

Tapestry marks Morley mine disaster

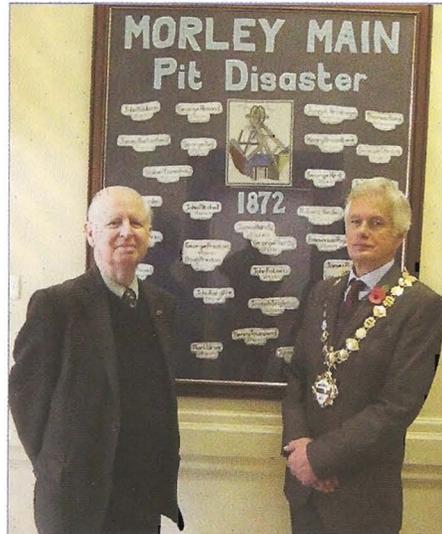
by Andrew Dalton
Community contributor

The worst disaster in the history of Morley now has a permanent public memorial.

A framed memorial tapestry commemorating the Morley Main Pit disaster of 1872 has gone on permanent display in the town. The large frame has been erected in the main corridor of Morley Town Hall.

It was unveiled by David Shillitoe, General Secretary of the International Miners Mission at a ceremony which was hosted by the Mayor of Morley, Councillor Tom Leadley. The names, ages and family groupings of the miners who perished are carefully embroidered around the pithead winding gear.

Members of Morley Community Church organised the event as a follow up to the memorial service held



Clr Leadley (right) with David Shillitoe from the Miners Mission in front of the tapestry

Photo courtesy of Andrew Dalton

underground at the National Coal Mining Museum near Wakefield last year. This project was the result of their discovery

that there had never been any plaque or memorial stone to mark the disaster which killed 34 miners and boys when a gas explosion ripped through the Morley Main Colliery in Albert Road on October 7, 1872.

The invited guests included retired miners, historians, clergy, councillors, civic leaders, residents and members of the Morley Elderly Action Craft Group who had been commissioned to design and sew the tapestry.

David Shillitoe from the International Miners Mission commended the Community Church for all their hard work in devising a memorial project. He said that the International Miners Mission counted it a privilege to have been involved in such a worthy initiative.

Morley Community Church is a neighbourhood church which is located at its mission chapel at Fountain Primary School for activities and services.