

## Dates for your Diary

### MARCH

- 6 North Moreton Toddler Group, Village Hall 9.30 - 11.30 am  
(weekly thereafter)
- 8 South Moreton School Auction of Promises
- 10 North Moreton Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall 8 pm  
to be followed by Parish Council Meeting. All welcome.
- 13 W.I. meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 19 Home Start Antiques Road Show, Didcot
- 21 St John Passion, Dorchester Abbey 6.30 pm

### APRIL

- 10 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 26 SMS Pre-School Themed Disco

### MAY

- 4 Abingdon Air and Country Show
- 8 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 10 Glam Rock Disco, Village Hall 8 pm
- 11 North Moreton Fete, The Croft 2 pm
- 12 North Moreton Parish Council AGM, Village Hall 8 pm

### JUNE

- 1 MCC 1858 Anniversary Match with Brightwell - Away
- 12 W. I. Meeting, Venue to be confirmed
- 15 North Moreton Open Gardens 2 - 6 pm
- 22 Gerald Howat Memorial Cricket Match

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*Printed by the CHURN Benefice*

Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by **22nd May**

*North Moreton News is published four times a year*

## North Moreton News

Issue 80

March 2008

### Kunzo Minami

One hundred years ago on the 8th May 1908, a young Japanese artist, Kunzo Minami arrived in North Moreton with his friend John Manning, for a month's stay. They were both art students at the South West Polytechnic, later to become The Chelsea College of Art, and had arranged to stay at Filberts. Minami had already graduated from Tokyo University and had arrived in London via India and Colombo, painting on the way, and his short stay here was to be very important in his artistic life. He painted Cobbs Cottage by moonlight, regarded as his most important painting, and Gate Cottage in daylight, both in the English style. Those works are now owned by The Hiroshima Museum of Modern Art. Many other paintings and sketches were done, including portraits, again in the English style, with one of Manning (now owned by Fukuyama Art Museum) sitting in Filberts. There are also known to be two watercolours of South Moreton, those being very definitely in the classic Japanese style.

One can only begin to imagine the impact such an oriental gentleman would have had on the village at that time, but his diary of his stay shows that he was warmly welcomed and fitted well into life here. The diary, (in his English), makes fascinating reading and gives a glimpse into a totally different way of life as it was lived here then. He left England in 1910 to return home, and seems to have taken some considerable time travelling through Europe, almost taking the Grand Tour of the eighteenth century, painting all the while in the style of each country he visited.

Apart from his obvious talent, he is credited with introducing modern Western art to Japan, and in 1991 some of his paintings of the village were brought back from Japan for a major exhibition at The Barbican, entitled "Japan and Britain, an Aesthetic Dialogue 1850 – 1930". A retrospective exhibition of his work was held in Hiroshima in 1998, the Japanese Curator of that exhibition arriving here by London taxi to "research" the village.

*David Nobes.*

*(If anyone is interested in learning more please contact me on 815017).*

## North Moreton Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting.** This will be held on **Monday 10th March** at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. This is an opportunity for all parishioners to find out what is going on in the village and to raise any issues or concerns. Please come and support the parish!

**Parish Clerk** We are still without a Parish Clerk! Sue Harrison has kindly taken on the Responsible Financial Officer part of the job (about half of it) and the Chairman is covering the rest. We can get by, but it is not a satisfactory long-term answer. Anyone who would at least like to find out more about the job should contact Roger Haycock (812202). The job is paid, and takes on average about three hours/week. We'd much prefer to find a local volunteer if we can, but may be forced to look further afield.

**Dog mess.** I note that a parishioner has written to the North Moreton website ([www.north-moreton.co.uk](http://www.north-moreton.co.uk)) complaining that dog owners are not clearing up after their dogs. That view is shared by many others and I urge dog owners to be responsible. I would also ask everyone using the Rec. to remember to close the gates behind them to prevent any unaccompanied dogs from leaving a calling card.

**Tree Felling:** A reminder to those living in the Conservation Area that it is necessary to get permission to fell any tree with a trunk larger than 6 cms in diameter- even Leylandii! Contact SODC Planning Department on 01491 823750 for an application form.

**OCC Childcare Sufficiency Assessment:** The PC has received a summary of the draft report which is available for public comment until 14th March with a final report due on 31st March 2008. The assessment aims to identify gaps in the care available including access to after-school and breakfast clubs. A copy of the summary can be obtained from [childcare.survey@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:childcare.survey@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or 01865 810517. The full report is available on [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/childcaresufficiencyassessment](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/childcaresufficiencyassessment).

*Roger Haycock, Chairman*

## South and Vale Carers Centre.....

are starting a new scheme to support people caring for a relative in their own home and are keen to recruit and train volunteers.

If you are interested, ring Chris Elliott at the Didcot Centre on 01235 510212 or email her on [chris@svcarers.org.uk](mailto:chris@svcarers.org.uk) for further information. She will be delighted to hear from you!

## Abingdon Air & Country Show

**Sunday 4th May** 10 am - 5 pm at Abingdon Airfield/Dalton Barracks. Attractions include Flying Displays, Pleasure Flights, Vintage Vehicles, Craft Fayre and much much more. For tickets prices and other details see their posters, visit [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com) or call 01235 529142.

*Proceeds to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance.*

## 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:** Bus Shelter - alternate Wednesdays, 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 National Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme**

The new National concessionary bus pass scheme comes into force on 1st April: if you are 60 or over, or disabled you will be able to enjoy free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England.

To obtain your pass telephone SODC on 01491 823413 - for further information see the poster in the Parish Council notice board or visit [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).

## **Support Your Local Post Office!**

Don't forget that our nearest Post Office is in Brightwell Village Hall (near the Church). It is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 and offers the full range of services with the exception of car taxation. They offer online banking facilities for all major banks, mobile phone top-up and you can even purchase Euros and order other currencies for next day delivery.

Only five minutes drive, no parking fees, no long queues and a warm welcome..... Why not pay them a visit?!

## **Music in Dorchester Abbey - St John Passion**

At 6.30 p.m. on **Friday 21st March** the Orchestra of St John's and OSJ Voices under their conductor John Lubbock will be performing Bach's powerful work in the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey. Tickets: A £25; B £18 (£15); C £14 (£12) from The Oxford Playhouse, The Hair & Body Workshop, Dorchester High Street or call 01865 305305 between 9.30 am - 6.30 pm Monday - Saturday.

## **Antiques Road Show!**

**Wednesday 19th March** in Didcot Civic Hall 10 am - 1 pm. Bring along your treasures for valuation by experts from Bonhams. £5 for 2 items, £1 per subsequent item - all proceeds to Home-Start's First Babies Group in Didcot (Reg. Charity 1006230). For more information ring 01235 511152.

## **Moreton Cricket Club**

The start of the year saw another successful Quiz Night in the Village Hall; thank you to all those who organised it and took part.

We are now looking forward to the club's 150th anniversary celebrations which will start with a match against Brightwell, our first opponents in 1858. This will be played at Brightwell on the 1st June followed by a return match on the 7th September at North Moreton. Both matches will be played using the original rules and dress codes; for some players perhaps, the change in dress code will have very little effect!!

The main events will take place around the weekend of the 26/27th July in conjunction with a Beer Festival at The Bear. The big match against the MCC will take place on Sunday the 27th - a match not to be missed, so put it in your diary - all will be welcome for what will hopefully be a memorable day.

Further to the anniversary matches, a memorial match in memory of our late President, Gerald Howat, will be played at The Rec on the 22nd June.

If you are interested in playing cricket this season, then call our membership secretary, Simon Steen, on 01235 814617 and he will send you details of membership.

*Trevor Denning, President MCC*

*Congratulations to Trevor on his 'elevation' to President and also to John Gibbs who has taken over as Chairman. We wish them and all the members a very successful Anniversary season!* Editor

## **North Moreton Website**

Sonia Wilson of Pond Farm House has volunteered to take over as Webmaster - negotiations regarding the transfer of files, hosting etc. are in hand and hopefully the site will be up and running again by the end of March.

## South Moreton School & Pre-School News

### North Moreton Village Hall

Once again the Committee owe a big vote of thanks to Kate and Gar Evans for organising another successful book-sale which raised £450 for Hall funds. Thanks also to everyone who helped and supported the event. The next book sale in the hall will be on 27th September but there will, of course, be an excellent selection of books on sale at the Fete on 11th May.

The Committee's main task this year will be painting the hall windows and doors which, had the weather been kinder, would have been completed last year. They hope to make a start over the weekend of 5th/6th April - if anyone would like to volunteer to lend a hand, please contact Gar on 813858.

*Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC*

### South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The new year started with the annual dinner at The Bear. Members had the chance to chat whilst enjoying a delicious meal and a very pleasant time was had by everyone.

Mr. Adrian Williams was the speaker at the February meeting. He gave an illustrated talk on "Statues and Monuments of London" and gave information on some of the less well known as well as the more usual sights of London. It was a very interesting evening with plenty to think about.

The Annual Meeting will be held in March and the subject for the April meeting is the RNLI. A varied and interesting programme is being drawn up for future meetings and we are really pleased to see new faces. Most meetings are held in the North Moreton Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. Sandra Monk (812721) or Judy Hollings (814173) can be contacted for further information.

*Penny Busby*

In January, we were awarded our second **Green Flag for Eco-Schools**. The school Eco Kids hosted a visit by inspectors to review all of our Eco projects and did an excellent job answering their questions. Congratulations to the children and to Sue Acreman who has worked tirelessly to mastermind and maintain this initiative.

Our athletics team (2 girls and 2 boys each from Years 3-6) represented the school at the **Didcot Area Indoor Sportshall Athletics Championships** and are now the champions. We are very proud of them and wish them luck in the Oxfordshire finals to be held in the spring.

**Pre-School's OFSTED** inspection resulted in a very pleasing overall 'Good' with particular strength being in provision for outdoor play.

### Coming Up

We will be holding an **Auction of Promises on Saturday 8th March**. 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, two hours architectural consultation and a signed sports shirt from Tim Henman. If you would like tickets (£5 each) or to donate a promise, please phone Lucy Hollis on 01235 810617 or email [PRISMS@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:PRISMS@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk).

The Pre-School parents will be holding a **themed disco** to raise funds on **Saturday 26th April**. For further details and tickets, please phone Caroline Davis on 01235 816621.

### Sponsorship Opportunity

Now that the interior of the **Early Years Unit** is fully functional, we need to landscape and equip the dedicated outdoor classroom and would welcome any sponsorship to help us with this essential resource. This will be publicly acknowledged and is therefore a great way to promote your business. For further details, please contact Keith Eaton on 01235 813110.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Thames Valley Police have been running an eight week operation 'Maelstrom' focusing on burglary and vehicle crime. The crux of their message is that everyone should review their home security, protect themselves from identity theft by taking care when disposing of personal documents, report any anti-social behaviour to the police, be vigilant when using cash machines etc and watch out for vulnerable neighbours.

Regrettably there has been some local vandalism since the last issue of North Moreton News: once again a car parked near the Church was 'keyed'; in February three panes of glass in the village hall were broken and the following day the telephone box was wrecked for the second time in 12 months. If you do see anyone acting suspiciously, please contact the police, the PCSO or the NW coordinator depending on the degree of urgency. Contact details are listed on the penultimate page of this publication.

Finally, recently lead was removed from properties in Didcot and from the church roof at Chinnor. Please be extra vigilant, keep ladders locked away and try to make sure there is nothing to easily climb onto to help offenders get onto roofs.

*Nora Haycock NW Coordinator*

### **GLAM ROCK DISCO (13+)**

to celebrate 150 years of  
North Moreton Cricket Club!

**Saturday 10th May**

8 p.m. in North Moreton Village Hall

Licensed Bar

Prize for best outfit

Tickets £10 to include food

from

Jill Fletcher 818703 & Libby Macdonald 812273

## North Moreton Fete 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008

The fete is a very important part of the fundraising programme to maintain our beautiful church in good condition and it is also a great opportunity for everyone in the village to enjoy an event which has now built a reputation as a great family occasion.

The committee this year is led by Mary Greene and Linda Brown who are delighted that so many regular helpers have already agreed to contribute this year. They would very much like to hear your views about how to build on the success of the last few years and how to make this a fete which truly represents the village and offers something for all ages on the day.

Jill Fletcher has kindly agreed to run the raffle with help from Richard MacFarlane, Patrick Greene and others. Polly Vacher has again very generously offered a flight as a main prize - however, more raffle prizes are needed - please contact Jill Fletcher on 818703.

Have you sometimes thought that you would like to get involved but are not sure? There are lots of ways to join in and it doesn't have to be hard work or take a lot of time! It could be offering half an hour on the day to help with a stall, helping to set things up or perhaps you enjoy a craft or hobby and you would like to contribute to the craft marquee?

If you would like to volunteer to help, or you have a suggestion to help make this year's fete a success, please contact: Mary Greene 813396 [maryclare-greene@aol.com](mailto:maryclare-greene@aol.com) or Linda Brown 812174 [harpleybrown@aol.com](mailto:harpleybrown@aol.com)

The committee members are Mary Greene, Linda Brown, David Nobes, Mavis Crickmore, Helen Baillie, Alison Sanders, Lawrence Wilson.

## North Moreton Toddler Group.....

meet 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.

## Church Tower Restoration – Update

The PCC have applied for special dispensation to allow rapid action to improve safety of access to the tower roof. This access is essential for the English Heritage representative together with our architect to view the condition of the parapet stonework and agree the best way forward to restore the beauty and safety of our tower.

It is the opinion of our architect and the PCC that we should use new stonework to obtain ‘value for money’ and a lasting repair, as against conservation work that has a possible lifespan of five to ten years.

£5,000 of existing funds has already been set aside by our treasurer for the tower restoration. The original cost of repairs estimated by our architect is around £70,000, subject to a detailed survey and agreement on the method of repairs.

We are already in consultation with grant-making bodies, but it is evident that we will have to raise considerable funds locally. Several fundraising events are being planned but if you have any ideas, the PCC will be delighted to hear from you.

*Patrick Greene, Church Warden*

## Moreton Table Tennis Club

MTTC's future remains in the balance as the Governors of South Moreton School have yet to decide whether future operations of the school's Sports Hall (the venue for home league matches and junior coaching) will be as a community asset, a commercial venture or just for school use. Following a SGM on 5th December, MTTC has made its views known to the Governors and is prepared to relocate if a satisfactory agreement is not reached. On the playing side our seven League teams are doing reasonable well, and we are coaching a group of Didcot Girls' School students for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. The club is grateful to parishioners who have given Tesco Sports Vouchers, and to South Moreton Parish Council for a grant of £500.00 to be used to improve the lighting in the school hall should we continue there.

*Roger Templeman, Secretary MTTC.*

## North Moreton Open Gardens

On **Sunday 15th June** five local gardens will be open from 2 - 6 pm in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. Entry charges will go to the NGS charities but the All Saints' Tower Fund will benefit from the proceeds of teas, plant sales etc. There will be a photographic exhibition in the Church and a Craft and Produce Marquee. More details in the next issue of *North Moreton News* but note the date in your diary NOW and if you have any other fundraising ideas, would like to book a craft or produce table, or are will to help for an hour or two with car-parking, teas, manning a garden or stall, etc. etc, please contact the organiser, Nora Haycock, on 812202 as soon as possible.

## Student Book Grants

North Moreton Charitable Trust is offering a small grant to all young people in North Moreton who started University in 2006 and 2007.

If your son or daughter is eligible and you have not yet heard from the Trust, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees on 01235 812202.

### **ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP**

*Bear Lane North Moreton*

**Re-opening 19th March**

10am - 4pm Tuesday - 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**