



Winter Newsletter No 74 - 2013

www.mortonvillage.org.uk

Firstly, apologies for the non-appearance of the planned newsletter before Christmas. It was decided, almost at the last minute, following the popularity of the 'calendar-of-events' included last year, that it would be a good idea to get as many dates together as possible to include in this newsletter. So - time to reflect on some of the autumn and early winter events and anticipate some of those to come. I hope the calendar will give a flavour of what is on offer in the village in the weeks and months ahead.



Gazing across from Altar Lane on a sunny autumn afternoon I appreciated, not for the first time, that our village is situated in a very favourable position on the south facing lower slopes of the Aire Valley, seeming to nestle beneath the moor at its back. It all looked so peaceful, the clouds drifting across the landscape, and I recalled that David Miller had remarked at the Annual Meeting that we were fortunate to live in such a lovely place, how right he was.

After a year off, MIB entered the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and again achieved a wonderful Silver Gilt award for their efforts. It is very easy to take our surroundings for granted and a lot of what we see about us has been and is being created by them. Lots of work has been carried out in the churchyard, the planting of

wild flowers in the bottom section, and the lane behind the church has been transformed with poppies, hollyhocks and other native flowers - a joy to behold. The Recreation Ground will display lots of new bulbs in the spring, something to anticipate. As well as maintaining the many planters and baskets, the area around the toilets and the entrances to the village, the green has to be kept up with. Mention must be made here of John Crowther who has created a lovely area at the bottom of Green End Road, to name one of several he has tended. This piece of ground returned to nature several decades ago when the houses that stood there were demolished. His efforts have really brightened up an otherwise rather dark corner. John has recently jet-washed the flags on the green - thanks also here to Mr & Mrs Leach for the use of their water - and you can now cross on the path with confidence. I am certain that MIB would be very glad of more volunteers, or residents to do a 'John Crowther' on a corner near them that needing attention.

Another outstanding area is the Busfeild Arms. What a transformation, and a real enhancement to the centre of the village throughout all the seasons.

In the spring the fruit trees planted by Feast Morton last year may show some blossom and in years to come, should be a wonderful sight.

The very badly timed power cut just before Christmas cut short our enjoyment of the lit tree, and grateful thanks to Steve Foster for again attending to this.

Memorial Institute to re-instate independent Committee & AGM

AGM to be held on MARCH 28th 7.30 pm. Few people within the village will be aware that several years ago East Morton's War Memorial Institute committee folded due to lack of support. The hall was losing money, little used and badly in need of refurbishment. Now the picture is very different; we have a wonderfully refurbished building that is very busy with regular classes, social events for villagers and private functions. A handful of people in the village have worked very hard to secure the future of the Institute in a time of widespread closure of such public buildings. The success of the Institute means that new faces are desperately needed if the hall is to stay as vibrant as it is to-day and to support this goal it is to once again have its own official committee, constitution and AGM.

VOLUNTEER get involved! We are currently looking for people to help, even a few hours a year is useful, or if you can spare a little more time why not consider putting your name forward for the committee or a sub-committee? It's a great way to meet new people and get the satisfaction of doing something of value for others.

Positions on the committee are as follows; Chairman, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Events' Organiser, Caretaker and Booking Secretary.

As well as these roles we need lots of volunteers either as subcommittee members helping run events and hall maintenance or those offering just a few hours now and then. This does not need to be a huge time commitment - just a little help, a few hours when you can in any of the areas below would be very valuable: setting up before events, washing up at events, odd jobs and minor repairs to the hall, noticeboard poster updating, laundering towels/tea towels, maintaining email database, furniture pack down and sweep after Morton Meet (Thursday 4pm), website management, folding and counting newsletters/ flyers, general help with tidiness of hall and storage areas, painting and decorating, posting content on village Facebook page, serving at Morton Meet, promoting village lottery, baking for Morton Meet, village archive development and digitising And so much more! Do you have a skill which can help?

DON'T JUST READ THIS AND PUT IT AWAY. GET IN TOUCH NOW TO SEE HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED.

For more information or to volunteer, please speak to Rhona on 07777 637363 or at Morton Meet every Thursday 2-4pm in the institute, or Karen on 07718 763309 or email karenredhead@hotmail.co.uk. Closing dates for nominations February 28th



Help fill the village
with flowers in 2013

Morton in Bloom

**Spring Fundraising
COFFEE MORNING
& STALLS**

Sat 9th Feb 2013

10am - 12noon

Morton Institute

**Cake Stall, Raffle, Face Painting,
and Craft Stalls**

SEE SUPPLEMENT FOR THE MANY EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE INSTITUTE

High speed internet for East Morton?

Businesses and families in East Morton are suffering because of poor internet speed. Now the Village Society is heading up a campaign for the super fast *Infinity* service to be installed by BT Openreach as soon as possible and it needs YOUR help! East Morton has a high ratio of businesses based at home and employed people also working from home.

We understand from many that low internet speed is creating huge difficulties for their everyday working lives. But families too, are experiencing real problems when trying to access the internet, there are over 1000 residents in East Morton and each of you has a voice. Those voices will add up to a powerful campaign **IF we work together.**

The Society wants to hear from YOU and work out the best plan of action to get the providers to see the village as a top priority. We understand the latest start date for *Infinity* internet service into East Morton could be November 2014!

We also understand that other villages like Burley-in-Wharfedale have fought a hugely successful campaign to have *Infinity* brought forward and now enjoy super fast broadband.

The problem for some households is not so much the download speed, as the up load speed. There are a number of creative businesses in the village who need to transmit large files that should take minutes but are taking hours and this seriously impacts on their businesses.

Infinity has arrived in many parts of Bingley and Crossflatts as well as Keighley (photograph shows Openreach cabinet opposite the bottom of Morton Lane) but East Morton seems to be outside each of these internet boundaries - we don't want to be invisible we need to fight!

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 nga.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 - but a petition is classed as only one request, so please also send your emails to Peter Rashbrook as detailed above.

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.

The Village Society is also contacting the local newspapers, speaking to our MP Kris Hopkins and local councillors to keep the campaign momentum going. If you would like to make any comments which might back up our fight for broadband please email stephen@mortonvillage.org.uk



Skye fund raising

As many of you know, our little granddaughter, Skye, was born thirteen weeks early, weighing less than two pounds. She is now three and a half and a delightful little girl, but she has cerebral palsy which affects her mobility so, though she can walk, it is unsteady and she tires very easily, so uses a wheelchair much of the time.

We have been fund-raising for surgery to help her walk better, the surgery to be carried out in Bristol, near where they live in Cheltenham, and have held both a coffee morning and a session of Morton Meet to help with this.

This note is to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the many, many people in the village who have helped us so generously, so that Tony and I have been able to send over £1500 to Skye's parents. It is also to let you know that a major sponsor has come forward who will provide the rest of the funds, meaning that we, and Skye's parents, are able to stop our efforts and concentrate on her needs as she waits for this to take place sometime next summer. *Tony & Barbara Cullingworth*

Local Footpaths

The section of path through the trees at the top of the Recreation Ground has become very boggy - hardly surprising with the wet summer and autumn we have had. We have contacted the appropriate Council department and have been assured that this will be included in their forthcoming programme of work. Additional bark chippings were requested.

You will know if you have tried to walk on it, that the path which passes the pond and Holroyd Mill is simply a bog and practically impassable at most times - for the above-mentioned reasons. We asked the Area Rights of Way Officer to have a look at it, which he has now done. He recommends that some work be carried out in the short term but would like to see the entire stretch improved. The Council Rights of Way Plan (ROWIP) is a document the Council use to prioritise improvements to the rights of way network in Bradford. Any additional funding the Rights of Way officers have access to is usually allocated to schemes identified on the ROWIP. This funding has been allocated for this year of course, but we have requested this particular footpath be considered for any future funding from this scheme.

ADVERTISEMENT - MIKE CRAVEN LETTINGS

Your local Letting Agent, do you have a property to let in or nearby East Morton?

Based in East Morton and specialising in the letting and management of residential property. Proprietor Mike Craven offers a wealth of experience with over 25 years involvement within the lettings industry. He has also been living in the village for more than 15 years and therefore has in-depth, specialist knowledge of the local market and community.

If you are considering letting out your property we can offer you a no obligation appraisal of your property to discuss potential rental income and your requirements. We can offer a tailored service solution at sensible rates. This can be anything from a web-based advert of your property, a tenant vetting service, rent collection service or our full property management package.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:

Mike Craven on 01274 511577 or email: mickeycraven@yahoo.co.uk

Art Exhibition

The weekend of 27 October saw East Morton's first art exhibition. The event, which was organised by volunteers from the village's regular weekly art classes, took place over 2 days, with a Friday evening ticketed preview event for exhibiting artists and their family and friends and the main show taking place from 10am until 4pm on Saturday (open and free of charge to all).



Art on show was produced mainly by local amateurs from the classes, many of whom only began to paint in the last year or so, but also included work from local professional artists (and art teachers) Caroline Hardaker, Jeremy Taylor, Tony Clegg and Jane Fielder. An impressive array of around 150 quality framed pictures was displayed, not to mention a further selection of mounted work and cards, which included watercolours, acrylics, pastels and oils. Many pictures were sold, much to the delight of the budding artists, with 25% of the proceeds going to the Morton Institute.

Around 200 people attended and were able to enjoy wine and nibbles on the Friday evening and hot drinks and homemade cake on the Saturday as they perused the artwork. A raffle took place with the 1st prize of a magnificent selection of art materials. Visitors were asked to vote for their favourite amateur painting and the winner was Eleanor Senior for her watercolour 'Wet Weather'. Winning artwork from the local children's art competition was also on show.

All in all, this was a very successful and enjoyable event, with positive feedback received from both professional artists and other visitors attending. Thanks go to all the volunteers who organised the show and worked hard over the weekend to provide refreshments and man the event. Thanks also to other local groups who kindly loaned their display equipment and also, most importantly, to all the artists who provided their artwork. Due to its success, the show is set to become a regular event, so watch out for news on the date of the next show to make sure you don't miss out!



Quiz Night

On Friday 12th October eleven teams competed in a very successful quiz night. The winners were "St Luke's B" (Iain Copping, Ruth Copping, Barbara Cullingworth, Bob Browning, Sal Browning and a friend) - congratulations. Many thanks go to Angela Leach and her daughters who helped to prepare and serve the supper, and to everyone who helped on the evening. Finally thanks go to Geoff Finnerty, who stepped in at the last minute as scorer, but most importantly thanks go to Jack Doyle, whose research and presentation of the quiz was excellent as usual and made this such an enjoyable evening.



Pre-school music session "Rhythm Time" continue at the Institute on Wednesdays at 1pm and 1.40pm. It costs £27 for 6 weeks or £45 for 10, and parents/carers and children can join anytime by contacting Lynne O'Malley on lomalley66@gmail.com.

Card making classes

Will be held on 22 February and 15 March at the Institute from 7.30pm till 9pm. You do not need to be 'arty' and no experience is necessary as I will show you what to do step by step to create some fabulous hand made greetings cards to send to your friends and family. Contact Liz Griffiths on 07883 204672 for further information and book a place on the next class.

Guides Unit

Plans are afoot to launch a Guides Unit in East Morton at Easter, to register an interest please contact Katrina 07866 900792 for more information.

Christmas Lunch

At midday on December 13th, 72 Mortonians assembled at the village institute for the annual Christmas meal. After being greeted and met with a flute of bubbly we sat down at attractively decorated tables. For each of us there was a cracker, an individually designed box with two chocolates, colourful napkins, wine glasses and a sheet of festive carols.

The traditional meal of turkey, all the trimmings and four types of vegetables - or a veggie option - followed by mince pies and cream was provided, most remarkably, not by professional caterers but a willing couple from our community, Stephanie and Jason Hardy. And didn't they do well!

Later, the village school's Glee Club entertained with Christmas numbers rendered with all the confidence and enthusiasm of youth. Then it was our turn to give voice to a number of carols as Keith manfully wrestled with a piano, the tuning of which was reminiscent of a saloon bar in any John Ford Western.

Rhona, so much a prompter of events, graciously paid tribute to Barbara Evans and her team of helpers who had worked so hard not only in preparation for the day but also as hosts and caterers' assistants. Most important of all was the jolly atmosphere; yet another sign of the village's growing community strength and of a people happy and at ease with their neighbours.



Morton Market

After a damp start Sunday 9th December proved to be a sunny if cold day and added to the warm and lively atmosphere at Morton Market. Many people were impressed with the quality and choice of goods on sale and the stall holders were equally impressed with the visitors, who were described as friendly and interested in talking to them about what they do. All in all, an enjoyable experience. The market stalls and refreshment sales raised over £100 for village funds. Thanks to all those who supported the event.

Following the market, a number of people expressed an interest in participating in a regular monthly box scheme which could include preserves, jams, bakery products. Monthly orders from Hewitt's butchers and an organic veg box scheme run from Brickyard Farm are already available to any -one interested. If anyone wants more information or is interested in helping to coordinate a more comprehensive box schemes for the village with a handy collection point, please contact smbarton1@live.com or Tel 01274 564653



School Corner

The next events Friends of Morton planned are:
Mothering Sunday Cake Stall - Friday 8th March, 3.15-4.00pm. Quiz Night - Friday 15th March, 7.30pm. Jackie Kelley Communications & IT Officer
www.eastmortonprimary.co.uk



Friends of East Morton organised two very successful fundraising events this term. The Christmas Fair was very well attended with a particularly long queue for Santa who had dropped by for the day. Race Night was a sell out and a thoroughly enjoyable evening with horse owners enjoying a glass of bubbly in the owners' enclosure. "Friends" are using the money raised to purchase a much needed covered seating area for the playground.

Once again the children in school have supported the charity "Operation Christmas Child" by filling shoe boxes with basic essentials and also Christmas gifts for children with very little of their own. In total 87 boxes were sent to Belarus.

This term our focus in assembly time and Personal and Social Education has been on the Christian values of friendship and peace. Four children from Y6 took part in a Peace Challenge organised by the Peace Museum in Bradford; these children then became peace ambassadors in school supporting their class in setting themselves the challenge of making school a more peaceful place particularly at playtimes. The children's thoughts and ideas about peace will be used in our annual carol service at St Luke's.





We are pleased to announce that Morton in Bloom has entered the 2013 Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Over the last two years we have retained our SILVER GILT status and it is our aim this year, if we get enough volunteer support and good weather, to go for Gold...

In any case the village is the winner, with the showcases of colour, that we are increasingly providing at extended locations

around the village.

This year the Busfeild Arms will also enter the stand alone public house category, within Yorkshire in Bloom. Martin and his team have been tremendous supporters of MIB and we are entering them as a kind of thank you for their support.

We don't know the exact dates for the village Spring judging yet, but it will be around the first two weeks in April. That means it is all hands to the pump once again, as yet another blooming year beckons! In real terms judging could be only 10 or 12 weeks away!

Our advertised working parties this year are; the first Saturday in every month (starting on Sat 2nd Feb) and we meet on the village green at 10.30. This is a great chance for occasional or regular volunteers to help do their bit, horticulturally for the village, new volunteers are always welcome.

In December, John Crowther once again donated proceeds from his fantastic Christmas lights display to the Morton in Bloom campaign, John is proud to report that MIB therefore raised an amazing £265 from public donations. A tremendous achievement and a huge thanks to John, from all of us at MIB. The funds will be used to buy plants to further improve the displays around the village this year.

Finally, a reminder for your diaries: On Sat 9th Feb we have our annual Fun Day at the Village Institute. The event will be open from 10-12 and entry is free. We will have an exciting mix of stalls, activities, raffles and refreshments. So try and pop along to support our group, as once again the village will benefit from any proceeds raised on the day

For any further info email myself at: Seniorlee2000@yahoo.co.uk or phone John Crowther on 01274 562729



Gala in trouble

The Gala - East Morton's biggest event - is struggling to cope with its success. With new attractions planned for Sunday July 14 there is a shortage of helpers and the Gala may have to lose some features.

"Each year we struggle on the day in two main areas - manpower in the morning to set up and volunteers to help run stalls and games," says committee member Kathy Myers. "Only four people turned up at 8am on Gala morning last year and we need 8 people to put up the largest tent. The Gala has become such an important part of the village - but it is becoming a victim of its own success. We desperately need help and are only asking people to give up a small part of the day," said Kathy

The Gala would like to enlist people to take on one specific task on the day:

1. Morning set up - 3 hours from 8am
2. Run a stall such as Hook A Duck, Football, Golf, Bouncy Castle - get a group of friends to run one together and you need only commit to 30 minutes of your time!
3. Runners - take refreshments to those running stalls and collect money - 1 hour.
4. Help pack up - dismantling tents, stacking chairs etc this starts from 4pm and with more helpers can be done in 1½ hours.

Can you help with any of these? Call Kathy on 01274 567174

Last year's Gala was a great success and made a profit - which is amazing after the torrential rain the week before the big day. Yet again there was huge village attendance and although profits were down a little but we have still been able to make enough money to put by for next year and donate to village organisations.

For the fifth year running the Gala has sponsored the children's Christmas party and the following donations have now been distributed:- East Morton School £200; East Morton Memorial Institute £250; East Morton Womens Institute £200; St Luke's Church £150; Morton in Bloom £100; Feast Morton £50; Bethel Chapel £50; Rainbows £50; Playgroups (£25 each) £50; Army Benevolent Fund £50

Remember if you can lend a hand during any part of the Gala day call 01274 567174 - We always welcome new ideas too!

This years Gala is on - Sunday July 14

Morton Women's Institute

In our last article we mentioned that the WI remit was to encourage our members to try something new and possibly challenging. Our meeting in October did this when our guest was invited to talk about origami. Members arrived expecting to sit in rows and politely listen to a talk. Instead, they found themselves sitting round work tables. After a short talk in which our guest told us about the history of origami and how she had become involved, everyone was given a "kit" and we were invited to each make a gift box. This proved to be a very enjoyable evening and everyone went home with their handiwork feeling proud of themselves. It was a bit like our children and grand children bringing their craft work home from school.

Two weeks later, we imitated our offspring again at The Aire Gap Group Social Evening which was hosted by Laycock. Members were asked to dress in a suitable outfit for Halloween and they responded readily, most choosing to don witches outfits. It's not only children who enjoy dressing up and some outfits in this Witches Coven meant that friends who had known each other for years were having difficulty in recognising who they were talking to.

Our November speaker told us about "The Fire and Rebuilding of Windsor Castle". Again, this was a very interesting subject and the speaker presented the facts and figures in a fun way with anecdotes of the feelings and actions of the royal family.

Two favourite events in our calendar are the annual Federation Christmas Lunch at The Manor Golf Club, Drighlington, and the Aire Gap Group Carol

Service at Newsholme Church. Both give us time to relax and enjoy the Christmas festivities, before the manic shopping and cooking take us over. Our Christmas lunch speaker was Christine Robinson, Head Housekeeper of Chatsworth House and members enjoyed the talk so much that a Federation visit to Chatsworth will be arranged this year and we are hoping that Christine will come back to West Yorkshire at a future date, and address a much larger audience. Newsholme Church is a lovely venue for our carol service. Of course not all our members are able (or inclined) to attend, but the combined number from the 3 WIs fills this small and beautiful church. The service is full of joy, and before we go home we enjoy mince pies, wine and a chat.

We are pleased to say that we will be taking a more active part in village life next year as we will be running the Morton Meet on the third Thursday of each month, giving Rhona a well-deserved break. We just hope we can keep up with her standards.

This year Morton WI will celebrate its 50th Anniversary and we hope to make this a special year. It would be good to hear from ex members or from others in the village who may have a story about the WI in our community over the last half century.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and details of our meetings are posted in the Memorial Institute each month, so if you see something that sounds interesting please do come along.

Morton Village Society

Aiming to preserve your village

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