

Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER

- 10 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
- 14 Christingle Service All Saints' Church 3 p.m.
- 21 Carol Service All Saints' Church 6 p.m.
- 23 Carols at the Bear at Home 7.30 p.m. All welcome.
- 25 Parish Eucharist All Saints' Church 10.30 a.m.

JANUARY

- 12 North Moreton Parish Council 8 p.m. Village Hall
- 14 W.I. New Year Dinner
- 16 MCC AGM
- 20 South Moreton School Open Morning

FEBRUARY

- 7 Cricket Club Quiz Village Hall 8 p.m.
- 11 W I Meeting 7.30 pm Village Hall
- 21 Book Sale North Moreton Village Hall 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MARCH

- 7 North Moreton Safari Supper
- 11 W I Meeting 7.30 p.m. Village Hall

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Printed by the CHURN Benefice

Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by 14th February

North Moreton News is published four times a year

North Moreton News

Issue 83

December 2008

December is upon us, the year is drawing to a close and many of us will be wondering what happened to 2008.

Years ending in '8' seem to hold particular significance for North Moreton and, despite the lack of a proper summer, 2008 has been no exception.

In 1858 the Reverend Alfred Barff (born in 1828!) moved to North Moreton as Vicar of All Saints' Church, which was then in the final stages of restoration. He immediately set about raising funds to complete the work and install a church organ, and despite the fact that it was by then September, started a cricket club, cricket being a game which in those days was seen as "wholesome use of the very limited leisure which the working man enjoyed in the summer." The Church, the organ and the Cricket Club are all still with us and this year we all enjoyed helping the latter to celebrate their 150th anniversary.

Barff was also instrumental in setting up North Moreton School which finally closed in 1938 owing to lack of numbers, and the remaining children were sent to South Moreton School. In 1978 Keith Eaton became Head Teacher and in 2008 retired after 30 years of outstanding service: we wish him a long and happy retirement.

In 1928 a North Moreton Women's Club was founded and, after some inter-village rivalry, became the South & North Moreton Women's Institute, who now meet in North Moreton Village Hall.

Also in 1928 the Vicarage, which had passed into private ownership in 1923, was renamed North Morton House

In 1908, as David Nobes reported in the March issue of North Moreton News, the young Japanese painter Kunzo Minami visited North Moreton immortalising Cobbs Cottage and Gate Cottage in his paintings.

I could go on..... but there is only space left to wish you all

**A very Happy Christmas and
a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year**

North Moreton Parish Council

1. Vacancy for Parish Councillor. A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor - please see noticeboard for more information. The PC would welcome hearing from anyone who might wish to stand for election or co-option. To find out what is involved, please contact the Clerk (01235 511427).

2. Parish Council information. Under new Freedom of Information legislation, the Parish Council is required to adopt a Model Publication Scheme saying what PC information is available to the public and how it may be accessed. This information will be put on the Parish Council page of the North Moreton website shortly. In fact, there is little or no change to what is actually available. Our minutes and financial statements have always been available on request and our comments on Planning issues are on the SODC website. If parishioners want to find out more about some particular PC activity, please look on the website or ask the Clerk.

3. Parish Transport Representative. Is there a parishioner who would be prepared to act as a Parish Transport Representative for North Moreton? The job is to act as a focal point for parishioner questions and concerns on local public transport (essentially our bus services), to liaise with the Parish Council on transport issues and to represent the Parish Council at County Council Transport meetings. These latter are held in Oxford about three times a year and are normally on a weekday afternoon. If anyone would like to volunteer for the job or seek more information, please contact Roger Haycock (812202).

4. Planning issues. At a recent PC meeting, a parishioner raised the question of publicity for Planning Applications and suggested that all applications should have a higher profile in the village. Do you have views on this subject? If so, please tell a councillor or the Clerk. We shall consider putting Applications on the noticeboard and the village website.

5. Playground. The PC was not exactly overwhelmed by responses to the request in the October North Moreton News for someone to lead a new group to develop projects for the Playground. If no support is forthcoming, the facilities will inevitably start to suffer. For more information please contact the undersigned or Ian Shipton (814372)

Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC

Postal Services

Just a reminder that the Post Office at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell (in the Village Hall) is now open from 9.30 to 12.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In addition to the sale of stamps etc, they offer a variety of services - for more information call them on 01491 834728.

Please note that the last postal collection from this Post Office is at 11.45 a.m.

Christmas and New Year Refuse Collection

As this year Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Thursday refuse collections will be as follows:

Thursday 25th December collected on **Saturday 27th December**

Thursday 1st January collected on **Thursday 8th January**

Useful Information

Beat Officer: WPC Susan (Pip) Walker - 0845 8505505

PCSOs: Clare Beale & Paul Cole - 0845 8505 505

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

Parish Clerk: Andrew Wise 01235 511427

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Haycock - 812202

Village Hall Bookings: Anne Silvester, 17 Bear Lane - 811646

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Nora Haycock - 812202

Concessionary Travel Tokens: SODC - 01491 832000

Mobile Library: Wk 1 Wednesdays: Toddler Care 15.55 - 16.20

Wk 2 Wednesdays: Bus Shelter 10 - 10.15

Refuse & Recycling Collections: Thursdays

Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays

Postal Services: The Village Hall, Brightwell - Mondays,

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.30. 01491

834728

Citizens' Advice Bureau, Didcot 01235 813632

New Household Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract – coming June 2009 for South Oxfordshire residents

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are joining forces to secure a new waste collection and street cleansing contract. The councils have decided to work together to identify the new contractor in an effort to produce a more efficient service, increase recycling and reduce waste going to landfill. The new services will start from June 2009 in South Oxfordshire.

The main driver for changing our existing services is the pressing need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill - it is damaging to the environment, landfill space is rapidly running out and we face huge fines from government if we do not.

The new services will not only help us to achieve this but are also the most cost effective options.

The procurement process for the new contract is now well underway. Three companies have been short-listed and officers are now involved in detailed discussions about their proposals for the new service. All three are proposing similar solutions to help to meet our tough waste and recycling targets and we know that from June 2009 the new service will include;

- weekly separate food waste collections in kerbside bins
- fortnightly residual waste collections in wheeled bins
- at least fortnightly collections of dry recyclables (including glass)
- continuing with the garden waste service in wheeled bins (charged-for service)

The final decisions around container types and sizes will be agreed once the new contractor is appointed at the end of 2008.

Over the next few months officers will be working closely with Town and Parish Councils and housing associations to identify those properties that may have difficulties storing and using wheeled bins and to provide suitable solutions.

Environmental Services, SODC

Road Closure - Wallingford Road

Please note that Wallingford Road will be closed between The Corner House and the North side of Elm Road **from 8th December for approximately two weeks** to allow sewer connection to take place. Traffic to and from the village will be diverted via the A4130 and Long Wittenham Road although access will be maintained for emergency vehicles.

Bus Services

The party season is now in full swing - don't forget that on Friday and Saturday evenings you can leave the car at home and travel by bus between North Moreton, Didcot and Wallingford. Buses depart from North Moreton bus shelter at 19.08, 21.08, 23.08 and 00.08 for Wallingford and at 19.43, 20.43, 22.43 and 23.43 for Didcot. The full timetable can be seen in the bus shelter or via the link on the Community page of the village website, North-Moreton.com.

For Your Eyes Only.....

The 2009 North Moreton Safari Supper will take place on **Saturday 7th March** and the theme will be **James Bond**. So prepare to dust off your DJ, polish the Aston Martin or slip into something seductive and come and sip a martini or two as you go on a culinary tour of the village. The evening will begin and end at The Bear with starters, main course and deserts taken in-between at different houses.

Tickets for this event are £20.00 a head and will be available in the New Year. The Safari Supper is always a great evening but does depend on enough people volunteering to host a course, for which you will receive a contribution towards the cost.

Sponsorship towards the production costs of this event and prizes would be welcomed.

If you are able to contribute in any way please contact Miss Money-penny on the Safari Supper Committee c/o Claire Steen 814617 cmsteen@hotmail.co.uk

THIS NOTE WILL SELF DESTRUCT IN 5 SECONDS

North Moreton Village Hall

Since the last issue of North Moreton News we have held two fund-raising events: the Book Sale which Kate has reported on elsewhere, and the Soup Lunch and Charity Card Sale. Although numbers for the latter were down on previous years, the Charities were pleased with their takings - many thanks to everyone who came along to support us and them and, of course, to Kate and Gar Evans for all their hard work organising the book sale.

We are delighted that the Hall is increasingly busy but we would ask users and their guests not to park immediately outside the main door as this causes problems for large vehicles turning into Bear Lane. In addition to the refuse lorries (on Thursdays) there are a number of deliveries to the industrial/retail units on the St Peter's Farm site. We will be putting up a couple of experimental signs and hope that this will ease the problem.

We would also remind you that we ask users to take their rubbish, and in particular, food waste, home with them: we don't employ a cleaner so the hall is maintained by the management committee and we cannot guarantee that whoever is 'on rota' will be available on a Thursday morning to put rubbish out. If food waste in particular is put outside before Thursday morning, the local fox population has a field day! Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

North Moreton Fête

Medical Loan Service

This service, run by the British Red Cross, compliments the NHS and Social Services by providing equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, bath aids etc on short term loan. The nearest depot is at 5 Lydalls Road, Didcot and there is also a mobile facility which is in this area on Mondays, visiting Wallingford Community Hospital between 11 a.m. & 12.30 p.m. and The Orchard Centre, Didcot (outside Sainsburys) between 1.30 and 2.30 p.m. For further information contact Mary Meli on 01491 201565.

Rhoda Carpenter

It is with great sadness that we report the death, in her 90th year, of Rhoda Carpenter.

Rhoda moved to the village over 40 years ago with her husband Dick who was vicar of Blewbury and later of Benson. They chose Glebe Cottage for their retirement as Dick's sister, Ray Whinney, lived in North Moreton. When Dick died, Rhoda moved to the Alders Farm complex where she spent many happy and active years, leaving North Moreton in August this year to be near her son Michael.

Rhoda was greatly involved in village life: she was churchwarden for over 20 years, a leading figure in the organisation of the Fete and until recently ran the 'Ride and Stride' for the village, establishing a tradition that has made North Moreton the most successful fund raiser for that event in South Oxfordshire. For many years she ran the Poppy Appeal in the village; she was a faithful supporter of the Cricket Club, establishing 'The Carpenter Cup' (awarded annually to the person who contributes most to the club during the year, on or off the field) and took part with enthusiasm in village fund raising events – who will forget her rendering of "Albert and the Lion".....?

She will be much missed by her many friends.

South Moreton School (www.south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk)

Earlier this term saw the development of a wonderful outdoor learning environment at South Moreton primary school. The landscaping of the space has created a safe, colourful and exceptionally versatile learning area, which has been designed with the needs of our youngest children aged 2 - 5yrs in mind. Please feel free to come along and see this facility in use, you would be very welcome; the next Open Morning is on Tuesday 20th January.

South Moreton school holds eco school status. What does this mean? We believe that developing a responsibility and awareness of the world at both local and global level is an important life skill for young people. For example, the school uses local produce wherever possible in the school kitchen. The children learn about a healthy diet and we belong to a scheme that delivers locally grown vegetables to the school for parents. There is a strong ethos of recycling, reducing waste and caring for the environment which permeates throughout the school. Recently a group of dedicated staff, governors and parents joined together to undertake jobs at the school, one of which was to create an enlarged fenced-off area for children to grow their own vegetables. We look forward to eating vegetables for lunch that have been grown by the children! Children and staff also cleared up the school grounds. Teacher, Mrs Sue Acreman leads the eco school committee admirably in continuous eco development. The committee contribute many positive ideas and make a vital contribution to the school and have greatly assisted in achieving a second green flag award - the highest award possible!

There is much to celebrate at South Moreton, it is an extremely active, exciting school, with a strong team of teachers. Do come and visit!

Susan Gopall, Headteacher

North Moreton Toddler Group.....

meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 11. 30 a.m. in North Moreton Village Hall. Fun activities and a sing-song for the children - coffee and a chat for the adults. £2.00 per session.

For more information contact Anna Grainger on 01865 407274.

Moreton Cricket Club

Our 150th anniversary year has finally come to an end, the last celebration being the club dinner which was held at The Bear earlier this month. It proved to be a very successful evening organised by 'Bomber' Lancaster and Nic Cross with a number of awards being presented to club members for 'various deeds' performed both on and off the field during the season. The season will no doubt be remembered for the matches against the MCC, the re-enactment of the first matches played in 1858 against Brightwell and the tour of Holland. A very big thank you to all those who organised and took part in the celebrations helping make it a very memorable season.

The next big day in the club's calendar is the AGM which will be held on Friday 16th January, followed by the club quiz on the first Saturday in February.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from the MCC.

Trevor Denning, President

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The October meeting was a Harvest Supper, which gave members the chance to catch up with each other. Sandra produced another of her quizzes which proved to be as entertaining as ever. In November, Mr Stephen Griffiths gave an interesting talk on "The Mary Rose". The next meeting, on 10th December, is entitled "The History of the Police", the speaker being Mr Ken Wells. The New Year Dinner is on 14th January and the meeting on 11th February is about stranger aspects of Oxford and is given the title of "Intriguing Oxford".

We are always pleased to welcome new members. Meetings are usually held at North Moreton Village Hall. Sandra Monk 812721, or Judy Hollings 814173 can be contacted if you are interested in joining us.

Penny Busby

Book Sales

When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.
Erasmus

Dry, dusty, old books, the latest bestsellers, lurid dust jackets, tooled leather bindings, pulp fiction, dissertations on mathematical theories... we have it all at North Moreton Book Sale thanks to the generosity of those who donate their much loved or unwanted books.

As awareness of the sales has increased so has the catchment area of donors and customers. September's sale included books which had come from as far afield as Thame and Sussex. Most of the customers are from without the village, with Oxford being home to one regular customer. As far as we know, no-one has found a great treasure for 50p, but several students have managed to acquire a large number of the texts on their course reading lists for a tiny fraction of the list prices. Other customers have been both excited and delighted to have found copies of long-lost favourites and one villager finds it very difficult not to buy all the children's books that were so much a part of a career in teaching.

Some customers have asked us to keep a lookout for titles of particular interest to them and the range of subjects is as varied as the subject matter of the donated books. For example, "The Mounted Officer's Book of Horses and Mules for Transport", R.J. Day, 2nd Lt The Machine Gun Corps, published 1916, may not be of practical use today but somehow this battered little book and the inscriptions within it manage to invoke questions and pictures in a way that more esteemed publications on WW1 could never do.

A large amount of physical and mental effort is required to set up each sale. (We could just dump the books on tables and let folk rummage but our sales would be far less if we did this.) Fortunately, there is a band of stalwarts who are happy to lug books to and fro, sorting them into subject groups and alphabetical order. Thanks to them the sales are possible.

The September sale was our most successful to date, achieving a grand total of £630. A big thank you to everyone who contributed their books, their muscle, their intellect, their time, and their cash. We hope you enjoyed the experience and, most importantly, the books.

See you on Saturday 21st February 2009 at the next sale!

Kate and Gar Evans

Christmas Services at All Saints' North Moreton

Sunday 14th December Christingle Service at 3.00 p.m.

Sunday 21st December Carol Service at 6.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve 24th December Crib Service at 4.00 p.m.

Christmas Day 25th December Parish Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 28th December Parish Eucharist & Baptism at 10.30 a.m.



St Peters Nursery & Farm Shop
Bear Lane, North Moreton

Christmas Trees available from 1st December,
FREE Local delivery.

Open Daily 10am – 4pm during December
Fairtrade Christmas gifts and decorations available NOW
Orders taken for Christmas Cakes & Beef.

Come in and see us or call
Jon & Annetta on
01235 511348 or 07850 040311/07855 951388