

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:northmoreton08@btinternet.com) 812202

**Concessionary Travel:** 0845 310 1111 or [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

**Refuse & Recycling Collections:** alternate Thursdays.

**Garden Waste Collection:** alternate Thursdays with recycling

**Black Bin dates:** 4/17 September, 1/13/29 October, 12/26 November

**Green & Garden Bins:** 10/24 September, 8/22 October, 5/19 November

Bank holiday dates in bold.

Double brown bins on 5th November

# North Moreton News

Issue 130

September 2020

## NM Green Shoots

A wonderful germ of an idea, masterminded by Iain Craigie and his grandson Billy, has grown into NM Green Shoots. This is a community initiative for all, to promote a village interest in growing food and plants, learning about and sharing ideas on propagation, conservation and sustainability. We can't leave it all to the government, the action must be from the ground up!

NM Green Shoots is based at the community allotment found by taking the path immediately left after the last house on Long Wittenham Road. Here you'll find vegetable beds, compost bins, a shed, 1000 litre water tank and a polytunnel donated by North Moreton Charitable Trust. See the North Moreton website for more information.

Look out for the 'show you' afternoon where you can make your own interests known, show your children what they could get involved with, meet other villagers over a socially distanced drink, and acquaint yourself with a nice place just to be! Some ideas so far include building a solar-powered watering system, wildlife photography and drawing, a communal herb garden, community fruit and veg, creating and enjoying a pond..... email us with your ideas to [Green\\_shoots@north-moreton.com](mailto:Green_shoots@north-moreton.com).

We are excited by all the possibilities and community links to be made.... the project can be what villagers want to make it!

***NM Green Shoots Crew***

Editor: Nora Haycock, Peckwater, North Moreton. Phone 01235 812202

**Email: [Northmoreton08@btinternet.com](mailto:Northmoreton08@btinternet.com)**

**Copy for the December issue should reach the Editor by  
22nd November**

*North Moreton News is published four times a year & can also be read on line at  
[www.North-Moreton.com](http://www.North-Moreton.com)*

## North Moreton Parish Council

### The Rushcroft

One of the more positive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the increased use of the Rushcroft (the area with picnic tables in the corner of the recreation ground). With the fine weather and the relaxation of lockdown, several groups who have been unable to meet indoors including the WI, the church, and the book group, have congregated down there in the sunshine and enjoyed the benefits fresh air and face-to-face contact whilst of course observing social distancing rules! Unfortunately, there have also been instances of less acceptable behaviour, when beer bottles have been smashed and broken glass has been littered around the play equipment. The Parish Council would be grateful if villagers would keep a lookout for such antisocial behavior, and if unable to deal with it themselves, contact Ian Shipton, the councilor responsible for the Rec. ([ishipton@gmail.com](mailto:ishipton@gmail.com); 07801 704508).

### And yet again...Dog poo!

No-one who has walked around the village lately could have failed to notice the increasing amount of dog poo in the grass. Apart from being unsightly and a nightmare to remove from shoes, dog poo can cause blindness in children and is toxic to horses and other animals if ingested. Please keep an eye on your dog (s) when walking and clear up their poo - not just from the paths but also from the longer grass on path edges and in fields - and dispose of it responsibly.

### Parish Council meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 1st September** in the Village Hall, observing social distancing rules. Residents are welcome to attend.

*Ros Templeman Chair NMPC*

### Road Closure

Please note that Calvin Thomas Way (Wallingford Bypass) will be closed from 20.00 to 06.00 nightly from **28th September to 2nd October** to allow for work on the access to the new housing estate.

## Dates for your Diary including Forthcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 NMPC Meeting Village Hall 8pm All welcome
- 6 Service in All Saints' Church 4pm
- 9 WI meeting on the Rush Croft 7.30pm
- 12 Ride and Stride
- 13 Church Service on the Rush Croft 4pm

### OCTOBER

- 10 Quinney Day All Saints' Church 10am - 12.30pm
- 11 Harvest Festival All Saints' Church 4pm
- 14 WI TBA

### NOVEMBER

- 10 NMPC Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- 11 WI TBA

"Children play and explore outdoors routinely, enjoying walks in the natural environment and challenging their physical skills on large-scale equipment"



**South Moreton**  
**Pre-School**

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  
Flexible provider of 30-hours free childcare scheme

**Register now to reserve your place for 2019/20**

"Children thrive in the pre-school environment and parents comment how much children enjoy attending"

We welcome children from the Moretons, Astons and surrounding areas, including Didcot, Wallingford, Cholsey

For more information, to arrange a visit or register for a place, you can contact us on 01235 819657 or [southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:southmoretonpreschool@googlemail.com)

Visit our website <https://southmoretonpreschool.co.uk/>

**50 Year in North Moreton .....** *An extract from an article written for North Moreton News in 2010 by the late Anne Howat who moved to the Old School House in 1960.*

North Moreton Parish was the same area as now, but there were fewer houses and a lack of pavements. There were milk farms using both tractors and horses. Cows walking from fields to milking parlour past our gate meant that boots and shoes were better left on the doorstep.

Elm Road was a track with the buildings of Pond Farm and many mosquitoes on the shallow pond. North Farm and Park Farm were the nearest to Wallingford, while Cobbs Farm, Alders Farm and the much used allotments were at the Southern end of Long Wittenham Road near the Queen Victoria Public House. St Peters Farm was at the end of Bear Lane as now, but there were fewer houses.

At the Bear Inn, Norman Mawrey, who had played Northern Rugby League, made sure our children drank only what they should. His wife, a Danish ballet dancer, worked hard in their busy pub.

The Village Hall had been one of the many 'homes' of Thames Valley Eggs - as was our house when it ceased to be a school in 1938. The hall was not as smart as it is now, but was a venue for meetings and shows.

The 'Rec.' Fringed with elm trees, was much used in the summer, especially for cricket, but the playground was poorer than now.

An added joy to our life in North Moreton has been an outlook on to the 13th Century Church, where we have rung the bells, played the organ and seen our daughter confirmed and married.

-----

Hopefully the above extract brought back memories for those who lived in the village during that period, and that newer residents found it interesting.

Although much of the history of North Moreton has already been documented by the late Gerald Howat, Kelvin White and Bud Finch, there are many aspects still to be recorded.

If you are interested in being part of an informal group to carry on with this work, I would love to hear from you.

To see what can be achieved by a small group, visit the history section of the Astons Community Website: [www.theastons.net](http://www.theastons.net).

*Nora Haycock (Nora.haycock@btinternet.com)*

## Moreton Cricket Club



Having at one point feared the 2020 season would be the first since 1945 to see no cricket at Moreton, we have been delighted to have been able to enjoy some good games from mid-July onwards.

We started with a very enjoyable internal fixture to get us used to all the coronavirus-related regulations now in force. By the end of August the men had played eight matches, winning four (Ewelme, Sutton Courtenay, Aldworth and Brightwell) and losing four (The Astons, Woodcote, Stonor and Sunningwell). The Anniversary Cup v Brightwell was retained and the Howat Cup v Sunningwell was lost. In addition, a strong Moreton side was put out by Ben Dewey to win the Squadron Leader's six-a-side competition. The Women lost to strong opponents in Henley and Finchampstead, but have had good wins against Berkhamsted and Chesham. Ed Squires has run Friday sessions for Juniors on Fridays throughout July and August.

If the weather is forgiving we may try and carry on with fixtures into early October to make up for earlier games lost. I am sure the lack of action in the first part of the summer has made us all appreciate the friendly cricket we all enjoy at Moreton even more.

*Mike Howat . President , Moreton CC*

## North and South Moreton WI

During these difficult times, sadly we haven't been able to hold our normal monthly meetings in the village hall but we have kept in touch as far as possible.

It was a delight to be able to meet up both this month and last on the Croft for a socially distanced picnic and we look forward to the next get outside together on 9th September.

If you would like to be involved in this very friendly small group do get in touch with Sue on 01235813829 or Veronica on 07788752628

*Veronica Gibbs*

## North Moreton Village Hall

The Management Committee are pleased to advise that the hall will be reopening on 1st September although only for those events currently allowed under Covid regulations. Social distancing and hand hygiene measures have to be observed and at the moment face masks must be worn apart from when attending exercise classes

Covid regulation and the list of permissible events are subject to change so please contact the booking clerk via [NMVH@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:NMVH@hotmail.co.uk) for up to date information.

Tables, chairs, etc. are still available for hire - all prices and booking form are available on the village website [www.north-moreton.com](http://www.north-moreton.com)

*Nora Haycock Chairman VHMC*

## The Bear is Back!

The new look Bear is now open for business and John & Heather look forward to welcoming you.

Food is now available so you can once again enjoy Heather's excellent fish and chips! For the full menu or to book table visit their Facebook page or call 01235 811311.

Opening hours; Tuesday to Saturday: 12.00 - 15.00 18.00 - 23.00  
Sunday: 12.00 - 18.00 Monday: Closed

## North Moreton Charitable Trust

The Trustees are very pleased to support the excellent 'NM Green Shoots' project and congratulate all those involved.

A reminder that the Trust is able to make a grant of £75 to any young person on attaining the age of 18, whose family have been resident in the village for a minimum of one year.

Please apply to the Clerk to the Trust ([nora.haycock@btinternet.com](mailto:nora.haycock@btinternet.com)) giving your age, a brief description of your further education, apprenticeship or job, and the likely purpose towards which you would apply your grant.

## Astons Online

**Free and friendly IT help** is available to North Moreton computer users every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 noon until the end of 2020. Book an online appointment by email: [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) . ([www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) for more information)

**Online meetings** about digital photos at 10:30 – 11:15 on **Tuesday 15th September** and about on-line communication (Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp etc) at 10:00 - 11:15 on **Tuesday 20th October**. Book a place by email: [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) . ([www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) for more information)"

## South Moreton School Time Capsule Project

South Moreton Primary School is planning to launch a community-wide time-capsule project when the children return in September, to preserve elements of this historical period for future generations. We would love parents and the wider community to be involved (photos of village activities / family photos of lockdown / letters to the future / diary entries etc) and will send out details in September. The project will form a central part of the children's learning on their return to school, with writing tasks focusing on producing material for the capsule.

If anyone has any relevant experience in organising such a project, or could help source an engraved plaque to mark the site, we would love to work with you! Likewise, if you have things that you would like to contribute then please keep them safe over the Summer. We will send out further information in September.

*Cheryl Sánchez, Headteacher*

## JANE VALLINGS DOG WALKER



Located in Aston Upton and offering dog walking services within a 4 mile radius. With a love of dogs, years of experience, fully insured and qualified in pet first aid.

Please get in touch:

[info@janevallings.com](mailto:info@janevallings.com) / 07885 529520.

## All Saints' Church News

The Saints go marching in at **4pm on Sunday 6th September for the first public worship in All Saints' Church since the start of lockdown.** It follows what must be one of the longest periods that our village church has been out of use in the past 800 years. Under the current Covid legislation, churchgoers will have to wear face coverings and there will be no singing. But we will be having the music, prayers and reflections that have been the hallmark of our joyous - and joyful - Open Air Church on the Rushcroft over the summer.

During **September, Sunday services will be held at 4pm.** We will, though, be making a **one-off return to the Rushcroft on Sunday 13th September** before the autumn starts to draw in.

During the lockdown, some parishioners joined the online Benefice services on Sunday mornings. For the moment, these will continue and details can be found at: <https://www.churches.co.uk/services-this-week>

**Quinney Day** and our **Parish Gift Day will be on Saturday 10th October.** Quinney Day is when we invite villagers to come to church between **10am and 12.30pm** to help with that simple maintenance that does not require professional help, such as removing cobwebs, polishing woodwork, oiling the doors and tidying the churchyard. Please make a note in your Diary. We will also be in touch about our **Gift Day.** We do rely on your generosity to carry out the work that will require professional help, if we are to keep our beautiful church together for the future.

Our **Harvest Festival service** will be at **4pm Sunday 11th October.** We hope regulations will allow us to have tea afterwards. More details nearer the time.

Finally, some warming news. **A new heating system is to be installed this autumn,** thanks to a very generous donation. In the words of one parishioner: "This should change life as we know it." So, there's another reason to come along on a cold, dark Sunday!.

*Keith Hutchence, Secretary, North Moreton PCC*

## Plant and Produce Stall

Thank you again to all those so generously donating surplus produce, cuttings, plants and flowers and those purchasing from the stall. We have supported the North Moreton All Saints Church (£1050), Style Acre Charity (£480) and NMGreenShoots (£300). The stall is now supporting a charity suggested by a villager: DidcotTRAIN

DidcotTRAIN ([www.didcottrain.org.uk](http://www.didcottrain.org.uk)) exists to improve the life opportunities of children and young people in Didcot and surrounding areas, especially those who are in need, disadvantaged or vulnerable, by empowering them to make informed decisions, attain stability, and become integrated members of society.

If you have a suggestion for a charity you would like the North Moreton Plant and Produce Stall to support in the future, please let us know at [Green\\_shoots@North-Moreton.com](mailto:Green_shoots@North-Moreton.com).

## Wallingford Photographic Club

..... is back for the 2020–2021 season. All meetings are online at the moment but we are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday. Evenings start at 7.30pm and run until around 9.30pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm.

In September, we have our AGM on the 3rd, before our Welcome Evening for the new season on the 10th. On the 17th we have a talk from Colin Harrison on "Creative Flower Photography". We plan to run a critique evening on the 24th. Looking slightly further ahead, on 1st October we will have a talk by Rosemary Wilman called "The Way I See It".

Please visit [www.wallingfordphoto.club](http://www.wallingfordphoto.club) to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

*Emily Dunn*

## Book Sale

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions we are unable to hold the October Book Sale but we look forward to being back in 2021!

*Alison and Claire*

## The Gift of Giving: Patrick Greene (1935-2020)

In the past 25 years, North Moreton has lost 3 champions, who battled on behalf of the village without seeking personal reward. The first two were Ron Quinney and Gerald Howat. The third was Patrick Greene, who passed away on 26 June, aged 85.

Patrick's record of service to the village would take some beating. He served 16 years (or 4 terms of elected office) as both District AND County Councillor over a continuous period that ran from 1995 to 2017. In recognition of his "notable service" that included a year as both Chairman of the District and County Councils, Patrick was created an *Honorary Alderman of the County of Oxfordshire* when he eventually stood down. If you lived in North Moreton, it did not matter whether you were a Tory or not, he was able to attract council funding for local choirs in which our villagers sang, as well as apply pressure in the right places for the timely resurfacing of our roads. It makes a big difference when your village has a representative on the local authorities. There's a vacancy there right now!

If that was all, it would be a lot. He was also the Conservative Agent in the Wantage Constituency for 21 years: a man of considerable influence, supporting our local MPs, Robert Jackson and Ed Vaizey.

Closer to home, he was a Churchwarden at All Saints' for 24 years: taking a leading role in conserving our ancient village church, including the installation of a servery, as well as mains water and sewage, to allow the building to be used for a wider range of village functions. Here, we not only saw his firm Christian Faith but his skills as the ultimate local fundraiser: refusing to take *NO* for an answer or let any potential donor escape as he raised thousands of pounds from the Raffle at the Village Fete and the *Ride and Stride* for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust ...which - in turn - raises more money to support his beloved church, All Saints'.

We all seem to have our own story about Patrick. He was an influence for the good of North Moreton. And many beyond our parish boundaries will have reason to remember him: for his work on water supply, flooding, raising money for the county's firefighters and - in his year as County Council Chairman when the repatriation of service personnel was transferred from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton - he made sure that all those, who gave their lives for us overseas, were shown the honour they deserved upon their return. The list goes on. Forgive me for what I have not mentioned.

Patrick's wife, Mary, survives him. She herself served 8 years as a District Councillor. North Moreton was taken: so, she represented Brightwell and the Wittenhams, upon being elected. Mary and Patrick made a redoubtable team. They arrived in the village 55 years ago, built their family home *Little Orchard*. and raised 3 daughters - Carolyn, Helen and Julia - before recently moving to Elm Road. We will all send Mary and her family every good wish at this sad time.

Like Ron Quinney and Gerald Howat before him, Patrick arrived in North Moreton, fell in love with the village and sought out what he could do on its behalf. Like them, he never left.

*Keith Hutchence*

## Ride & Stride Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020

OHCT (Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust) are delighted that the Ride + Stride event IS taking place this year and we hope you will consider taking part.

Collect donations/sponsors for your ride/stride trip round historic churches in Oxfordshire. (Have you seen the new window in Blewbury's church or taken a look at Eric Blair aka George Orwell's grave in Sutton Courtenay?) Nominate All Saints Church, North Moreton on your form for your local historic church to directly receive half the funds raised. The other half is used by OHCT to support specific vital maintenance and repair projects in the county's historic church buildings. All Saints North Moreton has been a grateful recipient of these monies.

Everyone is welcome to take part – as an individual, as a family or as a group of friends – trips large or small. Please register using the Sign up for Ride + Stride <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/take-part/> or just let us know and we can drop the paperwork through your letterbox.

Lots of information including churches open, route planner and special events in Oxfordshire appear on the website but let us know if you are cycling for North Moreton, if you would like to join a group of cyclists or have any other questions.

Ride-Stride Co-ordinators: Bob & Clare Price:  
(Bob.clare\_price@btinternet.com)