

Useful Information

Beat Officer: WPC Susan (Pip) Walker - 0845 8505 505
PCSOs: Clare Beale & Taqwa Galpin - 0845 8505 505
Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111
Parish Clerk: Andrew Wise 01235 511427
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Haycock - 812202
OCC/SODC Councillor: Patrick Greene 07899 878 344
Parish Transport Representative: Ros Templeman 07969349831
Village Hall Bookings: Anne Silvester, 17 Bear Lane - 811646
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Nora Haycock - 812202
Concessionary Travel Tokens: 0845 612422
Mobile Library: Wk 1 Wednesdays: Toddler Care 15.55 - 16.20
Wk 2 Wednesdays: Bus Shelter 10 - 10.15
Postal Services: The Village Hall, Brightwell -
Monday - Friday 9.30 - 12.30. 01491 834728
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Didcot 01235 813632
Refuse & Recycling Collections: alternate Thursdays
Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays with recycling
Black Bin dates: October 14/28, November 11/25
Green & Garden Bins: October 8/22, November 4/18

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY HAVE MOVED TO PREVIOUS PAGE

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

Email: nora.haycock@btinternet.com

Printed by the CHURN Benefice

**Copy for the December issue should reach the Editor by
20th November**

*North Moreton News is published four times a year & can also be read on line at
www.North-Moreton.com*

North Moreton News

Issue 90

October 2010

Fifty Years in North Moreton.

The search for a house in Berkshire was in the summer of 1960. It was to be within commuting distance of Culham College, near a town, in a village that played cricket, with a garden that was twenty five yards long. The final decision was for me to make – Gerald and the three children were in Devon. The house agents in Wallingford offered Old School House among others; my father and I found the choice easy.

We met Bud Finch by chance while walking round the village. His welcome to us at the Filberts farmhouse - and later to Gerald - made us feel that we had chosen well.

North Moreton parish was the same area as now, but there were fewer houses and a lack of pavements. There were milk farms using both tractors and horses. Cows walking from fields to milking parlour past our gate meant that boots and shoes were better left on the doorstep.

Elm Road was a track with the buildings of Pond Farm and many mosquitoes on the shallow pond. North Farm and Park Farm was the nearest to Wallingford, while Cobbs Farm, Alders Farm and much used Allotments were at the southern end of Long Wittenham Road near the Queen Victoria Pub. St Peters Farm was at the end of Bear Lane as now, but there were fewer houses.

At the Bear Inn, Norman Mawrey, who had played Northern Rugby League, made sure our children drank only what they should. His wife, a Danish ballet dancer, worked hard in their busy pub.

The Village Hall had been one of the many 'homes' of Thames Valley Eggs – as was our house when it ceased to be a school in 1938. The hall was not as smart as it is now, but was a venue for meetings and shows.

The 'Rec', fringed with elm trees, was much used in the summer, especially for cricket, but the playground was poorer than now.

An added joy to our life in North Moreton has been an outlook on to the 13th Century Church, where we have rung the bells, played the organ and seen our daughter confirmed and married.

Anne Howat

North Moreton Parish Council

The Rushcroft.

Some North Moreton parishioners may not even know of the existence of The Rushcroft. It is a small field of about an acre, owned by the Parish Council, situated at the end of Bear Lane and bordered by the Rec., the Playground and a section of Footpath 1. In the past, livestock have been grazed there. Several oaks and other trees were planted in the Rushcroft around the Millennium, and have now grown but still need some protection. In recent years much of the Rushcroft had become overgrown with brambles and other scrubby vegetation and access has been virtually impossible.

A programme of clearance has recently been started and the area is now clearly visible from the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has not yet agreed a detailed long term plan for the Rushcroft but hopes to make it an attractive place in which to walk. A major challenge is to design it in such a way that we can afford to maintain it and know we have the means to do so. Land left even for a few months is quickly overgrown.

Meanwhile, please be careful and please keep out. There are no fences to prevent access but there are dangers. The ground surface is uneven and it's easy to trip up. Barbed wire and rubbish have been cleared but some hazards may still be lurking unseen. There is an exposed ditch on the eastern boundary.

At the same time as tidying the Rushcroft, we've cleared some areas of scrub around the boundary of the Recreation Ground. These will be levelled, tilled and reseeded with grass.

The PC is extremely grateful to Brian Hayes (our unpaid Recreation Ground Warden) for very many days of hard work, including a particularly unpleasant day getting soaked supervising JCB operation. Thanks also to Jon Slade for extremely helpful support with his tractor and equipment and to Mark Baillie for clearance and bonfire help.

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 1 & 2 Two Piano Concert at Melhuish Farm for CLIC Sargent
- 2 Jumble Sale 2pm South Moreton School
- 3 Harvest Festival Service 10.30am All Saints' Church All ages welcome
- 9 Quinney Day 10am - 12 noon All Saints' Church
- 13 W I Harvest Supper
- 23 Book Sale 10am - 4pm North Moreton Village Hall

NOVEMBER

- 6 Charity Card Sale & Soup Lunch 12 - 2pm N. M. Village Hall
- 10 WI Meeting 7.30pm North Moreton Village Hall
- 15 Parish Council Meeting 8pm North Moreton Village Hall
- 20 Pudding Evening 8pm North Moreton Village Hall

DECEMBER

- 8 W I Meeting 7.30pm North Moreton Village Hall
- 19 Carol Service All Saints' Church

EVENTS CALENDAR

Don't forget to use the Events Calendar on North-Moreton.com to avoid clashes! Contact Sonia Willson - Admin@North-Moreton.com.

Charity Card Sale & Soup Lunch
Saturday 6 November
 Large Selection of Charity Cards
 & Fair Trade Goods on sale
 Delicious Home-made Soups available
North Moreton Village Hall 12 - 2pm

New Community Shop at Brightwell

A new village shop recently opened behind the Village Hall in Brightwell stocking a good selection of food, bread, butcher meat, local honey, wine, etc. Well worth a visit!

Initial opening times are: Monday to Friday. 8.30 to 6 pm Saturday 9 to 1 pm Sunday 9 to 12 noon and more details can be found on the shop blog: <http://brightwellvillagestores.blogspot.com>. 01491 83551.

Don't forget that Brightwell Post Office (in the Village Hall) is open Monday to Friday 9.30 - 12.30. 01491 834728.

Can you help? An appeal for memories from students of Oxford Polytechnic and the College of Technology

While 'The Poly' and the older College of Technology no longer exist in Oxford, their value to Oxfordshire is still clear. Students of both institutions have gone on to live and work here, benefiting local businesses and communities with their knowledge and expertise.

Oxford Brookes is rightfully proud of its roots in the Polytechnic and the College of Technology, and the achievements of former students of all our past institutions have reinforced the university's reputation for producing skilled and well-rounded graduates.

In 2015 Brookes celebrates its 150 year anniversary. We believe the celebrations should include and involve all alumni, whether you studied at the College of Technology, Oxford Polytechnic, Dorset House, Lady Spencer-Churchill, Westminster, Oxford City Technical School or the university itself.

To achieve this, we are appealing for memories from all former students of all our past institutions. By sharing your anecdotes and photos with the Alumni Office you can help to illustrate the shared history of the entire Oxford Brookes community, and make 2015 an unforgettable celebration for everyone.

We are especially keen to hear from alumni with personal memories of John Henry Brookes for a biography celebrating the life of the university's spiritual founder.

Please email your memories and photos to alumni@brookes.ac.uk. We can also answer any questions you have about strengthening your relationship with Oxford Brookes, from updating you with news and events to helping you enjoy the many benefits available to all our alumni. www.brookes.ac.uk/alumni

Dog waste.

Like many other parish councils, North Moreton PC has been exercised about what to do about dog poos left uncleared in the Rec, on pavements and footpaths. The practice continues despite numerous entreaties.

We have considered installing a couple of poo bins – probably putting one on the Rec. and one by the bus stop. The cost would be about £250 for installation and at current rates about £300/year to get SODC to collect the waste regularly. This facility would undoubtedly be welcomed by many, but will it actually encourage current culprits to behave more responsibly? We don't know. We're keen to keep North Moreton clear of dog mess but have no desire to burden the Council Tax payer with costs for something ineffective.

We could consider taking powers under the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006 Act. This would involve quite a lot of bureaucracy, but allow the Parish Council to apply fines up to £1000 or fixed penalties to offenders. Would it be worth doing?

If you have strong views on this subject – of any sort – please let the Parish Council know.

North Moreton Conservation Area.

Most of the village is included in the North Moreton Conservation Area. If you wish to see whether your house is included in the Conservation Area or find out more about the responsibilities imposed on you if you live in the Area, please see the Parish Council section of the North Moreton website which will be updated shortly

Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC

Fifty Years in North Moreton

Many thanks to Anne Howat for giving us a glimpse of life in North Moreton in the 1960s. If you have memories or items of interest to share, I would be delighted to hear from you. *Ed.*

Moreton Cricket Club

Another summer has suddenly finished and as far as the cricket club is concerned there is no doubt that it has been a great success. We have played about 50 matches this season which is quite remarkable for a club of our size, and amazingly only lost two games through bad weather!

The highlights of the season were reaching the regional semi-finals of the National Village Cup competition, only narrowly losing to a team which has almost ten times the number of members that we have; they eventually reach the national semi-finals before losing. In the Friendly Cup, a local Oxfordshire competition, we reached the final where we managed to beat Ipsden and add some more silverware to the cabinet. The tour to Bordeaux was a resounding success; we played and won three matches with the odd bit of wine tasting thrown in for good measure!

Undoubtedly, the major success this year was the Beer and Cricket Festival; the main competition was the 6 a side tournament which took place throughout Saturday. After 11 hours of cricket the team from The Bear walked (or staggered) off with the trophy and again this year our friends from Amsterdam took part in an excellent four days of cricket.

Next season will soon be here, so if you want to get involved please get in touch - there is always a cricketer in The Bear!!

Trevor Denning, President MCC

North Moreton Charitable Trust.....

would like to hear from any young person who has started in Higher Education this year and has not received a Book Grant from the Trust. Please contact the Clerk to the Trust, Nora Haycock on 812202 or nora.haycock@btinternet.com.

The Trust would also remind residents that allotments are still available at very reasonable rates. Please contact the Allotment Warden, Stuart Bell, on 07946 626 645.

North Moreton Toddler Group

meets in North Moreton Village Hall, from **10am - 12 noon on Thursday** (term time only).

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

- tea and coffee and biscuits for you,
- a healthy snack for the children and general play,
- plus weekly art/craft activity and a sing-along.

Babies, toddlers and pre-school children are welcome.

Please note that there will be **no session on 21st October**.

For more information, please call Priscilla Sadler (812906).

Ride and Stride 2010

The sun shone for the Ride and Stride on Saturday 11th September and it was a lovely day. At least 10 people took part on behalf of North Moreton (6 families), including 3 youngsters. 8 were on bikes and 2 strode around Churches in Wallingford. Around 35 people visited All Saints, North Moreton including Revd Edward Carter, the Area Dean, who was visiting every C of E church in the Deanery. All our visitors this year were local folk; the visitor who came the furthest was from Letcombe Regis.

I am most grateful to all those who took part and to those who sat in the Church throughout the day. It makes such a difference to our visitors to have a welcome with a smile!

Thank you to those who were sponsored and who have let me have the monies raised. I look forward to receiving the remainder shortly, when I can provide the total for this year.

Beryl Jones

Anything Glyndebourne can do...

Imagine the scene. A perfect June evening. An English country house garden. An immaculate lawn. Picnickers in evening dress. A little opera to follow. Glyndebourne? Garsington? No, North Moreton on 12th June 2010.

David and Katie Miles had invited Hatstand Opera back to perform in their barn. Kirsty Young (mezzo and founder of the company), Toni Nunn (soprano) and Jochem van Ast (baritone) charmed a capacity audience with a programme of familiar favourites and some much rarer pieces. They ranged from Figaro and The Magic Flute to Princess Ida and to the wonderful but little-known Mrs Peer Gynt, written and first performed by Flotsam and Jetsam in the 1930s.

All of that was interspersed with witty introductions by Kirsty Young, reminding us from time to time that sopranos seem to get better songs than mezzos, and by some splendid and very mobile encounters with the audience. The singers were admirably supported by Sue Graham Smith, their very skilled accompanist.

We owe huge thanks to David and Katie Miles for their generous and warm hospitality and to everyone who helped with the arrangements. £1000 was donated to the Tower Fund as a result of the evening. The concert itself ended appropriately with the opening number from Leonard Bernstein's *Candide: Life is Happiness Indeed!*

Nick Sanders

Book Sale

North Moreton Village Hall

Saturday 23rd October - 10am - 4pm

Large selection of books for all ages

Refreshments available

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

At the June meeting, Miss Briony Newport gave a fascinating talk about the annual Llangollen music Eisteddfod. The weather was fine for the July meeting in the garden of Mrs Rosemary Ryder. Members were introduced to croquet and other lawn games, and took part in a garden quiz. It was a very enjoyable evening.

The annual outing took place in August. Members visited the Thames Valley Police Museum, which was followed by lunch at a local pub.

The September meeting was entitled "Northmoor Trust: present and future". The Harvest Supper is in October and in November Mr Russell Cherry will talk about "The Ridgeway: the Oldest Road".

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at North Moreton Village Hall. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Please contact Sue Harrison 817042 or Liz Elliot 812562 for more information.

Penny Busby

North Moreton Village Hall

The new fund-raising season starts on **Saturday 23rd October** with the **Autumn Book Sale** - come along between 10am - 4pm and stock up for the long winter evenings! If you have books to donate, please contact Gar Evans on 813858 to arrange collection.

Come along again on **Saturday 6th November** to buy your **Charity Christmas cards** - no entrance fee, no parking problems and no crowds - and as usual there will be a selection of tasty home-made soups on sale.

On **Saturday 20th November** we will be holding a **Pudding Evening**. Enjoy a selection of delicious homemade desserts and pick up ideas for your Christmas entertaining. Watch out for posters etc with more details.

Nora Haycock, Chairman NHMC

South Moreton School

Do you have an hour or two to spare and would like to come and help out at South Moreton Primary School?

Perhaps you could give an hour to hear some children read? Or maybe you have a particular talent that you could share? Any keen gardeners? Could you help to organise the school library? Then we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Mrs Amanda McCrea in the school office on 01235 813110 or email office.2566@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk to visit the school.

We also have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. Training and support will be given. Even if you feel can offer just one day a week please contact the school office.

Over the summer, the office and entrance area of the school has received a much-needed makeover and we are very pleased with the results. The entrance area is now welcoming, bright and more spacious. Please do come and have a look!

We are delighted that we are now full in our outstanding foundation stage class and we are pleased to welcome a number of new families to South Moreton School. There are, however, spaces in other year groups in the school and anyone who is interested in their child attending South Moreton is most welcome to make an appointment to visit the school.

Susan Gopall, South Moreton Primary School

Vacancy for School Governor

South Moreton School has an exciting opportunity for a member of the local community to become a school Governor. The position of a Community Governor can be filled by someone who lives or works in the community served by the school, or someone who does not work or live close to the school but is committed to the good governance and success of the school. If you would like more information please contact the Head Teacher, Susan Gopall on 813110.

Moreton Table Tennis Club

The club has had a busy summer with many new faces coming and going. We also had other DDTTA club members attending our practice sessions as visitors which made practice sessions all the more interesting.

The new season for the Didcot & District Table Tennis Association (DDTTA) league starts at the end of September and the club are again fielding 6 teams, one in each of the top 4 Divisions and two in Division 5. The club's Division 1 team finished 4th last season which is the highest finishing position in the club's history.

Over the weekend of 11th/12th September the club hosted the Oxfordshire County Table Tennis trials for Juniors, with club members Charlie Lane, Nathan Cheong and Niall Harris taking part and finishing in respectable 2nd, 9th and 13th positions which will be their official junior county rankings.

The club is always happy to hear from anyone interested in playing socially or competitively. Open practice sessions are normally scheduled at South Moreton School every Wednesday from 7:30pm to 9:30 pm and anyone is welcome to attend. Further details about the club can be found on its website www.mttc.moonfruit.com.

Finally the club would like to pass on its sincere thanks to the Parish Councils of North and South Moreton for their continued support and generous donations which the club has been using to maintain and improve the equipment and facilities provided to its members and visitors. Also special thanks to South Moreton School for providing us with an excellent venue.

Paul Cheong