

Dates for your Diary

(See Notice-boards etc. for details)

JUNE

- 3 Mobile Library (fortnightly thereafter)
- 6 South Moreton School Family Fun Day
- 8 WI Meeting
- 8 Mayflowers' Club (fortnightly thereafter)
- 14 MCC Committee
- 18 South Moreton School 'Camp-Out'
- 19 North Moreton Church 'Hymn-a-thon'

JULY

- 3 S Moreton School PTA Summer Fete
- 10 Salmon Lunch 12.30 for 1 p.m.
- 11 North Moreton PC Meeting 8 p.m.
- 13 WI Meeting
- 19 Ragwort Action week begins

AUGUST

- 7 MCC President's Match

SEPTEMBER

- 12 North Moreton PC Meeting 8 p.m.
- 14 W I Meeting
- 23 or 30 MCC Dinner and Awards

OCTOBER

- 1 Barn Dance in North Moreton House
Barn in aid of Church funds
- 24 MCC Committee
- 29 MCC 'Race Night' at The Bear

NOVEMBER

- 12 or 19 Soup Lunch in Village Hall

Utilities

Beat Officer: WPC Tracey Walker - 0845 8505505

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

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

Refuse Collection: Thursdays (August Bank Holiday collection will take place on Friday September 2)

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

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North Moreton News

Issue 69

June 2005

Editorial

Two events, one national and one domestic, in May 'disturbed' the even tenor of North Moreton's life. On May 5 the General and local Elections saw us all trooping to the Village Hall where some of our votes contributed to the success of long-standing county (and district) councillor, Patrick Greene. He has also become the chairman of the South Oxfordshire District Council. At national level, Robert Wilson was returned as the Member of Parliament for Reading East. He is the first North Moretonian ever to go to Westminster and his 15,000 votes approximates very closely to the runs he has made for Moreton CC..... but his majority was so narrow that he will have to play with a very straight bat to keep his 'wicket' intact next time round. To both villagers of long-standing, *North Moreton News* extends its warmest congratulations.

The domestic event was, of course, our Fête ten days later. This is a well-established tradition in the village and the archives of the nineteenth-century pay tribute to the efforts of villagers of their generation to create a festive occasion as well as to raise money for the church. Inevitably, so shapes the march of Progress, the Fêtes in the twenty-first century have taken on more ambitious ventures, such as the parachuted visit of the RAF Falcons. Their organisation has been detailed and inspirational and that of last month was no exception in its array of attractions, its cavalcade of coconut shy, kids' corner and cakes and its trilogy of teas, tug of war and toy stall. And Polly Vacher, the first woman to fly solo round the Poles, opened it!

Nothing happens without endeavour – whether winning seats or running Fêtes - and our thanks are due to all who strove to make the Fête as happy and as profitable an occasion as ever and especially to Nora Haycock, its indefatigable and talented chairman. We couldn't control the weather but, against all gloomy predictions, it was a perfect summer's day.

North Moreton Parish Council

Roger Haycock, the chairman, writes

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on March 7 in the Village Hall. The good health of the village was well illustrated by the reports from the numerous village organisations but the Council would have liked to see more parishioners present as numbers were slightly down on previous years. No matters were raised by electors.

I am very pleased to report that since the last edition of North Moreton News, the Parish Council has filled its vacancies for Clerk and Councillor. Janet Bullard, who lives at Cobbs Cottage, has been appointed Clerk. She may be contacted on 818704 or nmpc@btinternet.com.

Three candidates kindly put their names forward for co-option for the Councillor post, which is very encouraging. Following a secret ballot, Ian Shipton was elected. He lives at Speedwell and may be contacted on 814372 or ian_shipton@lineone.net. He will have a special responsibility for Recreation Ground issues.

We are delighted to see the new gates in place to replace three elderly styles on Footpath 3 as it crosses the fields behind The Barn House. Our thanks go to the Penneys and Oxfordshire County Council for financial support. Opportunity has been taken to re-align the path to its correct position as shown on the Definitive Map. Dog owners will find that it is now possible to complete the circular walk with a dog via Mackney and (almost) South

THE WIDER WORLD

Ragwort

Our attention is drawn by the Oxfordshire Committee of the British Horse Society, to the dangers (both to humans and animals) of the poisonous weed, Common Ragwort, especially at this time of year. It is a rosette of green, jagged leaves and grows up to three feet with a red stalk and has bright yellow flower heads from June onwards.

All parts of the plant are poisonous and are a hazard to grazing livestock. Stock do not generally eat the plant in its green state but consume it when dried in feed. The effect is cumulative and likely to lead to the death of the animal. It is particularly a problem for cattle, horses, ponies and donkeys.

Ragwort is specified as an injurious weed in the Weeds Act 1959 and primary responsibility for its control rests with the occupier of the land concerned. In view of the quantity of seeds produced by each individual plant and the wide area over which they may spread, rapid action is necessary once a problem is identified. Oxfordshire County Council and the British Horse Society will be teaming up for a special 'Ragwort Action Week' beginning on July 19 when they will be concentrating on road verges. For information on the best methods of dealing with this menace on private property, please ring 01865 844300.

Age Concern

Age Concern Oxfordshire would welcome volunteers for both its Personal Home Visiting Service and its Hospital After Care Support.

Details may be obtained from Alex Levey on 01235 849400.

those who fancy a glass or two of wine or beer with their meal.

MCC will be playing at home on that day and we hope that members of the team and maybe their opponents will join us for lunch before the game. Non-players will be able to relax over a further glass or two of wine and enjoy the sound on leather on willow....

Tickets (in advance only - by 3rd July if possible) £10.00 for adults or £8.50 for under 18s and are available from Nora Haycock (812202) or Trevor Denning (812968).

Moreton Table Tennis Club

(Roger Templeman, cd2rom@aol.com)

The 2004/5 season has ended but the club continues to run at South Moreton School: Wednesdays for junior coaching and senior practice; Thursdays for senior coaching and ladies. With all three of our teams promoted we expected they might struggle and this proved so for the two Division 3 teams, but spirits are high for next year. The Division 2 team finished 4th, as did a new Division 4 team.

The club's reputation was enhanced recently as it hosted a SODC coaching course and the Oxfordshire Junior Ranking trials. The former produced a number of new players, and the latter was won by one of our players who had also won the Didcot & District league Divisional titles.

South Moreton School

There will be a Family Fun Evening on June 6 and the PTA will have a Summer Fete on July 3. There are plans for a "Camp Out" on June 18. Computer and Active Kids vouchers from Tesco and Sainsbury should be handed in to the school when convenient.

Moreton, although one style is still somewhat difficult to navigate. However, they should note that sheep are usually kept in the field behind The Barn House, and dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead if sheep are present.

A History of North Moreton

If there is sufficient demand (by July 1) a second edition of this 200-page book, which traces the history of North Moreton through a thousand years, will be printed in August. But firm orders need to be made to Gerald Howat by the end of *this* month.

Moreton Cricket Club

The season has started reasonably well with all matches played in sunshine.

The club lost by only 13 runs in the first round of the National Village Competition to a strong Surrey side who could field five XIs and had 200 youngsters in their Colts' scheme. It proved an enjoyable and close contest.

Moreton also explored new paths when the 2nd XI played the village of Frieth in Buckinghamshire. Although less than an hour from North Moreton, this was totally 'new' and attractive countryside to all of us. Quite apart from cricket, it is worth a jaunt but choose a warm day. It is high up and commands vistas on all sides.

Plans are in hand for a 'race night' at the Bear, in aid of Club funds, on *Saturday October 29*.

The Mayflowers' Club...

... apologises for acknowledging a donation from the South Moreton *Council*. It should read, *Charity*.

The South and North Moreton Women's Institute

Penny Busby writes:

In March the new committee was elected with Liz Elliot again confirmed as president and Judy Hollings as secretary. A varied and interesting programme has been planned for the year which began with Brian Woolnough's talk on 'Hope and Despair' which gave members an opportunity to reflect on Africa's future.

In May, Resolutions were discussed. This year they were about farmers being given a fair price for milk production and the need for the country to do more to reduce waste. Both Resolutions were passed and go on to higher level.

Future events include: June 6, Hand of Friendship Party; June 8, Northmore Trust and the Dig (Rowland Hill) and, on July 13, Pilates (Rachel Marffy).

Meetings take place in the WI Barn, South Moreton on the second Wednesday of each month and new members are always welcome.

North Moreton Fête

Nora Haycock writes:

Despite the dire weather forecast we were blessed with a glorious day and a record number of people swarmed through the gates to enjoy themselves and spend their hard-earned cash to the tune of nearly £3900 - after deduction of expenses we made a profit of £3750 - setting another record!

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who supported us and to all those who helped in so many ways: running and manning stalls, sideshows and the pet show; providing teas, goods and produce; helping in the children's corner and on the gates; buying raffle tickets; donating prizes; sponsoring events and generally fetching and carrying.

Particular thanks must go to Polly Vacher for opening the Fete and supporting us so splendidly; to the Rector for being 'gunged' with such good-humour; to Jill Fletcher for running a very successful Raffle and not least to the Committee – Lee Bond, Mavis Crickmore, Trevor Denning, Mary Greene, Bob Griggs, Elaine Marriot and Claire Steen for all the time and effort they put in, and for all their hard work on the day.

The 'bring and share' supper hosted in their Barn by Katie and David Miles made a lovely ending to the day - thank you both.

See you all next year!

A child's fawn sunhat and a pair of sunglasses were left in the Children's Corner – to claim them, please ring Mavis on 01235 813240.

North Moreton Village Hall

Shelley Rayner our Chairman and a staunch committee member for the last 3½ years has sadly had to resign due to an overload of work and personal commitments. The Committee would like to thank her publicly for all the hard work she has put in during her time in office - she will be a hard act to follow.

If anyone would like to join us on the VHMC, we would be delighted to welcome them - please contact Nora Haycock on 812202.

On **Sunday July 10** we will be holding a Salmon Lunch in the garden at Peckwater, North Moreton (or The Barn, North Moreton House, if wet) to raise funds for the upkeep of the Hall.

We will be providing a glass of sparkling wine on arrival followed by melon, freshly cooked salmon with mixed salad and new potatoes, and strawberries and cream. A chicken alternative can be provided to order and there will be a Licensed bar for