

## Dates for your Diary

(See Notice-boards etc. for details)

### October

- 3 Service of Dedication of All Saints' Church
- 6 Table Tennis (weekly thereafter)
- 8 Mobile Library (fortnightly thereafter)
- 13 Mayflowers (fortnightly thereafter)
- 13 W I Meeting
- 16 'Quinney Day' and Gift Day
- 16 'Grease' Village Hall 8 p.m.

### November

- 10 WI Meeting
- 12 Moreton CC Dinner
- 15 N.M. Parish Council 8 p.m.
- 20 Folk evening (All Saints' Church 7 p.m.)
- 27 Auction Dinner at The Bear (in aid of Recreation Committee funds)
- 28 Christingle Service (All Saints' Church 4 p.m.)

### December

- 4 Under 8s Party (Village Hall)
- 8 WI Meeting
- 18 Carol Service (All Saints' Church 6 p.m.)
- 25 Holy Communion (All Saints' Church 9 a.m.)

## Utilities

**Mobile Library:** North Moreton Bus Shelter - alternate Fridays, 12.15

**Village Hall Bookings:** Ann Silvester,  
17 Bear Lane (811646)

**Refuse Collection:** Thursdays

**Recycling Collection:** (paper, cans & plastic) Thursdays

**Postal Services:** at 'The Crown', South Moreton - Wednesdays 9 - 12  
and at 'The Red Lion', Brightwell - Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12

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# North Moreton News

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October 2004

## Editorial

One of the great achievements of Victorian scholarship was the publication of large, co-operative enterprises running into many volumes and associated with a major University. These endeavours were British in their concerns and, to an extent, represented the dominance of Great Britain as perceived at the end of the nineteenth century.

One such product was the *Victoria County History* which gave a detailed, historical record county-by-county, supported by extensive references to mediaeval and later sources. The Hundred of Moreton commands some fifty pages of which eight are devoted to the parish of North Moreton. From them we establish the names of such figures as Miles Stapleton, the antecedents of the church and the existence of North Moreton Manor, "with a greater part of its moat remaining".

Another consequence of Victorian enterprise, which was published in 1882 in over fifty million words, was the *Dictionary of National Biography*. As the name implies it was a record of men and women of influence through the centuries and it was largely undertaken in the University of Oxford.

Last month, on September 24, a new Dictionary was published under the title of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, composed of sixty million words and up-dating its predecessor. Within its twelve feet of bookshelving there is an entry on Robin Collingwood of North Moreton, described as "one of the most learned men of his generation" and Eric Gill, also associated with the village and a distinguished engraver responsible for several World War I memorials.

Lest you rush to order your copy of the Dictionary, bear in mind its size and its cost – which is £7,500! We suspect it will find its market on-line rather than in the printed page.

## **North Moreton Parish Council**

*Roger Haycock, the chairman, writes:*

### **Travellers on Hadden Hill**

Considerable concern has been expressed by parishioners following the arrival of Travellers on a site at the top of Hadden Hill. To explain some of the issues, and answer questions, Mr. David Buckle, Chief Executive of South Oxfordshire District Council, attended our last Parish Council meeting on September 6. Mr. Buckle explained that as the Travellers appear to own the land, there is not an issue of Trespass, but rather one of Planning. The Travellers have been invited to submit a retrospective planning application for what is an unlawful development. The District Council was required to act with great care to avoid prejudicing its position. During questions, some members of the public (particularly from outside this Parish) appeared to think that SODC was not being pro-active enough.

Things have moved on. On Friday September 10 SODC obtained a temporary injunction prohibiting further works to the Hadden Hill site or the stationing of more caravans on it. This temporary injunction has since been extended indefinitely. We await developments.

Since the NMPC meeting, Mr. Buckle has taken some actions which he promised. He has passed on some ideas to Oxfordshire County Council about Highways related issues which were raised by parishioners. He has also sent NMPC a six page briefing note which explains in more detail what SODC is doing or not doing and why. He gives the legal background and includes comment on STOP notices which were the subject of some aggressive questioning at our meeting. Any parishioner is welcome to see this note. Please contact the Clerk or a Councillor.

## **Dramatic Event in North Moreton**

*Eric Peyton writes:*

North Moreton Barn, now beautifully refurbished by David and Katie Miles, was the setting for a Shakespeare production by the Progress Theatre, Reading of 'The Comedy of Errors'. The plot centres on a man searching for his long-lost twin brother, ending up in the same town as the other, and being repeatedly mistaken for him.

The playwright then compounds this unlikelihood by inventing another pair of identical twins as their servants, thus increasing the possibilities of mistaken identity.

Although the play includes elements of pathos - the grief inflicted on parents and children by the break-up of the family by shipwreck and an imminent threat of execution - the prevailing mood is comic and the director and cast played up to it well. Comic chases around the audience suggested the world of the Keystone Cops. There were male and female characters indecorously in clinches, a duel with water pistols and the actors transforming themselves into a Latin American band.

All concerned strove energetically to prevent the fast and furious pace from slackening. Our own Peter Cockman powerfully contributed to the opening and closing scenes of pathos as the father in search of his lost ones and also played the important role of production manager.

Judging from the audience reaction and the final ringing applause, the venture of putting on this play was *not* one of the evening's errors!

## Moreton Table Tennis Club

*Roger Templeman (813913)( CD2ROM@aol.com), writes:*

The Club has four registered teams in the Didcot and District Association League for the new 2004-05 season. This is the fourth increase in successive seasons. All three 2004-05 teams earned promotion so every player looks forward to new challenges at a higher standard. We have some new players and would welcome more, both adults and juniors, experienced or novice. We play in South Moreton School Sports Hall which accommodates four tables. On Wednesdays we offer junior coaching from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and then play league matches until approximately 10 p.m. On Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. is used for advanced coaching, mainly for the team of youngsters whom we have entered for the National Cadet League with time thereafter for senior practice and social play.

## All change at St Peter's Farm

St Peter's Farm has been in the Slade Family since the 1940's and, like many small farms, has had to undergo several changes to maintain independent status. During 2003 we joined the Stewardship Scheme which aims to protect and encourage wild life back onto farms. For us, this includes replacing hedgerows, creating meadows and protecting existing wild life. Last April we opened a retail nursery on the farm, stocking shrubs, trees, basket plants, etc and, in December, freshly cut and pot grown Christmas trees, with a selection of decorations, will be marketed.

But the most exciting change is the re-introduction of live-stock onto the farm, starting with ewes and lambs for the Northmore Trust and then our own Dexter cattle. The first beef will be sold direct from the farm in the Spring.

## Planning Applications

At one time or another, many of you submit a Planning Application to SODC for some activity - often a house extension. The application is always copied to the Parish Council to give an opinion on it - for, against or "no strong views". NMPC will consider such issues as impact on neighbours, traffic and safety, and impact on the NM Conservation Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We usually check to ensure that neighbours have been consulted. We don't have long to give our opinion - usually about ten days. We do not make the decision - SODC does that - but we can have an influence. In particular we can influence whether the decision is made by the Officers (the paid employees) or the Councillors (the elected politicians).

Should you be thinking of making a formal application, particularly if you feel that it may be controversial, I do encourage you to consider discussing things with NMPC in advance. It won't have any legal significance, but may help us to understand complex issues and give us more time to make the most appropriate recommendation to SODC.

\* \* \* \* \*

Would parents please remind their children that the gates to the Croft and particularly those to the play area must be kept closed to prevent fouling of the area by 'unaccompanied' dogs.

### North Moreton Church Fete

The 2005 Fete will be held on the Croft on **Sunday May 15** - please make a note of the date in your diary *now!* We need your help to enable us to equal or surpass the fantastic sum of £3,870 raised in 2004 towards the upkeep of our beautiful Grade I listed church.

## **The Croft**

*Edgar Rayner, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, writes:*

My thanks are due to everyone who completed the survey on the proposed multi-games use of the Croft. A feasibility study has now been completed and approval has been given by the Parish Council to go ahead with plans. Our real challenge is to raise £25,000 through fund-raising and grant application. There will be an Auction Dinner at the Bear on November 27. Tickets are available at £10 each from committee members - we would be also be delighted to receive promises/items for auction. My number is 811237. We look forward to a 'full house'.

## **South and North Moreton Women's Institute**

*Penney Busby (811171) writes:*

Despite a chilly evening in June our meeting in the President's garden was enjoyable and we were entertained to a varied programme of music, performed by some of the young people from both villages. Our thanks go to June Peyton for organising the event. Once again, we served teas for the Open Gardens at Filberts which was as successful as ever. The summer outing was to Basildon Park while we welcomed Susan Pedley to our September meeting who gave us a very interesting and informative talk on the history of church embroidery.

New members are welcome and we meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the WI Barn in South Moreton. The Heritage Lectures will be held in October and November in Didcot Civic Hall and our events for the autumn include "The Pendon Museum" (October 13), "Antarctica - Penguins, Ice and Fire" (November 10) and "A Poetry Presentation" (December 8).

## **Moreton Cricket Club**

Over fifty players represented the Club during the season and a promising feature was the number of schoolboys who appeared. The Club played 33 matches of which 18 were won, eleven lost and four drawn. Once again, there was a tour – this time to Shropshire. Hopefully, work on the new Pavilion should be entirely complete by the start of next season. The speaker at the Annual Dinner, in the Bear, on November 12, will be Alastair Lack. He is a former MCC player and sits on the Arts and Library Committee of MCC. He has recently retired from the important post of Secretary to the (world-wide) Oxford University Society.

**GREASE is coming to the Village Hall on October 16!**

In aid of Moreton Cricket Club

Tickets (to include supper) Adults £10, 16 - 20 years £5.  
Live music by local band 'Loopy' - lead singer Eg Rayner!  
Tickets from Ed Squires (817964), Libby Macdonald  
(812273) and Jill Fletcher (818703)

## **North Moreton Village Hall**

*Shelley Rayner, Chairman, writes:*

As a Committee we are striving to improve the Hall as a facility. In the next few months we will be laying lino in the cloak-room area. Our thanks go to all who have returned the questionnaire. We have received some useful and realistic suggestions. Two fund-raising events are planned: on November 19 there will be a Disco (run by Libby Macdonald) for 8 - 11 year olds from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and for 11 - 15 year olds from 8.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. On December 4 there will be a party for the under eights. We hope you will support these events: please contact me, if you are interested, on 811237.