

## Dates for your Diary

### MARCH

- 7 North Moreton Safari Supper
- 9 North Moreton Annual Parish Meeting 8 p.m.  
followed by NMPC meeting. Village Hall
- 11 W I Meeting 7.30 p.m. Village Hall
- 16 - 20 Sands Bridge closed 7.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
- 21 Eli Bucket & the Haybalers 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.
- 28 Village Spring Clean 10.30 a.m. Triangle LW Road.

### APRIL

- 11 W I AGM 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.
- 19 MCC First match of the season.
- 26 Annual Village Walk 10.30 a.m. Bus shelter.

### MAY

- 10 North Moreton Fete 2 p.m. The Croft.
- 11 Parish Council Meeting 8 p.m. Village Hall
- 13 W I Meeting 7.30 p.m. Village Hall.

### FREE TO GOOD HOMES!

Quantity of used tennis balls -  
fine for knocking about but not for matches.  
Contact Roger Haycock on 812202

Editor: Nora Haycock, Peckwater, North Moreton. Phone 812202

Email: [nora.haycock@btinternet.com](mailto:nora.haycock@btinternet.com)

*Printed by the CHURN Benefice*

**Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by 20th May**

*North Moreton News is published four times a year & can also be read on line  
at [www.North-Moreton.com](http://www.North-Moreton.com)*

## North Moreton News

Issue 84

March 2009

An election to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council took place on 12th February when 119 of the 306 parishioners on the Electoral Role turned out to vote.

Casual vacancies are usually filled by co-option - not least because contested elections cost money, currently around £500, which has to be found from the annual precept, i.e from the Council Tax payers. It is, however, to be hoped that the publicity will have awakened residents' interest in the Parish Council and its work.

The first Parish Council election took place in 1895 when eight local residents contested the five seats. The successful candidates were a local farmer, an agricultural labourer, a railway labourer, a blacksmith and, unusually for that time, a 'resident lady' a Miss Williams.

Over the years, interest in serving on the Council has sadly declined. The whole Council must stand for re-election every four years, but the last contested election in North Moreton was in 1987 when six candidates competed for the five seats. Since then, with the exception of 1999 (when there were only three candidates!), those standing have been elected unopposed.

The next full election will be in May 2011 and we look forward to a great contest! In the meantime everyone is welcome to come along to meetings.

## North Moreton Parish Council

**Election.** I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Ros Templeman to the Parish Council, following the election on 12th February.

**Annual Parish Meeting,** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. This is the time when all the Clubs, Societies and village organisations tell us what they have been doing, and an opportunity to question your County and District Council representative. More importantly, it is your opportunity to raise any questions or float ideas you have about what we should or should not be doing in North Moreton. It isn't a Parish Council meeting – that comes later. It's YOUR meeting!

*Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC*

## Road Closure - Sands Bridge

Please note that Sands Bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic between 7.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. from **16th - 20th March**, inclusive.

Access will be maintained for pedestrians and cyclists and the alternative route for vehicles will be via the A4130 and Fulscot Bridge. During this period the 95 bus service will only call at the bus shelter in North Moreton and not at Bear Lane. Some departures will run up to 5 minutes behind schedule.

This closure is to allow investigative work to be carried out in advance of the rebuilding of the bridge by Network Rail in 2010. That will take around three months but will result in a wider bridge with a separate footpath.

## Village Walk

Gerald Howat, amongst many other things, instituted the Annual Village Walk, when we take a circular ramble to include most of the Public Rights of Way inside and just outside the Parish. We missed our walk in 2008, but this year it is proposed for Sunday 26th April, meeting in the bus shelter and leaving at 10.30 sharp. Just turn up!

The walk should take about 1½ to 2 hours and you are recommended to wear stout shoes or walking boots. It may be muddy and there are several styles! This is a great opportunity for newcomers to the village to investigate our footpaths and (I hope) to meet some new friends. For more information, please contact Roger Haycock (812202).

## Annual Village Quiz

The annual North Moreton Village Quiz took place on Saturday, 9th February, and once again was organised by Moreton Cricket Club.

Both the excellent questions and the evening's proceedings were managed by a joint McDonald/Squires' team. If the attractions of teaching ever pall, Vicki Squires should have a very successful career as a stand-up comedienne! The question masters were ably supported by Peter Lancaster, the club's Social Secretary, who handled the logistics and ran the bar.

After several varied rounds of both enjoyable and extremely testing questions, Jon Slade's Secret Policeman's Ball emerged victorious by some distance from the 9 teams who participated. The evenings raffle gave some comfort to those teams who had done less well in the quiz, and over £300 was raised for the club's coffers by a very enjoyable evening.

*John Gibbs*

## 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

## 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

Many of us carry a mobile phone with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are dozens of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of the person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE'. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

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

**Bear Lane North Moreton**

*Re-opening Wednesday 1st April*

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**

## North-Moreton.com Noticeboard

The new online noticeboard for North Moreton is now live on the North-Moreton.com website. It has been set up for you as residents of North Moreton to discuss village affairs, news and events, place items for sale and generally keep in touch.

You can access the noticeboard from either the North Moreton website ([www.north-moreton.com](http://www.north-moreton.com)) clicking on the Noticeboard link in the menu bar or directly from [www.north-moreton.com/forum](http://www.north-moreton.com/forum).

To register simply click on the Register text on the left hand side of the page and create your username and password, you're then ready to post new messages or to reply to existing messages and topics.

For assistance using the site either click the help button at the top right corner of the page or alternatively email the noticeboard administrator [admin@north-moreton.com](mailto:admin@north-moreton.com) with your question or query.

If you would like to suggest further categories or have any comments please contact the website administrator [admin@north-moreton.com](mailto:admin@north-moreton.com).

*Sonia Willson, Website Administrator*

## Clearing the rubbish around North Moreton

We're planning another village rubbish clean up on **Saturday 28th March** and would be really pleased to have your help, even for half an hour, to fill a bin bag of all the junk that gets chucked into the verges and hedges in and out of North Moreton.

We'll start at **10.30 a.m.**, and meet at the **grass triangle opposite Chris Lewis's workshop**, and will have SODC bags, gloves, collection sticks, fluorescent jackets for anyone that needs them.

It will be good to have as many helpers as possible – which makes the whole job quicker and lets us clean the whole area in an hour or so, so do come and help if you can – thanks.

*Muir and Maggie Parker*

## North Moreton Village Hall

The Management Committee are delighted to report that, for the second year in a row, expenses have been covered by hiring fees - a big thank you to all those who support us. This has enabled us to use fundraising proceeds to finance improvements and more are planned. We are always open to suggestions and would also welcome 'new blood' on the committee, particularly younger residents with children.

The February Book Sale was another huge success thanks to Gar & Kate Evans and their team and raised a fantastic £680! It involves a tremendous amount of work but people now come from far afield. The next big sale will be in the Autumn but there will be the usual book stall at the Fête in May.

Our next fundraising event will be "It Makes I Laugh!" on **21st March** when Eli Bucket and the Haybalers will regale us with stories and music from the West Country. There will be a Licensed Bar and tickets - £10 to include a glass of wine - are available from Trevor Denning (812968), Nora Haycock and other members of the committee. It will be a great evening so do come and join us!

*Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC*

## South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The December meeting gave members the chance to try their hand at pottery decorating, which proved to be great fun. The January New Year dinner at "The Crown" was well attended, with members enjoying delicious food and the chance to catch up.

The February meeting is entitled "Intriguing Oxford" and promises to inform us of some of the stranger aspects of Oxford's history. The AGM will be in March and the April meeting is called "The Llangollen Music Festival".

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members. Meetings are held at North Moreton Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. Please contact Sandra Monk 812721 or Judy Hollins 814173 for details.

*Penny Busby*

*We also talked about the new pre-school building. Patrick said that he was there and he saw Tim Henman cut the ribbon to open it.*

*The Eco Kids had a discussion with Patrick and Joanna. They talked about breakfast at school when we wore our pyjamas. We raised lots of money and decided to spend it all on gifts for children in countries that needed help and support. The money bought lots of gifts and the countries were most thankful for what we had done. Patrick and Joanna said that they had appreciated the discussion with us."*

\*Thank you Patrick and Joanna.

*Debi Ripley, SMS*

## Village Email List

The email list was set up in 2005 by Maggie Parker and has proved to be a valuable resource both for official and private communication in the village. Maggie passed management of the list to me in 2008 primarily because my involvement with North Moreton News, Neighbourhood Watch and Village Hall – not to mention my 'close association' with the Chairman of the Parish Council – gives me an unique insight into what is happening in the village.

The concept, which seems to work well, is that the complete list is used for 'official' items such as village events, Parish Council information, Neighbourhood Watch, etc. but is also available to members to enable them to compile their own list for personal use. I have recently taken the decision to send out messages 'blind' partly because of Data Protection implications and partly because, with over 100 addresses on the list, there is a risk of a message being picked up by a spammer. I still send out new addresses and amendments as I receive them and keep a list in Word form of those who are happy to have their details circulated. This is normally available on request to members but I do reserve the right to withhold it if I feel it is in the interests of the other members.

If you are not on the list but would like to join, send an email to me [nora.haycock@btinternet.com](mailto:nora.haycock@btinternet.com) saying whether or not you wish to be added to the Word list.

*Nora Haycock*

## South Moreton School ([www.south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk))

The open morning in the Early Years Unit on 20th January was well attended. The Pre-School are now extending their opening by adding two more afternoon sessions to accommodate all the 2yr olds wanting a place. There are, however, still some morning places available for 3/4 year olds. Funding is available for all children, the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

The Governors are planning an opportunity for all members of the school community to put forward their views and be involved in developing a vision for South Moreton School. The vision of a school relates to its aims for the children and the ethos of the environment in which those aims are met. We would like to collate views from not only pupils, staff, parents and Governors but also the surrounding communities. Everyone's opinion is important and will be included in the visioning process. A questionnaire is available on the school website or by calling 813110. Completed copies can be returned to Home Farm, High Street, South Moreton or emailed direct to [office.2566@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2566@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk).

The school have signed up for 'Books for Schools', and ask that you save tokens, printed in 'The Times' and 'The Sunday Times' as we can exchange these tokens for books. We are currently focusing on replacing and updating class collections and also purchasing guided reading texts

The School needs a cleaner for the Sports Hall, which is used by a number of clubs and for community events, as well as by pupils. The post is for approx. 3.5 hours per week; about 40 minutes per day during the week, either before or after school. This post may well suit someone living locally; for more details please ring Helen Risk or Susan Gopall on 01235-813110.

Charlotte Deeley, chairperson of School Council writes:

*"On Friday 23rd January, Patrick Greene and Joanna Simons came to South Moreton School to see the school council and the Eco Kids to have a talk.*

*Patrick Greene is an important councillor and Joanna Simons is Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council.*

*We discussed how well the school was getting on and how much we enjoyed it. During the school council meeting we spoke about the toy, book and game sale that we had held not long ago. We said that we had raised £105.05. Patrick and Joanna were surprised and went "Wo!"*

## Moreton Cricket Club

Believe it or not, there's only about ten weeks to the start of the cricket season. The first match will be on the **19th April**, so hopefully we might get some sunshine by then - if only to melt the snow! This year we will again be playing in the NPower Village Cup, the Friendly Cup and our usual Sunday and weekday matches. The friendly weekday matches will be played on Thursday evenings and the mid-week league matches on Wednesdays.

We are always on the lookout for more members, so if you fancy a game why not join us - the membership secretary is Simon Steen, 01235 814617.  
*Trevor Denning, President*

## North Moreton Fête - 10th May 2009

It may be difficult to believe but the Fête is only just over two months away!

For those who are new to the village, all the proceeds from the Fête go towards the upkeep of All Saints' Church and this year money is particularly needed for the repairs to the parapet and other essentials.

The all important raffle team is being led by Patrick Greene and he will be grateful for offers of prizes, large or small: [Pwdgreene@aol.com](mailto:Pwdgreene@aol.com) or call 813396.

Mary Greene and Nora Haycock are heading up the committee and planning is underway to ensure a fun filled afternoon for all the family. The ever popular pet show, childrens' corner and bouncy castle will be there, along with teas, cakes, bottles, books and many other stalls and sideshows. If you have any ideas, suggestions or offers of help we will be delighted to hear from you: contact [mary-claregreene@aol.com](mailto:mary-claregreene@aol.com) (813396) or [nora.haycock@btinternet.com](mailto:nora.haycock@btinternet.com) (812202).

Mark the date in your diary now and invite your friends and family along to enjoy a great afternoon out!

## **Copse adjacent to Ashbrook, Wallingford Road**

As part of the planning permission for the two new houses, now nearing completion at Ashbrook, the developer was required to refurbish the adjacent copse which was formerly an allotment area but which over the years has become a small wood.

Following advice from an arboriculturist and an ecologist, much of the undergrowth has been cleared, a pathway laid and a bench installed. Bat boxes have been mounted in the trees and small mammal boxes placed at ground level. There is still some planting to be done and fencing to be completed, but in the meantime parishioners may like to take a stroll through the copse. Favourable comments have already been received and families with small children will find it an excellent spot for little adventure seekers.

In the Spring the developer will sow native flower seed mixture. Although quite small, the trustees of the North Moreton Charitable Trust hope that villagers will find the copse a rural haven. To get there, take the footpath along the track towards the farm gates, but turn right into the copse onto a woodchip path as soon as you have left Wallingford Road.

Allotments are currently available for rent behind the houses on Long Wittenham Road. Contact the Allotment Warden, Stuart Bell on 07946 626 654 for more details.

*Peter Vacher, North Moreton Charitable Trust*

## **A Date for Your Diary**

The Bear at Home will be hosting a Beer & Cricket Festival from Thursday 30th July to Sunday 2nd August inclusive. This will feature a 6 a side competition and a match against Amsterdam CC, as well as a Real Ale marquee, BBQ and live music.

## **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 Jane Gwinnell 01235 813635.

## **Rhoda Carpenter**

Muriel and I would like to thank all those who came to Mum's Service of Thanksgiving, and gave money in lieu of flowers. The collection raised £ 309.82 for the Royal Lifeboat Institute, £339.81 for the Royal British Legion and the rest, £200.48 went to the Church Tower Fund.

We hoped that the Service was a fitting tribute to a lady who gave over thirty years of her life to the village and church of North Moreton.

She will be sorely missed but her memory will live on and we hope to have some permanent memorial installed within the village, so we would appreciate suggestions about what sort of form this might take.

*Michael Carpenter*

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

You may recall that we held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support towards the end of September at The Slade's house. We have had a few late donations trickling in but we are pleased to announce that we raised a total of £174.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the coffee morning and those who baked cakes, everyone who donated but couldn't attend and thank you also to the book-sale organisers for your generous donations. Much appreciated.

Thank you again!

From, *Annetta, Jacqui & Emma.*

## **Thanks**

Veronica Gibbs would like to thank all the people who came out to vote for her, as well as the many neighbours who made her so welcome when she called at their homes in the lead up to the election. That alone made it a very worthwhile experience for her! She would also like to wish Ros Templeman all the best and knows that she will do a very good job.