

Useful Information

Beat Officer: - PC 101 or 0845 8505 505

PCSOs: Claire Beale & Taqwa Gilpin, call 101 or email
WallingfordBerinsfieldCholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Non-Urgent Police calls: 101

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

NHS Non-Emergency Number: 111

Parish Clerk: Andrew Wise 01235 511427

Parish Council Chairman: Ros Templeman 07969 349 831

SODC Councillor: Leo Docherty 07908 686 706

OCC Councillor: Patrick Greene 07899 878 344

Parish Transport Representative: Ros Templeman 07969349831

Village Hall Bookings Alison Sanders NMVH@hotmail.com 810880

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator: Nora Haycock 812202

Concessionary Travel: 0345 302 2313

Mobile Library: Wk 2 Wednesdays: Bus Shelter 10 - 10.15

Postal Services: The Village Hall, Brightwell:

Monday - Friday 9.30 - 12.30. 01491 834728

Astons Village Hall Tuesday 9.30 - 12.30

Citizens' Advice Line: 08444 111 444

Refuse & Recycling Collections: alternate Thursdays

Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays with recycling

Black Bin dates: 5/19 December, 4/14/30 January, 13/27 February

Green & Garden Bins: 12/28 December, 10/23 January, 6/20 February

Bank Holiday alterations in bold; Saturday collections may start at 6am!

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www.North-Moreton.com*

North Moreton News

Issue 103

December 2013

Ring out the old and ring in the new

2013 was definitely a good year for North Moreton's bells. The village has rallied to save our existing, old, beautiful, but very cranky bells with sufficient funds to have them fully restored. That is not all – we have had donors of a new treble bell, to make our ring up to six (a better number for us ringers) and a new Sanctus bell. Our existing one, as we are told, both inferior and sounding tinny.

The Committee are now applying for casting slots from White-chapel Bell Foundry and we hope our two new bells will be cast in the New Year. For safety reasons, very few public are allowed, otherwise I believe I could fill a coach with people interested in watching the process.

We still have some way to go. We are grappling with English Heritage and the paperwork required to build a raised gallery. The PCC will need to demonstrate the future needs of the Church and the proposed use of the space. We are hoping to have all permissions in place in the Spring and will be able to gauge building costs for the gallery. The restoration bell work will follow.

We are in the position to begin working on the bells, thanks to the donations and fund raising of you all. The air pageant raised an amazing £8,674.52 (thank you Polly and Peter Vacher) and the Safari Supper a further £789.75 (thank you Safari team). Our wonderful visiting team of ringers, who did ring out our bells in style, raised over £1,200.00 in sponsorship, as well as providing an impressive afternoon.

So what happens in 2014? I am hoping this is an even better year for our bells: The renovations to the old bells, including re-tuning and supply of new fittings. The construction of a raised gallery, which will make them easier to ring and create space for the future growth of the Church and continued training by the Guild of learning and new bell ringers. The lowering and raising of these bells from the top of the tower will be an event, the like of which most of us will not have witnessed. It is hard to believe that it has been happening up and down the country, for many centuries.

I am looking forward to ringing out next year on some very beautiful bells indeed.
Beryl Jones

North Moreton Parish Council

Fulscot Road closure and diversions

It will not have escaped the notice of villagers that on Monday 25th November Fulscot Road was closed for 15 weeks to allow the rail bridge to be raised. During this period, traffic will be diverted through North Moreton. The Parish Council has requested from OCC and Network Rail both advance and local signage, to keep traffic away from the village where possible, and to give prior warning of hazards within the village. Our requests have met with some success, although at the time of writing there are no warning signs at the top of Dunsomer Hill, and there is no special provision for pedestrians. We are grateful to Councillor Greene for his efforts so far, and for insisting on the filling of more pot-holes before the diversions began.

Recreation Ground and Rushcroft

Over the coming months, the Parish Council will be repairing the gate at the Bear Lane entrance to the recreation ground, and fencing the boundary with Bear Lane in an attempt to minimise the number of dogs straying into the area and fouling the cricket field and Rushcroft. All owners accompanying their dogs in the rec are, as ever, urged to clean up after their pets and use the red bins provided.

A recent RoSPA inspection found the slide in the children's playground to be urgent need of repair or replacement. Several generations of children have found this slide to be a rather underwhelming piece of equipment, and so the Parish Council has decided to remove it. This will give the new playground action group more space for creative innovation!
Ros Templeman, Chairman, NMPC

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 1 Festive Fun, South Moreton School, 2pm
- 7 Christmas at the Earth Trust, 10am - 4pm
- 11 Nativity Performance South Moreton School, 2pm
- 11 Moretons & Astons Choir, South Moreton Church, 7.30pm
- 11 WI Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12 Nativity Performance, South Moreton School, 6pm
- 15 Family Service, All Saints' North Moreton, 9am
- 17 Children's Carol Concert, South Moreton School, 7pm
- 22 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, All Saints' N.M., 6pm
- 23 Carols in The Bear at Home from 7.30pm
- 24 Crib Service, All Saints' North Moreton, 4pm
- 24 Christmas Mass, All Saints' North Moreton, 9pm
- 25 Parish Eucharist, St John the Baptist, South Moreton, 8am
- 26 Informal Football, The Rec. from 11am

JANUARY

- 8 WI New Year Dinner at The Bear, 7.30pm
- 13 NMPC Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm
- 21 Tea with Technology, Astons Village Hall, 10am

FEBRUARY

- 2 MCC Annual Quiz, Village Hall, 8pm
- 12 WI Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Tea with Technology, Astons Village Hall, 10am

MARCH

- 18 Tea with Technology, Astons Village Hall, 10am

News from the Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme

Be smart when you buy firewood. Please buy from a local supplier, as this minimises 'fuel miles' and supports local businesses. Ask your supplier whether they provide OxLogs (www.oxlogs.com), which are the Oxford quality standard for woodfuel. Otherwise ask 1. what the moisture content of the wood is (it should be 25% or less), 2. what volume of wood you are getting (you should know what weight or volume you are getting, not just 'a load'), 3. whether it is soft or hardwood (a hardwood log has more energy than a softwood log of the same size), and 4. how long the logs are.

Wood with a high moisture content will burn badly, since much of its energy will first go into turning that moisture into steam before it can heat your house. Last summer was terrible for drying wood, but this year has been much better. You can buy a moisture meter online for about £15. For more information see www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/our-community-wants-to.

Join Logs for Labour. L4L matches up woodland owners whose woodlands need managing ('log offers') with people who are willing to help out in return for logs ('labour offers'). The woodfuel programme is organising a series of L4L events for the autumn and winter. If you would like to make either or log or a labour offer, contact manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk or 'like' www.facebook.com/oxonwood to get updates on log offers.

Attention woodfuel boiler owners: If you own a chip, pellet, log batch or wood burning stove with back boiler – please could you fill out a short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/9SZBD9T? The results will help others who are thinking about installing similar boilers.

Ash die-back. The Forestry Commission has a very good website in case you are worried that an ash tree has chalara (ash die-back): www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara.

A very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to Everyone!

Moreton Cricket Club

With 2013 rapidly coming to an end, Moreton Cricket Club can look back on another successful season with plenty to look forward to in 2014. One of the areas we are looking at improving prior to the start of the season is the condition of the outfield. We are having some expert eyes looking at it and hopefully we can make it more of a 'level playing field' which will make it less dangerous (no more sprained ankles!) not only for the cricketers but for all those who use 'the Rec'.

As you are probably aware, the ladies and the junior sections of the club are thriving, so we are looking at more fixtures for them next season. So, to all ladies and juniors out there, why not join us - no experience required as our excellent coaching staff will give you all the help you need. Look out for details prior to the season or call in and see Tim at The Bear who will give all the information you need.

Another date to remember is the annual quiz which takes place in the village hall on the first Saturday in February, details to follow nearer the time.

In the meantime all at the cricket club wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Trevor Denning, President MCC

North Moreton Village Hall

Both the October Book Sale and the November Soup Lunch were very successful, together raising nearly £1000 for Hall funds. A big thank you to everyone who supported us and particularly to those who helped in so many ways.

If anyone has an old Hoover (or similar) electric scrubber/polisher which they no longer use, we will happily give it a home!

Don't forget that the hall is a great venue for children's parties and celebrations of all kinds. We also have chairs, tables and china available for hire at very reasonable cost.

For bookings or to hire equipment contact Alison Sanders on 810880 or email NMVH@hotmail.com
Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

North & South Moreton WI

In September we were joined by several visitors to our meeting. Robin Stafford from Culham gave an informative talk on "Nuclear Fusion and the Energy Crisis". He was able to explain very clearly the need for new energy sources to an audience which was mainly non-scientific. October's meeting was our annual Harvest Supper, which was enjoyed by everyone. In November John Tabor from the 'South and Vale Carers' Centre in Didcot gave a very interesting talk on 'Supporting Young Carers in the Community'. It was evident that very little is known about the hard work this organisation does to support this group of people, which, sadly, is growing in number. Another successful coffee morning was held at the beginning of November at Sue Harrison's home.

In December Liz Woolley is coming to talk about 'Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford' and our New Year dinner in January will be at The Bear. The February meeting is a talk entitled 'Colour in the Garden' by Paul Ridley.

We belong to a group of local WIs and members attend meetings organised by the group. The November meeting is at South Stoke Village Hall, when Ian Gibb will be giving a talk, 'From Cadet to Commodore and Beyond'. South Stoke have been celebrating their 95th birthday and invited two of our members to join in their celebrations. Three of our members are attending courses at the OFWI Denman Weekend at the end of November.

We have recently welcomed new members and visitors to our meetings and are always pleased to see new faces. Meetings are usually held at North Moreton Village Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact Liz Elliot on 812562 for details.

Penny Busby

Book Grants

Any young person resident in North Moreton who started University or any other form of Higher Education in September is entitled to receive a book grant from North Moreton Charitable Trust.

If you think that you or someone you know is entitled to a grant, please let me know as soon as possible; contact details on back page.

Nora Haycock, Clerk to NMCT

Neighbourhood Watch

Bogus Callers:

Since the beginning of November Oxford Trading Standards have received several complaints from elderly residents who have been **cold called by telephone** by a carpet company who state they are in the area and offering to clean carpets for £19.99. Workers come and clean the carpet, but then issue a bill for anything between £300 - £700 and insist that this cost is paid.

Please be aware of these cold calls and refuse the 'service' which they offer.

If you have received a phone call recently from a carpet company offering to clean your carpet for £19.99, or know of anyone who has (if possible check with any elderly neighbours) then please contact the Doorstep Crime Team at Oxfordshire Trading Standards on 0845051 0845 (option 2).

Land Rover Thefts:

There have recently been more thefts of Land Rover Defenders and Discoveries from car parks and driveways in the South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse areas.

Unless your Land Rover Defender is a 'County' model it is unlikely to be fitted with an alarm or immobiliser. This makes it easy to steal without the keys. Police advice is to garage your vehicle overnight if possible or block it in with other parked vehicles and to fit an immobiliser to prevent thieves 'hotwiring' the vehicle.

Household Security:

TVP remind householders that if no light is on in a house, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. Even if you are normally home before dark, it pays to leave at least one light on a timer just in case you're held up.

Online Security:

Beware of 'phishing' emails which ask you to confirm personal or financial details or to click on a link to a website. However convincing they appear, and some of them are very professional, it's always safer to access sites from your browser or to call the company concerned.

For advice on staying safe on computers and mobile devices visit www.staysafeonline.org.



Choose Well.....

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is running a 'Choose Well' campaign to ensure that people who feel unwell have all the information they need to choose the right health services for their needs, thus reducing the pressure on A & E departments.

They have produced a two page leaflet detailing the alternatives, which will be sent out via the village email, and you can also visit [www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/your health/choose-well](http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/your_health/choose-well) where you can enter your post code to find local services.

The nearest Minor Injuries Unit for less serious injuries such as deep cuts, eye injury, broken bones, severe sprains, minor head injury, minor burns and scalds is the Urgent Care Centre at Abingdon Hospital which is open 7 days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tel: 01865 425161.

The number for the GP Out-of-hours service is 0845 345 89965.

healthwatch Healthwatch Oxfordshire – wants Oxfordshire to hear from YOU!

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is your local independent organisation that listens to people's thoughts and experiences of health and social care in Oxfordshire. We work with people to get the best out of these services, whether it is improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow. Healthwatch will give children, young people and adults a powerful voice both locally and nationally.

For information and advice and to let us know what you think about your health and social care services call us on 01865 520520.

To find out more about us:

visit our website www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk, email us at healthwatchoxfordshire@oxonrcc.org.uk or call us on 01865 520520.

World Scout Jamboree 2015

Congratulations to Nina Slade and Louis Wardle who have been selected from 170 applicants to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Japan 2015.

All they and their families need to do now is help raise over £100k to enable the 36 young people and leaders from Oxfordshire to attend!

They will be organising many fund-raising events over the next 18 months and I do hope that the village will rally round to support them.

Ed.

North Moreton Playground

There is awareness of the need to repair and install some new play equipment in the village playground. To help get this task underway, the Playground Action Group (PAG) has been recently formed, consisting of volunteers from families in North Moreton, working on behalf of the North Moreton Parish Council.

The first meeting took place in The Bear on 20th November, as an opportunity for the group to meet and elect our Chair David Powell. More volunteers are very welcome to join the committee or if you have suggestions for new equipment in the playground please contact David (dw.powell13@gmail.com).

We would welcome your feedback and comments to consider what could be done to improve the facility for our children.

It is currently envisaged that the necessary renovations and installation of new equipment will be completed in 2015.

Remembrance Day Poppies

This year's door to door collection resulted in an excellent £301.48p..

A big thank you to everyone who contributed and, of course, to our valiant collectors; Elsie Harrison, Penny Busby, Mary Green and Alistair Auckland.

South Moreton School

We are delighted that a number of local residents are volunteering to work with children in school to hear children read or work on a project. It makes such a difference when children can share a book and read to an interested adult. If you would like to become a volunteer, you would be warmly welcomed. We ask you to ring the school office on 01235 813110 to arrange to talk to a member of staff.

We would like to extend an invitation to any elderly resident living in the area who would like to come and see the Nativity and/or Carol Concert (see dates below). Tea and biscuits will be served following the afternoon Nativity performance.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 1st December: Festive Fun from 2 p.m., including Blewbury Brass Band, local crafts, stalls, teas, Santa's Grotto and much more. Come and start the festive season off in South Moreton!

Wednesday 11th December: Moretons and Astons Community Choir Performance in South Moreton Church.

Wednesday 11th December at 2 p.m: Nativity performance.

Thursday 12th December at 6 p.m: Nativity performance.

Tuesday 17th December at 7 p.m: Children's Carol Concert.

Can you help?

Are you looking for a few hours work?

**South Moreton School require a
Lunchtime Supervisor - Monday to Friday
(or whichever days suit you) from 12 – 1 pm**

**If you are interested, please call the school on 01235 813110,
or come into the school office for more information.**

Your local School Needs YOU !!!!

All Saints' Church

Christmas came early to North Moreton with Gift Day and Quinney Day in October. Patrick and I were so pleased! The money raised, over £1000, will go towards the running of the church and various projects in hand such as the South Aisle. The weather helped us tremendously by letting the many helpers of all ages get on with chores in the churchyard and inside. A big thank you to all who came and helped! The saying "many hands make light work" was true and we had quite a bit of giggling too!

Preparations for Christmas are underway and The Posada is on the move. Please look out for the dolls; to add your name to the journey rota please contact Jo Nickless at: rob.nickless@btinternet.com or on 01235 510 479. The children love having Mary, Joseph and the donkey to stay and of course the last family brings them to the church for the **Crib Service** on the 24th at 4 o'clock.

Reverend Louise will be helping us prepare for Christmas at the **Family Service** on the 15th at 9 a.m. and there will be Christmas treats to eat and decorations to make. Another service to watch out for is the lovely **Nine Lessons and Carols** which takes place in the evening on the 22nd at 6 p.m.. We just love this service along with the festive drinks afterwards. Please if you would like to contribute to the food, ring Vickie on 07770783468.

Christmas Eve Mass will be at 9 p.m. with Reverend Clive Holmes; no doubt he will have something amusing to tell us as well as celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas to all of you and wonderful wishes for 2014!

Vickie Squires and Patrick Greene
Church Wardens



Earth Trust News

River Thames to receive a new lease of life as the River of Life project commences

The Earth Trust and the Environment Agency are working in partnership to create an extensive wild wetland habitat, with wet woodland, fen, ponds and backwaters, called the 'River of Life'. The project will create a unique wetland nature reserve alongside 2.5 km of the riverbank between Little Wittenham Wood and Shillingford Bridge. Creating these habitats will help to protect threatened wildlife, improve river water quality and will give an insight into how people can benefit from water and wetland landscapes (often referred to as ecosystem services).

The River of Life is expected to take several years to complete, involving approximately 50 hectares of Earth Trust land, much of which will be converted from species poor permanent pasture. The new habitat will be of high conservation value and will include areas suitable for a wide range of species, including mammals, birds, invertebrates and amphibians, and will link directly to Little Wittenham Wood.

Work is expected to finish in December, and although, for health and safety reasons, there have been some temporary footpath closures, longer term we plan to open up a new permissive path across the Earth Trust Farm. Please bear with us during this time and keep to those paths that remain open. The project aims to engage with local people and provide recreational and learning opportunities once the initial construction work is complete.

For further details of the footpath closures, a map of the new site and general information on this project, please visit www.earthtrust.org.uk/riveroflife.



For more information on the Trust's work, events, becoming a Friend or to receive their newsletters, visit their website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

Tea with Technology

The recent Tea with Technology events held in the Astons Village Hall have proved so popular that they propose to repeat them in the new year.

The aim of these events is to help people to improve their online skills and become confident users of computers, tablets, smartphones and the Internet. and everyone is welcome with any sort of problem; if they can't help on the day then they'll put you in touch with someone who can



The sessions are open to all residents of the Moretons and Astons. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own computers or tablets although there will be some available in the hall.

The Café will be open between 10 a.m. and noon on the following Tuesdays: **21st January, 18th February and 18th March.**

Garden Services in North Moreton

Garden Maintenance a worry? Too much to do. We may be able to help.

We provide a range of services:

Garden maintenance./Garden design/Planting advice.

Grass cutting/Turfing/Lawn reshaping

Border rehab/Soil improvement/manure/compost

Path care/Patio cleaning

Fence building/repairs

General repairs/Taps/Sheds etc

We are experienced, professional, friendly and easy to deal with.

Why not give us a call.

Susannah Stobart (07792 470830) and Iain Craigie (07887 843148)

Christmas Shopping

Some reminders of how you can reduce stress - and save money - by buying locally:-

Save food miles with South Moreton reared **Norfolk Bronze Turkeys** . All weights available at very competitive prices from Christina (our post lady). Catch her on her round or call her on 07738 006 413. She now has **whole and half lambs** available for your freezer as well as **Gloucester Old Spot pork packages** - spend £45 on the latter and get a free pack of sausages.

R & J Apiaries have hives in North Moreton and many of the surrounding villages. Rob & Jo Nickless have a present for every budget with a **range of honeys and handmade honey and beeswax products**. For the full range and price list contact them on rob.nickless@btinternet.com or 01235 510479.

Pop into The Bear for **MCC Cricket Caps** at £6.95 each or **Bear Beer Gift Packs** at £9.95.

The Village Stores in Brightwell-com-Sotwell (behind the Village Hall) stock a good range of groceries and local products including **wine from Brightwell Vineyards, speciality flours from the Wessex Mills at Wantage; cooking sauces, jams and chutneys from the Real Organic Foods Company at Watlington and delicious cakes and bread from our own Ambassador Catering**.

Opening hours: Weekdays 8.30 a.m - 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Sundays 9a.m. - 12 noon. Contact 01491 835551.

And to avoid the crowds, buy your Christmas stamps and post your parcels at **Brightwell Post Office** - open weekdays from 9.30 a.m - 12.30 p.m.

Christmas at the Earth Trust

Saturday 7th December 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit the Earth Trust and make your own unique Christmas decorations and gifts, join a Christmas walk, visit Father Christmas and buy an Earth Trust Christmas tree.

No entrance fee but charges for activities will apply. No booking required - just drop in, everyone welcome! (No dogs except guide dogs.) For more information please call 01865 409423.

Christmas Services in the Moretons

Sunday 15th December

Parish Eucharist	8 a.m.	North Moreton
Family Service	9 a.m.	North Moreton

Sunday 22nd December

Carol Service	5 p.m.	South Moreton
Carol Service	6 p.m.	North Moreton

Tuesday 24th December -

Crib Service	4 p.m.	North Moreton
Christmas Mass	9 p.m.	North Moreton

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

Parish Eucharist	8 a.m.	South Moreton
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Christmas and New Year at The Bear at Home

December 2nd - 23rd: Our Festive Menu is available - ideal for business and family gatherings.

Monday 23rd December- Christmas Carol singing from 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve: the usual evening of serious preparation for the big day. Food will be Curry only served until 8 p.m. - please book for this.

Christmas Day: open for drinks 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Boxing Day: Football on The Rec. from 11 a.m. Open for lunch as usual. Evening “Poker & Curry” from 7 p.m. - please let me know if you want to play Poker.

New Year’s Eve: Lunch as normal. Early Evening as normal for drinks.

Ticket only from 8 p.m. for our last NYE party - with a Disco theme and a pro Disco until 2 a.m. - closing at 3a.m. Tickets are going well and will be limited, so please don’t miss out!

New Year’s Day: CLOSED