

Dates for your Diary

JUNE

- 2 *The Husband Defeated*, The Barn, North Moreton House
- 7 North Moreton Toddler Group, Village Hall 9.30 - 11.30 am
(weekly thereafter)
- 13 W.I. meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 15 South Moreton School Family Fun Day 5.30 - 8.00 pm
- 16 Astons' Fete & BBQ 1.00 - 4.00 pm

JULY

- 2 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8.00 pm All welcome
- 7 Summer Dance and Pig Roast, The Barn, North Moreton House
- 11 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 14 South Moreton School Rock and Roll Night 7.00 pm
- 15 South Moreton School Fete 1.00 - 4.00 pm
- 29 Salmon Lunch at Peckwater 12.30 for 1.00 pm

AUGUST

- 25 MCC v. President's XI, The Croft 1.30 pm

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Book Sale, Village Hall 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
- 8 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8.00 pm All welcome
- 12 W.I. Meeting, North Moreton Village Hall 7.30 pm

North Moreton Parish Council

Parish Clerk Required

Duties average 2 hours per week - Salary paid

For more information contact

Janet Bullard - current Clerk on 818704

or Roger Haycock - NMPC Chairman on 812202

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North Moreton News

Issue 77

June 2007

North Moreton - 1807

Have you ever thought why there are about half-a-dozen houses of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries on the west side of North Moreton High Street but none earlier than the nineteenth century on the east side?

The answer lies in the tragic events on 11th July 1807 when a devastating fire broke out and destroyed all the houses between the Bear Inn and North Moreton House (then called the Rectory). Let Jackson's Oxford journal take up the story:

"A most terrible fire broke out at North Moreton, occasioned by a spark from a blacksmith's shop alighting upon the thatch of Mr Bannister's house. 13 houses were totally consumed with all the stables, outhouses and barns - with the grain therein - and all haystacks adjoining. Calves and pigs were destroyed and virtually all furniture and property - most uninsured."

There was no loss of life but the effects were felt on the village for a generation or more. Indeed, as late the mid-twentieth century most of the land on that east side lay undeveloped, as many current North Moretonians will testify. Since the census of 1801 (just six years before the fire) reported 55 houses in the village, those destroyed in the fire represented one quarter of them. One of the cottages destroyed had belonged to the Bear Inn and a conveyance of 1774 records that it had been sold for the sum of £40.

Interestingly, North Moreton was then bigger than Didcot and would remain so for another fifty years. What a contrast do population figures for the year 2007 show!

Gerald Howat

North Moreton Parish Council

Thank you, Katie

Twelve years is a long time! Now Katie Miles has decided that some other things should be fitted in to her already-busy life, and did not put her name forward for re-election to the Parish Council. The village owes her a great debt of gratitude. She has unselfishly contributed an enormous amount of work for the Parish in that time, most particularly in handling transport issues and distributing bus tokens. Her wise counsel and hard work on every kind of issue will be very greatly missed. Thank you, Katie!

New Parish Council

There are five places on the Parish Council and five people put their names forward, so an election was not required. The new councillors are Sue Harrison, Roger Haycock, Keith Hutchence, Ian Shipton and Dr. Roger Templeman. At the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 14th May, Roger Haycock was elected Chairman, and Keith Hutchence elected Vice-Chairman.

It has been traditional in North Moreton for councillors to have special areas of interest and activity. Keith Hutchence will continue to specialise in issues outside the village, such as the impact of new housing in Didcot; Ian Shipton has special responsibility for the Recreation Ground; Sue Harrison has special responsibilities for accounting and financial issues as well as waste and rubbish collection concerns, and Roger Templeman will have a speciality assigned when an appropriate new issue emerges. Roger Haycock will continue to focus on legal issues.

New Parish Clerk required

Sadly, Janet Bullard has advised the PC that she and Richard are planning to leave the village, and that we should start looking for a new clerk. The job takes on average about two hours/week and any prospective applicants should talk to Janet (Cobbs Cottage, 818704) for more information or to Roger Haycock (Peckwater, 812202) if Janet isn't available. The job is paid, but it would be expected that applicants would put their names forward because they want to contribute, rather than for the money. The Clerk does not have to live in

Neighbourhood Watch

The Crime Reduction Advisor at Thames Valley Police has issued the following warning:

‘The government is promoting the switchover from analogue to digital television, which will be carried out over the next four years. There is some concern that this may create yet another excuse for the distraction burglar, i.e. a smooth talking person conning their way into the home of a vulnerable person.

If anyone needs assistance in receiving correct advice appertaining to the switchover, they are advised to visit the website: www.digital.co.uk or telephone 08456 505 050 for further information.’

For more information on crime reduction matters, visit the police website: www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

Nora Haycock NW Coordinator

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: SODC - 01491 832000

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.

SALMON LUNCH

Sunday 29th July

in the garden at Peckwater, North Moreton

£12 to include 'welcome' drink &
3 course meal (chicken alternative by order)

Tickets from Nora (812202) or Trevor (812968)

Proceeds to N.M. Village Hall

Rivers Quiz

This year's quiz was pretty tricky - but the winners, Alison and Nick Sanders, did manage to get 48 out of 50 questions correct.

We hope you enjoyed it - in any event, it raised £151 for Church funds!

If you would like to know the answers, send me an email - and all will be revealed..... (nora.haycock@btinternet.com).

ST PETER'S NURSERY & FARM SHOP

Bear Lane North Moreton

Open 10 am - 4 pm Every Day

(except Tues)

Shrubs, Perennials, Bedding Plants

Local Dexter Beef & Home-made Cakes

Gifts Ideas, Planters & Body Shop Products

the village, but councillors do see a great advantage in having a clerk who knows what is going on in the village and is interested in it.

Village Walk

The Annual Village Walk on Sunday 29th April was blessed with good weather and fifteen intrepid souls enjoyed the fresh air and the countryside. It was good to see a mixture of new faces and hardy perennials, but noteworthy that several of the long-established residents had never done the walk before. The walk was instituted by Gerald Howat and apart from introducing new people to our footpaths, gives an opportunity to confirm that established rights of way are being used. It is particularly valuable to acquaint people with the line of the path on the West side of the High Street, which is relatively little-used, and by no means easy to follow. The walk is not a Parish Council activity, but at its last meeting the Council did confirm its strong support for it.

Roger Haycock, Chairman

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

Since our recent move to North Moreton Village Hall, members have attended three meetings. At the first, Sandra Monk, our new President, welcomed Mrs Christine Bloxham, who gave an interesting talk on Miniature Dolls' Houses. At the Resolutions meeting, in May, the potential closure of local hospitals was discussed. The evening ended with coffee and the chance to take part in one of Sandra's picture quizzes. The Group meeting also took place in May. We welcomed members from other local Institutes, when we were given a fascinating illustrated talk on the wildlife along our part of the Thames.

A full programme of events is planned, including a talk on Sustainable Wallingford in June and a garden meeting in July. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Please contact Judy Hollings on 814137 or Sandra Monk on 812721 for further details.

Penny Busby

North Moreton Village Hall

Sadly, Annetta Slade has had to resign from the committee owing to other commitments. We would like to thank her for her help over the past few years - particularly with the children's events. She will be missed.....

We would welcome some new members – many hands etc.... If you can spare a few hours now and again, we would love to hear from you. To find out exactly what's involved, contact Nora Haycock (812202) or any member of the committee.

Our next fundraising event is 'A Touch of Summer' on Saturday 7th July. Pimms, Pig Roast, Puds and dancing to a live band in the Barn at North Moreton House. If you prefer to sit and chat over your meal, there will be seating on the lawn. I am assured that the weather will be perfect..... Tickets (£20 each to include a glass of Pimms and your meal) are on sale now from Libby Macdonald (812237) Phil Spencer (51191) and Mary Greene (813396). Numbers are limited so don't delay! Proceeds will be divided between the Hall and All Saints' Church.

On Sunday 29th July we will be holding the Salmon Lunch in the garden at Peckwater. The format will be the same as in previous years: an aperitif followed by a three course meal including freshly cooked salmon with salad & new potatoes. A chicken alternative can be provided if pre-booked. Tickets are £12 and are available from Nora Haycock (in advance only).

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC

History of North Moreton

A serious attempt will be made to produce a second edition of the 'History of North Moreton' if there is a response of at least sixty orders. Please (re-) submit your name and address to Gerald Howat at the Old School House, Wallingford Road.

(Gerald Howat's autobiography, *Cricket all my Life*, has been short-listed for the Cricket Society's Book of the Year.)

South Moreton School Events

Family Fun evening - Friday 15th June. 5.30 - 8.00 p.m. Pupils and their families only.

50's Rock and Roll Night - Saturday 14th July


The fun starts at 7 p.m. with the school choir - the evening will continue with dancing to Tracy Warner's band. Fancy dress is encouraged! Paying bar. Tickets (to include ploughman's supper): adults £5, children & OAPs £3 or family ticket £12 to include two adults and up to three children.

Summer Fete - Sunday 15th July

Loads of attractions including ferret racing and dog agility display. For more information and offers of help contact Lyn Deeley on 814849.

North Moreton Toddler Group.....


meet every Thursday from 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. in North Moreton Village Hall. Do come along for a coffee and a chat whilst the little ones let off some steam! £2.50 per session - includes tea/coffee/biscuits.



BOOK SALE

Saturday 8th September

10.00 - 16.00

Light refreshments available all day 

North Moreton Village Hall

Wings around Britain

In recent weeks several normally sedate members of the community may have been seen rushing around like the White Rabbit, muttering "WAB, WAB, I must get back to WAB!" Now all can be revealed.....

WAB stands for 'Wings around Britain' - Polly Vacher's latest project to raise the profile of Flying Scholarships for the Disabled.

On Monday 21st May she set off from Birmingham Airport in her trusty Piper Dakota and by 31st July will have visited 212 airfields in the UK. En route she will have landed on tiny islands, private airstrips, RAF stations, major airports and even Heathrow and Gatwick! Some will be landings only, some informal receptions and book-signings (she is carrying copies of her book *Wings around the World*, the royalties from which go to FSD), some airshows and some will include major media events. On as many legs as possible she will be carrying a disabled passenger - in Manchester, for example, two victims of terrorist attacks, one from London, the other from Madrid, will be meeting and flying together with Polly.

The organisation has been challenging: Polly has been helped by a team of 25 friends and neighbours whose task it has been to contact the airfields, arrange landings and receptions, source disabled passengers and contact the media. Some team members helped with Polly's previous adventures but more than half come from North Moreton and had little or no previous knowledge of aviation matters, and for the coordinators/team leaders, Roy Crabbe, Trevor Denning, Katie Miles, Nick Sanders, and Roger and Nora Haycock, it has been a particularly steep learning curve!

If you would like to follow Polly's epic journey visit www.worldwings.org: the site is being regularly updated with pictures and, in addition to her punishing schedule, Polly is finding time to write a diary!

For more information on Flying Scholarships for the Disabled, visit www.toreachforthesky.org.

Moreton Cricket Club

There's not much to write about so early in the season; it's been a bit of a 'soggy' start with three of our matches called off so far because of the weather. Hopefully, with a little bit of help from 'global warming', the weather for the rest of the season will treat us better.

On the bright side, the Pavilion has now been completed and we're able to offer our visiting teams both loos and very smart showers!

Don't forget, if you would like to join us or know somebody who does, then please contact the membership secretary, Simon Steen, on 814617; new players are always welcome...

Trevor Denning, Chairman MCC

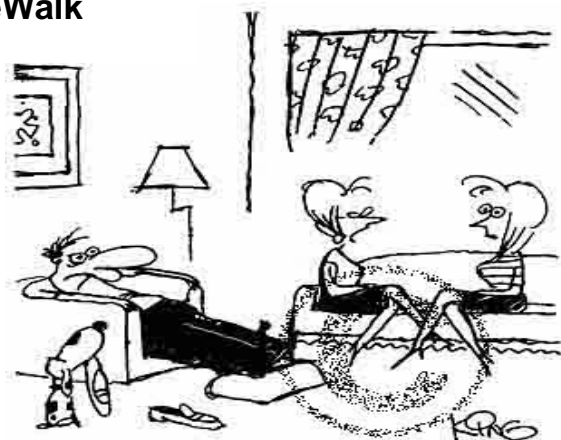
Moreton Table Tennis Club

The Didcot & District Table Tennis Association 2006/7 season finished on a high with the Moreton Club winning both the cup competitions. In the competition for clubs, Grove were beaten 7-2 in the final, and in the 'Shield' tournament for teams Moreton 'D' beat Moreton 'C' 5-4. Some problems were anticipated in the League with two newly-promoted and four completely new teams entered compared with 2005/6. This proved to be the case, but only one team was relegated and one of the new teams was champions of Division 5. A number of younger players made good progress with one being awarded a SODC bursary with an eye to the 2010 Olympics. Practice and social table tennis continue on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at South Moreton School. Details from club secretary Roger Templeman (cd2rom@aol.com).

Piano in need of a Good Home!

The Village Hall piano is surplus to requirements - a nice looking instrument but in need of a really good tuning! No charge but you need to arrange collection. For more details ring Gar Evans on 813858.

WalktheWalk



"Arlen keeps bragging about running 26 miles. What he fails to tell people is that it took him eight months to do it."

Well it didn't take eight months, just seven and a half hours to walk 26.2 miles! We may well have finished earlier if we hadn't seized up with the cold, as it was one of the coldest nights in May and anyone who does this in the future.... wear gloves!

However we really want to say a massive **THANK-YOU** to everyone that sponsored us for such a worthy cause and we were just short of £1000, but with gift aid on top this comes to almost £1,250!!

Anyone who would like to participate in the future should log onto www.walkthewalk.org to express interest, as the places go really quickly! The atmosphere is amazing and everyone is there to have a good time and of course raise money! Needless to say, be warned the legs are very stiff for a couple of days afterwards!!!!

Again many thanks, we wouldn't have been able to do it without the sponsorship from you all and we will be round soon, to collect!!

Mary & Julia Greene xxx

Sunshine and a Hurricane

With tremendous luck, North Moreton managed to find a perfect day for their fete.

The promise of a Hurricane display, courtesy of Polly and Peter Vacher and tremendous publicity brought a large number of people streaming onto the Croft to break all records. We believe it was around 1,000.

All the traditional stalls and attractions were in place and the numbers, exceeding all expectations, held up amazingly well throughout the afternoon. Stallholders were selling throughout and the tea team continued serving tea and cake to a very high standard unflinchingly right to the end. We are also grateful to the Bear at Home; their beer and barbeque kept people on site and still spending money.

We thank them as well for sponsoring the Tug o' War between North and South Moreton, which was great fun. Skilfully refereed by Father Edwin it was the best of three pulls. We won't mention the result, but congratulations to the winners anyway!

The Pet Show was even more popular than usual; a new venture, the Arts and Crafts Marquee proved a great success and the ringing of the bells and the music of Blewbury Brass Band gave a great atmosphere.

At 3.00 p.m. the field fell silent as the Hurricane came into view. The sounds so evocative and bringing memories to many. The skill of Keith Dennison as he piloted the plane almost like a ballerina was breathtaking. He gave us some magical moments.

It appears that the money raised exceeds £6,000.00 and over a third of this sum was raised by our raffle. Well done raffle team and well done North Moreton.

Beryl Jones
on behalf of Fete Committee