

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

- 4 Harvest Craft Afternoon, Village Hall 3 - 6.30 pm
- 5 Harvest Festival
- 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

NOVEMBER

- 8 Charity Card Sale & Soup Lunch Village Hall 12 - 2.30 pm
- 10 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8 pm
- 12 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 15 MCC Dinner at The Bear at Home

DECEMBER

- 10 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm

MARCH 2009

- 7 North Moreton Safari Supper

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North Moreton News

Issue 82

October 2008

North Moreton Website: North-Moreton.com

I am pleased to announce the launch of the new North Moreton website, sporting a new web address, www.north-moreton.com and updated information about activities in the village. The site has been refreshed with new content and topics including news from some of the clubs and societies in North Moreton, a page dedicated to news from the Parish Council and old favourites such as North Moreton's history and links to All Saints Church.

The site has been created with you, the residents of North Moreton, very much in mind. Its aim is to keep everyone informed of events going on in the village, Parish Council meetings, and decisions and other news which affects the village and its inhabitants.

If you would like to post information on the website, please email the website administrator at: admin@north-moreton.com. The 'contact admin' button is also available at the top of each page.

The site is still being developed and I welcome your feedback as well as suggestions from fellow villagers who would like to share information about activities and groups they are involved in and upcoming events and news.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sonia Willson

North-Moreton.com administrator.

North Moreton Parish Council

North Moreton Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Andrew Wise as its new Clerk. Andrew lives in Didcot, but can be contacted at home on 01235 511427 or by email at Andrew@wiseandrew.orangehome.co.uk. Andrew is a keen cricket enthusiast, and has already been seen giving his support at Moreton Cricket Club's special events this year.

New Playground Support Group

After several years of fund raising and helpful contribution on the Playground, the Recreation Committee, chaired by Eg Rayner, have decided to stand down. They are warmly thanked for their efforts.

The PC believes that it is important to maintain continuity, particularly as there are now so many families in the village with young children, and is looking for volunteers to support a new group and, most importantly, for someone to lead it. We do have one or two names, but others are needed.

Since the playground was first established, there has always been a need to raise funds for new and replacement equipment, and to make proposals for improvements. In addition to raising funds for capital projects, there is a need for ongoing help and support for the playground. It is the Parish Council's job to maintain the playground, but the PC would welcome any help it can get from volunteers with day-to-day surveillance, rubbish removal, etc. We currently pay an outside contractor for grass cutting, but if that job could be done by volunteers then the allocated funds could be spent on something else.

Please contact Ian Shipton (814372) if you would like to help or would like more information.

Roger Haycock, Chairman

Northmoor Trust

Northmoor Trust now provides a comprehensive programme of events for all ages and all seasons. Among the autumn events suitable for children are Apple Day Scrumping and 'Crafty Halloween Preparations'. The latter take place daily from Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st October between 10 a.m. & 3.30 p.m. and will be followed by a Pumpkin Party between 5 & 7 p.m. on the Friday. A full list of events can be found in the Parish Council notice board or by visiting www.northmoortrust.co.uk.

Did you know that Project Timescape is open every Sunday until 7th December and from Tuesday to Friday during the Oxfordshire School Holidays? A child's passport (£2.75) is valid for a year.

For anyone with time and energy to spare, the Trust's Practical Conservation Volunteers meet every Friday plus the first Saturday of every month. Everyone is welcome - no experience necessary, just bags of enthusiasm! For more information contact Alison.Lee@northmoortrust.co.uk or call 01865 407792.

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, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.30. 01491 834728

Citizens' Advice Bureau, Didcot 01235 813632

Oxfordshire Business Enterprises

O.B.E. is an independent 'face-to-face' support service available to all residents of Oxfordshire, particularly aimed at anyone in the early stages of starting a business. Operating from eight venues across the County (including Berinsfield and Wantage), 18 volunteer business advisors provide their time and expertise to individuals. Oxfordshire County Council and all District Councils contribute towards this service in unison with Business Link & other agencies.

For further information visit www.oxonbe.co.uk or contact the co-ordinator, Lynette Riley on 01295 227082.

Time to Spare?

Many local charities are short of volunteer helpers: if you have time to spare, here are a couple of suggestions:

The Wallingford Volunteer Bureau supports the elderly and infirm by helping with the weekly shop, collecting library books and most of all by providing reasonably priced transport to local hospitals, as well as to dental & hairdressing appointments. Drivers get a mileage allowance and can choose to do as many or as few journeys as they wish: for more information ring the office 01491 836345 between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. Monday to Friday or email Barbara Kershaw, the Coordinator; b@kershawband.demon.co.uk.

Alternatively you could join the team at the South & Vale Carers' Centre in Didcot. Full training is given and great care is taken in matching volunteers and cared-for people. Ring Chris Elliott on 01235 510212 for more information or email her on chris@svcarers.org.uk.

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind

If you or any member of your household has a visual impairment, either newly diagnosed or long-standing, OAB, a small local charity, may be able to help. In addition to providing a Sight Advisory Desk at the Oxford Eye Hospital, they stock a large range of visual aids from large print diaries to computer reading equipment at their base in Abingdon Road, Oxford (01865 725595). They also publish a free quarterly newsletter, available both in print and tape format, which exists as an interesting way for visually impaired people to hear of all the local issues relevant to them. Another useful resource is their website www.oxeyes.org.uk.

Moreton Cricket Club

The cricket season has almost come to an end with the final home match having been played against Brightwell as the culmination of both clubs' 150th year anniversaries. We just about managed to beat the weather and played two games, the first in the style and dress of our first match against each other back in 1858 and the second an up to date 20/20 match in the latest kit and accompanied by some very suitable music provided by Nic Cross. We lost the first match, but made a good recovery following an injection of energy at The Bear between matches and were victors in the second game. Without doubt, the highlight of the season was the match against the MCC who sent a team to play us to celebrate our 150 years. Sunday the 27th July was the date and you will all no doubt remember it as the sun shone all day, a minor miracle this summer! Although we lost the match it was a very enjoyable and memorable day held in conjunction with the Beer Festival at The Bear At Home. A very big thank you to all those who came along to watch the game; your support was very much appreciated.

A further highlight of the season was the club tour organised by Nic Cross and Jonny Yaxley to Holland which we last visited exactly 20 years ago. Four games were planned, but again the weather played its part and two of them were cancelled because of rain. However, this didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the team who, according to all reports, had a very good time – further details are yet to emerge!!

Altogether it has been a very good season with many games played despite the efforts of the weather – so let's hope for more sunshine and dry days by next May, and if you'd like to play please get in touch.

Trevor Denning, President

Fly Tipping

Recently garden refuse has been deposited on several of the fields and open areas close to the village. Although most of the material is organic and will break down in time, it is unsightly and can pose a hazard to small children and livestock. If you or your contractor is unable/unwilling to take your refuse to one of the recycling centres, we would remind you that SODC provide an excellent collection service via their Brown Bin scheme; ring 01491 823416 for details.

North Moreton Village Hall

Well, we finally gave up on the weather and employed a professional to paint the hall doors and windows: he took two days to achieve what the committee had been trying to do for two summers! Let's hope that next year will be dryer because by then the timber will need another coat of preservative.....

Our major expenditure since the last issue has been on the hall floor which has been repaired, sanded & sealed with a low-maintenance finish. Whilst the surface should be hard-wearing (it's the same as is used in many of the Oxford colleges and the Ashmolean Museum), please help to prolong it's life by not wearing stiletto heels and by lifting furniture rather than dragging it. We think it's a great improvement and hope that you agree.

By the time you read this, our Autumn Book Sale will have taken place; as always, our thanks to everyone who helped/supported us and, in particular to Kate and Gar for all their hard work. Our next event will be the popular Charity Christmas Card Sale and Soup Lunch which will take place between 12 noon and 2. p.m. on 8th November. Come along and choose your Charity Christmas cards without having to worry about parking meters, and as usual, there will be a selection of delicious home-made soups on sale.

Ron and his wife Joyce lived in North Moreton for 30 years and were both very much involved in village life. Ron, in particular, gave unstintingly & unassumingly of his time: in addition to being Church Warden he was at various times Parish Clerk, Cricket Club Chairman, Chairman of School Governors, involved with the local Scout group (he was a Scout County Commission) and in 1987 started the North Moreton News. Sadly, in 1995 both Ron and Joyce died and the PCC felt that it was a fitting memorial to name the community occasion that he had started 'Quinney Day'.

Village Email List

The village email list was the brainchild of Maggie Parker who has run it most efficiently since it's inception in 2005. Well over half the households in the village are now on the list and it's an excellent way of disseminating information of all kinds.

After three years at the helm Maggie has asked me to take it on so if you would like to be included or removed, or have recently changed your email address, please contact me at nora.haycock@btinternet.com. If you would prefer to receive 'official' items only i.e. Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Council, let me know and I will arrange for your address to remain hidden when these are sent out.

Charity Christmas Card Sale
Saturday 8th November
12 noon - 2.00 p.m.
North Moreton Village Hall
Selection of delicious
Home-made Soups available

All Saints' Church Tower Restoration

Following an inspection of the tower parapet and string course by an English Heritage representative and the architect, it was established that a conservation report would be required by English Heritage to establish which elements would need replacement stone and which could be saved by remedial work.

The architect has therefore instructed a firm of conservation consultants to carry out this survey (with the aid of a 'cherry picker' to avoid the need for scaffolding) and, in the process, to remove any very loose stones that constitute a danger. As soon as the report is received and a schedule of works completed, a faculty can be applied for, quotations and grants sought and a fundraising programme set in place. By taking prompt action and bearing the cost of the survey from existing funds, NMPCC has saved a possible lengthy delay in getting the work carried out.

Harvest Craft Afternoon Saturday 4th October

A Harvest Craft afternoon followed by a 'bring and share' tea will be held in the Village Hall between 3.00 & 6.30 p.m. Come and make a bookmark, join in a group collage to decorate the church, and create your own colourful flowerpot leaf and flower display. For more information ring Liz Elliot on 812562.

Quinney Day

This year's Quinney Day will take place on **Saturday 11th October** between 10.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.

For the benefit of those of you who are new to the village, this is the day when all residents, regular church-goers or not, are invited to come along to All Saints' to help sweep, paint, polish, clear gutters, cut back brambles & weeds and generally 'fettle' the church before winter.

The first of these mornings took place in 1993 and was the brainchild of the then Church Wardens, Rhoda Carpenter and Ron Quinney.

The Christmas Party season will soon be upon us so don't forget that the Hall is an excellent party venue for all ages; we also have tables, chairs and crockery for hire – contact Ann Silvester on 811646 for availability and charges.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

Moreton Table Tennis Club

The junior section of Moreton Table Tennis Club was very successful over the course of the 2007/2008 season.

The success story started in March at the DDTTA Cadet (Under 15) Championship. Two Moreton players Charlie Lane and Sean Stinson contested the final after winning through the group stages containing approximately 20 players from clubs within the DDTTA league. Charlie took the coveted title. This was quickly followed up in May when again two Moreton players contested the DDTTA Junior (Under 18) Championship Final. Joe Cheong beat James Goldsby-West in a close final. This victory was Joe's 5th win in a row, breaking a DDTTA league record which was set sometime in the 1950s.

The final icing on the cake came in the same month when Didcot's Junior Interleague team beat teams from Oxford, Banbury and Rest of Oxfordshire. This team was made up entirely of Moreton Juniors, James Goldsby-West, Nick Redding and Joe Cheong.

Fortunately after a successful meeting with the school Governors in July, the future of the venue is now secure enough for us to start the necessary planning for the new 2008/2009 season. We have registered six teams who will contest the league championships in each of the five Didcot & District Table Tennis Association divisions.

MTTC is a very friendly club that aims to provide support, good equipment and a venue for both social and league play. Anyone interested in joining the club on any of these basis would be most welcome. For more details visit our website: www.mttc.moonfruit.com or call 07954 364182.

Paul Cheong MTTC

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

Members attended a very pleasant Garden Meeting in July. Unfortunately it was not warm enough for us to enjoy Pat Storch's lovely garden, but we had a good time in spite of the weather. The rain influenced other summer events. The outing to Kelmscott Manor and The Hand of Friendship Teas were affected, but were both successful and enjoyable.

The Autumn programme started with "A Journey Through Peru", an illustrated informative talk, and the October meeting on 8th October will be a "Bring and Share" Harvest Supper.

Future meetings include "The Mary Rose" on 12th November and "History of the Police" on 10th December.

We have been pleased to welcome visitors and new members. Anyone interested in joining us can contact Sandra Monk on 812721 or Judy Hollings on 814137. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at North Moreton Village Hall.

Penny Busby

Safari Supper - Saturday 7th March 2009

Advance notice is given of the next North Moreton Safari Supper – this village event is always much anticipated and is a great way to meet many villagers and enjoy great food and fun in each other's houses. Once again The Bear will kindly be hosting part of the evening. Full details, including the unveiling of the theme, will follow over the next few months. In the meantime please consider being a host for one of the supper courses and note the date in your diary. Contact: Claire Steen 814617

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.

Neighbourhood Watch

If you were concerned by the presence of the Police helicopter overhead during the early hours of 27th August, worry not.... No dreadful crime had been committed in the village - a motorist on the A4130 failed to stop when requested and took to the side roads in an attempt to evade capture. He was apprehended and charged with various motoring offences.

Thames Valley Police advise that there has been another spate of distraction burglaries in the area so please be on your guard - don't let anyone into your home unless you are satisfied that their identification; if in doubt ask them to wait outside whilst you ring the company in question (using the number in the 'phone book and not the one on their card!) or ask a neighbour to pop round.

PC Susan (Pip) Walker continues as our Beat Officer but we now have two new Police Community Support Officers covering our area: Clare Beale (07800702952) & Paul Cole (07814485122). They can also be contacted via the switchboard (0845 8 505 505) or by email i.e.: Clare.Beale@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. If you see them in the village they will be happy to meet you and hear of any concerns you may have.

Nora Haycock, NW coordinator

ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP

Bear Lane North Moreton

Open 10 am - 4 pm Wednesday - Sunday & Bank Holidays

Pop in for Autumn planting ideas, Bedding, Bulbs, Baskets plus Mature trees, Cottage garden perennials, Shrubs, Bamboos & Climbers.

And whilst you're here visit our Farm Shop for Gift Ideas, 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**