

Morton Parish Council Newsletter June 2011

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our summer newsletter.

At the Parish Council elections in early May, seven of the existing councillors were re-elected and we welcome Martyn Morris as a new councillor.

On behalf of the Parish Council I wish to thank the two councillors who did not stand for re-election, Margaret Hawkins and Derek Cotterill. Both gave many years of service to the parish and I particularly wish to thank Margaret for what was achieved during the years when she was Chair of the Parish Council.

Andrew Coates
Chair



Morton Monkeys

**We meet every Thursday in Term Time
from 10.00am to 12.00noon
in Morton Village Hall.**

**This is for mothers/fathers/carers and their babies
and toddlers under school age.**

**Come along and let your little monkeys meet new
friends.**

Plenty of grown ups to chat with!

Lots of activities for the children.

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Morton Parish Council - 2010/11 Accounts

Balances at 1st April 2010 :-

Current Account	2,885 . 43
Capital Reserve Account	1,001 . 00
	3,886 . 43

Income Details for the period 1-4-10 to 31-3-11 :-

Precept	32,000 . 00
V.A.T.	2,500 . 87
Miscellaneous	530 . 00
Bank Interest	0 . 86
	35,031 . 73

Expenditure Details for the period 1-4-10 to 31-3-11 :-

Parish Council Land	1,951 . 04
Wages and General Admin	13,646 . 27
Planters and maintenance	3,101 . 00
Morton Churchyard	900 . 00
Training	30 . 00
Audit Fees	610 . 00
Section 137	1,250 . 00
Insurance	2,259 . 14
The Village Hall	1,939 . 33
Bus Shelters	300 . 00
Newsletters	1,445 . 00
NEDDC grounds maintenance	1,579 . 00
V.A.T.	1,636 . 44
School milk	174 . 35
Miscellaneous	535 . 95
	31,357 . 52

Balances at 31st March 2011 :-

Current Account	4,560 . 26
Capital Reserve Account	3,000 . 75
	7,561 . 01

P. Goodwin - Clerk to the Parish Council

MORTON FUN RUN 2011

This year's fun run on Sunday June 26th should be only days away by the time you read this. The main race, the 6km road run, will start at 11.00am from outside the school gates. The route goes up main Road, onto Stretton Road and out of the village up to the main A61, along the pavement to Mickley Lane, down Mickley Lane onto Higham Lane, returning back into the village along Church Lane, back down Main Road, onto New Street, to finish on the playing fields.

This event is open to all runners aged 14 and over. Also, don't forget the two village trophies up for grabs in this event, the first male and female Morton resident trophies. Last year there were some close races for these trophies and I have seen a few more of you out there running past my house, so this year's races could be even closer!

The second event of the day, the Morton Mile Family Fun Run, will start at 12 noon on the playing field and follow the 1 mile path circling the colliery mound and Colliery Wood. This event is open to all runners aged 6 and over, but the younger runners aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an over 14 whilst running in the event.

If you are planning on running in any of the events then entry on the day is available; the event registration tent on the playing field will be open from 9.30am to receive entries.

If you are not running and live on the run route then I'm sure the runners will appreciate any encouragement given as they run past at 11.00am.

Full details of the event can be found on the event web site www.runmorton.com

Don't forget the village gala fun day which will take place directly after the prize giving for the fun run at about 12.30pm. Fun and games for all the family with various challenges and games for all ages along with stalls and refreshments.

Hope to see some of you on the start line!

Ash

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Rector - Rev. Margaret Jacques, The Rectory, Main Road, Shirland. 01773 836003

Churchwardens - Margaret Hawkins 01246 863418

John Culverhouse 01773 833427

Visit Our Benefice Web site – www.msschurches.co.uk



Many thanks to all who support us and help to keep our lovely church open for regular worship, for special occasions and for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Thanks also to those who support our social events and come along to our special events.

Everyone is welcome to come to our services. They are held each week on:-

The First Sunday in the month – 10.30am Morning Praise which is not a Communion service.

The Second Sunday in the month – 10.30am Family Communion

The Third Sunday in the month – Holy Communion

The Fourth Sunday in the month – 9.00am Holy Communion

Sunday School is in the Rectory Room on the first, third and fourth Sundays at 10.30am. All children welcome.

Baptisms and Weddings

If you would like to know more about Baptisms or a Church Wedding please ring the Rector who will be happy to discuss it with you.



GARDEN PARTY

In the

Rectory Room Grounds

On Saturday, July 2nd Starting at 2.00pm

There will be Homemade Teas, Lucky Dip for children and Lucky Dip for adults, Cards, Bric a Brac, Cakes, Books, Toys, Prize Draw, lots of Games and much, much more!

Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

THE RECTORY ROOM IS FOR HIRE

Why not use the Rectory Room for your Party, your meeting etc.

A pleasant room with all facilities – crockery, cutlery etc.

Very safe and secluded grounds.

£5.00 per hour.

Morton Village Hall

The Hall is still being used by such groups as Dancing, Taekwondo, Morton Monkeys, The Bowls Club and, of course, the ever popular Bingo which is held every other Monday and to which everyone is welcome. Childrens' Parties have also been on the increase over the past year together with various other functions. We have also had a course on Tai Chi and one on Chair based exercises.

The Hall was full for the tea party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on April 29th. The flags were everywhere!! A wonderful tea was prepared and there was face-painting and crafts for the children—many thanks to all those who helped in any way. A good time was had by all.

Morton Village Hall Management Committee

Village Hall is available for Parties, Wedding Receptions, Meetings etc.

£5.00 an hour

Kids' Parties £25.00

Includes heating, use of kitchen, cooker, fridge, dishwasher, urn, crockery, cutlery etc.

Please ring the Booking Officer for any information with regard to booking the Hall.



This years Gala will be held on Sunday
26th June 2011 on the football field at
the end of New Street.

Commences 1.00pm

Come along and have some fun!!!

BINGO



Come and join us for a fun night
in the Village Hall!
Every other Monday at 7.30pm.
Dates on Hall Notice Board.
25p entrance includes
tea/coffee and biscuits.

Members of Morton Village Hall Management Committee.

Stewart Towndrow – Chairman 01773 872698 Rosemary Taylor – Secretary 01773 872354
Ann Wright – Booking Officer 01246 865337 Jane Grant-Smith – Treasurer 01246 861286
Margaret Hawkins – 01246 863418 Claire Koslowski - Caretaker 01773 590171
Ruth McCullough – Parish Council Representative

Morton Bowls.

**We meet in the Village Hall
every Friday evening, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.,
cost £1.50 including refreshments.**

During the summer we play at Sharley Park, Clay Cross on the outdoor
green,
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays

100 Years Old

On 22 June 2011 we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the planting of the
Magnificent Yew Tree near the Church Porch.

Canon Alfred Hall Prior, Rector of Morton, officiated at the ceremony which
was to commemorate the Coronation of King George V on Thursday, June
22nd 1911 a small Yew Tree.

It was planted by children representing old Morton Families –
Margaret Watkinson, Freda Cauldwell, Bertie Wheeler and George Vardy.

BARRINGTON DARBY'S

NOTES ON MORTON HISTORY 1945 - 1953

1945 In 1945, there were 12 or 13 shops plus 3 shoe repairers (known locally as the Cobblers) in Morton, serving a population of possibly around 850 inhabitants.

There were also around 12 farms of various sizes in the Village in 1945, most being still very dependent on heavy horses as farm tractors were scarce. Farming methods had changed very little over the past 150 years.

The LMSR (London, Midland and Scottish Railway) controlled Doe Hill Station and all railway traffic along the Erewash Valley Line. The MIDLAND GENERAL provided the village with a reliable bus service, being served by routes C3, D4 and D6.

1946 Morton Colliery Cricket Club was a member of the Derbyshire Minor Cricket League which generally covered the Chesterfield and N.E. Derbyshire area. Opponents included Arkwright Town, Spital, Eckington, Staveley LMS, Cutthorpe and Robinsons.

On 28 August 1946, the Morton Colliery Power House (as it was known) was gutted by fire costing £10,000 worth of damage – a lot of money in 1946. Around the same time fire destroyed the Miners' Welfare Tennis Club Pavilion.

Towards the end of 1946 farm tractors became more accessible. I remember with particular affection the Fordson Major at Glebe Farm.

1947 The Winter of 1946/7 was one of the worst on record. Exceptionally heavy snowfalls affected almost everything and everybody. Some roads were closed for days which seriously affected food supplies and the distribution of coal. Local Authorities simply had not the necessary equipment to deal with such a magnitude of snow although there was always a sturdy V-shaped wooden snow plough kept on the grass verge between Church Farm and Holland Close. Eventually bulldozers appeared after probably being hired from Opencast Coal Contractors.

Traffic on the LMS main railway line was delayed due to damage to the timber Padley Wood Bridge, almost certainly caused by the sheer weight of the snow.

Power lines were brought down in blizzard conditions and buses were stuck in snow drifts

We were compensated for such a hard Winter by a glorious Summer in 1947.

In August 1947, former Morton Cricketer Bill Copson (Derbyshire) played his third and final Test Match for England. This was against South Africa at the Oval, where he opened the bowling with his Derbyshire team mate Cliff Gladwin.

On 30 November 1947, there was a special peal of bells at Morton Church to celebrate the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

1948 In 1948, Harry Boot, who already had a shop on Stretton Road, opened another fruit and vegetable shop in New Street. Electricity mains cables were laid and connected in New Street. This spelt the demise of the gas street lights.

Morton Colliery Cricket Club gained entry into the prestigious Derbyshire Cricket League. The playing area had been considerably extended to the west (the Padley Wood end). We could now entertain teams such as Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Grassmoor, Pilsley and Blackwell. Transport to away matches was usually provided by Jack Bower's taxis.

In mid 1948, BRITISH RAILWAYS painted three ex-LMS JUBILEE CLASS locomotives in an experimental LIGHT GREEN livery. With chocolate and cream coaches to match this really was a welcome "SPLASH OF COLOUR".

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continued

1949 Members of the younger generation eagerly awaited the visit of MORRISSES horse drawn ICE CREAM cart from Blackwell, whose arrival was announced by a distinctive whistle.

The steam engine hauled threshing machine visited most farms at harvest time.

Until the arrival of a machine called a Barber-Green in the 1950s, the steam roller still played a major part in road repairs.

1950 Miss Howard, the Headmistress at Morton Primary School, did a permanent exchange with Mrs Jones, the Headmistress at Stonebroom Primary School.

Morton Miners' Welfare Tennis Club was revived after a new Pavilion had been built and the tennis courts totally resurfaced.

1951 The year of the FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN gave the UK a morale booster after years of austerity.

A new steel-framed footbridge was built over the railway line at Padley Wood.

The Church Pond near the Lych Gate, was filled in, apparently due to the spring which supplied it with water drying up.

A really memorable occasion in 1951 was the wedding at Morton Church of Miss Joan Babington Turbutt of Ogston Hall – top hat and tails, a red carpet and carriage and horses – a splendid sight!

An early morning head on collision between two pedal cyclists on Higham Lane resulted in the death of one. This was 16 years of age Geoffrey Greensmith of Main Road.

In 1951 Revd. Frank Parker Crosse M.C. from Barlborough, succeeded Revd. William Leeke Latham as Rector of Morton.

The Old Village Schoolroom was converted for use as an Old Age Pensioners' Welfare Club.

"COACHES WELCOME" - and MANSFIELD DISTRICT coaches did indeed call at the LIVE AND LET LIVE en route back to Mansfield after an excursion.

1952 Doe Hill Station (now under B.R. control) was still open, with local stopping trains to Nottingham (southbound) and Sheffield (northbound).

On 22 March 1952, there was a special train to Derby for football supporters to watch Derby County play Charlton Athletic.

Freight traffic was particularly heavy, with coal trains (southbound) and iron-ore (northbound).

Captain Guy Jackson officially opened a new pavilion on the Morton Colliery Cricket Ground. A special cricket match followed.

1953 June 2nd 1953 was the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Many outdoor village activities were planned but inclement weather adversely affected most of them.

Tommy Talbot was still delivering coal by horse and cart in 1953 thanks mainly to the efforts of Major the faithful Shire horse.

The advent of Martin Cowley and his Race Horse stables at Church Farm brought an element of glamour and excitement to the village scene.

On 2 August 1953 Morton Colliery Cricket Club played what is believed to be the first ever Sunday cricket match at Morton. It was very controversial – consequently several stalwart supporters withdrew their support forthwith.

Road traffic was light and predictable. There were only about 25 motor car owners in the village. It was still possible for a herd of cows to amble along Stretton Road from field to farm (and return) at milking time without causing a major traffic jam.

BARRINGTON DARBY

THE CENTRE OF ENGLAND TREE



Generations of Morton residents have referred to a certain Oak tree (*Quercus robur*) approximately opposite No. 69 Stretton Road as the Centre of England Tree. Years ago there was a seat beneath it and in the days of The Morton Bus Company it was a Bus Request Stop.

How the claim for the tree to mark the Centre of England originated is clouded in mystery. It has been suggested the tree dates from around 1850. Was it planted or is it a self setter is not known either? The condition of the tree is not good, a replacement planted alongside a few years ago appears to have perished.

The earliest tangible evidence there is of the Centre of England claim is the existence of an article printed on October 1st 1910 in Horners Weekly newspaper headed The Centre of England. Details were given plus two photographs of the unique distinction claimed by a pretty Derbyshire village which, of course, was Morton. One of the photographs showed the claim had apparently been endorsed by the Ordnance Survey.

In the 1990s the Parish Council felt we should place greater value on our assets and heritage. Consequently a plaque was commissioned and placed near the tree.

As the year 2000 approached, the Parish Council was seeking something of significance which could be used to commemorate the Millennium. Many ideas were suggested of which the one selected was a village sign by the roadside at each end of the village on the B6014. The successful design incorporating the Centre of England Tree was duly submitted to the Derbyshire County Council for their approval.

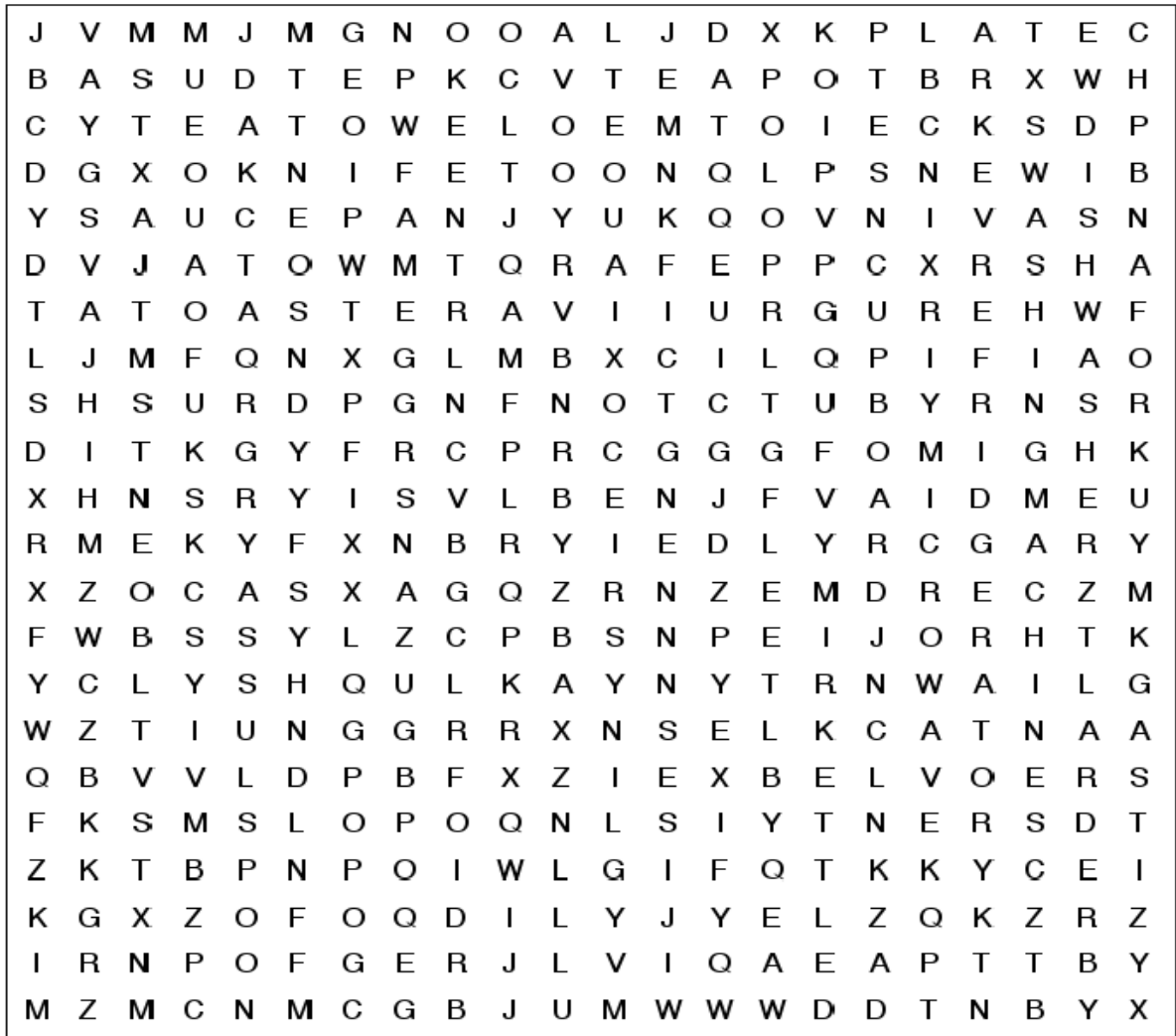
With slight modification the design was approved and the signs were erected as planned.

There are several locations which claim to be the Centre of England. Personally I feel the MORTON claim is a sound one otherwise I would not have given it my support. I sincerely hope this article goes some way towards clarifying the situation.

BARRINGTON DARBY

JUST FOR FUN

In the Kitchen



SINK
GRILL
REFRIDGERATOR
BOWL
KNIFE
KETTLE
BIN

WASHING MACHINE
OVEN
FRYING PAN
CUP
SPOON
TEAPOT

DISHWASHER
MICROWAVE
SAUCEPAN
MUG
TEA TOWEL
CUPBOARD

COOKER
FREEZER
PLATE
FORK
TOASTER
LARDER

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Andrew Cooper 01773 875053

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