

Dates for your Diary

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North Moreton News

Issue 81

June 2008

Life in North Moreton

“Don’t you find living in North Moreton rather dull? I’m sure nothing ever happens in a little place like that” Dull? You must be joking! Let’s take a look at some of the things that have happened since the last issue of this publication and some that are scheduled to take place before the next...

We’ll start with a friendly visiting vagrant who, having been ejected from The Bear for attempting to pay for a delicious mixed grill and bottle of wine with a bus pass, conned his way into the village hall, bolted the door on the inside and settled down for the night! After a couple of hours of negotiations, he still refused to leave, so the police were sent for, broke in through a rear door and took him off for a night in a nice warm cell - probably what he was aiming for all along...

A couple of days later the Hurricane took to the skies for it’s first practice of the year, followed by an equally thrilling display by a visiting bi-plane - which left the village flying up-side-down: great stuff!!!

Sunday 11th May saw the annual Village Fete: the sun shone, the bands played, the pets showed and the stalls sold. We welcomed over 600 visitors to the village and took in excess of £5500 - not bad for a village with only 120 households - well done everyone!

June promises to be a busy month: Open Gardens in aid of the NGS and Tower Fund on Sunday 15th; Royal Ascot Ladies’ Day comes to The Bear on Thursday 19th - champagne, buffet lunch, posh frocks & hats, all the racing and no need for a chauffeur! and Sunday 22nd sees the Gerald Howat Memorial cricket match preceded by the naming of the Pavilion in his memory.

July follows in similar vein with the Bear hosting a Beer Festival over the weekend of the 26th/27th and on Sunday 27th ‘our’ MCC will celebrate their 150th birthday with a match on the Rec against ‘the other’ MCC!

At the moment there’s not a lot planned for August, but I reckon by then we’ll all be in need of a holiday.....

JUNE

- 1 MCC 1858 Anniversary Match with Brightwell - Away
- 11 W. I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 14 Auction of Promises South Moreton School 8 pm
- 15 North Moreton Open Gardens 2 - 6 pm
- 19 ‘Ladies Day’ at The Bear at Home
- 22 Gerald Howat Memorial Cricket Match
- 29 Upton Open Gardens 2 - 6 pm
- 30 North Moreton Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm

JULY

- 9 W.I. Garden Meeting 7.30 pm
- 13 South Moreton School Summer Fete
- 25/27 Beer Festival at The Bear at Home with live music
- 27 MCC v. MCC on the Rec.

SEPTEMBER

- 8 North Moreton Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm
- 10 W.I. Meeting North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 27 Book Sale North Moreton Village Hall 10 am - 4 pm

OCTOBER

- 8 W.I. Meeting North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 11 All Saints’ Church Gift Day and Quinney Day
- 17/18 Two Piano Concert & Dinner at Melhuish Farm

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North Moreton Parish Council

Money in/money out: A chance conversation with a resident made me aware that many parishioners probably have little idea about how much money the Parish Council has to spend, and what it spends it on.

The Parish income (precept) is set annually by the Parish Council and collected from SODC via your Council Tax bill. In theory, there is no limit to what we can request, but in practice we must be seen to be reasonable. Leaving out some short-term distortions for potential litigation, our budget this year is about £5500 and this is fairly typical for a parish of our size.

We are budgeting something over £3000 for ‘general administration’ of which the largest items are (a) insurance for third party liability and property and (b) Clerk’s fees. In the short term we are saving the latter because we don’t have a Clerk. There is a budget of nearly £1900 for the Recreation Ground, of which the largest item is repairs and maintenance. (We have just paid over £600 for necessary tree surgery). A third major budget item (£540) is for grants to local ‘good causes’. I should perhaps add that our activities (not just our finances) are subject to rigorous internal and external audit.

Dog waste: There have been several complaints recently that dog owners are not clearing up after their dogs. The problem appears to be particularly bad in the vicinity of the bus shelter. We are investigating installing dog bins both there and on the Rec. Although the purchase would be a ‘one-off’ item of £200-300 per bin, the costs of emptying them are on-going and at the moment are around £100 per bin per year. The existing rubbish bins should not be used for this purpose and particularly not the ones on Rec. and in the Playground as these are emptied by volunteers.

Some NAGS: A local group called the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) has carried out a survey on the issues which cause greatest concern to parishioners. This was carefully designed to get

Dog Warden Service: Out of Hours Stray Dogs

SODC does not collect stray dogs out of office hours. However strays can be taken to Honey Bottom Kennels, Orchard Cottage, Hanney Road, Steventon, OX13 6AP between the hours of 1700 - 2100 Monday - Friday and 0900 - 2100 Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays.

People using the service MUST first contact the call centre on 01865 760773 (open 24/7) as the kennels will not accept strays that haven’t been logged in. If the dog can be kept secure until the next working day, the council will collect and transport the animal to the kennels.

People who have lost a dog will not be able to collect them outside office hours. They must contact the council the next working day on 01491 823202.

If someone finds a stray dog after 2100 the council would ask them to keep the animal until the reception centre opens or the next working day. Whichever is the sooner.

Useful Information

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

PCSO: Thomas Myneham - 0845 8505505

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

Acting Parish Clerk: Roger Haycock - 812202

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, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.30. 01491 834728

Citizens’ Advice Bureau, Didcot 01235 813632

New from SODC

Tetrapaks

There are now four new carton recycling banks in the district where you can take your paper-based drink and liquid food cartons (such as milk, fruit juice and soup cartons). Tetrapak cartons are made from cardboard, as well as thin layers of aluminium and plastic and therefore cannot be recycled in your green box.

Once collected cartons are taken away to be baled, transported to a recycling mill and the material reused in products ranging from plasterboard to high-strength paper bags and envelopes. As each household uses on average 2.3kg of cartons each year, recycling will have a tremendous impact on landfill sites.

The sites nearest to North Moreton are at SODC, Crowmarsh Gifford and Kings Road Car Park, Henley.

Trees

Most of North Moreton is a Conservation Area and as such, permission must be obtained to carry out any work, including pruning, on all trees with a circumference exceeding 75mm. This also applies to individual trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

Application can now be made on line or an application form downloaded in Word form. Visit www.southoxon.gov.uk and follow the links 'Leisure & Countryside'; 'Forestry'; 'Application form'. You can also link to further information and to a map of the actual Conservation Area.

Charges for Council Services

The following increased charges came into force from 1st April 2008:

Garden Waste Scheme: £30 per year or £28.50 if paid by direct debit.

Household Bulky Waste Scheme: Minimum charge £20 for up to three items and the £6.35 for each additional item.

Unwanted Vehicles: Cost for the collection of each vehicle is £68.

For further information contact Matthew Beesley, Waste & Recycling Officer on 01491 823459.

a good mix of individuals. In North Moreton the three top concerns were (a) speeding through the village, (b) vandalism, and (c) dog fouling.

The PC has also had correspondence from parishioners on speeding. I do urge anybody who can identify persistent offenders to contact the police or the Clerk.

Other concerns raised by parishioners include wrecking verges by parking badly (usually delivery lorries) and parking at inappropriate places. There is particular concern about parking on the dangerous blind corner on Wallingford Road between Childwall House and Old School House. Although culprits are probably not themselves villagers, one may try to influence one's visitors or suppliers.

New bus timetables: New bus timetables start on 2nd June. The 95 service to Didcot via Blewbury is essentially unchanged, as is the Friday service to Wallingford. An important and very welcome addition is that the 130 service from Didcot to Wallingford now stops at North Moreton four times on Friday and Saturday evenings in each direction – see timetables in the bus shelter for details. This is an experimental service for one year – use it or lose it!

Planning Permission and Building Regulation: If you are planning any additions or alterations to your property we would recommend that you visit www.planningportal.gov.uk. There is a wealth of information on all aspects of planning and you can download application forms and even apply on line.

Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC

North Moreton Parish Council

Parish Clerk Required

Duties average 3 hours per week - Salary paid

For more information contact

Roger Haycock - NMPC Chairman on 812202

North Moreton Village Hall

The hall has been well supported this quarter with Christenings, parties and regular events.

In addition to the tables, chairs and other equipment, we now have two 'umbrella' type gazebos, complete with sides, for hire. These are very easy to put up and take down and we would ask that they are NOT left up overnight as they are easily damaged by high winds. Please contact Anne Silvester on 811646 for charges and availability.

Please note that ALL equipment removed from the hall (either hired or borrowed by the PCC) MUST be booked out and back in the book provided. Many thanks. *Nora Haycock, Chairman VHM*

Moreton Cricket Club

The season has got off to an excellent start with an emphatic win at Newdigate in the 2nd round of the National Village Cup. Moreton made 244 for the loss of two wickets and finished off the opposition for 194 runs. There was a club record opening stand with Sam Fletcher making 136 and Will Macdonald 73.

The first match to celebrate our 150th year will be against Brightwell, our first opponents in 1858. This match will be held at Brightwell on the 1st June, the game being played in accordance with the original rules and in the dress of that era - it could be a sight worth seeing! Everybody is welcome to come and watch.

A memorial match in memory of Gerald Howat will be played on the 22nd June at 2.30 p.m. - this will be preceded by a short ceremony when the pavilion will be officially named after him; again, all are welcome to attend. The opposition will be formed of past Moreton players led by Mike Howat.

Finally, don't forget the weekend of the 26th/27th July when we will be playing the other MCC on The Rec in celebration of our 150th birthday. Very conveniently this coincides with the Beer Festival at The Bear! *Trevor Denning, President*

Upton Open Gardens

Sunday 29th June 2 - 6 pm

Tickets: £4 per person (buy on the day)

Don't miss the rare opportunity to look around gardens not usually open to the public. There will also be plant stalls, entertainment, tea and homemade cakes making this an ideal family summer afternoon out.

All money raised will be going to the Upton village hall extension

Information Points

The Oxfordshire Voluntary Sector Development Partnership (OVSDP) has set up an Information Points project, which will make it easier for people involved in running or setting up voluntary or community groups to access key information including funding, managing volunteers, legal issues, publicity and training.

Each Information Point has access to:

- FunderFinder - a searchable database of over 4,000 grant making Trusts.
- www.oxnet.org.uk - the online community packed with news and resources
- Publications—a wide range of publications and useful fact sheets.

Our nearest Points are at South Didcot Children's Centre, 2 Hillary Drive OX11 8PS (open every 1st Thursday of the month 10 am - 1 pm) and Abingdon Library, The Charter, OX14 3LY during normal library hours.

Next Book Sale 27th September



North Moreton Village Hall

10 am - 4 pm - in aid of Hall funds

Refreshments available

London Moonwalk 2008

Very pleased to say we have done it, but it was jolly hard work!

David and I started off at 11.30 armed with muesli bars, Vaseline and bottles of water. Although Saturday had been a damp dreary day it was a good deal better by our group's start time and remained dry throughout the night. It was odd starting off in the dark and then hearing the birds twittering at about 4.00 and eventually the sun coming up in London and people all then wishing us 'good morning'. Our route took us from Hyde Park, past Buckingham Palace down the Mall, past Big Ben and down to the river. We then went down to the Tower of London and over Tower Bridge before continuing back along the Embankment towards Vauxhall, the Albert Bridge, Battersea (such a long park!), Chelsea, Fulham, Sloane Square and eventually back past the Royal Albert Hall to the marquee in the centre of Hyde Park. In fact it seemed there was very little of central London that we didn't power walk our way past! David and I averaged 4 to 4 and a half miles an hour and completed the 26 and a bit more miles in 6 hours 20 minutes. We were pleased as most participants were half our age or less... just to prove there is life in us yet, but we most definitely have no ambition to repeat the experience!

We were thrilled to have raised well over £2000 between the two of us which will be distributed to various Breast Cancer Charities by the event organizers. Very many thanks to everyone who supported us and we are so pleased we did not let you down. *Katie and David Miles*

North Moreton Safari Supper

Advance Warning - for all those of you with busy social lives here is a chance to make a diary date for 2009! The North Moreton Safari Supper will take place in March 2009 (actual date to be confirmed). This is always a fun evening with the chance to dress in costume (theme ideas welcome) and wander the village alighting at different homes for starter and main course and finishing in The Bear for pudding and prizes. Watch this space for further details.... *Claire Steen*

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

In April, the focus for our meeting was the work of the RNLI and we were pleased to welcome several visitors for a very interesting and informative evening. The May meeting gave members the opportunity to think about the Resolutions to be put forward at Conference. A lively discussion took place.

The May meeting will be a cookery demonstration at the home of Rosemary Ryder, which promises to be an enjoyable evening. We are hoping for good weather for our July meeting in Pat Storch's garden, a lovely venue for a summer's evening. Members are also thinking about ideas for the annual summer trip.

Meetings are mostly held in North Moreton Village Hall. We are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. Please contact Sandra Monk (812721) or Judy Hollings (814137) for further information. *Penny Busby*

Moreton Table Tennis Club

Since December, MTTC has been trying to agree conditions with South Moreton School for use of the sports hall. Due to these uncertainties the club reduced its usage, cancelling community activities and withdrawing a team from the League. However, in the retained activities, teams and individuals were successful in Didcot and District League competitions. Teams in Divisions 3 & 5 earned promotion and the Divisions 1, 2 & 4 teams all avoided relegation. Joe Cheong won the Junior (under 18) title for a record 5th time with James Goldsby-West runner up. Joe is ranked number 1 Junior in Oxfordshire. Charlie Lane won the Cadet (under 15) title (Sean Stinson was runner up) and also best player in Division 4. Hiten Patel won the Division 5 individual championship.

The Club's future for the 2008/9 season (starting in September) is uncertain. *Roger Templeman (Secretary)*

Neighbourhood Watch

As most of you will have heard, on Monday 19th May we had both a break-in and an attempted distraction burglary in North Moreton. Although the 'modus operandi' were different it would seem unlikely that they were unrelated, particularly as the properties concerned were situated opposite each other.

Living in such a pleasant place as North Moreton it is easy to become complacent and perhaps we should all view this as a 'wake up' call. Many of us, particularly dog owners, walk or cycle around the village daily - it might pay to keep a notebook and pencil in a pocket and, should one see a strange vehicle parked in an unusual place, make a note of the date, time, make and registration number. Burglars are unlikely to park on the main road or in the public eye.....

Many of us will be going on holiday over the next few weeks: do ask a neighbour to collect your post daily and keep an eye on your property - hopefully you can do them a favour in return. Another thing that we're all guilty of at this time of the year is leaving a door or window open on one side of the house, whilst we sit or work in the garden on the other side. The opportunist thief can be in and out before you realise it along with your purse or wallet.....

Concern has been expressed about a group of lads with air-rifles who have been seen in the village at weekends. The police know who they are & have spoken to them: they have permission to shoot vermin on some farms in the area and as long as their guns are carried in the correct bags, they are entitled to walk through the village with them. They must not, however, shoot on private land without permission or cause a nuisance.

Nora Haycock N.W. Coordinator

Two Piano Concert

On **Friday 17th and Saturday 18th October** there will a Two Piano Concert at Melhuish Farm, North Moreton in aid of All Saints' Tower Fund and Macmillan Nurses. Tickets £20, to include a 3 course dinner, from Polly Vacher 01235 817554 or pvacher@aol.com.

Tickets limited so book NOW to avoid disappointment!

South Moreton School & Pre-School News

Keith Eaton is retiring as Head Teacher of South Moreton School after 30 years' outstanding service. He is the longest-serving current Head Teacher in Oxfordshire. Consequently, we are looking for past pupils, staff, governors & associates who would like to join us in celebrating this splendid achievement by attending a party to be held in Keith's honour in July. For an invitation or to make a donation to the retirement present, contact Amanda McCrea on 01491 825767 or amanda.mccrea@virgin.net.

Forthcoming Events

We will be holding an **Auction of Promises** on Saturday 14 June at 8 p.m. So far, the lots include promises of a weekend for four in a cottage with fishing rights, a Porsche 911 for a weekend, garden design advice, 2 hrs architectural consultation and a signed sports shirt from Tim Henman. Tickets are priced at a very reasonable £5 which includes a chilli supper. For more details, tickets or donations, please email PRISMS@southmoreton.oxon.sch.uk or phone the school office on 01235 813110.

There will be an **Open Morning** for parents wishing to view the Early Years Unit (Pre-School and Foundation Stage) on **Tuesday 24th June**. This is a great opportunity for parents and children approaching school age to see what we have to offer, so do join us for an informal tour of the site.

This year's **Summer Fete** will be held on **Sunday 13th July**. Always a fun occasion with plenty to entertain the whole family - put the date in your diary now.

Sponsorship Opportunity

We have had partial success in finding sponsors to help with funding the landscaping of the dedicated outdoor classroom for our new **Early Years Unit** but the search goes on. If you, or anyone you know, would like to promote their business by sponsoring this essential resource, please contact Keith Eaton or Lyn Cracknell on 01235 813110. All sponsors will be publicly acknowledged.

Admissions

Places are available for children from Didcot, Wallingford and the surrounding villages at both the pre-school and in most years of the main school. To arrange a visit to the pre-school, phone Annie Allen on 01235 819657 or for the main school, phone Helen Risk on 01235 813110.

North Moreton Fete and “Jordan”.

This piece has been prompted by an item on the Village internet notice-board by Jordan, and if you have not read it I would urge you to do so. I was delighted to read that this year’s Fete was regarded as the best ever, it might have been an anticlimax after last year’s splendid 'plane display. We need not have worried; again the weather was kind, and the support tremendous.

However, I am at a loss to understand Jordan’s comment about the snobbery attaching to this event. There is no snobbery attached to hauling bales of straw, and masses of equipment from the school, and Village Hall, as my team of helpers with their pick-up trucks did over the weekend, returning said items on the following Monday. Similarly this charge cannot be levelled at those who acted as car park attendants, gatekeepers, or who went from door to door collecting the many items, so kindly donated, or anyone else who gave so freely of their time and efforts, be they Committee members or stallholders and their helpers.

I needed helpers who were retired and therefore able to give me their time on Friday and Monday, but we would welcome more help from younger residents. We are lucky in having many new young families in the village, and I would urge them to come forward and take some of the load off the elders of the village. Many of us are the wrong side of sixty, and would now like to attend the Fete as ordinary punters.

Because of the anonymity of the internet I do not know if “Jordan” is young or old, male or female, but having been involved with the Fete intermittently for thirty odd years, I would gladly give up my seat to you, and I would even lend you my harvest rake to collect up the straw scattered so widely over the cricket outfield after the event.

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

 * **North Moreton Open Gardens** *
 * **Sunday 15th June** *
 * **2 - 6 pm** *
 * **Five Village Gardens open in aid of the** *
 * **National Garden Scheme &** *
 * **All Saints' Tower Fund** *
 * **Plant Sales Teas Photographic Exhibition** *
 * **Combined entrance £4 Children Free** *
 * **(Tickets on sale on the Rec and in some gardens)** *

Open Gardens

On 15th June the gardens at Filberts, Stapleton’s Chantry, Alders Farmhouse, Little Orchard and Peckwater will be open in aid of the NGS scheme. The proceeds from plants sales, teas, etc will go to All Saints’ Tower Fund. We do hope that you will support this event and encourage friends and family to come along.

We will be making a special effort to decorate the church to welcome visitors to the photographic exhibition to be staged there by David Brown and David Nobes. Please help us by bringing all the foliage (coloured & variegated leaves particularly welcome!) and flowers that you can spare to the Church at around 10 a.m. on the Saturday. If you can spare an hour or so to help arrange them, that would be even better - no great skill necessary as we’re aiming for a simple, country feel.

If you can offer material but are unable to deliver it, please contact Mary (813396) or Nora (812202) during the preceding week.

North Moreton Fete

This year's North Moreton fete raised over £5500 in support of our beautiful church.

Linda Brown and Mary Greene, co-chairmen for 2008, Patrick Greene, Church Wardens and the other members of the PCC, would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to the very many people who helped to make this possible.

We were delighted to welcome The Reverend Jason St John Nicolle who opened the fete, umpired the Tug of War and drew the winning raffle tickets. After the opening, Trevor Denning kept up a lively commentary, making sure the no-one missed any of the excitement.

A special mention must go to Jill Fletcher and her team, who organised the raffle with so many super prizes. The raffle raised nearly half of the proceeds.

North Moreton fete is building a strong reputation in the area for being a very happy family day, with something for everyone. Established events like the Dog Show and our regular stalls are looked forward to and go from strength to strength. At the same time, there is always room for new ideas, amongst which this year were the very successful Football Challenge, the Wallingford Jazz Band, The Hawk Display and the Children's Dressing up Stall.

As those in the village know, the planning for the fete starts in January with the forming of the committee for the year. The committee meetings are very sociable and helping on the committee is a great way to get to know people if you are new to the village.

The success of the fete is built, however, on the participation of a huge number of people who give generously of their time and talents. Amongst these, some people grow plants, some make the jams for the produce stall and others take on the invaluable task of driving around the countryside to collect the tables and equipment and take it all back again! Yet more people come round to collect the items donated by

residents in the weeks before the fete or work very hard on the day to provide the excellent teas and run the stalls and side-shows.

The fete is truly a village affair and a further special mention must go to Tim and Alison at The Bear At Home, who support the event in so many ways, providing a raffle prize, a Tug of War team (who won!) and of course the Dinner Draw which raised £175!

Thank you also, to Katie and David Miles, who once again invited stall holders and helpers to share a lovely supper at their barn whilst John and Sue Harrison busily counted the proceeds and came to give us the eagerly awaited news for this year.

Whether you ran a stall, served on the committee, bought a quiz to do on a warm spring afternoon or helped in some other way, **THANK YOU - SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!**

PS: If you are interested in what your stall or sideshow made, the results will shortly be displayed in the church porch along with a list of raffle winners.

ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP

Bear Lane North Moreton

10am - 4pm Wednesday - Sunday and Bank Holidays

Mature Trees, Shrubs, Perennials & Climbers always available

Large selection of Bedding Plants

Fantastic Planters & Pots, Garden Furniture and of course
Beef straight from the Farm

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