

Dates for your Diary

(See Notice-boards etc. for details)

March

- 7 Annual Parish Meeting (8 p.m.) followed by Parish Council Meeting
- 9 W I Meeting
- 11 Mobile Library (fortnightly thereafter)
- 11 Red Nose Day (School)
- 20 PCC Meeting
- 27 Easter Day Service (10.30 a.m.)

April

- 10 Footpaths' Walk (11 a.m.)
- 13 W I Meeting

April (cont.)

- 17 MCC v. Checkendon
- 19 MCC Committee Meeting
- 23 St James' Singers, North Moreton Church (7 p.m.)
- 24 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

May

- 7 South Moreton School PTA Jumble Sale (2 - 4 p.m.)
- 9 NMPC Annual Meeting (8 p.m.)
- 11 W I Meeting
- 15 Village Fête

Utilities

Beat Officer: WPC Tracey Walker - 0845 8505505

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

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

Refuse Collection: Thursdays (Maundy Thursday as normal; collection due March 31 will take place on Friday April 1. For May Bank Holiday collections see local press)

Recycling Collection: (paper, cans & plastic) Thursdays - see above

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

Concessionary Travel Tokens: Katie Miles, North Moreton House (813283)

Editor: Gerald Howat, Old School House, North Moreton
Phone: 813228 Fax: 813877
Printed by Lord Williams's School, Thame

Copy for the next issue should reach the Editor by **May 15**

North Moreton News is published four times a year

North Moreton News

Issue 68

March 2005

Editorial

When the *History of North Moreton* was published in 2000 no access was available to the Census Return of 1901 since a century had not quite elapsed. That Census is now in the public domain and we may make some judgments on the village as it then stood. The adult population was 225 of which 126 were men and 99 women. The prevailing occupation was, of course, on the land. 22 men were described as agricultural workers while 14 were designated as carters – men who supplied links with the neighbouring towns of Wallingford and Didcot. The remaining workers were all in single-figure groups while 'solitary' occupants were a market-gardener, a dressmaker, a nurse, a needlewoman, a groom and a thatcher.

Important in a village with no squire were five farmers, while the household of the vicar gave employment to three people. One villager described himself as an artist. In a village which had been associated so closely with the railway for the past sixty years it is curious that no resident, in 1901, claimed employment linked to that industry.

Less than half the population - 97 - had been born in the Moretons. 69 came from other parts of Berkshire, a further 26 from Oxfordshire while a distinctly high proportion (27) hailed from further afield – including London, Birmingham and Plymouth.

Life in North Moreton was hard. Only three men and one woman had reached the age of 80, three and four respectively that of 70 while a mere fourteen men and seven women had passed 60. In total, just under 10% of the villagers had become 'senior citizens' although the phrase itself is an anachronism. Not for another ten years would a pension lie at the end of the road of toil.

One significant example of longevity was Martha Wing. She was 61 at the time of the Census and would live till she was 86, working a 12-hour day till the end of her life, as sub post-mistress.

The village was a poor one but not a place of utter destitution.

Only one villager, in 1901, was on parish relief. At the other end of the scale were the occupants of the four houses at the north end of the Wallingford Road who were described as “living on their own means”. Yet one remembers the contemporary comment of Ruth Young, ‘Parson’ Young’s daughter, that the village “ was a poverty-stricken” one to which her father was “a true friend”.

In broader social terms, the worst of the Great Depression of the previous thirty years had diminished and the village would experience a few more years of peace until the outbreak of war in 1914.

North Moreton Parish Council

Roger Haycock, the chairman, writes:

“Publication Scheme”

One of the offshoots of the Freedom of Information Act is that all Parish Councils must adopt a “Publication Scheme” which says what information on their activities is available to the public and how it may be accessed. NMPC has adopted the government’s Model Scheme and will provide what is mandated. Most of the important information (Council Minutes, Accounts and Planning Responses) has been available for very many years, but there are some new requirements. Details of what may be requested are shown on the NMPC Notice Board. This announcement in the *North Moreton News* is the chosen way of informing the parishioners.

Any parishioner wishing to see such information should ask the Clerk who will aim to provide it in the most useful and cost-effective way. Sometimes it may be adequate just to view a document briefly. Sometimes it may be easy to supply something (e.g. Council minutes) as an e-mail attachment. We may make a charge to cover photocopying or other costs. Even if some information is NOT on the Core List of what MUST be supplied on request, unless there is a good reason for withholding it, we shall provide it. Please ask!

North Moreton Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on Monday March 7 - everyone welcome!

Electrical Installations

As from January 1 2005 all electrical work in homes and gardens, including garages, conservatories, sheds and ponds is controlled under the Building Regulations. Householders are required to demonstrate that all installations have been inspected and tested either by employing a contractor who is registered with a Government approved Competent Person scheme or by applying for inspection by Building Control. Please see the Parish Council noticeboard for further details.

Time to Spare?

Volunteer Driving

If you are a car owner/driver and have time to spare, the Wallingford Volunteer Centre would be delighted to hear from you. You don’t have to make a regular commitment - some volunteers do several jobs a week, others do one or two a month and you can advise the office of periods when you are not available. If you would like to know more, telephone 01491 836345 or drop into the Volunteer Centre office in St Lawrence Square, Wallingford on a Wednesday morning to speak to Barbara Kershaw, the scheme Coordinator.

Bereavement Services

Volunteers are urgently sought for this Service for the relatives of those who die at Sobell House or in the care of the Community Macmillan Team. There is a training scheme of some 60 hours and further details can be obtained from Jane Elliott or Di Rovers at 01865 225878.

Dial-a-Ride

Oxfordshire County Council has introduced a subsidised Dial-A-Ride transport service for people who do not have their own transport and find it difficult to use public transport. The scheme is available in the North Moreton area on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.. It is a door-to-door service, costing a maximum of £2 per single journey and the drivers are all trained in both first aid and in assisting wheelchair users. It is necessary to register for the service so please contact Walter's Limousines on 01869 327048 for a registration form or phone Katie Miles on 01235 813283 for further information.

Wallingford Volunteer Centre operates a similar scheme using volunteer drivers. Journeys can be made on any weekday and cover visits to Wallingford surgery, local day centres and hospitals. Charges reflect the cost of the volunteer's petrol and running costs and range from around £2.50 for a local journey to £10 for a visit to the Oxford hospitals - all charges include reasonable waiting time. This service is not available to wheelchair users. *For further information telephone the Volunteer Centre between 9.30 and 11.30 a.m. Monday to Friday on 01491 836345.*

Recycling Collection Containers

In response to complaints that items suitable for recycling have been collected with the general waste, SODC Public Amenities Team advise that such items should be placed in the following containers **only**:

- Green boxes - issued by the Council
- Clear plastic sacks
- Carrier bags
- Bins clearly labelled with 'Recycling'

Additional green boxes can be obtained by phoning Astrid Waring on 01235 816417.

Vacancies on the Parish Council

- (a) **Parish Clerk.** Following the resignation of Dr. Roger Templeman, the Parish needs a new Clerk. The hours of work average two/week but this will vary from time to time and there is clearly a learning curve. Would anyone potentially interested please contact Roger Haycock (812202) or any other member of the Council. For the time being Roger is acting Clerk and Sue Harrison is acting Responsible Financial Officer. If possible, the Council would prefer to find a candidate from within the village.
- (b) **Parish Councillor.** Astrid Waring has indicated that she intends to resign as a Parish Councillor in the near future and on receipt of her resignation a replacement will need to be co-opted (unless 10 or more parishioners call for an election). Would anyone interested in being considered please contact one of the councillors. The position would last until the next parish council elections in May 2007.

A History of North Moreton

This book was published five years ago, to mark the Millennium. If there is sufficient response, a second edition may be produced. Those interested in purchasing a copy should let the author know at Old School House (813228).

Moreton Cricket Club

Jon Cross, the secretary, writes:

We have 45 matches arranged for the coming season. On April 17 the club plays Checkendon (away). Thereafter we meet Valley End (away) in the first round of the National Village Competition in the Surrey-Berkshire group and Oxon CC Staff in the first round of the Friendly Cup.

The Pavilion is in its last phase of development in time for the start of the season. Once the plumbing structure is complete there will be a slight disruption to the High Street (notice will be given) while connection is made with the mains.

The Annual Quiz

Once again, this proved a very enjoyable village event and is seen as a major revenue-raiser for the Cricket Club. The results provided a good “spread” with no team scoring less than a hundred points – all credit to the setters! “Silly Mid-On”, with 157, emerged as the Champions with “Silly Mid-Off” and “The President’s Team” coming second with 146 each.

The Mayflowers’ Club

Kate Evans, the chairman, writes:

The first meeting of 2005 was a particularly enjoyable, noisy, laughter-filled occasion with old friends present in Tony and Rosemary Otter and Peter and Pam Travers.

Thanks are due to Chris and Jean Connisbee for preparing and serving a traditional Christmas dinner, funded by the South Moreton Parish Council. A generous donation also came from the North Moreton Clay Pigeon Club which may make it possible to arrange a day ‘outing’ in the summer.

Footpaths’ Walk

The annual footpaths’ walk will take place on Sunday April 10. The survey of Public Rights of Way (1956) together with Ordnance Sheets SU 58 and 59, establishes the local footpaths. The main walk lasts about 1½ hours and the shorter walk about ½ hour. Those interested should meet at the bus stop at 11 o’clock.

North Moreton Village Hall

The Management Committee would like to thank everyone for their support during the past financial year. This has meant that not only were they able to cover running expenses and minor improvements during 2004 but also had a small surplus to carry forward to this year. Thank you all.

South Moreton School

The administrator, Helen Risk, writes:

The school would be very grateful for any box-top vouchers from Nestle’s cereals with which claims can be made for free books. Used postage stamps, old mobile phones and empty ink cartridges can also be taken to raise money for charities. Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers will be available soon and the school would be grateful for these as well.

The Red Nose Day is on March 11. Children may come in non-uniform on payment of 50p donation to Comic Relief (which will be collected at school).

Sunday May 15 – North Moreton Fête

Yes, it’s time to start thinking of warm summer days and the sound of happy villagers enjoying themselves at the annual North Moreton Fête. For your delight and entertainment this year will be all the usual offerings (cakes, produce, bottle stall, white elephant, games stalls to name but a few). By popular demand the very successful *pet show* will again take place so its time to train your terriers or pamper your pomeranians - and don’t forget your entries for the *Art and Photographic exhibition!* The inter-village *Tug of War* competition between North & South Moreton will run again so start building up your biceps! The *Children’s Corner* and *Team Challenge* together with many other fun activities will ensure that this is a day not to be missed. More details will be announced soon.....

We hope that as many of you as possible will get involved and come along. If you have any ideas or wish to help in any way please contact the fête committee:

Nora Haycock 812202
Mavis Crickmore 813240
Claire Steen 814617
Lee Bond 516670

Bob Griggs 819090
Trevor Denning 812968
Mary Greene 813396
Elaine Marriott 512470