



Winter Newsletter No 71 - 2012

www.mortonvillage.org.uk



You could be forgiven for wondering where these photographs were taken. As I glance out of the window at yet another dank and misty November morning, I remember a walk on a sunnier autumn day made when I was delivering something in Green End Road. It was such a lovely afternoon, that we decided to continue on up Sunnydale to the reservoir. Some time had passed since I last walked that way and the embankment both sides of the track beyond the cascade are now mown, giving the area a very tidy appearance. Yorkshire Water carry out this work as well as making regular maintenance visits. We crossed the embankment and climbed the steps at the far side. This section was a bit muddy, but we turned left at the top and walked on to the Clearwater Dam. I certainly had not visited this secluded place since our family were children. It was a popular destination then - the children of the village paddling and swimming there in the hot weather. Situated between Glen Farm and the reservoir, but perched high enough to be airy with good views, it was then quite open and shallow. Now it is beautiful in a different way, the pool being hung over with greenery and having almost a secretive feel to it.

Despite having lived in the village since 1965 we had never ventured past this point, but off into The Glen and unknown territory! On entering the wood, we almost immediately negotiated a narrow section of path and then crossed a footbridge, turning left and on to a second bridge. Both these were new(ish) and sturdy, the second crossing the beck where the original Duke's Bridge had been, alongside a pool and waterfall, lovely in the dappled sunshine. We followed the path through the wood, the trees showing good autumn colours, accompanied by the sounds of the beck and a distant, unseen, tractor. We emerged through the trees to reach a gate providing a good place to stop. Keighley Gate was visible in the distance. Without benefit of a map, we retraced our steps back to the village and immediately looked on the OS map to see where we had been. We then remembered the BMDC Countryside and Rights of Way Service on www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

There you will find lots of local walks to print off. Our walk - East Morton, Sunnydale and The Glen - is circular, continuing from where we turned around across to Upwood Hall Farm and down Upwood Lane and back to Green End Road, 3½ miles in total.

To the children of the sixties and seventies, the village and its surroundings were their playground, where, with their friends, they learned about themselves and the countryside, doing all those things we probably would throw our hands in the air about now having health and safety concerns at the forefront of our minds. It would have been much more fun to climb a tree than worrying now about being struck by a falling conker! Now there are wonderful electronic pastimes to occupy children, living in such different times, but the countryside is still out there to explore, safely.

Metro

The Society has sent a letter expressing concern that reductions in the bus services would have a detrimental effect on commuters and those wishing to travel out of the village to shop and socialise during the day and evening. Our comments have been logged and we hope that any cuts in our services will be sympathetically done.

Greenhill Action Group

Following the rejection of the planning application for 440 houses at Sty Lane, Micklethwaite, the developers have appealed and this will be heard at a Public Inquiry on 21st February 2012. Greenhill Action Group (GAG) are fighting the appeal and to do so will incur barrister and consultants costs of £60,000. We have raised £53,000 so far. If this site goes ahead it will have a serious impact on the East Morton area as the only ways off the site will be via the bridge or up through Micklethwaite, leading on to East Morton. When the bridge is closed for repairs or breakdown this only leaves Micklethwaite. The bridge also needs to be removed prior to construction of the new bridge.

Please help us by:

1. Sign up to our mailing list at www.greenhill-action-group.co.uk for regular updates.
2. Donate to our fighting fund to enable us to take this to the Public Inquiry.

You can donate using the PayPal option on our website - www.greenhill-action-group.co.uk or you can send a cheque, made payable to 'Greenhill Action Group' to the Treasurer: Pauline Wood, 29 Greenhill Drive, Micklethwaite BD16 3HT



Morton meet Christmas lunch, see back page for more details

SEE INSIDE FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE



Orchard Update

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Apple Day that we held in October. The day was a great success and we are thrilled by the overwhelming support you gave for the idea of a community orchard on the Village Rec. We received over 40 completed questionnaires, with 98% saying they agreed with the idea of the orchard.

There was very positive support for the proposed main site in the area behind the churchyard, plus some smaller areas of low-growing fruit bushes along the wall looking out towards Mickethwaite and some additional trees near the path through to Cliffestone Drive. There were mixed views, however, about planting trees near the Dimples Lane (between the playground and existing trees), so we have decided not to pursue planting here and to concentrate our efforts on the main area near the churchyard.

The message also came across loud and clear that the orchard should be a wildlife-friendly place which can be enjoyed by all sections of the community, young and old, both at harvest time and during other times of the year.

Of course, now that we have the thumbs-up from the village, the challenge is to turn these ideas into real trees in the ground. We are currently drawing up a planting plan which we will display in the Institute, plus hopefully upload to the village website. We will be working closely with the residents who live near the site to ensure that they are happy with what is proposed.

We are taking advice from local experts about the best fruit varieties to plant, but we would also be keen to hear from anyone who knows of any local varieties that have been grown in Morton in the past. Our aim is to have a harvest from late summer through to the end of autumn. Please email any suggestions to feastmorton@hotmail.co.uk

We hope to start planting next March. But for this to happen, we need to raise the funds to buy the trees! We have already received a number of kind donations from individuals sponsoring trees, plus a grant from the Village Gala Committee, but we're still some way off our target. We would like to ask you to consider sponsoring a fruit tree to help make the community orchard a reality. A £15 donation will allow us to buy and plant a fruit tree. You can send donations by post to 'The Treasurer, Feast Morton, c/o 1 Sunnyclyffe, East Morton, Keighley, BD20 5RT' (cheques payable to 'Feast Morton').

Thank you for your support. We hope that by the time our next update comes out we will be well on the way to having a new orchard in East Morton.



Ducks squeak home

A friendly game of rugby took place on the Recreation ground on Boxing Day to compete for the Olly Lee Trophy. This trophy has been given by David Lee, in memory of his son, Oliver, whose life was lost so tragically last Easter. Alongside the game, a major fund-raising effort took place which raised in excess of £1000 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and a sizable crowd had a good day out while helping a good cause.

The day dawned - dull, windy but dry. The preparations were complete, and the time for talking was over. At noon on Boxing Day, two teams of Morton's finest young - and not so young - rugby players stood on the village Rec, girding their loins for what was about to follow. The first staging of the Olly Lee Fun Cup, with local bragging rights at stake, was at hand, and the two teams - Nigel's Lame Ducks, led by Nigel Shuttleworth, and Simon's Rat Pack, led by Simon Wilson, were ready.

The game itself, a mixture of rugby league and rugby union, and supposedly non-contact, tore off at a furious rate, both teams looking for the early advantage. With the older heads in each team directing operations, allowing the young bucks to show their skills, the game had a pace and quality that was quite unexpected, much to the enjoyment of the watching villagers.

After halftime refreshments of port, cheese and biscuits, kindly supplied by nearby residents 'Flash' and Sue Walsh, the battle re-commenced.

Perhaps it was inevitable that the efforts of the first half, combined with the ages and lack of fitness of some of the combatants, not to mention Christmas festivities, would slow things down a bit in the second half, and this was in fact the pattern. The action was still furious though, and the 'non-contact' label was in serious danger of being discarded, such was the ferocity of some of the 'hits'.

More chances were created, but with defences a bit more streetwise, and a bit of the early blinding pace gone, the game settled into stalemate. Both teams had chances, however, the Ducks being rescued by a loud blast from the merry whistler to indicate a forward scoring pass by the Rats, and the Ducks having what seemed a certain try thwarted by manful defence which hustled the ball-carrier into touch a yard short.

The game ended with the Ducks pressing, and sighs of tired relief could be heard from all 20 players. A great day, great fun, and some money raised for an excellent cause.

Reprints of the picture below are available from Steve Myers on 07803 969108 and that a proportion of any sales will go to the charity.



Youngest MIB helper

We are pleased to announce that Morton In Bloom founder and VS member Lee Senior, has become a dad for the first time.

His daughter, Scarlett Autumn was born on 17th Nov, weighing 9lbs 3oz and mum and baby are doing well. Lee thinks Scarlett is the youngest "bloomer" in the country!

Christmas lights on Green End Road

John Crowther has given a big thank you for the donations of over £60 received at his Christmas lights switch on for MIB in Green End Road.

The Chapel has a new roof

The roof on the Chapel had been patched so many times over the years, but after probably well over 100+ years Darryl and the chapel members thought they should put a new roof on, so after recommendation he chose a local roofer Rick Bullement who has done a really good job - ring him on 07989 506104.

Baby & toddler group

The Friday morning baby & toddler group are happy to welcome parents, grandparents and childminders to meet at the Institute from 10-11.30am. "We're a friendly bunch so please come along, make some new friends and have a chat whilst your babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers enjoy themselves." £2 per family.

Queens Jubilee celebrations

We are looking for ideas and volunteers for organising some kind of an event to help celebrate in June for the Queens 60th year on the throne - perhaps a picnic on the recreation ground

Film club ??

The institute is now the proud owner of a digital projector and speakers and so could launch a film club or regular film night if anyone would be interested in organising it - funding available for set up costs.

Morton Women's Institute

On Tuesday 10th January Morton WI will be holding its Annual General Meeting. There will be reports of the activities we enjoyed in 2011 and we will select the officers for 2012. This will be a very busy meeting as members will also select the Resolution they would like the National WI to propose at its 2012 Conference. After the business meeting, members will enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles while participating in a mock auction - quite a programme to get through in a couple of hours!

In 2012 we have an interesting and varied programme for our monthly meetings, but in addition we have an opportunity to meet Lady Fiona Carnarven who lives with her husband at Highclere Castle (where Downton Abbey is filmed). She will be telling us the real story of her family home spanning the first two series of the television programme. Fact and Fiction appear to be very similar.

Our members will be able to participate in the Federation Quiz Night in March, and enjoy "A day with Opera North" in May. After talks by some members of the Company in the morning, explaining how a production is staged, we will have a buffet lunch and will then join the matinee audience to watch "Carousel".

This year we will have another opportunity to visit the British Library and the crafters among us can attend a Patchwork Course or make a cushion with a cupcake theme. There will be an Encaustic Art workshop in May and the more energetic members will be invited to do some Nordic Walking on Ilkley Moor and/or Orienteering in Roundhay Park.

Several of our members enjoyed Federation holidays in Scotland, and Canada in 2011, and in 2012 we are off to Cornwall and the Scilly Isles.

We are pleased to be part of this village. Several of our members go along to the Morton Meet each week while others are familiar faces at the village schools; and we are looking forward to doing our bit again in 2012, serving the teas at the Gala. We have sent teams to the village quiz nights and supported other events organised in the village. In 2011 we were lucky to be awarded a substantial sum through a grass-roots grant, and were able to buy 80 place-settings of china, for use in the village hall. We hope that this will give pleasure to the wider community.

We are pleased that new members continue to join us, but we would love to welcome more. Why not come as a guest - 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.20 p.m.

To purchase tickets for any event contact:-

Rhona Emmott 01274 551067 · email bookings@mortonvillage.org.uk
or Karen Redhead 01274 560279 · email karen@mortonvillage.org.uk

Alternatively there is now a secure postbox where you can place envelope with cheque made out to Morton Institute with your name, contact details, which tickets you require and a stamp addressed envelope. This postbox is located on side of the Institute.

Institute Corner

Sun 5th February
10am - 12noon
East Morton Institute
Table Top Sale
Free Entry
Everyone Welcome
Tea & Cakes
Do a spring clear out !
Cost per table : £10
To book a table & sell your unwanted items call Rhona on 01274 551067

Help fill the village with flowers in 2012
Morton in Bloom
Spring Fundraising
COFFEE MORNING & STALLS
Sat 18th Feb 2012
10am - 12noon
Morton Institute
Cake stall, Tombola, Face Painting, Silent Auction, Craft stalls

Latest news!

We are pleased to report that the Society has the endorsement of the Local Authority with regard to the adoption of our remaining telephone kiosk. Once the consultation process between BT and the District Council has taken place, the Council will do all that is required. It will be up to us then to keep it looking good and hopefully an iconic enhancement to the village.

Noticeboards for Waterside Fold

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of two notice boards - part of the cost of this being met by the Council. The design has been chosen and they will soon be in place and in use.

Ian Dewhirst MBE
An Informal History of the 20th Century
Friday 17th February 2012
7pm @ East Morton Institute
Keighley's most entertaining speaker should not be missed.
Rhona 551067
Tickets **£ 3.00**

East Morton Race Course
Next Meeting :
DATE: Saturday 18th February 2012
EVENT: "A Night at the Races"
With exciting big screen race coverage
Place your bets for cash prizes
And to raise money for Parkinson's UK
TIME: 6.30 pm TICKET: £ 5.00
At Morton Memorial Institute.
Ticket includes Pie n peas supper. Bring your own booze
Buy your own horse Or sponsor a race. 5 Grand raffle
Tickets available from Frank 01535 608853 or Rhona 01274 551067

Morton Lottery

£250 Bonus Prize

The lucky winner of this bonus prize to celebrate 10 years of the lottery is Keith Trott who I'm sure will thoroughly enjoy spending it. The lucky January winners were; Warren Oates - £100; Liz Craven £50; Diane Staniforth £25; Sean Emmott - £15 and Robin Gregson - £10 - Congratulations

New Years Resolution

If not already a member of the lottery why not make it a New Years Resolution 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



We have had another busy period for Morton in Bloom since the last newsletter.

We've had a nice influx of new helpers, which has enabled us to get some additional planting done.

We have planted five hundred winter/spring bedding plants on the village green as well as countless bulbs as well. The Street Lane planter and both wheelbarrows have been replanted too. Behind the Institute and next to the play park we have started work on our new wildflower bed. We have also refreshed the two raised beds of ours behind the Institute, which were starting to look a little tired.

We have also had some comments from villagers about the mini orchard idea on the recreation ground. Whilst we support the scheme we are not involved with the apple orchard scheme.

In the St Lukes church garden we have fixed a bird box near the wild flower area. Big thanks to Andy, we couldn't have done it without you!

The MIB tub beautifully made by Trevor Appleby will have a new home by the time you read this newsletter. We felt along with Mary, that a slightly more prominent location would do it better justice. Has anyone spotted the new location yet?

Finally, rumours abound that the MIB Bloomers team finished quite lowly in the Institute quiz. As first time entrants, we felt that it was the taking part that counted more than anything else. Missing two members almost throughout we put up a gallant show. From trees, acorns will grow!

If anyone has a few hours per month to spare, we need a voluntary events co-ordinator to help with non-gardening duties. We also need as many volunteers, for as many different roles, as possible to join our hardy band of perennials, in view of our entry into the Yorkshire in Bloom competition in 2012. Please contact me Lee Senior by email at: Seniorlee2000@yahoo.co.uk tel 07794 767055 or John Crowther 01274 562729

Christmas Lunch



Had you been passing the Institute on 15th December, late afternoon, you would have seen lots of happy, smiling people emerging, having enjoyed the village "Christmas Lunch" arranged by

Rhona Emmott, Barbara Evans and Joan Bedford. The Institute was full, with about sixty residents ready to make the most of this Christmas event, in its second year. Jackie, Gita, Enid and Martin worked hard throughout and from the Bucks Fizz welcome to the mince pie/Christmas cake finish it was a lovely and lively occasion. The mix of ages from late twenties to the more mature made for plentiful conversation and much laughter. After the excellent seasonal lunch, Christmas songs and carols were sung, with piano accompaniment by Keith Thompson. The Glee Club from the village school entertained very well with their own selection of music, earning a hearty round of applause.

The afternoon concluded with a well-worded vote of thanks to Rhona, Barbara and their team from David Flaherty who commented on the growing sense of community felt by all.



Gala Sunday July 8th 2012

The Gala committee is delighted to announce £1,750 has been donated to village organisations following the success of last July's event. As always after expenses and retaining a sum to enable us to put on next years event our priority is to use the money for activities and groups in and around the village.

Despite the rain on the morning of the Gala and the slightly lower numbers attending we were still able to make a profit.

Money was donated as follows:

St Luke's Church	£250
East Morton School	£250
Crossflatts School	£250
East Morton Memorial Institute	£500
East Morton Womens Institute	£200
Morton in Bloom	£150
Feast Morton	£75
Bethel Street Chapel	£75

We may well make a couple of other small donations but as this goes to print the organisations have not responded.

The Memorial Institute has used the donation to buy new chairs for the hall which are another improvement to the facilities there. Morton in Bloom's money is being split between maintaining the Gala planter sited by the school and the 2012 entry into the Best Kept Village competition. Likewise, Feast Morton's money will go towards the plans for planting on the recreation ground.

For the last few years the Gala has also sponsored the childrens' Christmas party held at the Institute in December and £150 paid for the afternoon's entertainment a few weeks ago.

Sunday July 8th has been set for the 2012 Gala - we have a number of new ideas and plans which we hope will keep the event from being too commercial and also appeal to young and old. We welcome any constructive ideas, both for on the recreation field and for the parade as well as suggestions for new stalls etc.

Calling all Vegetable Growers!

At this year's Gala there will be a Home Produce Competition. Keep a look out on the village notice boards and in the institute for class details and rules! There will be an entry for each class and all will be on display during Gala afternoon.

Are there groups of friends in the village who could get together to man a stall for three hours during Gala afternoon? This is where we struggle and we would love to hear from you!!! Call Kathy Myers 01274 567174 or email me at: sm@stevemyers.co.uk

St Luke's Church

On behalf of all at St Luke's I'd like to wish you a Happy New Year! The amazing events of the first Christmas tell us of God who stepped down into the 'here and now' so that our 'here and now' might be a part of God's purposes in the world. Whatever you face in 2012 may you know Jesus with you. May you know God's presence and blessing in your lives.

You are all warmly invited to join us in worship each Sunday for our main service at 11.00am. The second Sunday of each month is our Family Service and the other weeks a service of Holy Communion with Sunday school. Revd Mike Cansdale

Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village