler house. There are many other ideas forthcoming which cannot be put into operation until we can be sure the roof is watertight and then we hope to make the Institute a building of which Morton can be justifiably proud.

We have to thank in particular Mick Craven and Steve Foster for their great energy and splendid ideas together with Bob Dennis for his untiring work and oversight, plus our three very helpful Councillors Dorothy Clamp, Doreen Lee and Steve Pullan, not forgetting the sterling and very helpful work done early on by Malcolm Slater.

We will try to keep everybody up-to-date with further plans and progress. David Miller.

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:

September

£100 R Farnsworth; £50 G Davy
£25 M Mercer; £15 S Brear
£10 J Whitaker

October

£100 R Holdsworth £50 S Winder
£25 M Aitchinson; £15 E Linacr
£10 H Ashley

November

£100 C Moor; £50 K Hagthorne
£25 R Barnes; £15 G Rogers;
£10 S & R Emmott

December

£100 C Thompson; £50 A Thomas
£25 T Benson; £15 M Hall
£10 R Cowell

about gardening to muck in and if you are green fingered or enthusiastic please contact us to help play your part and make our village even better. Our next meeting is Monday 12th Jan at 8pm in the Busfeild Arms.

Initially, in Spring we are looking at taking the judges on a short route through the centre of the village from the school to the Square. It would be great if anybody living along this route could make an extra effort now and plant some bulbs in tubs.

East Morton School

Double Success for School Garden

East Morton Primary School celebrated double success at the end of the summer following a lot of hard work throughout the year in the school garden.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the garden entered Yorkshire in Bloom and following the judging in July the school was delighted to learn that it had been awarded a Silver Gilt award in the Young Peoples category. The judges were particularly impressed with how the garden links with the community and enhances the village.

The school garden and the garden club were also actively involved in a show garden project for the Autumn Harrogate Flower Show. Titled 'A Place for Children to Grow' the show garden demonstrated what can be grown by children whether it be a large area or just small pots on a patio. The garden also showed how school gardening can support the curriculum. The design for the Harrogate garden was based on East Morton's plot and included raised

beds for fruit and vegetables. Dale and Ann Scott (who recently retired from the school) along with Angela Kennedy (school garden club) lead the project team to design and build the garden for the show. The vegetables used for the show had all been grown in the school garden over the summer by the children in garden club and for the duration of the show the children and head teacher, Louise Dale represented the school, speaking to the public and showing visitors around the show garden. The village society kindly supported us with funding for the other shrubs and plants for the garden - following the show the plants have been put in the school garden. The project team were really pleased to be awarded a Silver medal in their category and what's more the public response to the garden was amazing with many positive comments about the knowledge and enthusiasm of the children who went along to the show.'



Remembrance day

On Tuesday 11th November Years 5 and 6 of East Morton CE Primary School walked down to Bethel Chapel to think about all those men who sacrificed their lives for us in World Wars One and Two.

Whilst in the chapel, children read prayers and poems. At 11 o'clock the bugle signalled the start of the two minutes silence. After that we walked down to the Institute (a war memorial, which is also a building) and formed a semi-circle around the plaques and wreaths. Two boys, from Year 6, read the names of the people from the village of East Morton who had died in the wars. Then three more children read out their poems before we made our way back to school.

It is important to remember those soldiers who died in the war because it is part of our history, they fought for England and risked their lives for us. Hannah Beaumont and Joseph Armitage (Year 5)

A Prayer:

Let us remember

Those who fought for our lives, then lost their own.

A plague of death shattered many families.

Their bravery will be passed on to each and every one of us.

Their courage will not be dismissed.

The men who died, their souls still live amongst us.

Let us remember them now and forever.

Amen Eve O'Grady (Year 6)

A Poem:

What reason is there to remember me?

(Thoughts of an under-age soldier)

I'll bow my head and say a prayer,

Wish for an escape from this awful nightmare.

Soon we'll all die,

But don't say we didn't try.

What reason is there to remember me?

Blood and dirt all over my shirt,
Few will return.

They will never learn.

What reason is there to remember me?

I shouldn't have lied,

But now I can't hide.

I regret my decision,

But I must complete my mission.

What reason is there to remember us?

Sonal Bhakta (Year 6)

These are just two contributions but all the children were inspired to put pen to paper and write either a poem or a prayer.

The Remembrance Service was able to take place thanks to Mrs Alma Hiley for opening, and welcoming children to, Bethel Chapel and to Mr Tony Cullingworth for leading the proceedings.





*Oh what
a night*



The pictures on the left show some of the people attending the Lottery Party held in the Institute on Saturday 29th November, the lottery 60s and 70s celebration party was a complete sell out and everybody had a ball and wanted to know when the next one was. Many came in fancy dress with prizes for the best ones. The live band Amnesia were superb and kept everybody on the dance floor till closing time.

A big thank you to all those who helped on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to get the place ready, work on the night and clear up, we all had a good laugh and it would have been impossible without such willing volunteers.

East Morton Gala

The aim of the East Morton Gala is to bring the village together for a summer family event with games and entertainment on the recreation ground. If after each year there is a surplus the committee decides how much it must keep back as a contingency for the following year and what can be given to benefit the growth of other organisations within the village. Happily following the successful Gala in July there was enough money raised for donations.

It was felt that the theft of stone flags from St Lukes Church warranted a substantial donation towards the repair work.

The East Morton WI, which worked so hard on Gala day providing teas, also benefited from funds raised. Other recipients who also play their part in Gala day included the Bethel Chapel, East Morton Primary School, Crossflatts School, the village Brownies and Toddlers plus the East Morton Village Institute – towards ongoing repair work.

Sadly as the Gala committee is so small the members felt that this year it would be impossible to also organise a Christmas children's party which has for two years been funded by Gala funds.

"The Christmas children's party has been a hit for the last two years but sadly it takes a fair bit of organising. If anyone would like to come forward and help arrange this in future years I would be delighted to hear from them," said committee member Kathy Myers who can be contacted on 01274 567174. NOTE – 2009 Gala will be held on Sunday July 12th.

Wine Tasting Evening

If you missed last year's event, you might like to join the fun on Friday, 13th February in the Institute at 7.30pm. The evening is hosted by members of Booth's Supermarket Wine Department on behalf of St. Luke's Church

Tickets will be available in the New Year from Barbara Cullingworth on 01535 601187 or Mary Appleby on 01274 567456 – price to be advised

Stuck for ideas for Christmas presents or needing that extra stocking filler??

Why not give somebody a lottery number so they have 5 chances to win every month, the biggest prize being £150. The lottery voucher is presented in a beautiful gift card. I bought all my friends one last Christmas and have won 3 prizes, one of them being £75, so they are very happy people. If you want to know more ring Karen on 560279.

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.

*Important dates for your diary
Wine tasting evening 13th February 2009
in Institute 7.30pm, see above for details*

Morton Village Society *Aiming to preserve your village*