

North Moreton News

Issue 105

June 2014

Useful Information

PCSO: Catherine Johnson, 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: 0845 310 1111 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
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 June, 3/17 July, 14/29 August
Green & Garden Bins: 12/26 June, 11/24 July, 7/21 August
Bank Holiday changes marked in Bold.

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www.North-Moreton.com*

The Circus is coming to North Moreton!

On **Sunday 28th September** Circus Bezercus will be coming to the Barn at North Moreton House to raise funds for the replacement of playground equipment. The show has had rave reviews and promises to provide a fun-filled afternoon of comedy and chaos for all the family. More information and details of how to purchase tickets will be sent out in due course but put the date in your diary **now!!**

The Playground Action Group (PAG) thanks everyone who visited their stand at the Village Fete and took time to complete the questionnaire and review the proposed options for new playground equipment. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire and would like to do so, a copy will be sent out by village email shortly. Please take time to reply - your input and opinions are valued and needed, especially if you have children or grandchildren who enjoy using the playground. Alternatively, a hard copy can be obtained by calling Nora Haycock on 812202.

The group will shortly be submitting the first of several grant applications and are busy planning further village fund-raising events. PAG will be delighted to receive suggestions (and offers of help!) for these but in the meantime look forward to seeing you at the circus!



North Moreton Parish Council

Road closures

The Parish Council has just received notification of road works to be carried out on Long Wittenham Road and Dunsomer Hill at the end of June. The work will involve edge-strengthening, and will be financed by Network Rail and Oxfordshire County Council.

This will involve 15 days of road closures, beginning on **23rd June**. In the first phase, Dunsomer Hill/High Street will be closed for an estimated 5 days, during which time anyone wishing to travel between North and South Moreton will have to use the A4130/ring road/Hithercroft Road (or the officially proposed diversionary route via Cholsey!).

In phase 2, Long Wittenham Road will be closed for an estimated 10 days, with traffic being diverted via Wallingford Road.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator is now installed and working, and we are awaiting a date for a training course from the ambulance service. In the meantime, however, the equipment is very user-friendly. When you open the door, a disembodied voice tells you exactly what to do and once the pads are fixed, the machine itself decides whether or not a shock is required. To gain access to the box, dial 999 and contact the ambulance service who have the access code (this is also available from the Bear, the Haycocks and from me).

Ros Templeman, Chairman NMPC

Recreation Ground Warden

Iain Craigie has kindly agreed to take on the job of Recreation Ground Warden, filling a long-term vacancy. The job is to help the Parish Council by keeping a regular eye on the Playground, and solving or reporting any problems, particularly involving Health and Safety. The job also includes a watching brief for the Rec., the Rushcroft and the adjoining footpaths, although Moreton Cricket Club have prime responsibility for cutting the grass in the Rec. and keeping it tidy.

Iain has already repaired gaps in the fence in the Playground and designed and made a new pedestrian gate for the Rec. entrance in Bear Lane, as well as helping to keep the footpath from the Rec. to the Village Hall tidy and passable.

Roger Haycock, NMPC

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

JUNE

- 2 NMPC Meeting & AGM, Village Hall 8pm
- 7 'Astonbury', Astons Recreation Ground 2 - 10pm
- 11 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14 'Uptonogood' Bike Ride & Family Fun Day
- 22 Festival Eucharist, All Saints' Church 6pm
- 23 Closure of High St/Dunsomer Hill for up to 5 days to be followed by Long Wittenham Road for up to 10 days

JULY

- 8 NMPC Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 9 W I Garden Meeting
- 13 NGS Open Garden, Filberts, High Street 2 – 5pm
- 24/27 Beer & Cricket Festival
- 30 Woodland Adventure Day 5 - 8 year old Wittenham Clumps

AUGUST

- 4 - 8 Clumps Club for 8 - 12 year olds Wittenham Clumps
- 14 WI Summer Outing

SEPTEMBER

- 8 NMPC Meeting, Village Hall 8pm
- 10 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 28 Circus Bezercus North Moreton House 3pm



Up- tonogood Bike Event & Family Fun Day

With Mountain Bike events ranging from a little wheels rides and family rides to an adult only endurance ride, there is a bike event to satisfy the whole family! The event will take place in Upton, South Oxfordshire on **Saturday 14th June**. For more information please contact Bob on 0789031612/01235 851222, visit the www.uptonogood.org.uk website or email info@uptonogood.org.uk

Moreton Cricket Club

With the season well under way and despite some poor weather initially, the Cricket Club is making good progress although not all results have gone our way so far especially in the Davidstow Village Cup and the Friendly Cup. But with the majority of the season remaining we have some excellent fixtures to come. The Ladies and the Juniors in particular have plenty of games to look forward to.

We have also hosted two Girls U 13 County matches at The Rec. against Hertfordshire and Nottinghamshire and very importantly, the Oxfordshire team included Georgia Haworth - well done Georgia!! We've had a great turn out for the Juniors' coaching session on Friday evenings; any more juniors out there are most welcome to attend. Likewise anybody who would like to have a go is welcome to come and join us. All standards are acceptable, we have some very good coaches!

Don't forget the date for the Beer and Cricket Festival, **24th - 27th July**.... it should be a great weekend both for cricketers and spectators alike.

Trevor Denning, President MCC

North Moreton Village Hall

Despite some initial qualms about moving the date to the Easter holidays, the Book Sale held on 26th April was as successful as ever, raising a total of £832 for hall funds. A big thank you to everyone who supported us by buying or donating books - we had some super stock this time! - and, of course, an extra big thank you to all our helpers.

Our maintenance project this year will be to re-treat the exterior woodwork with preservative and replace 'blown' double-glazed panes the windows before painting the frames.

If anyone has, or knows, of an electric floor scrubber surplus to requirements (an old Hoover scrubber/polisher would be ideal), we would be delighted to have it for use on the kitchen floor.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

North & South Moreton WI

The new committee was duly elected at the AGM in March. Liz Elliot is continuing as President and we were pleased to welcome Angela Watkins Rowe to the committee.

This year's programme is now in full swing. Unfortunately, the February meeting had to be postponed because of extreme weather conditions. Luckily, the speaker, Paul Ridley, was able to reschedule his talk on 'Colour in the Garden', which was enjoyed by several members from local gardening groups, as well as our own members.

April's meeting was also open to guests and was well supported. Michael Hodges came to speak about 'History beneath my Feet'. He brought a wide range of articles he had found whilst using his metal detector and gave lots of useful information with the stories behind his discoveries, some of which were extremely old. This year's Resolution concerning organ donation was discussed at the May meeting.

The Open Meeting in June is 'The Changi' Quilts', which should be very interesting and the Garden Meeting is in July, so we will be hoping for a fine evening. At the moment, details are being finalised for the August outing to Buscot Park and Faringdon House.

The Group Meeting, which was attended by several members, was at Woodcote Village Hall, when Corrie Starling, the miller from Mapledurham, gave a very interesting talk. Two members are attending a Food and Flowers demonstration at Benson and in July we are providing teas for the Open Gardens event, which is taking place in North Moreton.

Visitors are always welcomed to our meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of the month, mostly at North Moreton Village Hall. Please contact Liz Elliot on 01235 812562 for more information.

Penny Busby

Open Garden in aid of National Garden Society

On **Sunday 13th July** the garden at **Filberts, North Moreton High Street** will be open between 2pm and 5pm in aid of NGS charities.

Entrance: Adults £3, Children Free. Home-made teas available in the Village Hall.

Earth Trust Events

The Earth Trust have a great summer programme planned for all the family.

Events include workshops on Charcoal Making & Sketching, Garden Sculpture and an Introduction to Scything; fun Activity Days for all the family; a Woodland Adventure Day for 5 - 8 year olds on 30th July and the popular 'Clumps Club' between 4th & 8th August for 8 - 12 year olds.

For more information visit www.earthtrust.org.uk or call 01865 407792.

Wallingford Museum

Wallingford Museum has a lot to offer for its season ticket this year. All for just a £4 season ticket for adults, and FREE for children!

As well as the main 2014 special exhibition 'Siege & Strife: Wallingford & War', and the resident exhibition of 'The Wallingford Story', there is the ever-growing display '**At home with the Queen of Crime: Agatha Christie**'.

This features the world-renowned author, Agatha Christie, who lived with her archaeologist husband Max Mallowan in Winterbrook House, Wallingford, from 1934 till her death in 1976. Many of her novels were written there. The house is identifiable by its Oxfordshire Blue Plaque.

The exhibition takes you behind the scenes to her home life, featuring photographs of her at Winterbrook House and memories of local people who met her. You can read several personally handwritten letters which reveal her love of pantomimes and her gradual frustration as her health declined in her final years. Many stories have been gathered from Wallingford and Cholsey people who knew 'Mrs Mallowan' – people who visited her, served her in shops, worked for her at Winterbrook House and even interviewed her!

Plans are being made for an Agatha Christie Weekend throughout Wallingford and Cholsey (19th to 21st September). Further details in the September issue.

The Bear update - two months under our belt and we're still smiling!

Lucy and I want to thank you all for the warm welcome and tremendous support we've had from the village since we took over at the beginning of April. It has been hard work and there has been a lot to learn, but it has also been a lot of fun. Thoughts are inevitably turning towards implementing some of our long term plans, which we want to share with you:

- the pub needs internal redecoration and a start has been made in the function room. Feedback on the colour has been positive (thank you, we like it too!) and so we will be rolling it across the rest of the public areas over the next two months.

- regular visitors will have noticed work going on in the separate outside garage unit. New water and waste connections have been installed and the unit is now being fitted out for food preparation. Alice, who has been working as our chef on Mondays and Tuesdays, will be using it for her outside catering business and is looking forward to being based on site. Once in place Alice will be able to offer more support to the pub kitchen and we can think about how to increase the food offer, particularly bar snacks and other amenities outside normal kitchen opening times.

- the website needs updating and generally the IT side of things needs to be brought to life. We have a list of email addresses which Tim used to inform regulars about forthcoming events, and those of you on that list can expect to hear from us from time to time on pub activities. Feedback always welcome, and if you are not sure whether we have your contact details and want to be sure of being included in the circulation then please drop by and leave your email address with us.

- I'm told there are some important football games coming up so we will be organising some facilities to allow you to see the games in the pub. The more the merrier so come and join us.

Lucy & Patrick Marple

That's all for now, and thank you North Moreton News for providing space in the magazine for this update.

All Saints' Church

Firstly we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made the North Moreton Fête held on 11th May so successful! Despite the windy and cold weather with looming showers, our faithful volunteers set about making the day a super success! The battens were tied, extra layers were worn and visitors came to enjoy the donkey cart rides and numerous stalls. Sales of ice cream were low but the tea tent did a booming business whilst the sounds of the fantastic ukulele band chimed out across the grounds. The band, together with Muffin and Wizard the obedient donkeys, were the highlight of the day!

Marion and Ian Shipton, Elle and William Pound, Nora and Roger Haycock, Sue and John Harrison, John Jones, Chris Lewis and Gar Evans were much appreciated as main helpers in charge! Other helpers, too numerous to mention, also contributed enormously and it is such a relief to us that they give their help so willingly year after year! We feel blessed that North Moretonites give so generously to this cause. The total raised was in excess of £3000 with a significant portion of this being the proceeds from the raffle; Patrick thanks his generous donors for all the fantastic prizes and help given!

June will be an exciting month for North Moreton because it marks the visit of Bishop John on **22nd June** to preside and preach at a Festival Eucharist Service to be held in All Saints' Church at 6 p.m. This is to celebrate the anniversary of the death of Miles de Stapleton and his two sons at the Battle of Bannockburn on 24th June 1314. The 700th anniversary highlights the Chantry Chapel he built with its famous St. Nicholas Window. The window is, of course, listed in Simon Jenkins' book 'England's Thousand Best Churches'. A reception will follow the Bishop's Service and we welcome all to partake in both. A beautiful new arched screen has been made to show new photographs and information about the rare stained glass window. We have worked hard to produce the screen which will display the details of the window and we thank Nick Saunders for his photographs and work on this. Please do come see the display in the church even if you can't attend the service.

Again we thank everyone for all their contributions to the Fête!

Patrick Greene and Vickie Squires, Churchwardens

Village Tents

Bridget and Richard Macfarlane have very kindly donated their large tent to the Parish Council for use at village functions. This will shortly be joined by a slightly smaller version and the two together will allow us to seat up to 130 people in comfort, and also provide wet weather backup for events such as the annual Fete.

The new tent has been financed by a grant from North Moreton Charitable Trust and private donation.

Both tents will be available through the Village Hall booking system for private hire by residents at very competitive rates and the income generated used to cover insurance costs and for the provision of additional village amenities.

For more information email NMVH@hotmail.com or call Alison Sanders on 810880.

Can you help?

We are currently trying to find out a bit more about the history of Alders Farm Barns, and in particular the wall that runs along Long Wittenham Road. We were hoping that someone may have some old photos showing how this was in the past or any information on when this was built. We are trying to establish how the land was before the barns were built. Our back garden is currently quite high in comparison to the road - has it always been like that ?

We have some old aerial shots before the barns were developed but unfortunately they just miss our back garden. We understand that the barns were converted in 1979, but can't find out much more than that.

If anyone has any further information or photos then could they please contact us - email nicky.pike@hotmail.co.uk, call 07801068440, or pop in.

Thanks in advance,

Nicky & Stuart Pike, Woodstock, Alders Farm Barns

Casting of Bells

Friday 16th May, was a very special day for me. After fourteen months of planning and some intensive money raising, I was able to witness a very important part of our bell project. The new treble bell, to give North Moreton a ring of six bells, and the new Sanctus bell were cast at the bell foundry at Whitechapel, London.

The journey across London brought me to Whitechapel Station and the walk along the colourful market-lined street, with the multi-cultural and multi-lingual stalls provided the sharpest of contrasts, as I turned in through the old-fashioned façade of the Whitechapel Foundry. Bells have been made on this site for hundreds of years and the method used identical to that of medieval times. The moulds for our bells can be used only once and the cope or outer mould is made from sand, clay and manure from horses, bedded on straw, not wood shavings (too sharp). Handfuls of this precious stuff were handed around for inspection (I passed) before we visited the actual foundry. Space was very limited as we were sharing with a community from Yorkshire and the heat was intense.

The pouring of the bell metal is necessarily very quickly done and the bells left over the weekend to harden. We also inspected three of the other North Moreton bells, there for re-tuning and new fitments. The remaining two bells had also paid a visit to the Foundry earlier, so that those responsible for tuning could listen to their sound. As these two are the oldest bells in the ring (14th century and 1591) they are 'listed' and no alterations or tuning is allowed. Fortunately, the others, plus new treble can be tuned to tone with these, so the best possible sound can be achieved. The new Sanctus bell will be tuned to an octave higher than the treble.

I was not alone in finding the event very moving. The Whitechapel staff are very kind and spent time in explaining the processes and history of the Company. I very much look forward to the bells' return and after the small matter of raising further funds for the new ringing gallery, being reinstalled at North Moreton. I would love to be able to give a firm date, but I am really hoping they will be back for Christmas.

Beryl Jones (510035)