

North Moreton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall on Monday **7th 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. The Parish Council has arranged for an exhibition about Didcot Expansion to be on view between 7.30 and 8.00 p.m.

Parish Councillor elections

The term of office of Parish Councillors expires in May and elections, if required, will be held on Thursday **5th May** together with those for District Councillors. Patrick Greene will be standing down from the District Council but will continue to serve as our County Councillor.

Parish Council finances

At the most recent Parish Council meeting, it was agreed to set the Precept (what the District Council gives us from your Council Tax) for 2011/2012 at £6000, a reduction from £7000 in 2010/2011. This is below our anticipated spending for the coming year, so the PC will be using up some of its over-large reserves.

Recreation Ground maintenance – an appeal!

As mentioned in the December North Moreton News, the Parish Council has ordered some grass reinforcement mesh to place in the Recreation Ground near the boundary with Bear Lane in order to reduce wear and tear from parked cars and vehicle movement around the gate. It is hoped to lay this mesh when delivered, and provisionally on Saturday morning **5th March**. We'd be most grateful for volunteers to help for a couple of hours – there are 1100 U pins to hammer into the ground – and the work shouldn't take too long with enough helpers. Please give me a call if you are able to help (812202) and I'll confirm date and time.

Roger Haycock, Chairman NMPC

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

MARCH

- 3 Toddler Group, Village Hall 10 - 12noon. Weekly thereafter
- 5 Laying mesh on the Croft (weather permitting) from 10am
- 5 North Moreton Black & White Masked Safari Supper
- 7 Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall 8pm followed by Parish Council meeting. Everyone welcome
- 9 W I Annual Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9 Fete Meeting, Bear at Home, 8pm
- 12 Village Cleanup, the Triangle, Long W'ham Road 10.30 - 12 noon
- 27 Census Day

APRIL

- 10 Village Walk, Bus Shelter, 10.30am sharp
- 13 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 16 Coffee Morning in aid of The Porch, Village Hall 10.30-12.00
- 29 Royal Wedding Celebrations on the Croft.

MAY

- 5 Local Government Elections, Village Hall
- 8 North Moreton Fete The Rec. 2 - 4pm
- 9 NMPC Annual General Meeting, Village Hall 8pm
- 11 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm

JUNE

- 8 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm

JULY

- 2 Pig Roast and Air Pageant, Melhuish Farm 12 - 4pm
- 13 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 30/31 Beer & Cricket Weekend, MCC & The Bear at Home

The Census is coming: 27th March 2011

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) carries out a census every 10 years to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods.

The next census will take place on **27th March 2011**. ONS will be sending out questionnaires for around 25 million households to complete, asking about work, health, national identity, citizenship, ethnic background, education, second homes, language, marital status and so on. The answers will be turned into statistics used to build a picture of today's society.

Why should this matter to you?

Census population statistics are really important in understanding people's needs and making sure all communities get the services they need where they live. It's simple - if the census can't see you, the organisations responsible for delivering the services you need won't be able to see you either. In discovering and understanding communities, the census could make a very real difference to people's lives. The census needs to include everyone, everywhere – and that's why everyone has to take part.

What will you need to do?

Just answer a few questions about yourself and the people who share your household with you on census day, 27th March 2011.

Whatever you tell the census will be in strictest confidence and will only be used to produce statistics. ONS will not share your personal information with any other government department.

You'll be able to do it online. Or by post. But you **must** do it. Non-completion is a criminal offence, with a potential fine of up to £1,000.

If you need help and advice, you will be able to find everything you need online: www.census.gov.uk and on the census helpline: 01392 444 972 from 4th March 2011.

The census needs everyone to take part in helping tomorrow take shape – and this will be your chance to make a difference.

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 10th 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 make some new friends.

For more information, please contact Roger Haycock (812202) before 6th April.

Clearing the Rubbish around North Moreton

We're planning another village rubbish clean up on **Saturday 12th 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 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.

Muir and Maggie Parker

Air Pageant and Pig Roast

Following the success of the 2009 event, Peter and Polly Vacher will again be welcoming residents and friends to Melhuish Farm on **2nd July 2011**. This time the proceeds will be split between the All Saints' Tower and Roof Fund and the Oxfordshire Air Ambulance.

The event, which was heavily oversubscribed last time, will again be by invitation only and application forms will be found in this month's Link.

Moreton Cricket Club

Our first event of 2011, the annual village quiz, went extremely well; thank you to all those teams that took part and especially to Nic Cross who organised the event.

With spring almost upon us we are preparing for a new season and, as usual, we are always on the lookout for new players of all ages and all abilities. If you are interested then get in touch, a good starting point is always The Bear where Tim will point you in the right direction, otherwise you can contact myself on 812968, Jon Cross on 818967 or any other member of the club.

This year we will again be putting out teams on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

Looking towards the summer, the Beer and Cricket weekend will be held this year on the **30th/31st July** which again promises to produce some exciting cricket and excellent beer. May the sun shine brightly on North Moreton this year!!

Trevor Denning, President MCC

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The bad weather conditions prevented our December speaker reaching the village, so members organised a meeting with a Christmassy theme. Poems and rhymes with a seasonal theme were shared whilst indulging in traditional Christmas food.

The annual dinner at The Bear in January was, as usual, very enjoyable and in February, Mais Appleton gave an interesting talk on the work of Associated Countrywomen of the World. The AGM is in March and Sonia de Haviland will talk on Alternative Therapies at April's meeting.

We look forward to an exciting and varied range of meetings for the forthcoming year and are very pleased to welcome new members and visitors. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at North Moreton Village Hall. Please contact Sue Harrison 817042 or Liz Elliot on 812562 if you would like to join us.

South Moreton School

What a fantastic term we have had in South Moreton Primary. The whole school has been learning about Brazil, culminating in a colourful lively Brazilian carnival! The children enjoyed working together to put on a fun atmospheric performance. They danced, drummed and sang their way through the evening to a packed audience!

One day in the term was devoted to creating a fabulous wall hanging of the rainforest. Beautiful butterflies were created by Foundation Class, while the rest of the children worked on painting the vibrant canvas with plants, leaves and animals. After school a dedicated group of parents and children made the finishing touches. The wall hanging formed a dramatic, colourful, back drop for the performance.

On another day the children worked in mixed age groups making masks, finger puppets, bunting and creating costume extras for the carnival! All the classes designed and made their own large papier mache rainforest creature to lead their procession into the hall. They looked stunning!

For two days a dancer and drummer were in residence at the school, teaching the children carnival moves and rhythms in preparation for the carnival procession and performance. The after school family dance and drumming workshop was very well attended by an enthusiastic group of parents and children who enjoyed the experience enormously!

These exciting opportunities would not be possible without the very supportive and hard-working PTA who raised funds and worked with the school to develop the programme. A very big thank-you goes to Mrs Garner (Y5/6 teacher) who coordinated the event. Huge congratulations to all the children who put on a stunning carnival performance to the local community. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.

Susan Gopall, Head Teacher

South Moreton School visit The Living Rainforest

On Wednesday 12th January South Moreton School was like the Marie Celeste, completely devoid of the chatter of children. We had all been transported to the Rain Forest for the day. We had a fantastic day experiencing the sights, sounds, smell and feel of the tropical rainforest. This was our 'Wow' introduction to this term's whole school Creative Curriculum topic, 'Brazil'.

Before lunch we were given a tour of the forest by our guides who entertained and amazed us with fascinating facts about the animals, birds, fish and plants to be found in this part of the world.



Later we had the opportunity to get creative with poetry, creative writing and artistic activities.

Pet Food for Sale

Vanessa Nash has a 10kg bag of small pet food (rabbits, hamsters etc) which is surplus to requirements. It's called Cuni Nature and retails on the internet at approx £22.90. If anyone would like it she is selling it for

North Moreton Village Hall

The committee would like to apologise to recent hirers for the state of the kitchen floor. When the old vinyl was removed, it was discovered that the floorboards had been soaked by a central heating leak and we have had to wait for them to dry out before laying new covering. Please note that the automatic ignition on the hob is not working at the moment - please use the 'clicker' provided.

We hope that work will start shortly on replacing the old fluorescent lights which are beginning to give problems, and also to add wall lights. These should be a big improvement for evening functions. After that we will be looking at redecorating.....

2011 fundraising starts on **26th March** with our Spring Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with light refreshments on sale. If you have books to donate, call Gar Evans on 813858 for collection. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nora Haycock, Chairman NHMC

The Royal Wedding Celebrations

Those residents on the village email will know of the proposal to hold Royal Wedding Celebrations in North Moreton on **Friday 29th April**. This is for a tea party with games for children of primary school age and under, with a Pig Roast in the evening for adults and older children, both events taking place on the Croft.

The response to the exploratory email was very encouraging and a committee has been formed to organise the events. The tea will be free for village children and will include a memento of the occasion, but there will be a charge for the Pig Roast of £10 for adults and £5 for children. This will include salads, puds and a glass of bubbly for adults to toast the happy couple.

Tickets will be on sale from 5th March and an application form will be delivered to all households shortly.

North Moreton Fete - 8th May 2011

Planning for the Fete, which takes place this year on 8th May, is well underway.

We thank our longstanding team of helpers who have once again come forward to run stalls and other areas of the fete, and also Rowan and Heather McGregor who are organising the raffle. However, we are in need of able helpers to assist with setting up marquees, car parking, manning gates and a host of other jobs during the afternoon as well as clearing up afterwards. Sometimes this may only involve an hour of the day and children often enjoy partaking in these worthwhile chores.

We so look forward to hearing from newer residents as the day is always rewarding and pleasurable. We will be holding a casual meeting in the Bear on the **9th March** for all those helping or who are interested in doing so. We will have a chart up with areas still needing assistance.

Please do email Vickie Squires at victoriacreates@btinternet.com as soon as possible if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Vickie Squires, Church Warden

National Health Dentists in Oxfordshire

The availability of NHS dentists in Oxfordshire is very positive with 40 NHS Dental practices currently accepting new patients, but there is an ongoing perception that there are no NHS Dentists for patients wishing to find one.

To assist patients in accessing NHS dental treatment, the NHS Oxfordshire Dental Helpline provides accurate and up to date details of dental practices that are accepting new NHS patients. This information is updated monthly so callers to the Dental Helpline can be quickly and easily signposted to the practices currently offering NHS dental treatment.

For information visit www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/dentist or call 08000 113 824.

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

Babies, toddlers and pre-school children are welcome.

Sessions will take place from **3rd March to 7th April** and **28th April to 26th March** inc.

For more information, please contact Cath Pagnillo 07984611007 cpagnillo@btinternet.com.

Help the Oxfordshire Air Ambulance!

Nikki Bolton is collecting plastic milk container tops for the Air Ambulance as they receive 1p per top! When you have a batch either drop them into the container at 6 Moreton Road, Aston Tirrold when you're passing or leave them in the porch at Peckwater, High Street, NM.

Coffee Morning - Saturday 16th April

In aid of The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre, Oxford. 10.30 to 12 noon in the Village Hall. Donations of dried and tinned food welcomed.

Book Sale - 26th March

North Moreton Village Hall

10.30 - 4.00

Light refreshments available