

Dates for your Diary

MARCH

- 3 Book Sale and Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10.00 - 12.30 p.m.
- 8 North Moreton Toddler Group , Village Hall 9.30 - 12.30 p.m.
(Weekly thereafter)
- 10 Fairtrade Fayre, St Peters Farm Shop 10.00 - 3.00 p.m.
- 10 Organ Recital, St Michael's Aston Tirrold by Dr Relf Clark 7.30 p.m.
- 12 Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall 8 p.m. All Welcome
- 14 W.I. AGM, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 p.m.
- 16 Herbal Ramble Workshop, Village Hall 9.30 - 5.00 p.m.
- 17 Musical Evening at South Moreton School 7.30 p.m.

APRIL

- 11 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

MAY

- 3 District and Parish Council Elections
- 6 8th Abingdon Air & Country Show
- 9 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
- 9 Plant Sale, St Michael's, Aston Tirrold
- 12 South Moreton School Jumble Sale
- 12 Fairtrade Fayre, St Peters Farm 12 - 3 p.m.
- 14 Parish Council Annual General Meeting, Village Hall 8 p.m.
- 20 North Moreton Church Fete, The Croft 2 - 4.30 p.m.

JUNE

- 2 *The Husband Defeated*, The Barn, North Moreton House

JULY

- 7 Summer Dance and Pig Roast, The Barn, North Moreton House
TBA Salmon Lunch at Peckwater

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North Moreton News

Issue 76

March 2007

"Most people find North Moreton a pleasant village, the inhabitants of which are helpful, friendly and community-minded. Aren't we fortunate to be the inheritors of such an attractive place to live in?"

These were the words of the then editor, the late Ron Quinney, in the first issue of the North Moreton News, in January 1987. We do hope that, nearly 20 years on, the majority of residents still agree with these sentiments.

During the intervening years there have been few changes but many constants: two or three new houses have been built and one of our pubs, the Queen Vic, has become a private house; many residents have moved on either through increasing years or family and business commitments and been replaced by others – in the past four years alone over thirty houses have changed hands. But it is the constants the Church, the Cricket Club, the WI, the Village Hall, the Parish Council and above all, the community-minded people, that make North Moreton "such an attractive place to live in".

Every year, in March, the Parish Council presides over the Annual Parish Meeting when all residents are invited to the Village Hall to hear reports from the various associations and societies in the village. We do hope that you, particularly if you are new to North Moreton, will spare an hour or so to come along and find out what is going on in the community. Doors open at 7.30 and the meeting starts at 8 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you on 12th March!

North Moreton Parish Council

“White Collar Boxing”

Very many thanks to all those who responded to the Parish Council’s request for views on a proposed boxing event on the Recreation Ground. Over thirty comments were received, representing nearly fifty individuals. Opinions spread widely and evenly from strongly supportive to strongly against; in no way could the views be considered “a mandate from the people” for one course of action or another. So the Parish Council had to make up its own mind!

We eventually – and with some reluctance – decided that we should turn down the application. Our primary consideration was that this village does not have the infrastructure to cope with an influx of perhaps 350 visitors from elsewhere, arriving at the same time, whether by car or buses, and particularly in March in the dark.

As an aside, it is interesting to note the effectiveness of email as a communication tool to get messages quickly round the parish. We know that about 20% of residents don’t have it, but the 80% who do can spread the word if there is something important to say. That doesn’t mean that we’ll ignore conventional methods, like putting notices on the boards.

Council Elections

There will be elections this May for Parish as well as District Councillors. The term of office for Parish Councillors is four years. Official notices inviting candidates will be posted on the Parish Council Board in due course.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Editor has kindly mentioned the Annual Parish Meeting in the Editorial. It really is the best occasion for parishioners to express their views as well as showing support for village organisations.

The May meeting will be the Council’s AGM when the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected and responsibilities allocated. Please do come along to these meetings. *Roger Haycock, Chairman*

Garden Waste Service

SODC’s Garden Waste Service has proved a great success with over 10,200 residents already signed up for the service. Some improvements have been agreed for the 2008 service. These include:

- A number of smaller wheeled bins (140 litre) for those who do not generate as much garden waste.
- In exceptional circumstances where residents are unable to use or accommodate a wheeled bin, 52 x 110 litre biodegradable sacks can be provided. SODC must be satisfied that there is a genuine barrier to using bins and a visit from an Officer may be necessary to determine the suitability of using the sacks.

Both the above will cost £29 a year or £27.50 if paid by direct debit. To register your interest or for more information contact SODC Public Amenities on 01491 823416 or email recycling@southoxon.gov.uk.

Useful Information

Beat Officer: WPC Susan (Pip) Walker - 0845 8505505

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

Parish Clerk: Janet Bullard - 818704

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Haycock - 812202

Village Hall Bookings: Anne Silvester, 17 Bear Lane - 811646

Concessionary Travel Tokens: Katie Miles, N. M. House - 813283

Mobile Library: Bus Shelter - alternate Wednesdays, 10 - 10.15

Refuse & Recycling Collections: Thursdays

Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays

Postal Services: The Village Hall Brightwell - Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.

Please note that the postal services at ‘The Crown’, South Moreton have now ceased.

North Moreton Toddler Group

Every Thursday in the Village Hall 9.30 - 12.30 starting on Thursday 8th March.

Come along for a coffee and a chat whilst the children let off some steam. £2.50 includes tea/coffee/biscuits.

Any donations of unwanted toddler and baby toys and books would be very welcome whilst we save up to purchase some of our own.

Please contact Lizzie Dunckley on 01235 813541 with any queries.

ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP
Bear Lane North Moreton

Open 10am - 4pm Every Day
(except Tues)

Shrubs, Perennials, Bedding Plants
Local Dexter Beef & Home-made Cakes
Gifts Ideas, Planters & Body Shop Products

10th March : Fairtrade Fayre and Coffee Shop

Helen & Douglas House

Helen & Douglas House provides respite and end of life care for children and young adults from birth to 40 with life-shortening conditions, as well as support and friendship for the whole family.

In March they will be opening their sixth charity shop, in the Market Place at Didcot and are looking for volunteers to help by sorting & pricing stock, serving customers and creating window and in-store displays. Training and expenses are provided.

If you can spare a few hours per week, phone Hilary on 01865 794749 or visit www.helenanddouglas.org.uk - your help will be much appreciated.

Moreton Cricket Club

After England's glorious campaign in Australia this winter things can only improve on the cricketing front, so perhaps this will be a good year for Moreton Cricket Club - at present we only have to win two matches to beat England's performance!! The new season is approaching rapidly and we are always on the lookout for new players, so if you are interested please contact us. This year we will be having some pre-season net sessions which will be held at Didcot Leisure Centre on various Sunday afternoons in March and April, so why not come along and have a go; the actual dates will be announced very soon. For details of these dates or membership enquiries, please contact either Simon Steen (01235 814617) or Trevor Denning (01235 812968) *Trevor Denning, Chairman MCC*

North Moreton Village Hall

The December Book Sale & Coffee Morning was a great success both as a social event and as a fund-raiser, making £126 for Hall funds. We hope to hold a sale every three months or so and the next one will be on Saturday 3rd March. If you have any books to donate, please contact Kate or Gar Evans on 813858.

Twenty-four under 8s attended the Christmas Party; the Bouncy Castle was a great success as were the crafts organised by Annetta Slade - the children particularly enjoyed decorating (and eating!) the cakes and biscuits.

It seems that a disco is no longer 'cool' or perhaps the 8s -12s were just 'disco'd-out'! Only six youngsters turned up but they seemed to enjoy themselves! Thanks, as always, to Libby Macdonald for providing the music.

We are planning a Summer Dance with a Pig Roast in the Barn at North Moreton House (by kind permission of Katie and David Miles) on Saturday 7th July. Profits will be shared between the Hall and the Church. We also hope to repeat the Salmon Lunch in the garden at Peckwater, probably at the end of July/beginning of August - watch out for details of both events.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

South Moreton School

South Moreton School is pleased to announce that it has been awarded two awards. The first, just before Christmas, was the Healthy Schools Award. We were inspected in four areas, Health Education, Physical Activities, Emotional Health and Well Being and Personal Social and Health Education.

The second award was the Activemark 2006 awarded by the Department of Education and Skills. This award is based on the amount of PE, Games and Swimming taught in school time, the range of activities and sports taught and the number of interschool matches and events we participate in.

Thank you to all those people who congratulated the school on their recent Examination Results which were published in the local press. With a 100% pass rate in all three subjects, Mathematics, English and Science we were placed second in Oxfordshire. Although we have achieved 100% in one or two subjects many times before, this is the first time we have achieved it in all three subjects. Well done to all the staff and last year's Year 6.

Two events for your diary are a Musical Evening on Saturday 17th March at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall and the next Jumble Sale on Saturday 12th May.

Keith Eaton Headmaster

Village Quiz

The annual cricket club quiz took place on 3rd February and as in previous years, this popular event saw the village hall packed to capacity with teams eager to out-do each other - in the best of sporting traditions, naturally! A nail biting finish saw 'Southenders' and 'Policeman's Ball' separated by just one point. The Policemen (and women!) took the honours. Thanks go to the Fletcher family for organising the evening, which raised much needed funds for the club.

The Progress Theatre in North Moreton


We are thrilled that The Progress Theatre from Reading will be returning to North Moreton House Barn on 2nd June to perform 'The Husband Defeated' by Molière. A marvellous farce which we think will appeal to everyone. For tickets and more information please call Katie Miles on 01235 813283.

Abingdon Air & Country Show.....

Will take place at Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks on Sunday 6th May and will be opened by our own Polly Vacher.

A major feature of the day will be a two and a half hour flying display hopefully featuring historic aircraft as well as participation from the British armed forces. A wide range of ground attractions are being planned and gates will open at 10 a.m.

Admission charges on the day will be adults £8, children & OAPs £5 and under-5s free but discounted tickets are available in advance from Town Council Offices or via www.abingdonfayre.com All profits will go to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.




BOOK SALE
and
COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 3rd March

10.00 - 12.30

North Moreton Village Hall



Neighbourhood Watch

As those of you on the village email will know, I am currently circulating NW information via the village email list. Residents in Elm Road will also receive information from their co-ordinator, and I will provide hard copies for those in High Street (my particular area) who are not on email. If you are on email and would like to receive NW information electronically but do *not* wish to be on the general mailing list, do let me know - nora.haycock@btinternet.com - and I will arrange for you to receive a 'blind' copy.

It would be useful to hear people's views on the possible provision of a small number of NW signs, maybe at the entrances to the village; also to find out if there is any interest in setting up an evening meeting with the local Crime Prevention Officer? Email me your thoughts at the above address or pop a note through the door at Peckwater in the High Street.

Finally, I regret to report that a car parked in the vicinity of the church has been 'keyed' (scratched with a sharp implement) on a couple of occasions recently and that on 21st February, between 5 and 11 p.m., the telephone box in High Street was vandalised. If you have any information on the above or see anyone acting suspiciously, do please give the police a call on 0845 8505 505, or speak to a member of the Parish Council. *Nora Haycock NW Coordinator*

Footpaths Walk

The annual walk will take place on Sunday 29th April. The survey of Public Rights of Way (1956) establishes the local footpaths. The walk will last about one and a half hours and those interested should meet at the bus shelter at 11 a.m. We do this to ensure that the paths remain open, as a way of introducing newcomers to the walk (and to each other) and as a pleasant social outing.

Mobile Library

North Moreton is good at using this public service but we have heard recently that it has ceased for one of our near neighbours because of lack of customers. 'Use it or lose it'.

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

At December's meeting, Mrs Sue Crisp gave members the chance to discover how to make rag rugs, which was great fun. The annual dinner was held in January at The Bear, when both the food and the company were excellent. The February meeting will give members the opportunity to share their memories of life in the Moretons in the past.

The AGM will be held on March 14th. This will be the last time that our meetings will be held at The Barn, as from April we will be meeting at the Village Hall, North Moreton. Our speaker at this meeting will be Mrs Christine Bloxham and her subject will be History in Miniature (Dolls' Houses).

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Penny Busby

Moreton Table Tennis Club

40 players are registered for Moreton's 9 teams which compete in the 5 divisions of the Didcot & District League (www.ddtta.org.uk) and other members play socially. Home league matches are played on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at South Moreton School which was used by the League to stage its 'Divisional Championships'. Moreton player John Evans was the winner in the Division 5 competition. Coaching and practice sessions for beginners are held on Wednesdays (1830-1930) and for league players on Wednesdays and Thursdays (1930-2200), with 5 tables in simultaneous use. The club welcomes new players aged 8-70, irrespective of gender and ability. The club is grateful to local Parish Councils for financial help, and would appreciate sponsorship to improve the lighting in the school hall.

Details from club secretary Roger Templeman (cd2rom@aol.com).

North Moreton Fête 2007

In the depths of winter the Fête must seem a distant prospect but take heart, the warm long days of spring will soon be with us! North Moreton Fete will this year be held on Sunday 20th May and thanks to the generosity of a number of kindly souls will feature several new attractions as well as seeing the return of many favourites.



During the afternoon there will be (weather permitting) an air display by Peter and Polly Vacher's Mk1 Hawker Hurricane; this is the only flying Mk1 Hurricane in the world so let's hope the weather is fine!

By way of contrast, the Blewbury Brass Band will provide a musical accompaniment to our fête throughout the afternoon - perhaps one or two marches with an aeronautical theme may feature.....

Another new attraction will be the arts and crafts marquee - an opportunity for our creative residents to display and hopefully, sell, their work.

The very popular 'Children's Corner' returns with a number of new ideas. The bouncy castle has already been booked! 'Many hands make light work' and anyone interested in lending a hand to organise the activities on the day should contact Pauline Nobes (815017) or Linda Brown.

Once again the Fun Pet Show will be organised by Mavis Crickmore in conjunction with Oscar's Petfoods - and it's not too early to start titivating and training your pets for this great event! Should your pet have wheels instead of legs, we would love you to join our display of vintage, veteran and classic vehicles and we hope to be lucky enough to welcome that small boys' favourite, the fire engine!

It goes without saying that all the regular and very popular displays, attractions and stalls will return this year. Many of the stalls/events have their regular team of helpers but if *you* would like to lend a hand or have ideas for some new event or attraction, do please contact any member of the committee.

As ever, the success of our Fête depends on the generous contribution of time and effort from all North Moreton's residents and we look forward to seeing you, your friends and family for a fun filled afternoon!

Members of the 2007 North Moreton Fête Committee are:

Richard Bullard (Chairman) 01235 818704

(Richardandjanet.bullard@btinternet.com)

Helen Baillie 01235 519168 Linda Brown 01235 812174

Mavis Crickmore 01235 813240 Mary Greene 01235 813396

Beryl Jones 01235 510035

Arts & Crafts Marquee - North Moreton Fête

We have been offered the use of a fairly large marquee which we propose to place at the disposal of our artists and craftpersons. If you've ever wondered about selling your efforts, now is the chance to display your work to a friendly appreciative 'public' and try out your commercial skills. Anyone is welcome and you can either make a contribution to our funds or indeed, should you so wish, donate your proceeds to fete funds.

Please contact Linda Brown (harpleybrown@aol.com) with details of what you propose to exhibit as soon as possible so that we can gauge interest.

North Moreton Fete Committee

Reflexology & Indian Head Massage

Anona Brookfield MAR

Herbal Ramble Workshop: 16th March

9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. North Morton Village Hall

to book your place ring

01235 813159 or 07811 808464

www.clarity-is.co.uk

www.clarityis.typepad.com/clarityis