

Useful Information

PCSO: call the Wallingford Team on 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: 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

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 813246

Rest of Village: Nora Haycock northmoreton08@btinternet.com 812202

Concessionary Travel: 0845 310 1111 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Didcot Volunteer Centre: 01235 816709

Wallingford Volunteer Centre: 01491 836345

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

Benefice Office: Blewbury: 01235 850267

Refuse & Recycling Collections: alternate Thursdays

Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays with recycling

Black Bin dates: 6/20 September, 4/18 October, 1/15/29 November

Green & Garden Bins: 13/27 September, 11/26 October, 8/22 November

Please note: Double Brown Bin collection on **26 October**

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North Moreton News

Issue 122

September 2018

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway update

The Expressway Action Group (EAG) has recently received a copy of a letter from Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Housing, emphasising the Government's commitment to development of the OxCam corridor into a "world class economic hub", with up to a million new homes by 2050, and inviting "local authorities from across the corridor to bring forward ambitious proposals for transformational housing growth, including new settlements."

The EAG has issued the following press release:

The Minister's letter asks local authorities to reply by 14th September with ideas for 'new settlements' in their areas, in order to help plan for a million new homes along the Oxford to Cambridge Arc and the Expressway. We have asked our member communities to write to their local Councils expressing their deep concern.

We strongly support Affordable housing - and the existing Local Plan already includes 100,000 new homes by 2031. However, the Minister's letter quotes an ambition for 1 million more homes by 2050 and that implies another 200-300,000 homes in Oxfordshire. Surely Government can't expect plans of this scale to emerge in 6 weeks? EAG believes Oxfordshire's Councillors, voters and residents must have their say before any New Towns are imposed on them.

Regarding the Ox-Cam Expressway, we know that better East-West rail and road links are needed to reduce congestion and pollution and we support this. To minimise environmental damage and unnecessary costs, the emphasis should be on using existing road links closely aligned with East-West Rail - and that means a Western & Northern route round Oxford towards Bicester. This would also avoid overloading the M40 with new London commuters, which would happen if the Expressway and its housing were built South of Oxford.

No decision has yet been announced on the choice of route for the Expressway, but a key factor in the comparison between corridors will be the amount of new housing which each can accommodate. Although the routes south of Oxford are more costly and more damaging to the environment and the Green Belt, and would separate the Expressway from the East West Rail link between Oxford and Cambridge, they are apparently all still under consideration. This includes the route running between Didcot and South Moreton, despite assurances to the contrary given to the EAG in April.

Dates for your Diary

Residents are urged to write to their District and County Councillors, District and County Council leaders and MP to express their concerns. So far, the response from SODC has been encouraging; the council will not be submitting any suggestions for additional housing or settlements, and is maintaining its support for a route west of Oxford and via Bicester.

Car Park

The Parish Council has been pleased to receive useful comments, both for and against an open car parking area in the corner of the recreation ground, and would welcome any further thoughts you may have. We are currently obtaining quotes for various types of porous grass pavers.

Apologies

To anyone disturbed by the fireworks on the Rec in July. The display was put on by a professional company, with all necessary precautions, but turned out to be much louder than anticipated. In future, we will ensure that the whole village is informed in advance, and not just the immediate neighbours!

PC Meetings: 4th September and 13th November 2018 . All welcome!

Ros Templeman, Chairman NMPC

Volunteer Transport?

Since we lost our regular bus services, those who are unable to drive obviously find it very difficult to get to medical or personal appointments and even to visit the shops. Most people have family, friends or neighbours who help out but they are not always available; taxis are expensive and Didcot and Wallingford Volunteers have to be booked several days in advance.

To help with this problem, the Astons have started an 'in village' volunteer transport group which has proved very popular.

How does it work?

The volunteer drivers are linked by a WhatsApp group. When someone needs a lift they telephone anyone on their list of drivers who then puts out a group message. When a driver indicates that they can fulfil the request, they contact the customer direct and make the arrangements. There is a small set charge for each journey. The aim is not to provide a taxi service but to help others to do some of the things that those of us with our own transport take for granted.

It seems to be an excellent idea and we wonder whether we might be able to set up such a group in North Moreton?

SEPTEMBER

- 4 NMPC Meeting, Village Hall 8pm Everyone welcome
- 8 Ride & Stride
- 8 Wallingford 'Agatha Christie' Day
- 12 W.I. Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17 Coffee Morning, All Saints' Church 10.30am - 12 noon
- 19 Ladies Latin Fitness Class starts, Village Hall 8pm

OCTOBER

- 6 MCC End of Season Party, The Bear 7.30pm - Midnight
- 7 Harvest Festival, All Saints' Church, 10.30am
- 10 WI Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Quinney Day, All Saints' Church 10am - noon
- 17 Electric Blanket checking, Didcot Fire Station
- 18 Coffee Morning, All Saints' Church, 10.30 am - 12noon
- 27 Book Sale North Moreton Village Hall 10am - 3pm

NOVEMBER

- 10 Charity Card Sale and Soup Lunch, Village Hall 11.30 - 2pm
- 10 Pre-Christmas Arts & Crafts Exhibition, The Bear 11am - 7pm
- 13 NMPC Meeting, Village Hall 8pm Everyone Welcome
- 14 WI Meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 24 Gangbusters' 60's Night , Village Hall 8pm in aid of Dementia UK

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 Rural Crime

If you become a victim of rural crime or suspect that a crime has taken place, you should report it to police by calling **the non-emergency number, 101**. If an incident is in progress, or there is an **immediate threat to life, you should call 999**.

First Aid Box

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the village hall First Aid box? It was last seen in the PR gazebo at the Fete but it never made it back to the hall!

If you have any idea where it might be, please contact Nora or any member of the hall committee.

Is your Electric Blanket Safe?

Get your electric blanket checked by Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards and Fire and Rescue:

- **17th October** - Didcot Fire Station

Testing is free, all you need to do is book in advance by contacting the County Council on 01865 898642 or by emailing communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.

Agatha Christie Day - Saturday 8th September

You can join guided walks from Wallingford Town Hall: town history walk at 11am, special Agatha Christie and Midsomer Murders walk at 2.30pm - or visit Wallingford Museum for the Queen of Crime exhibition revealing her connection with the town - alternatively follow a self-guided trail to Cholsey visiting Agatha's grave in Cholsey churchyard (or travel by heritage train).

More details on Wallingford Museum's website.

'HOME TO THE BEAR'

MCC End of Season Party

Saturday 6th October

7.30pm - Midnight

Live Music Disco Awards

Tickets £20 (to include food) available from The Bear

Non-members welcome!

If you are interested in taking part, either as a driver or a user, please contact Veronica Gibbs (Vagibbs@btinternet.com), Nora Haycock or call 812202.

Moreton Cricket Club

A memorable and hot summer is drawing to a close and it has been a very successful one so far for Moreton CC. The new nets were opened officially by the former England cricketer, Derek Pringle, at the start of June and have already been put to regular use. On the field it has been very heartening to see that, instead of having to struggle to fill the last few places on a Sunday, there have been more players wanting to play than places available most weeks. The Sunday XI has retained the Anniversary Cup (against Brightwell), regained the Howat Cup (against Sunningwell) and awaits the Final of the Friendly Cup. Our finest performance saw the heavy defeat of the All Sorts (a wandering club we have played since 1982) when both Sam Smith and Tom MacDonald scored centuries. In the Wednesday evening South Oxfordshire Friendly League we held our own against some strong opponents, winning three of the seven games and losing four; wins came against Dorchester, Clifton Hampden and Goring.

Although the Sunday was a wash-out, the weather was kinder to the Beer and Cricket Festival than in 2017. On the field Moreton enjoyed a successful time with wins against Conway's Cavaliers and Aldworth in the Friday T-20's and a successful defence of the 6-a-side competition on Saturday following an exciting final against our old friends and rivals from Amsterdam CC.

The Festival followed close on the heels of the tour to Bordeaux, details of which are a little hazy, but the impression created was that a good time was had by all. Sunday July 8th was quite a day for the Club with the Men's team winning their tour game against St Aulaye, the Women's team winning their match against Westbury and the Under 11 team winning their match against Purley.

Ed Squires has, yet again, done sterling work with the Junior section. It has helped having a series of warm evenings, but on many of the Fridays we have had up to fifty boys and girls at practice. In the South Oxfordshire Development League the Under XI team won four of their five matches with victories against East and West Hendred, Abingdon Vale, Purley and Watlington

Mike Howat, President, MCC

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. 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!

This month the group and a few extra friends enjoyed a really interesting morning at Astons Pottery near Bampton. Several of us had visited the tempting shop and delectable tea room there before but this time we were fascinated by an hour long demonstration on how to make and decorate the beautiful teapots that they sell both in the shop and at places like Liberty's. The care and painstaking detail involved in the creation of each one were a revelation and several members have resolved that they will be asking for one for their next birthday!

Our May meeting included a talk by Julie Summer on 'How to Write Your Memories', where we were given tips on how to coax those tantalising reminiscences into something tangible on paper and we are looking forward to collating some of these for our book commemorating our 70th year as a WI.

The June meeting was held in Wendy Murray's lovely garden and allowed us to catch up with the summer's news and share a meal together.

Next month, on **September 12th** we will be having a First Aid Talk and demonstration, followed by a Harvest Supper in October and a Christmas craft evening in November.
Veronica Gibbs

Ladies Latin Dance Fitness Beginner Course

Ladies Latin Dance fitness beginner course starts **Wednesday 19th September at 8pm in North Moreton Village Hall.**

Each six-week course costs £50 and over the courses you will learn salsa, cha cha, rumba, samba and jive. No experience or dance skill necessary. No partner needed.

Come and learn some routines whilst getting toned up and fit and having a really good giggle!

For further info, or to book a place (numbers limited!) please contact debs.strictlyfit@gmail.com /07852833218 or visit www.facebook.com/strictlyfitdance.

Scams, Scams and more Scams.....

It would appear that the criminal fraternity have realised that banks and businesses now send pass-codes to our mobiles to check our identities to allow us to change passwords, set up new online payments etc., etc. so they are after our numbers! Beware emails saying "We believe that the personal number 07xxxxxx we hold for you is incorrect / out of date; please correct and advise." Fortunately most of these go into junk mail, but the odd one can get through....

There has also been a big increase recently in the number and variety of telephone scams, particularly recorded messages asking you to press 1 for this or 2 for that: HMRC, Talk Talk, BT (your phone line/wifi is compromised etc.) and kindly foreign callers offering help with nuisance calls (!) not to mention good old Microsoft, who would love to access your computer to plant a key-logger.

Today there are various phones available with call blocking facilities and from October Caller ID will be free to all BT customers. You can also sign up for free Call Protect; this stops all the numbers on the BT black list and you can add your last call to your own list by dialling 1572. However, this doesn't work for International or Withheld numbers but you can opt to block these separately - see BT Call Protect for details. Remember, however, that many businesses, hospitals, etc do withhold their numbers.

Call Protect will not stop 'government approved spamming' i.e. recorded calls advertising home insulation, smart meters etc. but you can press 9 at any point during these calls to be removed from that particular the calling list.

You can get further advice via the Nuisance Call Advice Line 0800 661441.

We also need to take care when using Wifi in public places as fraudsters can set up a fake connection with a vague name such as 'coffee_shop wifi'. If you connect to this, any data that you send can be captured as well as your password, even if you don't physically type it in.

If in doubt, check the correct address with a member of staff; use a VPN (virtual private network) when connecting to a public Wifi and never send any sensitive information over public Wifi - use your 3G/4G/5G connection instead, as this is always encrypted.

Download 'The Little Book of Big Scams' for more information on this and other current frauds and scams.

All Saints' Church News

At 10.30am on Sunday 7th October, we will be celebrating Harvest Festival. Of course, the hot, dry weather has made it a difficult time for our farmers but North Moreton has been celebrating the harvest - good and not quite so good - for hundreds of years. We will be looking at how villagers saw the importance of bringing the harvest home. We will also be keeping a long tradition alive by holding a **Bring-and-Share Harvest Lunch** after the service. Please come along, bring your families and join in.

There will be a collection of tinned and non-perishable food to help those in the county who are either homeless or have housing problems.

The fabric of the church has been very much on our minds in the past weeks. After the August heatwave broke, the buckets came out as the South Aisle roof started to leak in the torrential rain that followed. Fixing that will be a job for the professionals.

From 10am to 12.30pm on Saturday 13th October, we invite villagers to come to church to help with the simple maintenance that does not need us to call in experts. We call it **Quinney Day** after the late Ron Quinney who introduced the first 'clean-up day' in the 1990s. There will be tasks such as tidying the churchyard, dusting, polishing and oiling the doors. Please do bring any tools or equipment that will help with these tasks but we will provide some specialist materials. Quinney Day is also our parish **Gift Day**. In the run-up, we will be distributing reminders and envelopes around the village. All Saints' Church is a Grade 1 listed building and our most precious village asset. It is there for us all. Please do give generously.

Please also support - and sponsor - the **Ride and Stride on Saturday 8th September** (see separate article).

After a summer break, the village **Coffee Mornings** restart on **Monday 17th September and Thursday 18th October from 10.30am to 12 noon**. Our thanks go to Libby Macdonald and Jill Fletcher for encouraging us all to get out and talk to each other.
Keith Hutchence, Parochial Church Council

Ride and Stride - a great day for a cycle, walk or ride!

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's Ride and Stride is happening on **Saturday 8th September** this year. A day when the roads, highways and byways in Oxfordshire are teeming with cyclists, families of cyclists, walkers and families and horse riders who are being sponsored to visit the many ancient and modern churches in the county to raise money to preserve the history on our doorstep. (www.ohct.org/ride-stride).

We hope even more North Moretoners will give it a go this year, however far or near you want to venture. All funds you raise go to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and 50% is passed back to All Saints' North Moreton. If the cycling/walking/riding isn't for you then maybe you would like to meet and greet the cyclists that visit All Saints'.

Please do get in touch for more info, sponsor forms or the fundraising link or to do some meeting and greeting. We look forward to hearing from you!

Clare and Bob Price (Springbank) bob.clare_price@btinternet.com / 01235 81300

A night of glorious fun when the hangar became old Seville...

For the third year in a row, opera came to North Moreton in midsummer. After La Bohème and Rigoletto, Regents Opera gave us their spirited production of The Barber of Seville for two nights in June.

Once again Nick Heath as Director made immensely imaginative use of presenting opera in the round: he conjured up a huge variety of lively movement on the stage. There were just a few props, including an ingenious solution to the need to play a scene which has to include both a balcony and a ladder.

The cast of seven singers and the band of five musicians were all very strong: the audience gave especially warm praise to Michael Dewis as Figaro and (with opera's most expressive sunglasses ever) to Mark Beesley as Don Basilio. The skilfully arranged, if improbable, mix of piano, violin, clarinet, bassoon and accordion in the band turned out to be perfect for the light-heartedness of the music.

During the long interval we ate our picnics and raised our glasses in thanks to Peter and Polly Vacher and to all of those who contributed to giving us the chance to enjoy such a splendid evening..
Nick Sanders

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 Sonia and/or Clare at astonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com or just turn up - all welcome