

North Moreton Parish Council

A4130 Speed Limit Update.

In response to a query about the effect (if any) of the speed limit on the A4130 on accidents, we have had the following encouraging comment from OCC Highways.

“Our accident database currently has data to 30/11/2009, giving 18 months of data after the introduction of the limit in May 2008.

This shows 2 slight injury accidents on the length of the A4130 where the 40mph was introduced, which gives an apparent reduction of 70% over the frequency that would be expected. On the basis of the accident record here in the 5-years prior to the introduction of the limit; there were no accidents reported on the route through the village from the Hithercroft roundabout through to the A4130 via Fulscot.

The underlying reduction in reported accident frequency on rural single carriageways in Oxfordshire in the same period was around 25%, suggesting that the apparent effect of the new limit was around a 45% reduction. However, I should stress we need an appreciably longer after period to assess the effect of the scheme with confidence.”

Dog Fouling. Apart from the usual problems of dog fouling on pavements and in other public places, we have had a complaint from a parishioner that someone is letting their dog regularly foul the parishioner’s front garden. If you have a dog – please control it.

Sands Road Bridge.

We are now well over half way through the period of disruption to traffic flow caused by the closure of the Sands Road railway bridge in South Moreton. It is a considerable inconvenience to some, but most people seem to be coping. We are getting some slightly conflicting messages on progress against the timetable, but early April seems a best bet for completion. It is hoped that pedestrians and cyclists will be able to cross the bridge before that - on or about 8th March.

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

MARCH

- 4 Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist 10.30 am All Saints’ Church
- 8 Annual Parish Meeting 8 pm Village Hall
- 8 Parish Council Meeting follows APM
- 10 W I AGM 7.30pm at Alders Croft, South Moreton
- 13 Book Sale 10 am - 4 pm Village Hall (Gar & Kate Evans)
- 13 Soft Furnishing Sale 12 - 4 pm Rainbow Cottage
- 20 Village Cleanup 10.30 am at the Triangle

APRIL

- 14 W I Meeting 7.30 pm Village Hall
- 25 Village Walk. Meet at Bus Shelter 10.30 am

MAY

- 9 North Moreton Fete 2 - 4 pm The Croft
- 10 AGM of Parish Council 8 pm Village Hall
- 12 W I Meeting 7.30 pm Village Hall

JUNE

- 6 Open Gardens for SM School (Susannah Stobart)
- 12 Hat Stand Opera North Moreton House Barn (Katie Miles)

JULY

- 12 Parish Council Meeting 8 pm Village Hall
- 29 - 1 Aug. Beer & Cricket Festival The Bear/The Croft (Tim & Nic)

OCTOBER

- 1 & 2 Two Piano Concert at Melhuish Farm for CLIC Sargent (Polly Vacher)

Neighbourhood Watch

Clare Beale, our PCSO, has been joined on the Cholsey and Moulsoford Neighbourhood Team by Taqwa Galpin.

To view the team's regular reports together with the dates and locations of their 'Have Your Say' meetings visit <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n144>. You can contact Clare or Taqwa on 0845 8 505 505 or via the email link on the above website.

Clare hopes to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th March, so if you have any concerns, do either come along to the meeting or communicate them via the undersigned or any member of the Parish Council.

Dog Watch

Dog, horse and land owners may be interested in Dogwatch, a new service, unique to the Thames Valley, which has already had considerable success in finding stolen/strayed animals and vehicles.

This quote from their website, www.Dogwatchalert.com, explains what they do:

"We are here to help stem the rising tide of dog theft and rural crime in the Thames Valley area. Dogwatch is entirely staffed and funded by volunteers. We are proud to help the Police and RSPCA in the already excellent work that they do.

- We circulate information regarding stolen dogs to our members; Police HQ; Beat Officers; Dog Wardens; and re-homing centres.
- We circulate details of all snoopers on members' property to members and Police Headquarters - helping to prevent rural crime.
- We brief members on progress in the area by e-mail and hold regular meetings with the police."

Nora Haycock, NW Coordinator

Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall on **Monday 8th March**. This is the best opportunity in the year for parishioners to raise any items they wish to discuss, and I hope very much that there will be a strong attendance. The meeting will be followed at about 9.00 p.m. by a meeting of the Parish Council.

Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC

Village Walk

Our Annual Village Walk, when we take a circular ramble to include most of the Public Rights of Way inside and just outside the Parish, will be held on **Sunday 25th April**, meeting at 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) before 17th April.

Clearing the Rubbish around North Moreton

We're planning another village rubbish clean up on **Saturday 20th 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 around North Moreton.

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

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 very much.

Maggie and Muir Parker

North Moreton Village Hall

In January the Hall fell victim to the big freeze and we ended up with 8 leaks in different parts of the building! Gar Evans & Rob Silvester valiantly got out their spanners and blow torches and fixed them all in time for two children's parties to go ahead as planned. A huge thank you to both of them for their hard (and chilly) work. We were extremely fortunate that no real damage was done and the Committee will be investigating improved insulation and other measures to prevent a re-occurrence.

Our next big event, the Spring Book Sale, will take place on **Saturday 13th March** from 10am to 4pm and we will have the usual excellent selection of books on sale at very reasonable prices. If you have books to donate, or can spare an hour or two during the preceding week to help sort the different categories, please call Gar or Kate Evans on 813858.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

Moreton Cricket Club

Only two months to go to the start of the cricket season - summer must be approaching!

The first match will be played towards the end of April and we have a busy schedule throughout the summer playing our usual friendly matches on Sundays and Thursdays and league matches on Wednesdays. We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested or know somebody who might be, then contact our secretary, Jon Cross (818967) or myself (812968). All standards are acceptable and you don't have to live in the Moretons. We started the year with the Village Quiz at the start of February. It proved to be an extremely popular evening, we had a full house, all of whom appeared to have a very good time - our thanks go out to Nic Cross and his team for organising the event. Nic will be organising further events this year, the big event being the Beer and Cricket Festival which will be held on the weekend of 31 July/1 August. More details will follow later why not put it in your diary now - it proved to be a great event last year and this year it promises to be even better!!

people. The princely sum of nearly £5,750 was raised for the church and none of this would have been possible without an impressive list of sponsors headed by 'Darwin Property Investment Management'.

The final word must go to Alison Esse who in her thank you speech made the following pertinent comment *'It is incumbent upon us all to support and use our church and pub, otherwise we won't have them!'*

Polly Vacher

North Moreton Open Gardens

The **6th June** is the date set for this year's Open Gardens with five villagers kindly offering to open their gardens to the public's gaze, in aid of South Moreton School. At the time of going to press, the gardens opening to visitors will be Stapleton's Chantry, Cobbetts, Old Manor Cottage, Peckwater and Filberts. However, should any other keen gardeners with gardens of any shape or size be interested in opening their garden too, they would be more than welcome. Whilst still at the planning stage, there will be teas and ice cream for sale, garden advisors to hand and plants for sale. If anyone is interested in opening their garden or helping on the day then please contact Susannah Stobart on 810130 or suseandian@tiscali.co.uk

Fundraising for CLIC Sargent

On the 26th January Tim and Alison Howarth hosted a wine tasting evening at the Bear at Home to raise funds for CLIC Sargent, the child cancer charity. The event was organised by Ian Baker who is raising funds for the charity and who is running in the London Marathon in April. Ed Squires of Dedicated Wines provided the wine and knowledgeably guided tasters through a dozen wines from around the world, with an emphasis on how to spot both quality and value for money in wines available in the high street. 46 villagers and friends ensured the evening was a great success and in combination with a silent auction of promises raised a total of £1815 for the CLIC Sargent charity.

Ian Baker

'Food of Love' Music Recital

The warmth of the welcome at North Moreton Parish Church was a contrast to a damp February evening. Two bay trees, twinkling with fairy lights flanked the entrance and inside, the building was adorned with flowers. This was a special evening when our village welcomed world-renowned artists to mark St Valentine's day.

Every detail was attended to from the little satin hearts in the pews, the miniature cyclamen and two exotic flower arrangements either side of the arch into the chantry. The programmes were sealed with ribbons painstakingly attached by hand and the canapes with wine in the interval added panache to what was indeed a splendid occasion. So let's 'play on'.

The first half featured classical music ranging from Purcell to Verdi. Three Granados love songs were a prelude to Susie Allen's sensitive interpretation of the same composer's free flowing piano solo 'The Lover and the Nightingale' from his work of seven piano pieces 'Goyescas'.

Nicki Kennedy gave us an awe inspiring rendering of the coloratura aria 'O Luce di quest anima' by Donizetti. She delighted the audience with her arsenal of range, colour and dynamics. The ensuing ovation said it all.

Most appropriate to Valentine's day were the various duets sung by the tenor John Bowley and soprano Nicki. Susie's accompanying skills gave support to the soloists and complemented their every nuance. It was later disclosed that Nicki and John are husband and wife, and Nicki is our own Alison Esse's sister!

The second half was packed with humour and embraced a lighter mood as we heard music by Richard Rodgers and Bernstein. John gave us a rip roaring rendition of Tom Lehrer's 'I hold your hand in Mine' and 'The Masochism Tango'.

140 people filled our little church with the men looking so handsome in their dinner jackets and the ladies sparkling in their evening dress. Alison Esse organised the whole event with support from many local

Finally, we are looking for a new groundsman this year as our previous one, Paul Warwick, has decided to 'hang up his rake'. If you are interested why not give us a call and we will tell you what is involved.

Trevor Denning

All Saints' Church Tower Update

After much deliberation the PCC accepted the long-awaited English Heritage offer, with their terms. They will pay 75% i.e £22,000 towards required further investigations. We will pay the balance without drawing on the 'Tower Fund'. This so called 'Development Stage' will be completed by December.

That, together with completion of a backlog of maintenance, was a precondition of an 'offer in principle' towards the cost of the 'Repair Stage'. English Heritage has added further elements so:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| The estimated cost is now | £135,744 which |
| sounds impossible but: | |
| This will be funded by: | |
| English Heritage | £52,000. |
| VAT reclaim | £20,217 |
| Oxford Historic Churches Trust | £10,000 |
| Heroic village fund raising efforts | £23,051 |
| Total | <u>£105,268</u> |

Which leaves us to raise another £30,476

If we can raise the funds the Repairs will be done in 2011. Appeals are already sent to the three major funding bodies we have identified. More are in process. We will keep you informed.

Sue White

GROUNDSMAN WANTED - MORETON CRICKET CLUB

This involves up to 4/5 hours a week and could be shared.
An honorarium may be applicable. For details
Contact Jon Cross (818967) or Trevor Denning (812968)

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

During the past few months the WI has been pleased to welcome several new members but also sad to say goodbye to one member who has moved to be nearer her family.

In November members listened to a lively and informative talk entitled 'The History of the Police'. As a result of this talk the WI outing on August 4th will be to the Police Museum.

Sandra's 'Sugarpaste Demonstration' in December was enjoyed by everyone. Members were able to make a holly twig with berries. The time Sandra had taken to prepare the sugar paste for us to 'have a go' was much appreciated.

Owing to the weather the annual dinner at The Bear was postponed until February 24th.

A storytelling evening was the theme for the February meeting when members listened to tales from the 'Arabian Nights'. It was a real treat to listen to Marguerite Osborne telling us several of the stories and explaining the background to this classic.

There has been a change of venue for the AGM on March 10th. The meeting will be held at the home of Rosemary Ryder, Alders Croft, South Moreton at the usual time of 7.30pm.

The WI returns to North Moreton Village Hall for the meeting on April 14th when there will be a talk about the 'Kuekenhof Gardens and Bulb Fields'.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month in North Moreton Village Hall. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Please contact Sandra Monk 812721 or Liz Elliot 812562 for details.

Liz Elliot

Ex-stock sale of natural home furnishings - 13th March 12-4pm

Helen Mudie at Rainbow Cottage (opposite the church) will be selling off some lovely home furnishings which are ex-stock from a business that she ran in London. Why not pop round to Rainbow Cottage after your visit to the book sale?

I sometimes think I must be ahead of my time! We did all this in 2008. The government has now at last decided to give strong financial incentives to people who install renewables. These 'Feed-In Tariffs' start on April 1st this year. But anyone who installed their systems before July 2009 is excluded!

It's not all bad news, though (he says, finishing with a small advertisement). I have recently founded a business to provide people and businesses nationwide with renewable energy systems which are eligible for the new Tariffs.

If you're interested, see www.ownergy.co.uk

Philip Wolfe has been in the renewable energy industry since the 1970's. He founded what is now BP Solar and was Director General of the Renewable Energy Association between 2002 and 2009. He is now Managing Director of Ownergy Plc.



ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP

Bear Lane North Moreton

Re-opening 1st April

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

01235 511348 or 07850 040311/07855 951388

Renewable energy in North Moreton – now's the time

It's almost impossible to tell as you pass Rose Cottage that it's one of the few wholly renewably-heated houses in the country. Only a couple of pipes disappearing into the front driveway indicate the origins of the energy, which the heat pump extracts to warm the house. Hidden behind the house are the solar heating panels that provide much of the hot water, mounted alongside photovoltaic panels which convert daylight to up to 1,500 watts of electricity.

Alison and I decided to 'go green' when we were extending our house with a new conservatory and bedroom a couple of years ago. We installed a ground source heat pump and solar thermal panels for all our heat and hot water, and the solar PV panels for part of our electricity. We're still on the mains power grid, but have disconnected the gas. Only then did we remember we relied on gas to heat the swimming pool, so we turned to another renewable source – an air source heat pump – to do that.

The ground source heat pump passes a 'heat transfer fluid' (or water and anti-freeze, to you and me) round a closed loop of four 30m deep boreholes in the front drive. Because the surrounding ground at that depth stays a fairly uniform temperature throughout the year, the fluid comes out a few degrees warmer than it went in. The heat pump extracts that heat and put it into the domestic hot water system – it's a bit like a fridge running backwards. It takes some electricity to do this, but we get 3-4KW of heat for every kilowatt of electricity we use. We put under-floor heating in the extension, which is ideal for heat pumps, but in the rest of the house we just use the old radiators. They don't get scalding hot anymore; they just stay pleasantly warm all the time they are needed.

The solar heating panels mainly provide hot water. In the summer, particularly, this means that the heat pump hardly runs at all. All this is automatic; the systems have all sorts of temperature and weather sensors so they decide for themselves when to run and when to stop. We have mounted the solar heating and solar electric panels side by side so we chose a design where they are both the same size with the same framing – it's almost impossible to tell which is which.

North Moreton Toddler Group

Are you looking for something to do with your little ones on Thursday mornings? If so, please come and join us in North Moreton Village Hall, from **10am - 12 noon** (term time only).

The session is **£2.00** per family. This includes:

Tea, coffee and biscuits for you; a healthy snack for the children,

General play, plus weekly art/craft activity and a sing-along.

Babies, toddlers and pre-school children are welcome. Our last session this term is on **Thursday 25th March** and we start again on **Thursday 22nd April**. (Please note there will be no meeting on **11th March** due to Book Sale preparations).

For more information, please call Deborah Caporn (512116) or Priscilla Sadler (812906).

The Hatstand Opera Company

We are delighted that The Hatstand Opera Company are returning to perform in the Barn at North Moreton House on **June 12th**. The theme this time is 'A Laugh at the Opera'. It promises to be a hilarious romp through all the comic opera favourites with plenty of laughs and surprises from Mozart, Rossini, Bernstein and many more. Bring your picnic and enjoy the opera and help the Church tower fund at the same time. Sadly tickets will be limited and available on a first come first serve basis. Further details available from Katie Miles (813283) or email katie@northmoretonhouse.co.uk



BOOK SALE



Saturday 13th March

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

NORTH MORETON VILLAGE HALL

**All Profits to Village Hall Maintenance
and Bell Tower Repair Funds**

Paperbacks 50p or 3 for £1.00

Hardback £1.00 Children's Books 20p

South Moreton Primary School

In today's society there is often discussion about the values that young people hold; at South Moreton Primary School, we stress the importance of developing the values of sharing and caring.

Firstly and most importantly we demonstrate these values in school in all we do. Showing children that you care about them and want the very best for them is a powerful message. Having high expectations that all the children in the school demonstrate care and concern for others creates a positive ethos through for example: leadership training of pupils, cross-year group working and support, whole school mixed age themes and topics, sharing and celebrating. Each month our assemblies focus around a particular value, courage or love for example.

Our aim is to develop community minded citizens. On Friday 5th February the children organised and ran a toy and book sale to raise funds for Haiti; this followed raising £722 for two charities in January with a sponsored book read. Well done to all the children for this excellent achievement and a big thank-you to friends and family who kindly donated items to sell.

Values in life are not the only important focus in school; achievement and success are just as important. Our KS2 SAT results were in the top 10 in the county and a cause for celebration of the children's hard work!

Debi Ripley, Parent Governor

South Moreton Pre School

South Moreton Pre-School is continuing to go from strength to strength. Last year saw a vast growth in children wanting to attend the preschool and as such we had to extend our opening hours. South Moreton Pre-School is open to all children aged 2 - 5 years old. We run during term time, Monday to Friday. We offer 5 sessions in the morning for children aged 3 - school age, with extended

lunch sessions offered on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have afternoon sessions for children aged 2 - 3years. We are very fortunate to have Annie Allen and Alison Tolson who run the pre-School. They are both very well qualified, long standing members of staff who are extremely committed to their jobs and this shows in the excellent rapport they have with both the children and their parents.

In January 2008 we moved into our new PFSU building (Partnership Foundation Stage Unit) This has brought many new opportunities for the Pre-school, as we are in partnership with South Moreton School and share the unit with the Foundation Stage.

The Foundation Stage building is a wonderful example of how Early Years education is progressing in Oxfordshire. We have a lovely outside area that is equipped with fantastic tools for learning, which we share with the Foundations Stage class. We have recently added a canopy to the unit so that the children at South Moreton Pre-school and the children in Foundation stage have access to the outside curriculum whatever the weather. For the children at South Moreton Pre-School the transition from Pre-school to South Moreton school is seamless. The children know and love the setting so much that starting school is an exciting and positive experience for them and their parents.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Annie Allen on 01235 819 657 or email us at:

southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com Pre School Committee.

Debi Ripley, Parent Governor

A History of North Moreton by Gerald Howat

If you have a spare copy of the above publication, please contact Peter Vacher on 817554 or pvacher@aol.com.