

Useful Information

PCSO: call the Wallingford Team on 101
Non-Urgent Police calls: 101
Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111
NHS Non-Emergency Number: 111
Parish Clerk: Clerk@north-moreton.com 01235 511427
Parish Council Chairman: Ros Templeman 07969 349 831
SODC Councillor: Jane Murphy 07970 932054
OCC Councillor: Simon Clarke simon.clarke@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Church Benefice Office, Blewbury: 01235 850267
Parish Transport Representative: Veronica Gibbs 01235 813829
Village Hall Bookings Marion Shipton NMVH@hotmail.co.uk
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators:
Elm Road: Derrick Stevens Phone/Fax/Answer m/c 01235 812951
Rest of Village: Nora Haycock northmoreton08@btinternet.com 812202
Concessionary Travel: 0845 310 1111 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Didcot Volunteer Drivers: 01235 816709
Wallingford Volunteer Centre: 01491 836345
North Moreton Volunteers: 01235 812202, 813829 or 813006
Postal Services: The Village Stores, Brightwell:
Mon. - Fri. 9.30 - 5.30 Sat. 9.00 - 13.00 01491 835551
Astons Village Hall Tuesday 9.30 - 12.30
Citizens' Advice Line: 08444 111 444
Consumer Helpline: 03454 04 05 06 www.adviceguide.org.uk
Refuse & Recycling Collections: alternate Thursdays
Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays with recycling
Black Bin dates: 5/19 March, 3/17 April, 1/15 May
Green & Garden Bins: 13/27 March, 9/23 April, 7/21 May
Please note: Bank Holiday collections in bold.
Extra garden waste collection on 21st May.

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North Moreton News

Issue 128

March 2020

SAVE THE DATE VE DAY 75th Anniversary FRIDAY 8th May 2020

Please Save the Date in your diary for the VE Day 75th Celebrations in North Moreton.

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, with Winston Churchill officially announcing that the Nazi High Command had surrendered to the Allied Forces. As such the early May bank holiday in 2020 has been moved back to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe.

North Moreton are proposing a street party (closing Wallingford Road between the T-junction and the bend) from 1 - 4pm to celebrate as a village with any outside guests you wish to invite. We will be providing Victory chicken salad and will be sending forms out for you to fill out stating how many guests you'll be bringing (£5 per non-village member) and also suggesting you bring side salads, drinks and a dessert for your party. There will be an ice-cream van for later on! Music and a sing-a-long obviously to keep spirits high!

Please keep an eye out for the email and form that will be sent end of March. A paper version will be delivered to households not on the village email list.

If you have any questions or wish to contribute in any way, please do not hesitate to contact one of the VE Day 75 committee members:-

Liz Vallance - liz.vallance1@btinternet.com

Philippa Burton - phil@northmoretonlodge.co.uk

Bridget MacFarlane - bridget@cobbsfarm.co.uk

Mia West - miawest@hotmail.co.uk

North Moreton Parish Council

Flooding

It is good to be able to report that the improved flood defences in the village, both public and private, have stood up well to the recent spate of wet and stormy weather. Nevertheless, the increased flow of mud and debris along the gutters has led to a few blocked road drains, and the current advice is to report all highway matters, including drains and ditches, via www.fixmystreet.com. The website allows you to pinpoint the location on the Ordnance Survey map, and to add a photo and description of the problem. Although this is recommended as the way to get the fastest response, it is likely that in the current circumstances there may be quite a delay!

Car parking on the Recreation Ground

Following very helpful site meetings with the new SODC Senior Drainage Engineer, and one of Janet Prescott's landscape experts, we now have plans to divert Bear Lane runoff from the car parking area into the Rushcroft ditch, and to provide surface reinforcement, particularly to the entrance. We have been lucky to obtain funding from our County Councillor, Simon Clarke, for new gates and fencing, which will allow us to have a small courtesy car park that is permanently accessible from Bear Lane, but normally closed to the rest of the Rec.

Housing

Another piece of good news is that we now have enough new houses in the village to satisfy the requirements of the Local Plan. However, there have been suggestions that a few more small, "affordable" houses would be welcome, particularly from the point of view of young people who have grown up in the village, and older villagers wanting to downsize, all of whom would like to be able to stay in North Moreton.

For a number of reasons, the Parish Council has rejected the idea of a formal Neighbourhood Plan or Community-Led Plan, but would be keen to canvas the opinions of villagers with regard to any further building development in the village. To this end, we propose to hold a special meeting on the subject some time over the next few months, where we will be pleased to hear any and all opinions on the topic; but if anyone would like to speak to us beforehand, they're very welcome to do so.

Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

MARCH

- 2 Literary Event, Village Hall 10am
- 2 -5 South Moreton Pre-school Open Days
- 7 Village Verge Clean, 10am - 12noon
- 8 MCC Clean-up Day
- 11 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14 S M Pre-school Quiz & Pudding Evening, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17 Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall 8pm Everyone Welcome!
- 19 Village Walk, Meet at Bus Shelter 10am sharp
- 25 Sustainable North Moreton Meeting, The Bear 8pm
- 26 Coffee Morning, All Saints' Church, 10am - 12noon

APRIL

- 8 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12 Easter Sunday Eucharist, All Saints' Church 9am
- 17 Junior Cricket Sessions start
- 18 Book Sale, Village Hall 10am - 3pm
- 24 Coffee Morning, All Saints' Church 10am - 12noon

MAY

- 2 Plant Sale, Village Hall 9.30am - 1.30pm
- 2 - 10 South Oxfordshire Art Weeks
- 8 VE 75 Street Party, Wallingford Road 1pm - 4pm
- 13 WI Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8pm All welcome

JULY

- 23 - 26 Beer & Cricket Festival

The Astons (and surrounding villages) Toddler Group

Fridays 9.30 - 11.30 (term time only) at Centre of Reflection, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9EJ.

Tea/coffee for mums and snacks for the children. Lots of toys for all ages as well as an outdoor area.

For more information contact Clare at astonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com or just turn up - all welcome

Recycling and Waste Disposal

Local Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closed for 2 days in March and April for deep cleaning and essential maintenance:

Drayton (Abingdon) - **Tues 28th & Wed 29th April 2020**
Oakley Wood (Wallingford) - **Tues 31st March & Wed 1st April 2020**

Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures.

For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of the centres.

Oxfordshire CC have recently come up with the Waste Wizard - an online tool to help you get your waste to the right place. Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled - oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard.

This is similar to SODC's Binzone which has the advantage in that it can be downloaded to your smartphone and also tells you which bin you should be putting out each week.

Apps that can Save a Life!

Hopefully everyone in North Moreton is aware that we have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) located by the Village Hall. However, how would you know where to find a defibrillator in say Oxford or Reading? Fortunately Android & Apple users can now download the 'Save a Life' app to their smartphone or tablet. This app uses GPS functionality to show where the nearest AED is, wherever you are in the UK, as well as providing a list of other AEDs in the area. It also features videos, CPR instructions and a section that will answer many of your cardiac arrest and heart attack questions.

Another free app that might just save your life is 'what3words'. What3words has divided the world into a grid of 3m x 3m squares and given each square a unique three-word address which can be obtained by using the app. For example [///outgoing.refilled.covenants](https://www.what3words.com/) will identify The Bear and [///stance.mentions.mole](https://www.what3words.com/) the village hall! The app also works offline and the format is consistent anywhere in the world – so make sure you download it before you go on holiday!!

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 8pm on **Tuesday 17th 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. It's 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

Moreton Cricket Club

The 2020 season is not far away and the Cricket Club is looking forward to another enjoyable summer. Pre-season preparations get underway on **Sunday 8th March** when there is a working party to get the pavilion and the ground ship-shape. The Women's team will again compete in the Home Counties League this season and we are also running an Under 15 Girls' team. The Men's team will have its usual run of Thursday evening and Sunday fixtures as well as looking to defend its title in the South Oxfordshire Friendly League. The Junior section Friday evening sessions start on **17th April**. The Beer and Cricket Festival runs from **Thursday 23rd July to Sunday 26th July**. The opportunity for local firms to display advertising banners will be available again. Should anyone know of any local businesses who may be interested, could they let me know?

One date for people to put in their diary is **Saturday 3rd October**. The Club will be hosting its end of season dinner then and the former England Test cricketer Derek Pringle has agreed to be the guest speaker that night. Details from Ben Dewey will follow later on in the year.

Mike Howat, President, MCC

How to contact North Moreton Volunteer Driver Scheme

If you need transport to any medical appointment just call **01235 812202, 813829 or 813006** with the details of your appointment and we will do our best to find someone to take you. Please do speak to one of the coordinators rather than leave a message and give as much notice as possible. Journeys are charged at 45p/mile and include reasonable waiting time. For queries or more information contact Nora - contact details on back page.



North & South Moreton WI

Our small and friendly WI group meet on the second Wednesday in each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and we are always keen to encourage new members to join us. Ladies of all ages are welcome. We have talks from a whole range of speakers as well as several social events and it's a good opportunity to get to know different people..... just turn up or get in touch with Veronica on 813829 or Sue on 817042 if you have any questions! Some meetings are 'open ones', where we have speakers that we feel would appeal to a wider audience of both sexes and these are advertised in the village newsletter and on the noticeboard.

In December we learned about Emergency Coordination at a county level from Carol McKay and were very impressed by the planning that is in place for Oxfordshire, while our January meeting saw us all get together for a most enjoyable dinner at the Red Lion In Cholsey In February our meeting was a talk from Ian Wheeler about Four Generations at Fairmile which was particularly poignant as Ann Howat, a long term member of our WI and who sadly died only recently, used to be a psychiatrist there.

This will be followed by our AGM in March where we will discuss the WI resolutions for the coming year and a talk on Art Therapy for Disadvantaged children in April.

Veronica Gibbs

Sustainable North Moreton

'...after a chance meeting on a cold windy walk around North Moreton, the thought of forming a sustainability interest group in North Moreton was born. What this should be and do is still far from being imagined, but the idea of at least establishing a conduit for the environmental issues that face our small community was seen to be a worthwhile thing to pursue.

As a way forward, we've invited two members of Sustainable Blewbury to come to North Moreton on **Wednesday 25th March**, for an informal meeting to pass on their experience. Starting at 8 o'clock, in the rear room of the Bear, please come along. In the meantime, the Sustainable Blewbury website is well worth a view and shows what can be achieved!

Bob Price Springbank 01235 813006

Moretons Table Tennis Club

Although MTTC has moved from South Moreton School to new premises in Didcot, players of all ages and abilities from North Moreton are still very welcome!

The club is open to all comers on Wednesdays from 1900 to 2200 at UTC Oxfordshire, Greenwood Way, Harwell, Didcot OX11 6BZ (please use OX11 6DL for Satnav purposes) - for more information visit their Facebook page: [@moretontabletennis](#).

North Moreton Website

www.North-Moreton.com.

I have rewritten the village website and hopefully it is now more user friendly. Please take a look - at the moment it works on PCs, Androids and Macs but not yet on Iphones or some Ipads. I am updating it to work on these.

Please send me copy and pictures to put on the site if you have any news (admin@north-moreton.com). Believe it or not, according to web statistics, over 3,000 people hit the site every month - and that's not me!

Ian Shipton

Wallingford Museum in 2020

Wallingford Museum re-opens on 2nd March with two new special exhibitions, and many family-friendly events during the year,



'**Plague, Pus and Pills**' is the deservedly graphic title of the main exhibition which traces the fascinating history of Wallingford's hospitals, caring for the sick in the town from medieval times to the present day. The second exhibition is '**Willis family of Wallingford artist and artisans**' who, in the 19th Century, lived and worked in what is now The Dolphin public house.

To find out more about these and family-friendly events during the school holiday, visit www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.



**South Moreton Pre-School are hosting
A Quiz and Puddings Evening
At North Moreton Village Hall
On Saturday 14th March
8pm - 10.30pm**

£12 per ticket; which will include entry to the quiz; 1 free drink (alcoholic or soft drink); unlimited puddings

Teams are a maximum of six people

A cash bar only will be available on the night.

There are a limited number of tickets and these will be issued on a first come first served basis

South Moreton Pre-School

OPEN DAYS

You and your child are invited to experience all that South Moreton Pre-School has to offer through an open morning/afternoon.

We have places available for children aged 2-5 years and are a flexible provider of the 30-hours free childcare scheme. To attend, please contact us to make an appointment on 01235 819657 or

email southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com

Monday 2nd March 10am-12pm

Tuesday 3rd March 10am-12pm

Wednesday 4th March 1pm-3pm

Thursday 5th March 1pm-3pm

We look forward to meeting you

Village Walk

Our traditional 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 19th April**, meeting at 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 stiles! This is a great opportunity for newcomers to the village to investigate our footpaths and (I hope) to make some new friends. Dogs on leads welcome although there are stiles in first section.

For more information, contact Matt Greenhalgh (07753 988060).

North Moreton Village Hall

So far the new decade has proved a busy time for the hall with the Cricket Club Quiz and several private events in addition to our regular bookings.

The next fund-raising event will be the Spring Book Sale on **18th April**: full details can be found on page 7 and Claire and Alison hope that their regular helpers (and anyone else with a little time to spare!) will be able to come along to the hall from Tuesday 14th to help sort the new stock.

To book the hall or hire tables/chairs etc. please email NMVH@hotmail.co.uk. The booking form can be downloaded from the village website: www.north-moreton.com.

Nora Haycock, Chairman NMVH

Village Verge Clean

The annual village clean-up will take place this year on **Saturday 7th March**. Meet at the grass triangle in Long Wittenham Road from **10 a.m.** to help clear all the accumulated rubbish from the hedgerows and verges before the stinging nettles take over.

Rubbish bags, pick-sticks and fluorescent jackets will be provided but garden gloves and wellies are recommended!

Great exercise for all ages! Even just half an hour of your time would be very much appreciated.

Maggie and Muir Parker

All Saints' Church News

What are you going to be doing on the first weekend in May? How about some ideas for the garden? There will be a **Plant Sale at the Village Hall from 9.30am to 1.30pm on Saturday 2nd May**. All proceeds will go to the maintenance of All Saints' church. While you are planning your tomato harvest and taking stock of your flower beds, you will also be able to choose from a range of produce and enjoy the coffee, tea and cakes on sale.

You may already have heard that this year, the Village Fete has made way for the **VE75 celebrations** that will be taking place in North Moreton - and across the country - a week later (**8th-10th May**). We will be organising alternative events throughout the year to raise vital funds to help maintain our outstanding church building.

In January, a sourdough session at Melhuish Farm, courtesy of Polly Vacher, raised more than £400, as Vickie Squires showed bakers how to make two different types of loaf. Everyone agreed that they had food for thought and that Polly hosts a good lunch. Rumour has it that there will be more sourdough bread from Victoria's Pantry at the Plant Sale in May.

Easter will soon be with us. All Saints' will hold an **Easter Eucharist service at the earlier than usual time of 9am on Sunday 12th April**. The celebration of Easter has been part of North Moreton life for hundreds of years and we look forward to welcoming you. Come and join us.

Jill Fletcher and Libby Macdonald will also welcome you to the **Coffee Mornings at All Saints' on Thursday 26th March and Friday 24 April from 10.30am until 12 noon**. It is good to catch up.

Keith Hutchence, North Moreton PCC

News from the Bell Tower

Following three Saturday morning training sessions, held in Blewbury and North Moreton, there are four new bell ringers now able to join their towers for bell practice nights and eventually for service ringing. The really good news is that three of these, will be ringing for All Saints'. Following the loss of Alice Auckland, to Dundee, plus Barry Sadler, to retirement, we have been totally dependent on support from the Branch to ring for services at all. One of our learners, Charlie Nickless, with the enviable confidence of youth, shows every sign of mastering control of a bell rope in record time. Well done Charlie.

Beryl Jones



SWING ALONG WITH THE DONKATHON!

Preparations are progressing apace for this year's summer challenge for Wizard and Muffin. We have experienced so much interest and generous support it is quite overwhelming. We now have stabling at all our 26 stops and are in the process of finding accommodation for humans!

The departure date is **17th July at 10am** - so come along and join in the fun! We will have a piper to send us on our way!

All this is to support MS Research as my nephew was diagnosed with this dreadful progressive disease at age 26.

Polly Vacher

BOOK SALE

Saturday 18th April

North Moreton Village Hall 10am - 3pm

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

Also individually priced books

Light refreshments available

To donate books contact **Northmoretonbooks@gmail.com** or call 01235 814617 or 818544. Collection can be arranged.

Free Entry

Proceeds in aid of hall & church funds