

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: 12/16 June, 9/23 July, 7/21 August
Green & Garden Bins: 4/18 June, 3/17/31 July, 14/28 August

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North Moreton News

Issue 129

June 2020

A Village Under Lockdown

There were blue skies over North Moreton on the 75th anniversary of VE Day, even if the bluebirds stayed away. We have had more sunshine this spring than previously recorded: 610 hours from March 1 to May 20, according to the weather observatory at Reading University. Perhaps we can put some of this - and the clearer views of the stars at night - down to good, old-fashioned fresh air.

Thanks to the forbearance of our local landowners and the system of pathways around the village, we all seem to have been out walking as part of our government-prescribed fitness regime. The roads have been all but empty. So, what did you do under Lockdown?

For the first time in more than 800 years, the people of North Moreton were unable to celebrate Easter Day, the most holy day in the Christian calendar, in All Saints' Church. This is something the Black Death failed to achieve: both the Vicar and the Rector survived the first wave in 1348, despite it killing around a third of local clergy and inhabitants. Bubonic plague was a feared visitor for the next three centuries. In 1603, 53 North Moreton villagers died in an outbreak that started when an infected traveller arrived in Oxford from London.

On the anniversary of VE Day, it was only natural to liken the lockdown to war. During the English Civil War, this part of what was then Berkshire found itself between the rival forces of the Royalists and Parliamentarians. At the start of the First World War, village farmer Bud Finch recalled how the young menfolk were recruited and the farm horses were herded on the Downs above Blewbury, on the first leg of their journey to the battlefields of Flanders. The women took the place of both for the duration.

In the Second World War, it was religious services as usual, while the bells at All Saints' were silenced, along with all the others across the country. The bells were to have been rung as a signal of an invasion by enemy forces. Victory in Europe in May 1945 was celebrated here with a tea, sports, a dance, fireworks AND a peal of bells.

In 2020 our plans for a Service of Thanksgiving were postponed by the government order to close our churches. But North Moreton was unbeaten when the Stay at Home celebrations went ahead, thanks to the dynamism of four ladies of this parish and the enthusiasm of all. Similarly, the plant sale at the Fete that is not a Fete has so far raised more than £1,000 for local causes.

The village pub and the village hall are now closed. Making The Bear off-limits to the drinking and eating public will have been widely felt, not least by John and Heather, who have invested so much in it. When the doors are thrown open again, there will be as much need for customers as there will be for an inn. The diversification into Friday Night Fish Suppers has been a great innovation. What we need now is to follow the lead of Denchworth, the other side of Wantage: there, they have found a local millionaire to pay for the locals' fish and chips ...and then reward their attempts at dieting!

We cannot be sure that North Moreton is yet over the worst of a global pandemic. By the late May bank holiday, according to the Office of National Statistics, there had been NO deaths "involving Covid-19" in the Hagbourne, Moreton and Cholsey division of South Oxfordshire. Let us hope and pray that this new contagion may - like all of us - keep its distance.

Keith Hutchence

North Moreton Parish Council

Thank you

At its virtual meeting on 19th May, the Parish Council was keen to record its gratitude to everyone in the village who has helped out and shown kindness to their neighbours during the COVID-19 crisis, especially: Nora Haycock for running the WhatsApp help group and circulating COVID-19 updates via the village email; Steve Waring for verge clearing in Wallingford Road; Iain Craigie for maintenance jobs all around the village (even before the current crisis); Roy Crabbe for his knife and garden tool sharpening service, and cycle repair; Clare Price, Janet Prescott and Mary Greene for running the plant stall so effectively; John, Heather and family at The Bear for providing shop facilities and delicious Friday fish and chips; the VE75 Celebrations Committee for keeping the show on the road (or street!); and all the helpers who have done shopping and collected prescriptions, printed and delivered emails, and driven patients to hospital.

Free IT advice

www.astonsonline.uk theastonsonline@gmail.com

Free IT advice to computer users in our communities

10:00 to 12:00 every Tuesday morning

remotely instead of in the Astons Village Hall.



We help with internet and all sorts of other IT issues including:

- Contact with family & friends – Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp, Skype, FaceTime
- Shopping - Amazon, Sainsbury, Ocado, Tesco
- Social networking such as Facebook, Twitter
- Free prescription delivery, such as Echo
- Buying and using a smartphone, tablet or laptop
- Free Online entertainment

Please request help by email to theastonsonline@gmail.com or, if this is impossible, by phone to 07780958249. When you contact us, please tell us:

- about your specific issues;
- how you would like to be contacted, with phone numbers and email addresses,

We will agree an appointment time with you. No helper should be asked to enter your home, see confidential material including passwords, or access your devices remotely.

***We're here to support you;
please make no apology when asking for help.***

Remote Clinic Appointments

Video consultations have been introduced for **out-patient appointments**.

Attend Anywhere® is a web-based platform being piloted across 40 NHS trusts in England, including Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Trust, which enables clinicians to hold a video consultation with a patient rather than a traditional outpatient appointment or clinic.

Patients and staff can access Attend Anywhere® on any internet-enabled device and there is no need to download and install any special software – the patient is simply sent a weblink. Using Attend Anywhere® **reduces travel time and costs for patients**, enables staff to work remotely, and reduces traffic congestion and car parking issues on hospital sites.

The use of Attend Anywhere® has increased markedly during the COVID-19 pandemic when many face-to-face appointments have not been possible, not least to keep patients safe by reducing the risks of a hospital visit.

The OUH Trust has **run over 1,900 video consultations** with patients, totalling 655 hours of video consultations since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when visiting restrictions and the postponement of routine operations and outpatient appointments were put in place. The number of video consultations undertaken has put the OUH in the top 10 Trusts nationally for the use of video consultations. A key part of the Trust's recovery plan is how to **maintain and build on this digital innovation**

Fly Tipping – How to report it:

Go to southoxon.gov.uk, then click on 'services and advice' and type 'fly-tipping' into the search box; click 'Fly-tipping' when it appears & fill in the 'report fly-tipping online' form, or phone **03000 610 610**.

Reporting Potholes :

Potholes and other road-related problems can be reported by emailing www.potholes.co.uk or www.fixmystreet.com

Hedges and paths

With many more people than usual walking around the village, it is more important than ever to keep pavements clear, and the Parish Council would remind residents that it is their responsibility to ensure that their hedges do not obstruct any pavement or public footpath adjacent to their property.

Dog Fouling

The current heavy use of the village footpaths and recreational areas has led to an unwelcome increase in the quantity of dog poo left lying on the ground, where it sheds bacteria that can live for years in the soil, attracts flies, is toxic to horses if ingested, and is very hard to remove from footwear and children. The Parish Council has already provided three bins, two in the Rec and another at the bus shelter, and plans to install another at the end of the track opposite the village hall, so **please do use them, and clean up after your dogs**.

Ros Templeman Chairman NMPC

The Bear

Please note that, with immediate effect, John and Heather will not be taking orders for milk, bread, fruit etc. or providing their excellent Friday Fish & Chips.

They very much regret any inconvenience caused but need to concentrate on preparing the bar and kitchen for a partial reopening .

I'm sure that we all join them in hoping that that will take place very soon!!

All Saints' Church News

You are invited to join us for online services, while All Saints' is closed for worship.

You will find details of the Churn Benefice worship at: <https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/services-this-week>. Father Jason and the Ministry Team will be there to welcome you.

Our clergy team is always happy to have a chat. You can find their details on the Churn website. Otherwise, call the Benefice office on 01235 850267.

Moreton Cricket Club



Sadly, most of the Cricket Club's report concerns what we have been forced to cancel. There has obviously been no cricket in April, May and June. This year's Beer and Cricket Festival will not take place and the end of season awards' night and dinner has been postponed. To taunt us even more we have had the nicest cricket weather I can remember for the early season and the ground looks a picture.

At least now the cricket net may be used. Only one lane is to be used and there are other regulations to be followed. Members of the same household may use the net and you can also play in the net with one member of another household as long as social distancing is observed. Only members of the Club may use the nets and they have to be pre-booked. Any questions relating to this can be directed to Tim Haworth via tim@busbar.biz. Members of the Club have been sent an e-mail with a link attached to book times to use the nets. Tim can also be contacted in relation to one-to-one coaching sessions which can be arranged (with part proceeds going to the Club).

We still retain some hope of playing later in the summer and there is the potential to extend the season into the first couple of weeks in October if the weather allows us and lockdown restrictions have been eased further. As I noted, the end of season event has been postponed and not cancelled. Derek Pringle has said he is still willing to be the guest speaker when it does take place, and our current plan is for it to be a pre-season event for the 2021 summer to celebrate what we hope will be the resumption of normal service.

Mike Howat, President, MCC

North Moreton Village Hall

Although the hall, along with most other public buildings, remains closed, we have been able to utilize the down-time to carry out additional internal cleaning and to have the outside re-decorated.

We look forward to re-opening as soon as we are allowed and will keep you updated via the village email system and website.

Nora Haycock Chairman VHMC

VE Day - VJ Day

The 'Stay at Home Street Party' to celebrate VE day was a great success and provided a much-needed morale booster during these difficult times.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and, of course, to Phillipa Burton, Liz Vallance, Bridget Macfarlane and Mia West for their excellent organisation - and for getting North Moreton 'on the map' or at least on local radio!

It seems a shame, however, to let all the brilliant decorations gather dust when there's an opportunity for another celebration particularly as restrictions of meeting up with friends and family are slowly being eased.

VE day, as we all know, celebrates the end of hostilities in Europe but World War II finally ended on 15th August 1945 (VJ Day) with the cessation of hostilities in the Far East.

The 75th Anniversary conveniently falls on a Saturday so if you need an excuse for another party, there it is!



A History of North Moreton by Gerald Howat

Some years ago Maggie Parker lent her copy of the above book to a new arrival in the village but, as so often happens, it has never been returned.....

As it is now out of print, she would very much appreciate its return - her name is inside the cover!

Thank you

North Moreton Charitable Trust

The Trustees would like to thank Iain Craigie for all the work he has carried out in Farmoor Wood - the small wooded area on Wallingford Road accessed from the track leading to the old Recreation Ground.

The path and much of the undergrowth has been cleared, self-seeded saplings felled and little tracks created to encourage the under-fives to explore in safety.

There is still much work to be done, and volunteers are welcomed, but it really is a wonderful place to sit for a while and enjoy the bird song.

For more information or for offers of help contact iamcraigie@gmail.com

Food Banks

During this difficult time, more and more people are being forced to rely on food banks. Unfortunately however, with so many people either self-isolating or shopping for family and friends, in-store donations have decreased and financial donations are vital.

Normally Wallingford Food Bank helps around 400 people but currently this has increased to 1000!

If you would like to help, donations can be made via their website: www.wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk/support or by cheque payable to Wallingford Emergency Foodbank via the Fountain Book Shop in St Mary's Street. Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from their website.

The Didcot Food Bank is run by Didcot Baptist Church: cheques should be made payable to the Church and sent to Didcot Food Bank, c/o Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot OX11 0BS.

Those who know Alice Penney may be interested to know that she is currently managing the Wallingford Food Bank as the regular management team are self-isolating.

Donkathon 2020

Due to the Corona virus lockdown we have had to postpone the Donkathon until next year.

This has given us lots of time to make the event a bigger and better Donkathon so please keep an eye on www.donkathon.org We will post you as soon as possible with revised dates.

The Donkathon is a 200 mile donkey drive from North Moreton to St Melangell in North Wales. See www.stmelangell.org in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Research. My nephew was diagnosed with MS at the age of 26. It is a devastating progressive disease and as yet they don't know the cause and therefore can't find a cure.

Do look at the website where you can buy a selection of colourful polo shirts (all profits go to MS Research) or maybe contribute BUT - Most importantly please take an interest and maybe come along with us for a while. All are welcome - it will definitely be a 'Fun' event.



Polly Vacher

Moreton Table Tennis Club

MTTC runs a night for those who want to play table tennis socially and enters several teams in the Didcot and District Table Tennis Association leagues.

All playing has been suspended at present, but there will be opportunities once the Government relax restrictions.

The exciting news for the forthcoming season, usually starting in late September, is that we have secured new improved playing premises. MTTC home base is now the Didcot University Technical College (UTC). This is located in Greenwood Way Didcot, OX11 6BZ (but please use OX11 6DL when using the SatNav!), there's plenty of parking. When we have definite dates an information email will be circulated on the NM email group. Hoping to see new members, all are very welcome.

Bob Price (bob.clare_price@btinternet.com)

Sustainable North Moreton

We look to resurrect our inaugural meeting, a talk by Sustainable Blewbury, once we are allowed to meet up again. Several villagers have expressed interest in establishing a group which can disseminate information and act as an 'umbrella' for local sustainability initiatives. We're particularly keen on projects that involve children and teenagers. At this stage, as many ideas we can have the better, so if you have a particular idea or pet cause, please let us know.

North Moreton Plant Stall

A big THANKYOU to all those who donated plants, garden gear and cash and of course to all of you who purchased plants and seedlings. We have raised £1050 for All Saints Church fund and more than £400 for Style Acre Charity. The biggest thankyou to Janet for such energy, inspiration and generosity sowing, potting on and planting up many many annual, perennial and veg plants.

Amongst the last of our plants will be 50+ sunflower seedlings for the.....

NM Village Sunflower Challenge

Sunflower seedlings are available for a 50p donation. Pop a request for one to plant in your garden into the bird box on the plant stall or by email to bob.clare_price@btinternet.com with your house name/number and our enthusiastic young horticulturalists will deliver to your doorstep. With present safe distancing in mind we are sorry no change can be given but your donation can be left for deliverers or popped into the bird box on the plant stall. We hope everyone who grows sunflowers will use the seeds or keep the seed heads hung up for the birds. A healthy homegrown snack or something to sustain our wildlife!

Clare Price

Book Sale

The next book sale is planned for **Saturday 31st October** lockdown regulation permitting, and as usual, it will be held in North Moreton Village Hall.

Donations of books are always welcome. If you have any books to donate, please contact Northmoretonbooks@gmail.com, or call 01235 818544 or 01235 814617. Collection can be arranged

Proceeds as always in aid of church and hall funds.

Alison Wolfe & Claire Steen

South Moreton Pre-School

Following the Government's guidance on opening schools and early years settings, South Moreton Preschool is getting ready to welcome their children and families on Wednesday the 3rd of June. The staff works hard to implement all protective measures needed for their safe return. More details about our preparations can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PreSchoolSouthMoreton/

South Moreton Preschool has also started offering places for new children for September. If you would like to reserve your place for school year 2020/21, please contact via email:

southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com or visit our website:

<https://southmoretonpreschool.co.uk.gridhosted.co.uk/> to download our registration form.



The flyer for South Moreton Pre-School features a central logo with a smiling sun and a row of colorful children. Text on the flyer includes: "Children play and explore outdoors routinely, enjoying walks in the natural environment and challenging their physical skills on large-scale equipment" (top left); "Children thrive in the pre-school environment and parents comment how much children enjoy attending" (bottom right); "Friendly, welcoming and inclusive", "Secure, spacious open plan setting", "Wide range of flexible activity areas", "Large garden and nature walks", "Places available for children from aged 2 to 5", and "Flexible provider of 30-hours free childcare scheme"; "Register now to reserve your place for 2019/20"; "We welcome children from the Moretons, Astons and surrounding areas, including Didcot, Wallingford, Cholsey"; and "For more information, to arrange a visit or register for a place, you can contact us on 01235 819657 or southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com Visit our website <https://southmoretonpreschool.co.uk/>". There are three photographs: a playground with a slide and trampoline, an indoor play area with tables and chairs, and a room with a table and chairs.