



# Community Newsletter

News and Information from your Local Area

## Morton-On-Swale & Ainderby Steeple

### Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the winter 2020 edition of the Morton-On-Swale and Ainderby Steeple community newsletter – it has been a strange year for many of us and this is actually our first newsletter this year! Read on to find out about the fun activities planned to help us all celebrate the festive season safely along with updates on our Good Neighbour Scheme, Halloween, Neighbourhood Watch, and lots more!

May we take this opportunity to thank **Morton-On-Swale Parish Council** for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter.

We also want to say a big thankyou to everyone for pulling together over the last few months to help each other out – it really has been fantastic how our community has come together. There has been so many acts of kindness from picking up shopping and prescriptions to helping people set up online shopping and other IT issues to help people stay connected with family.

We put a call out through Facebook to do a shout out for our village hero's:

- Kirsty Weston would like to thank Paul & Anne Cayton, Laura Bowers and Ollie & Lynne Poulter for picking up prescriptions.
- Thank you to everyone who helped fellow villagers through the Good Neighbour Scheme. A big thank you to Ollie & Lynne Poulter for co-ordinating the scheme and doing lots of shopping for others.
- Thank you to Paula Cox for helping an elderly couple after their house was devastated by a fire.
- Thank you to Jez Corner for his kindness and helpfulness as our very reliable and fabulous postperson.
- Thanks to our pubs and butchers for keeping open – especially through providing deliveries and take away services.

In the next edition, we want to dedicate the newsletter to thanking those in our community who are helping others, so please contact [morton.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:morton.newsletter@gmail.com) with any nominations!

### Morton On Swale Remembers

Morton on Swale Village Hall Committee would like to give a big thank you to all ladies who have kindly knitted poppies for use in creating a wonderful display in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in conflict around the world.



### Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

For the past four years, Morton-on-Swale Parish Council have been paying to participate in a scheme organised by North Yorkshire County Council to share with other parishes the use of a pair of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS) which were placed at either end of the village at six weekly intervals (6 weeks on, 6 weeks off).



As speeding remains a key concern of residents, the Parish Council have decided to acquire its own VAS signs which will be permanently installed in the same two locations utilising funding from our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from Hambleton District council which has been topped up by a Grant of £1,000 from North Yorkshire County Council's Localities Budget, kindly arranged by County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson. All being well the new signs will be delivered and installed before the end of this year.

### Neighbourhood Watch



Neighbourhood Watch is about building community spirit and good relations, bringing together local people with common goals, tackling crime and disorder, keeping an eye out for one another and on each other's property, working together as the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood and picking up and taking action on anything that could cause concern or worry. It is not about being a 'nosy neighbour' but about being a good citizen and caring for and supporting your community. Morton-On-Swale Parish Council is looking to establish a Neighbourhood Watch covering the whole village, working with already established initiatives. Before we set it up, we want to make sure there is interest. Please contact the Council on: [clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](mailto:clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk) to let us know that you would be interested in setting up a village wide Neighbourhood Watch. Or call us on 07736642155.

### Park Damage

We are so lucky to have such a fantastic park in Morton-On-Swale, but unfortunately some people are spoiling it for everyone and there has been mindless vandalism. Damage has included graffiti, ripping off roof tiles, damage to hand sanitisers and evidence that a fire was attempted. If people see damage being done or witness suspicious behaviour please contact the police on 101 and let the Parish Council know by emailing:

[clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](mailto:clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk)

**Festive Fun Heading Your Way**  
See the back page for lots of festive activities coming your way in the next few weeks!

### Facebook

Don't forget to follow our community Facebook page - recently we have covered everything from missing pets, tradesmen recommendations, flooding/bridge closure updates, Halloween trails etc. With nearly 600 followers, we hope everyone finds it a useful source of up to date and useful information. If you want to find the page just search for 'Morton-on-Swale, Ainderby Steeple and Thrintoft Community Page'.

# Morton-On-Swale & Ainderby Steeple Community Newsletter



## Morton-on-Swale Parish Council New Website

Please visit the new look Morton-On-Swale Parish Council website, which, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Stuart Stephenson, has now been officially launched. Latest news will appear in a new Stop Press section on the Home page, just below the "slide show" of local photographs.

[www.morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk)

The website now includes an area for photos of our lovely village and key landmarks – if you have any images that you think would be good to include then please send them through to: [clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](mailto:clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk)

## Parish Council Update

The Council have managed to hold its bi-monthly meetings online via Zoom. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every other month at 7.30pm. The next meeting will take place on the 27th January 2021. Please get in touch if you would like the link to join the meeting using the above email address.

## Halloween

Halloween this year was different, so we decided to hold a COVID-19 friendly trail around the village and sold Halloween bags which were filled with a wide selection of goodies so that children didn't need to knock on people's doors to 'trick or treat'. We had over thirty entries onto the trail and there were prizes for best display, best pumpkin and best outfit. We hope everyone had fun exploring the village and didn't find it too spooky! Thank you to everyone for taking part, donating sweets and donating prize money - it was great fun! Here are our winners....



## Ainderby Steeple Committee Update

Ainderby Steeple Parish Committee meetings have been suspended until further notice and it's hoped these can be reinstated in 2021. If you have any issues in the meantime please contact Andrew Thompson on [andrewthompsonarc@gmail.com](mailto:andrewthompsonarc@gmail.com).

The Committee are experiencing some difficulties completing the tree planting and road maintenance around the green but have finally been able to install a new village sign on the entrance to the village from Northallerton.

## North Yorkshire Community Messaging

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free community messaging system for North Yorkshire that allows you to register to receive the latest crime notifications and community news happening in your local neighbourhood. You can tailor preferences for the type of the message you receive, your preferred channel (phone, text, or email) and the locations that matter to you.

You can get information on:

- Crime and other police incidents, including missing people and witness appeals.
- Rural policing, including crimes against farms and rural businesses.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Road safety, including road closures and traffic updates.
- Neighbourhood news and events, such as invitations to public meetings.

You can even choose to register multiple locations, not just a home address – ideal if you want to know more about where your children go to school, where family members live, places to socialise and around your place of work. Alerts are not confidential, so feel free to share information with friends and family. To get started, visit [www.nycm.co.uk](http://www.nycm.co.uk) and create an account or download the App.

## Nature Notes

Nick Morgan, our resident nature blogger has another update for us.

Winter can be one of the best times for encountering wildlife in the village but it all depends on the weather. Some of the most obvious birds are the winter thrushes which flood in from Scandinavia and Russia in the autumn. Fieldfares (see photo) are the most noticeable but much less obvious are the Blackbirds and that individual coming to your bird table is as likely to have come from Norway as Northallerton.



If the floods come out then look out for ducks and geese. Large flocks of Greylag geese sometimes drop into the fields to the south of the village and you can see, and hear, them flying over to their night roost near Catterick. Curlews too increasingly spend the winter around the villages and if you're near the river on a winter evening you might hear their lovely wild calls as they too fly north to their roost site. Nick would love to hear from you on: [nickmlinden@gmail.com](mailto:nickmlinden@gmail.com) with any sightings.

Nick's blog on the wildlife in the Parish can be found at [www.heirsofgilbert.blogspot.com](http://www.heirsofgilbert.blogspot.com)

## Operation Bright

Operation Bright is a winter campaign that is run from October through to February to identify homes at increased risk of burglary. North Yorkshire Police then undertake work with residents to 'target harden' their properties.

By identifying homes in darkness and promoting the 'leave a light on' message, a property's vulnerability can be reduced. Throughout the winter months Northallerton Neighbourhood Policing Team will be out on patrols delivering prevention packs in Northallerton and surrounding villages. If you want more information then please contact our PCSO Kimberley Laws at [kimberley.laws@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kimberley.laws@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)

## COVID-19 Available Support

COVID-19 has been an unprecedented public health crisis. This section of the newsletter is to let you know about some of the support that is available:

- **Morton-On-Swale Good Neighbour Scheme** – in March 2020, the Parish Council launched a scheme which is to help those in the community who are isolated or are needing to self-isolate. 40 fantastic residents came forward to help. If you find yourself having to isolate, or unable to run errands please reach out by calling Ollie on 07754813514 or Lynne on 07718370677 or try their landline on 01609 779447. You can also email: [clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](mailto:clerk@morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk).
- **NHS Volunteer Responders** can also help people who are self-isolating and in need of support with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials. You can call 0808 196 3382 every day between 8am and 8pm. More details can be found here: <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/>.
- **North Yorkshire County Council's** website contains lots of useful COVID-19 support and guidance. NYCC are also urging people to keep checking on neighbours and people in their communities who might need help and support. More information can be found here: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19).
- Our community support organisation is **Hambleton Community Action** and they can be contacted on 01609 780458 or through emailing: [reception@hambletoncommunityaction.org](mailto:reception@hambletoncommunityaction.org). They can help with things such as shopping for food or other essentials; help to set up online shopping services and access priority delivery slots at supermarkets; collecting and delivering prescriptions; caring for pets; having someone to talk to; help for you to get online and using technology like FaceTime or Skype to talk to friends and family; delivering books and magazines or materials to support hobbies such as wool for knitting or art materials.
- You can find details of local voluntary and community groups offering support at [www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk](http://www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk).
- If you don't have money to pay for food, either because you don't have enough or can't access the money you have then **North Yorkshire County Council** can help. They can be contacted on 01609 780780 every day between 8am and 5:30pm.
- If you are experiencing financial hardship you may be eligible for financial support from the **North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund**. Vouchers to cover the cost of food and energy are available for individuals and families, see [www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-assistance-fund](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-assistance-fund). If you would like advice on what other help you may be entitled to contact the Customer Services Centre on 01609 780780 or contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available for businesses. Please visit [www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support) for further information. The following are also great links for business support and advice: [www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/](http://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/) [www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/](http://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/)
- Hambleton District Council's website ([www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)) includes lots of useful information such as test and trace payments, business support payments and information on how different functions of the Council are running at the moment.
- **Morton-On-Swale Parish Council** receive regular updates from **North Yorkshire County Council** and **Hambleton District Council** which are uploaded onto their website: [www.morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.morton-on-swale-parish-council.co.uk).
- Buy Local - many local businesses are adapting their services during the pandemic. Lots of food retailers and restaurants are operating local delivery services for people who are self-isolating. Find details of businesses who are offering food deliveries and takeaways and other products and services in your local area on [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local).

## You are not alone

The current pandemic is a potential catalyst for increased loneliness and social isolation, both directly as a result of lockdown and social distancing, and indirectly through the consequences of lockdown, including unemployment and bereavement. Please see below organisations that are there to support you if you are finding things difficult at the moment:



- **The Red Cross** have set up a free and confidential phone line with friendly and experienced volunteers who are here to help you cope with feelings of loneliness, mild depression, isolation and grief after bereavement. They can also help you to get medicine and food. Call 0808 196 3651 between 10am and 6pm.
- The **Samaritans** are open 24 hours, 7 days a week. Call free on 116 123 or send an email to [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org). Samaritans are there for everyone going through a difficult time. You can also write to them at Chris, Freepost, PO Box 9090, STIRLING FK8 2SA.
- **Shout** are a free, confidential and anonymous text support service. Text 85258 to get support with issues such as depression, anxiety, abuse, panic attacks, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, relationship problems and bullying.
- **North Yorkshire mental health services** - if you need to discuss your mental health or that of someone you are caring for then please give them a call on 0800 5610076. This is a confidential, free and anonymous crisis line service. [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mental-health](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mental-health) provides details about the helpline, counselling, mental illness support, urgent assistance, self-help guides and links to national support such as help available for children and young people.
- **Age UK Advice Line** is a free, confidential, national phone service for older people, their families, friends, carers and professionals, which is open 365 days a year (8am-7pm). If you're feeling lonely or need some practical help and support, please call them on 0800 678 1602. **Age UK** and their partner charity **The Silver Line**, also offer free telephone friendship services so you can enjoy chatting with someone on the phone from the comfort of your own home.
- **Mind** are a leading specialised Mental Health Charity and can be contacted on 01609 780758 / 07895 278299. You can email them at [nyteam@darlingtonmind.com](mailto:nyteam@darlingtonmind.com).

## The next issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next edition please email [morton.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:morton.newsletter@gmail.com) by the 14th February 2021.

# MORTON-ON-SWALE AND AINDERBY STEEPLE FESTIVITIES

There are plenty of activities planned this year in the spirit of Christmas for all ages in our villages.  
All entries to the below competitions need to be sent to [cllr.kirsty.weston@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.kirsty.weston@gmail.com).

## MASH UP

As we will not be able to see each other as much as normal in the run up to Christmas, we are pulling together a village mash up video. We are inviting people of all ages to lip sync a line or two of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. Please email by the **13th December** and you will be allocated some lines.

## COMPETITIONS

Keep an eye on the village Facebook page for competitions in the run up to Christmas including name the reindeer, Christmas tree photo competition and guess the number of presents in a stocking.

## Christmas Craft Off (12/13th December)

Get creative and do some crafting on the weekend of the 12th and 13th of December – email a picture of your masterpiece which will be put onto Facebook- those with the most 'likes' will win a PRIZE. From making Christmas cards, paper chains, festive colouring in, making baubles etc, anything goes and we look forward to seeing everyone's festive crafting.

## CHRISTMAS VIRTUAL BAKE-OFF (5/6th December)

Dust off those aprons and get creative in the kitchen on the weekend of the 5th and 6th of December – email a picture of your masterpiece which will be put onto Facebook- those with the most 'likes' will win a PRIZE.



## RAFFLE

The Children's Resource Centre in Morton-on-Swale are doing a raffle to raise funds to be used at the Centre for the disabled children they support. Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes. If you would like the chance to win a prize or two then please email [Rebecca.Jobling@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Jobling@northyorks.gov.uk) by the 20th December 2020. Tickets are £1 and will be drawn the week after. Good luck!

## CHRISTMAS EVE JINGLE BELLS (24th December)

As we know, Father Christmas' sleigh needs festive cheer to fly – please join us on your doorstep at 6pm on Christmas Eve to ring your bells and join in the national 'Christmas Jingle' and help us spread some Christmas Magic this year.

## Synchronised Light Switch On (13th December)

Come out on the evening of the 13th December and turn on your Christmas lights at 6pm. Of course you can have your lights on as early as you like – just postpone the normal switch on time to 6pm on the 13th and let's see if we can make our villages twinkle to spread festive cheer! Please submit photos of your decked out halls by the 20th December. These will be put onto Facebook - those with the most 'likes' will win a PRIZE.

## Secret Santa

For many Christmas is a time for family and celebration however for some, it can be a very isolating and lonely time. Can you help with any of the following?

- Letting us know of anyone you feel may benefit from a secret Santa parcel
- Donating items to include in the parcels such as biscuits, chocolate, crisps, mini Christmas puddings, blankets, gloves, drinks, custard, tinned soup / veg, smellies, selection boxes, tea/coffee, mince pies etc
- Writing Christmas cards to include in the parcels
- Wrapping up small to medium boxes for us to use (like a hamper box)

Please contact Kirsty on 07736642155 to arrange contactless collection/drop off of donations. The deadline for donations is **13th December** to allow for putting them in isolation etc.

## Nine Lessons and Carols (24th December)

Rev'd. Jenni Lane, Rector for Lower Swale Benefice is hosting Nine Lessons and Carols via Zoom at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. If you would like to be involved please contact Jenni on 01609 631122 or email her: [jennilane2013@btinternet.com](mailto:jennilane2013@btinternet.com).

## Christmas Church Service (25th December)



Holy Communion and family service in Ainderby at 10.30am on Christmas morning. Unfortunately, Midnight Mass has been cancelled this year.

Take a look at the Benefice website:

[www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk](http://www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk) for up to date information about ongoing services and events.

## Living Advent Calendar

Each day of December in the run up to Christmas will see the 'opening' of a window or garden display each evening between the 1st December and Christmas Eve.

What's involved?

- Choosing a window/garden display that is clearly visible
- To keep your window/garden display illuminated each evening from 4pm to 10pm from the date your window is 'opened'
- To 'reveal' your decorated window at 4pm on your advert date
- To include somewhere in your window/garden display your allocated 'number'
- To create a design for your window/garden
- To be happy for your address to be identified on a map. No names or contact details will be shared.

To register your interest in taking part, please contact Kirsty on 07736642155.