



# MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*MHPC*

Autumn

2006

## MARGARET RETIRES FROM HER CEMETERY DUTIES

Since 1994, well known local figure, Margaret Gibson, who lives in the High Street, has looked after the cemetery on behalf of the Parish Council, with the help of her farmer husband, Gerald. On the 30th September she retired.

Her family before her were also involved in the upkeep of the cemetery and she continued the family tradition.

Margaret has always worked closely with the Council to keep the cemetery in good condition and make it as pleasant, and tidy, an environment as possible and a credit to the village and its residents.

On behalf of the parish the Councillors wish to thank Margaret, and Gerald, for carrying out these duties over the years and wish them well in their retirement.

The Parish Council have been fortunate in employing a local contractor to continue the maintenance duties at the cemetery.

It is hoped that a volunteer, probably a regular visitor to the cemetery, can make sure that the refuse bags are made ready for collection on 'rubbish' days.

**Our Thanks to Margaret and Gerald.**

## MORTON PRESCHOOL New - But nearly 35 Years Old

After almost 35 years in the Baptist Church schoolroom Morton Pre-school has moved across the road into brand new purpose-built premises, in a meadow at Glebe Farm, to the rear of the Post Office. The entrance is to the right of the P.O.

The new building has a large playroom with a computer/quiet area and a messy play area, a kitchen/extra classroom, bright child-friendly toilets, outdoor play area - patio, garden area and adventure area.

The Preschool is registered for 26 children per session, takes children from about two and a half and can offer 5 free, government funded sessions per week, starting in the term following the child's 3rd birthday.

Termtime opening hours are 9am - 11.30am.

Contact : Mrs.B.Hammond 570317. [mortonpreschool@btopenworld.com](mailto:mortonpreschool@btopenworld.com)

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## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2006**

This year the winner in our class, large villages and small towns, was Washingham, near Lincoln.

Morton & Hanthorpe scored 124 points out of a maximum 150.

Among the judges comments-

“ A pleasing general appearance.

Most premises neat, some with very attractive gardens. Playing Field & Play park behind the school, attractive and used. Church open and welcoming.

Baptist Church tidy with pots. Both churches good notice boards.

Five Bells, Kings Head, Lord Nelson all attractive with gardens and/or (flower) baskets or tubs.”

Unfortunately some of the point-losing comments (some out of our control) were - “A lot of cigarette ends opposite Five Bells. Variation in verge cutting, some neat and close, neighbouring ones long and uneven. Shape of village, straddling the A15 seemed to make several separate communities”

No doubt we will try again next year, though we cannot make any difference about the A15 through the village. As we all well know that does not divide the community in any way.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE VILLAGE HALLS COMPETITION 2006**

THE VILLAGE HALL reached the finals in the 2006 competition, coming a creditable 4th out of halls all over the county. Stiff competition was faced from purpose-built halls and active community centres. Credit must go to the Village Hall Committee members, who all worked hard to keep our hall at this high standard.

The competition winner was Long Bennington Village Hall.

## **PLAY EQUIPMENT ANNUAL INSPECTION BY R.O.S.P.A.**

The Annual inspection of the Children’s play equipment at the Station Rd playing field was carried out by R.O.S.P.A. during August. The report which has now been received following this inspection does not highlight any major problems with any of the equipment or the safer surfacing.

A few “low/medium risk” problems have been identified with some areas of safer surfacing requiring to be re-sealed, and slight damage to the “Balance Beam” needing to be monitored. Two concrete bases need removing from the field.

These items will be monitored by the clerk when he carries out his regular monthly checks, and quarterly written inspections of the play equipment. The equipment is also looked at weekly by one of our councillors to ensure that there are no major problems. The old wooden trim trail is in the process of being removed.



# TO DECLARE OR NOT TO DECLARE ? THAT IS THE QUESTION.

## At Cricket ? No, at a Council Meeting.

### Declaring An Interest.

Is it prejudicial? Not all matters in which a councillor may have a personal interest are necessarily prejudicial, although the personal interest should always be declared. If you decide that the matter is not prejudicial, you may stay in the meeting and speak and vote on it. It is only when the matter is prejudicial that you will need to leave the room while the matter is under discussion.

So how do you decide whether a matter in which you have a personal interest is also prejudicial?

You are likely to have a personal interest when the matter has an impact upon the area of the

parish in which you live to a greater extent than others living in the parish. However, the interest will only be prejudicial if it also has a significant impact upon yourself, your friends, relatives or other close connections, so that a reasonable member of the public would consider that your judgment of the public interest was prejudiced.

For instance, if a planning application is being considered for a piece of land that is situated directly opposite your property, there is likely to be a prejudicial interest.

But there will be many situations when you have a personal interest that is not prejudicial.

The Standards Board for England feels that the situation needs greater clarification and that council members should be ensured that they are able to advocate on behalf of those that they represent. The Code should make it clear that, in the normal course of events, a councillor who merely has an interest shared with the community or an organisation that they represent that they should be able to take part in the meeting. It would only be where a decision is being made and they would get a clear advantage from that decision that they should be excluded from taking part. The Standards Board have suggested to government that reforms should be made in the new, awaited, Code of Conduct.

*This item has been extracted from a Standards Board of England information leaflet—available from the clerk..*





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[morton-hanthorpe.org.uk](http://morton-hanthorpe.org.uk)



Autumn Mist, Hanthorpe

## **BOURNE TO MORTON FOOTPATH**

Over the last year or two the footpath has been slowly, and bit by bit, upgraded, first to the Cawthorpe footpath, then to Dyke Road end, and presently to the Cactus Farm. In the next financial year Lincolnshire Highways tell us that it will be completed into Morton.

It will then be re-designated as a cycle/footpath.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND FARM & COUNTRY BUSINESS WATCH**

The public, at all levels of society, are at greatest risk from crimes such as burglary, vehicle-crime and vandalism, but these can be reduced by an effective Watch scheme.

The Lincolnshire Farm and Country Business Watch Scheme aims to reduce local opportunities for crime and vandalism, as well as reinforce the community spirit, so that everyone can contribute towards protection of property by mutual co-operation and communication.

Communication between Lincolnshire Police and farming and business communities takes place through use of the Watchline communication system, which sends either telephone, fax or e-mail messages to registered Farm & Country Business Watch across the county, informing of activities of a criminal nature and those of general interest to the community.

Local groups are encouraged to register to form a Watch scheme in their area, to assist in crime reduction in the county.

- \* Residents in villages, small parishes or residential streets can be covered by Neighbourhood Watch.
- \* Farm premises and small businesses by Farm & Country Business Watch.

If you are interested in forming a new Watch scheme in your local area an application form is available on the Force website [www.lincs.police.uk](http://www.lincs.police.uk), to be returned to : Lincolnshire Police Headquarters, Watchline office, PO Box 999, Lincoln LN5 7PH. For further details contact::

Watchline Office. tel: 01522 558399

e-mail: [sharon.horne@lincs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sharon.horne@lincs.pnn.police.uk)