

Useful Information

Beat Officer: - PC Steph Bromwich 101 or 0845 8505 505
PCSOs: Jennie Cox , Claire Beale & Taqwa Gilpin, call 101
or email: WallingfordAreaNHPT@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: 14/28 March, 11/25 April, **10/23 May**
Green & Garden Bins: 7/21 March, **5/18*** April, **2/16/31 May**
Bank Holiday changes marked in Bold.
** Extra garden waste collected*

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www.North-Moreton.com*

North Moreton News

Issue 100

March 2013

The Bear

In just over a year, our lease at The Bear ends, and Alison & I have decided not to renew it. As a family we have had an incredibly enjoyable time here, and part of me wishes we could do more, but it's also a very demanding lifestyle which we honestly cannot sustain.

The pub's success was founded on some amazing support from our friends and neighbours in The Moretons, to the extent that you actually ran the pub for a month in December 2005, whilst we sunned ourselves in New Zealand !

Your continued support for the last 8 years has been vital, and Alison & I are indebted to you for that. Many times you have told us proudly how well regarded this pub is in the locality, and I hope this desire to keep The Bear as the hub of village life will continue long after we leave. However, I urge you, please do not take the pub's existence for granted, as too many villages have lost their pub, and are much the poorer for it.

I'm sure nobody wants to revisit the dark days of "Spare The Bear" campaigns, so if you know of anyone who has the energy and enthusiasm for an adventure, I would be delighted to discuss running the pub with them; wouldn't it be great if someone else from North Moreton took it on ?

Tim Haworth

North Moreton Parish Council

Damage to verges

It will not have escaped parishioners' notice that, following a very wet winter, the roadside verges are particularly soft, and susceptible to damage by traffic. The problem is exacerbated by the current building boom in the village, which has given rise to an unusually high volume of heavy delivery lorries, and obstruction by parked vans. Boshers of Cholsey have very commendably volunteered to reinstate the badly damaged verge at the end of Elm Road, even though their own vehicles were not the culprits, and we would ask villagers who are having work done to ensure that their own contractors park and manoeuvre with consideration both for pedestrians and the local environment.

Potholes

We are grateful to OCC Highways for re-surfacing the whole of the bend on Long Wittenham Road outside Queen Victoria House, and to Councillor Greene for paying for this work out of his own allocation of funds. Unfortunately, other potholes in the village will be mended in the usual piecemeal fashion, and OCC report that, because of the recent snow and bad weather, it "may take some time before we can re-establish any kind of normal response times". Although the Parish Council routinely reports potholes in North Moreton to OCC Highways, villagers may like to add weight to these requests by submitting their own reports via either of the two websites www.potholes.co.uk and www.fixmystreet.com.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on **Monday 11th March**, and all villagers are cordially invited to attend. This meeting differs from the regular parish meetings in that representatives from all the local clubs and organisations present reports on their activities during the past year; the APM thus provides an ideal opportunity to find out what's happening in the village, and to air your views. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ros Templeman, Chairman NMPC

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

MARCH

- 5 Moretons & Astons Singing Group S M School 7.30pm
- 9 Village Clean Up Triangle Long Wittenham Road 10.30am
- 11 Annual Parish Meeting Village Hall 8pm All welcome
- 13 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 19 U3A Meeting Didcot Civic Centre 2pm
- 23 Book Sale Village Hall 10am - 3pm

APRIL

- 7 'Cricket Force' Day
- 7 Parochial Church Council AGM
- 9 Ladies Cricket Coaching 6pm - then weekly
- 10 WI Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13 WI Coffee Morning
- 13 Tea Concert Melhuish Farm 3pm
- 26 Junior Cricket Coaching 6pm - the weekly
- 26/27 Two Piano Concert & Dinner, Melhuish Farm 7.30pm

MAY

- 2 County Elections Village Hall 7am - 10pm
- 8 WI Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13 NMPC Annual General Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 19 Village Fete 2pm

JUNE

- 12 WI Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17/22 Local Community Music & Arts Festival

JULY

- 8 NMPC Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 25/26 Beer & Cricket Festival

County Council Elections

On **Thursday 2nd May** new electoral boundary divisions in Oxfordshire come into effect and the number of Councillors will reduce from 74 to 63. The Moreton Division will disappear and North Moreton will become part of Didcot East and Hagbourne. Details of those standing for election will be sent out in April.

Wallingford Museum

There's been a lot of activity in the 'closed period' for Wallingford Museum; taking down last year's special exhibitions and beginning to create a whole new look for the re-opening on **Friday 1st March**.

As a main exhibition, the Museum will be presenting '**A Monk's Tale - the hidden habits of Wallingford Priory**' which will include new research from archaeology and documents on the layout, people, daily life and achievements of this hitherto little known but important institution which was linked to the great abbey of St Albans. It stood close to the High Street, in what is now the Bullcroft, owned numerous properties throughout the town and would have been a dominant part of Wallingford's medieval scene.

There will also be a whole new look to the **Agatha Christie and Mid-somer Murders displays**, so that new information can be presented that has been learned from several people in the town who came into contact with the famous crime writer. Also, throughout the Museum there will be other changes to explore, so make a date to visit early in the new season!

Season tickets are pegged at £4 which will give unlimited access to the Museum until the end of November, and children accompanied by an adult are free! Opening times are:- Tuesdays to Fridays 2 p.m.- 5 p.m., and on Saturdays 10.30 a.m. - 5 p.m. There are additional openings on Bank Holidays, and on Sundays during June to August. You can keep up-to-date at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

Dog Fouling - Again!

Regrettably some dog walkers seem to think that because the grass on the field adjoin the Recreation Ground is fairly long at the moment, it is not necessary to clear up after their dogs.

Leaving dog faeces in any grassy area is always unacceptable: not only are they unpleasant if stepped in but they can pass on worms and serious diseases to children (and other dogs) as well as to farm animals via hay and grazing.

In this area it is particularly anti-social because the field (the use of which is available to residents by kind permission of the owners, Sue and Kelvin White) is used all year round by families with young children on their way to and from the play area. The field also forms part of the out-field during the cricket season and dog mess takes a long time to break down.....

Please take your dog's waste home with you or use the dog bins provided.

BOOK SALE

Saturday 23rd March

North Moreton Village Hall 10am – 3pm

Fiction & Non-fiction from 50p
Children's books from 20p

***Large selection of individually priced books
of interest to collectors***

Please contact Northmoretonbooks@gmail.com
or call **07934104555** to donate books

Proceeds in aid of Church & Hall Funds

Village Clean up - Your Help Please!

Saturday 9th March: Meet at the grass triangle in Long Wittenham Road from 10.30 a.m. to help clear all the accumulated rubbish from the hedgerows and verges before the nettles take over.

Bin bags, pick-sticks and fluorescent jackets will be provided but garden gloves and wellies recommended. Once again, excellent exercise for all ages! Just half an hour of your help would be very much appreciated.

Maggie & Muir Parker

North & South Moreton WI

The January meeting at the Bear at Home was well attended and gave members the chance to enjoy a delicious meal and catch up chat. February was an open meeting when we welcomed Judy Dewey, the local historian, who is well known for giving interesting and informative talks about our local area. She spoke on the findings of recent explorations in Wallingford, which gave insight to the lives of local people living locally all those years ago. Everyone agreed that it was a fascinating subject and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There were certainly plenty of questions arising after her talk.

March is the AGM when the new committee will be elected. April's meeting is entitled "Antiques Road Show" The speaker is Simon Jones, who will be giving his verdict on the value of some of our long lost family treasures!

We will be having another coffee morning on **13th April**, which should hopefully be as successful as last year's and it is our turn to host the local WI Group Meeting on **24th April**. The new programme covering a wide range of topics will also start in April and we are always pleased to welcome visitors and new members to any of our meetings. Please ask any of our members or contact Sue Harrison on 817042 for further details.

Penny Busby

Oxfordshire Community Woodfuel Programme 2.

Thank you to everyone who contacted me in response to the first of these bulletins: it is heartening that so many Oxfordshire residents are interested in woodfuel.

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme now has a website which provides lots of advice on growing, cutting, storing and burning woodfuel: www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk.

I will be running a series of one-day woodfuel-related study visits on **15th April, 13th May and 8th June**. They cost £25 each. More information is available on the website.

The Oxfordshire Woodland Project is running workshops on woodland management: see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/woodland-workshops.

I am hoping to set up some 'logs for labour' matches. If you are a woodland owner who could use some free help with woodland management in return for people taking some firewood (labour for your logs), or a group of people who would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood (logs for your labour), please get in touch with me.

The moisture level of woodfuel is important: a freshly cut log at 50% moisture has only about half the energy content of an equivalent well-seasoned log at 20% moisture. The woodfuel programme has a moisture meter that you are welcome to borrow.

Grants: Households that do not have central heating and install a biomass boiler before the end of March can get a £950 grant. Woodland owners who need to put in roads to extract woodfuel can get a grant that covers up to 60% of the cost. Please contact me if you need help with these, or with any other aspect of woodfuel.

Riki Therivel, manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, 01865 243488

Earth Trust Events

Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th, Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th March Lambing Weekends with the Earth Trust and Camilla & Roly

Enjoy a family day out in the spring sunshine. Visitors will be able to see the newborn lambs and perhaps see one or two being born! There'll also be tractor and trailer rides, bale climbing, meet the shepherd talks and children's craft activities and craft stalls. The Earth Trust's Poem Tree Cafe will be open for refreshments and Camilla & Roly's delicious lamb burgers will be on sale.

Tickets can be bought on the day: £6 adults, children £3 or £13 family (2 adults, 2 children).

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th April Easter Clumps Club

Join us on one or both days for outdoor adventures. For children aged 8 - 12 years. £25 per child per day. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday 5th April Family Bushcraft Day

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire. We will cook on the camp fire but bring a packed lunch too. Adults £20 Children £15 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 20th March 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oxfordshire goes Wild!

Discover Oxfordshire's wildlife: animals and insects that live in and on water, air and earth. Nature & wildlife groups from across the county will be sharing their knowledge and passion to get us closer to nature.

Saturday 20th March 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Newts, Frogs and Toads

We'll be searching for newts, frogs & toads with nets and torches. Bring a torch and wellies. Adults £5 Children £2.

Sunday 28th March 4.30 - 6.30 a.m. Dawn Chorus Walk

Set your alarm clocks and listen to the birds celebrating Spring at the Clumps! Learn more about birds and how to identify them with Ben Carpenter. Adults £5 Children £2.

For more information and events visit www.earthtrust.org.uk.

Moreton Cricket Club

Believe it or not the cricket season is almost upon us again; a good sign that the sun will be shining on us very soon!! We already have a full fixture list with our usual matches on Sundays, Wednesday evenings (league matches) and Thursday evenings.

Club membership is available to all for just £30 a year. You don't need to be a star as we have three qualified coaches at the club who are available to pass on their expertise to all members.

JUNIOR COACHING...will start on **Friday 26th April** at 6 p.m. - we need as many members as possible so that we can take part in more competitive matches and tournaments - why not come along and bring a friend.

LADIES COACHING ...will start on **Tuesday 9th April** at 6 p.m. We have arranged some matches on Tuesday evenings starting at the end of May - again, we need more ladies!!

If you have never tried cricket before, please do come and have a FREE "taster" session to see if you enjoy it. Enquiries to Tim at the Bear: Tim@bear-at-home.co.uk.

In readiness for the new season there will be a 'Cricketforce Day' to prepare the ground and equipment on **Sunday 7th April** followed by a BBQ at 5 p.m. for all those willing helpers.

Our first home match of the season - v. Old Leightonians - will take place on **Sunday 14th April** which is also the first day of all day Sunday opening at the Bear!

Finally, make sure you save the date for the Cricket/ Beer Festival which this year is from the **25th to the 28th July**.

Trevor Denning, President MCC

North Moreton Village Hall

Alison Sanders has kindly agreed to continue as Booking Clerk for the next few months but please note that the hall now has it's own email address: NMVH@hotmail.com.

The hall is a great venue for parties and charges have not increased for some time. In order to keep them affordable all cleaning is carried out by members of the management committee so we do ask that hirers leave the hall as they would like to find it!

Our next fund-raising event will be the Book Sale on **Saturday 23rd March**. If you have books to donate (or any bookshelves that you no longer need), please email northmoretonbooks@gmail.com or call 07934104555.
Nora Haycock Chairman NMVHC

Neighbourhood Watch

Fraud costs the British economy £73 billion a year and criminals use a number of sophisticated scams to try and snare victims.

To ensure the public are informed about these scams to allow them to spot them, Thames Valley Police has produced a booklet which aims to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of fraud.

The Little Book of Big Scams, which includes a foreword from Esther Rantzen, includes sections on identity fraud, scam mail, door to door scams and internet scams. As well as details on different types of frauds, there are a number of helpful hints, 10 golden rules to avoid becoming a victim, and case studies. The booklet also gives details on where to go to get help and how to report fraud if you do become a victim.

The booklet and other useful information, is available to download from www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

Thames Valley Police send out regular community messages by text, phone or email. If you would like to receive these messages direct, please register at www.Thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.

Nora Haycock, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

North Moreton Boot Camp

North Moreton Boot Camp is up and running on the recreation ground (behind the Bear) at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings with Elite Personal Trainer- Louise of The Wright Direction.

It costs just £5 per person and is an outdoor, whole body workout and anyone (of age or ability) is welcome to come and join in. Perfect for anyone looking to get back into exercising, those wishing to keep fit or start their sport's pre-season training (maybe for cricket!?!).

Please contact Louise (thewrightdirectionpt@gmail.com) or call **07914 201064** for more information.

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

Didcot & District University of the Third Age monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining.

The March meeting of D&DU3A is being held at 2 p.m. on **Tuesday 19th March** at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic is **The Incredible World of the Honey Bee**.

Didcot & District U3A aims to encourage and enable older people in Didcot and District who are no longer in fulltime paid employment to help each other to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experience. *A wide range of interest groups has already been set up including wine appreciation, creative writing, walking, bridge, crafts, books, photography and 5 languages.*

For more information call 07804159993 or email:

didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Local Community Music and Arts Festival 17th – 22nd June 2013

This exciting event is being organised by South Moreton School and aims to bring together pupils and parents from the school with local communities in a celebration of Music & Arts, including concerts and exhibitions of work by pupils and local artists.

The Moretons and Astons Singing Group have met for the first time and enjoyed an evening of wine and song led by Mark Stanley, experienced local choir leader. New members are very welcome to the next meeting from 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 5th March** at South Moreton School. Previous experience or the ability to read music are not necessary.

We would also like to hear from any musicians/bands who would be interested in joining us in performing at a concert during the week of 17th June. Please contact Ann Redding on 01235 813110 or email office.2566@south-moreton.oxon.sch.uk.

Calling all Artists!

If you live in the local area and would like to contribute to an art exhibition or workshop or other similar community art event, we would love to hear from you. We want to celebrate the artistic talent of the local community. Please contact Ann Redding as above.



A Star is Born – and North Moreton Celebrates

Many of us have been to piano duet concerts featuring Polly Vacher and her duet partner Patricia Loveland. But perhaps you do not know that Patricia Loveland went to drama school after retiring from her career as a midwife and has just had a significant role in Dustin Hoffman's film Quartet, also starring Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Michael Gambon, Sheridan Smith and Andrew Sachs.

When the film opened in Didcot in the first week of January the Vachers organised a splendid celebration for Patricia Loveland. Fifty of us, including Patricia herself, met for tea, went to see the film in Didcot and then all had supper in the Bear.

We had no idea how big a part Patricia would have, but the very first image in the film is of her, and she appears throughout the whole of the rest of the film. We were all very touched by her performance; and she was touched when the staff at Didcot Cineworld announced her presence to the audience after the film and gave her very well-deserved flowers.

Polly and Patricia are giving another Concert for Two Pianos on Friday 26th April and Saturday 27th April to raise funds for the Air Ambulance and for work on the North Moreton Church Bells: please come!

Nick Sanders

Concert for Two Pianos

Pianists: Polly Vacher and Patricia Loveland

Programme to include works by Bach, Debussy, Gershwin and Grainger

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th April

Melhuish Farm, Wallingford Road, North Moreton

Tickets (to include three course dinner) £22.50

from Pvacher@aol.com or call 01235 812202

Proceeds in aid of North Moreton Church Bells and The Air Ambulance

Tea Concert

On **Saturday 13th April** at 3 p.m. at Melhuish Farm, North Moreton, there will be a short two piano concert and afternoon tea at Melhuish Farm. This is to enable children, mostly of primary school age, to have the experience of listening to 'live music'. Adults however will certainly not be excluded! The concert will be light classical music and will not last more than half an hour.

Tickets are £5 adults and £2 children. All proceeds will go to *South Moreton School Outdoor Learning Centre*.

If you would like to come and bring your children please contact Polly Vacher at pvacher@aol.com or 01235 817554 for a leaflet and form. All welcome!

Volunteers needed to help with Concert Dinners on 26th or 27th April

If you are not able to attend the Two Piano Concert on 26th or 27th April - perhaps you would enjoy being involved 'behind the scenes'! We need volunteers for the following:

26th April evening from 6.30 p.m. - five volunteers needed to serve dinner, drinks etc and wash up

27th April morning from 9.30 a.m. - volunteers to help iron table cloths and sort and wrap cutlery etc for the evening performance

27th April evening from 6.30 p.m. - five volunteers needed to serve dinner, drinks etc and wash up

Evening volunteers will get a free dinner!

If would be great if you feel you could help. The concerts are in aid of the North Moreton Church Bells and the Air Ambulance - both very worthy causes.

If you can help, please contact Polly Vacher as above.

News from All Saints' Church

March will be a busy month in North Moreton and All Saints' a hub of activity. There are several services this month which we would love to see everyone at. Mothering Sunday on the 10th is going to be our "All Ages Worship Service" and we have some lovely activities planned for the young. Palm Sunday is an evening service this year and we have a service on Good Friday at 2.00 p.m. Finally Reverend Clive Holmes will take the Easter Sunday Service at 10.30 a.m.

We are still looking for Family volunteers to sign up for one Sunday each month. The PCC would also like individuals to join the Church Electoral Role. The forms are in the Church and can be returned to Mary Green at Little Orchard. Those on the electoral role will be able to vote on the decisions made at the Annual General Meeting on the **7th April**. This will take place immediately after the service on that day.

We will have some lovely Easter Treats to give to everyone who attends on Easter Day and we wish everyone all the best on this important day in the Christian Calendar. If you would like to attend any Lent Groups before this date there is a leaflet inside the church explaining all the things going on in the Benefice.

Vickie Squires, Joint Churchwarden

North Moreton Fête

For many years the Fête has been the highlight of the Village calendar as well as a principal source of funding for our beautiful Grade I listed Church.

This year the Fête will take place on **Sunday 19th May**. Many of the stalls etc are run year after year by the same willing volunteers but we do need two or three people to plan and coordinate the day. All the necessary information is on file - all that is needed is a few hours of **your** time in this essential role.

If you are able to help 'make the Fête happen' please contact Vickie Squires, victoriacreates@btinternet.com, as soon as possible.