

## Dates for your Diary

### DECEMBER

- 4 Dean of Divinity at Magdalen College, Oxford preaches at All Saints' 10.30 am
- 5 South Moreton School Christmas play 1.30 pm
- 10 Children's Christmas Party, Village Hall 2 - 4 pm
- 10 Christmas Bazaar, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 pm
- 11 Christingle Service All Saints' 4 pm
- 14 W I Meeting, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 pm
- 17 Christmas Decoration Making, Village Hall 3 - 5 pm
- 18 Carol Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies 4 pm
- 21 Mayflowers carols, mince pies & sherry, The Old Bakehouse Aston Tirrold 2 pm
- 24 Midnight Service All Saints' (see Link for confirmed time)

### JANUARY 2006

- 9 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8 pm
- 11 W I Meeting, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 pm
- 13 MCC AGM, Village Hall 8 pm
- 21 Junior Disco, Village Hall 6.30 - 8 pm & 8.30 - 10 pm
- 31 MCC Committee, Bear Inn, 8 pm

### FEBRUARY

- 4 MCC Annual Quiz, Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 8 W I Meeting, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 pm

### MARCH

- 4 Safari Supper in aid of Church funds

### MAY

- 14 North Moreton Village Fete

## 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 (no change over Christmas/New Year)

**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

Issue 71

December 2005

## Editorial

It is a pleasure for the *North Moreton News* to welcome yet another new tenant at the Bear Inn. That Tim Haworth and his wife, Alison, are well-known to us all in North Moreton is an added bonus. The village gave its welcome over the opening week-end and there was a sense of unity, happiness and good-will which pervaded the pub. We can only wish them well as they embark on a task which is demanding, if rewarding; long in hours and short in recreation.

The Bear Inn has an antiquity all of its own, with its title-deeds stretching back through the centuries and, in more recent times, one of four hostleries in North Moreton. Within the lives of the oldest inhabitants of to-day there is the perennial memory of Norman Mawrey and his wife, Doris. The pub was small and its offerings modest but there was always a welcome. In a village whose expectations, fifty years ago, were less than the present, it was a focal point for adults and children alike and the memory of it is fresh and untarnished.

So, after many vicissitudes since the Mawreys left – and they include the brief tenure by a film star – may we once again hope that the Bear, under its new tenants, can regain a place in village affections.

It is pure romanticism to assume the job will be easy. For a variety of social and economic reasons, people nowadays frequent country pubs less than they did. A small community such as North Moreton can only offer so much custom however willing the tenant. And there is the rub. Tim Haworth has to meet a large rent, payable to the landlord, before he can hope to make a profit. With that burden, too, we can only wish him well and promise what support we can. The enthusiasm and intent of he and Alison is there for all to see

\* \* \* \*

In a different context, the *North Moreton News* also welcomes the Reverend Edwin Clements as its priest-in-charge. He, and Louise Butler, who

has come as assistant curate, represent two 'firsts' for the village. He is the first incumbent through eight centuries not to hold the freehold. What is a 'vicar' and what is a 'rector' is worth an editorial in itself. Suffice to say that a vicar is a 'vice-rector' (as, in another context, a vice-captain). Fr Clements will be neither in his pastoral care of North Moreton. The other 'first' is the lady who comes to us as assistant curate. So, in some senses, those historic landmarks of an English village, church and pub, both experience, this Christmas, a sense of change. Both may claim the traditional and well-meaning support of villagers.

## North Moreton Parish Council

*Roger Haycock, the chairman, writes:*

### Planning issues

- a) Hadden Hill Travellers Planning Appeal  
The Appeal against the travellers being thrown off the site was heard on 1 November. Two Parish Councillors attended. The Inspector will publish her report in about eight weeks from the date of the hearing – i.e. at about Christmas time.
- b) A controversial planning application to build a house on a field on the south side of Back Lane (Elm Road extension) has been withdrawn.
- c) A. J. Machinery site. The site owners have decided to withdraw their appeal against being turned down for a planning application for two houses on the site. The PC has just been informed that the applicant intends to resubmit a duplicate of the application which was turned down by the Planning Committee on 22 December 2004. The rationale appears to be that at that meeting the applicant was criticised by some Committee members for not having marketed the site with sufficient vigour. One of the councillors had said that they would reconsider the matter if a purchaser for the site had not been found in six/nine months. The site has been marketed through Thomas Merryfield for most of the last year, and presumably the owners feel that they now have evidence of effort but no success. The owners advise that they are also intending to submit a second (alternative) application at the same time. Details of this are not yet available. Please contact the Clerk on 818704 or email [nmpc@btinternet.com](mailto:nmpc@btinternet.com) if you wish to be kept informed of developments.

## Macmillan Cancer Relief

A big "thank-you" from Jill Fletcher and Emma Craigie to all who supported the coffee morning on 30 September. Over sixty people attended and we raised a magnificent £300 with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Relief, which provides help to those living with cancer in the practical and emotional support they want and need. Many thanks to Mark Stott at the Bear Inn for providing the venue and coffee and to the following for donating super raffle prizes: RAF Benson, Alison Lock, Annetta Slade and the Ad Plain Ltd.

## North Moreton Fête

The 2006 fête will be held on the Croft on Sunday 14 May - please note this date in your diary!

The classes for the popular exhibition of drawings, paintings and photographs will be 'The Village' (anything to do with North Moreton - people, buildings, scenes) and 'The Artist's Choice' - any subject that takes your fancy. As in previous years there will be three classes: under 6, 6 - 12 years and Open. Drawings and paintings can be in any medium and photographic prints from either digital or film. We look forward to a bumper entry!

### ST PETER'S FARM SHOP

Open Daily 10am - 4pm (*closed Tuesdays*)

Local Dexter Beef

Selection of Gifts Christmas Decorations

Body Shop Products

Friday is fresh home-made cake day:

Chocolate cake, passion fruit cake,  
butter biscuits, flapjacks & many more.

Orders now being taken for Christmas & other cakes

**A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year  
to one and all.**

## North Moreton Parochial Church Council

*Patrick Greene, The Churchwarden, writes:*

The Licensing Service by Stephen, Bishop of Reading, at All Saints North Moreton on Thursday 17 November at 7.30 pm.

A full congregation of parishioners from the Moretons, the Astons and many parishioners from Hagbourne, Upton and Blewbury Benefice witnessed the Licensing of The Revd Edwin Clements as Priest-in-Charge and The Revd Louise Butler as OLM Assistant Curate of the United Benefice of South Moreton with North Moreton, Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe.

It was a memorable occasion heralded by the ringing of bells and was a step on the way to the formation of a larger Benefice which will encompass all the aforementioned parishes. After the service all enjoyed refreshments and wine, providing the opportunity for parishioners to meet with Bishop Stephen and the Archdeacon of Berkshire, The Venerable Norman Russell.

Our thanks go to all who helped prepare for this service, the bell ringers and to those who kindly brought refreshments and wine.

On Saturday December 17 children aged from 3 to 14 are invited to join Vicki Squires in the village hall to make decorations for the churches in the Moretons and Astons. The session will run from 3 - 5 pm and tea and cakes will be provided. Please ring Vicki on 817064 for information on what to bring.

### Art Classes

Vicki Squires is also planning a short series (3 - 5 weeks) of mosaic and art classes in February. These will be suitable for ages 11 up and will be held in the village hall on a weekday evening. If you are interested, please email Vicki at [Victoriacreates@aol.com](mailto:Victoriacreates@aol.com) for further information.

### Poppy Day Appeal

The collection around the village raised £333.22 - many thanks to both those who 'door-knocked' and all those who donated so generously.

### Highways

Parishioners will have noticed that work has started on new "gateways" at the three entrances to the village. The PC very much hopes that we've got the balance right. Our objectives are to help improve road safety but without "going overboard" on clutter in this Conservation Area and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### Children's Playground

The Recreation Committee will be holding a 'Service and Clean' morning in the children's play area on Saturday 3 December. Anyone who can spare an hour or so to help would be warmly welcomed - we hope to have time for a short game of football afterwards.

### Village Email

Most residents who are 'on line' will be aware of the village email system through which items of local interest may be circulated. The list is a village initiative and is not run or controlled by the Parish Council. Some concerns have been raised about inappropriate use and possible 'spamming' and we would ask everyone to use this facility with the utmost discretion.

If you wish to have your address added or removed please contact Maggie Parker ([Maggie@StapletonsChantry.co.uk](mailto:Maggie@StapletonsChantry.co.uk)) who holds the definitive list and who will advise other recipients of the list accordingly. It is very helpful if you can keep your own North Moreton email address list up to date. People neither want to keep receiving unwanted messages nor miss out on communications if they've asked for them.

## THE BEAR-AT-HOME

*(The new name for The Bear at North Moreton)*

Tim and Alison look forward to welcoming you for a drink or a meal

Open every day for lunches and suppers

Freshly cooked food & excellent wines

*Booking for Sunday Lunch recommended*

(01235 811311 or [tim@bear-at-home.co.uk](mailto:tim@bear-at-home.co.uk))

## Moreton Cricket Club

*The Chairman, Trevor Denning writes:*

The 'Race Night' at The Bear Inn proved to be a big success with a sell out crowd of over fifty packing into the restaurant for a very enjoyable evening—and in some cases a profitable one! The evening was organised by the Haworth family, giving an excellent taste of things to come at The Bear. The profit will enable us to complete the work on the pavilion which will eventually benefit the whole village.

Our next function is, of course, the Annual Quiz which will take place on 4 February, again organised by Ed Squires and Tim - look out for details.

## Moreton Table Tennis Club

*Roger Templeman (CD2ROM@aol.com, 01235 813913) writes:*

Moreton TTC is now the third biggest club in the Didcot and District league, behind only Abingdon and Didcot clubs. It is the fastest growing club, with a good mix of experienced older players and new young converts to the sport.

The five league teams in Divisions 1, 3 and 4 are doing as well as, or better than expected, so some promotions and more teams are anticipated next season. The club meets on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the sports hall at South Moreton School with five tables in use. Coaching and practice is provided for the more serious players, but social play is also encouraged. More members would be welcome irrespective of age, gender and ability.

For details contact the club secretary, Roger Templeman or visit the club website: [www.mttc.moonfruit.com](http://www.mttc.moonfruit.com).

## North Moreton Village Hall

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Soup Lunch & Charity Card Sale held on 12th November which raised over £230 for Hall funds and sums ranging from £20 to over £100 for the charities who attended. Our next events are for children and teenagers:

The **Annual Christmas Party for the under 8s** will be held on Saturday 10 December, 2 - 4 pm. Activities, games, party food and a visit from Father Christmas! £3 for first child and £2 for siblings. Pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult.

To book contact Annetta Slade on 01235 519944 or email

[netts.slade@virgin.net](mailto:netts.slade@virgin.net).

The **Junior Disco** will be held on Friday 20 January. 6.30 - 8 pm, 7 to 11 years; 8.30 - 10 pm, 12 to 15 years. Entry £2.50. Tickets in advance from Nora Haycock (812202) or on the door.

Any adult who would like to help at either of these events, or indeed join the committee, please contact Annetta or Nora Haycock as above.

Don't forget that the Hall is an ideal venue for Children's Parties and we are now offering a special rate of £20 for North Moreton residents - contact Anne Silvester on 811646 for availability.

## The Mayflowers' Club...

*Kate Evans writes:*

The Mayflowers meet on alternate Wednesday afternoons for tea and cakes, raffle and crazy interactive bingo, dominoes, chat, and more often than not, a good laugh. Each year there are usually six 'lunch meetings', a 'birthday tea', a 'sherry, mince pies and carols' meeting and a preview of the school's Christmas Show. It is a very informal arrangement (no membership rules nor committees) – just an opportunity for those over fifty to get out of the house and spend a pleasant afternoon in the company of others.

If you would like to know more, please phone Kate Evans on 813858.

## South and North Moreton Women's Institute

*Penny Busby writes:*

Anne Kellart, the (retiring) High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, gave a very interesting talk in October about her year in office. She brought her uniform to show us and we learnt about the wide range of activities that kept her busy during her time in office. In November Caroline Cross invited members to try their hand at card-making.

The Heritage Lectures in Didcot this year have been excellent. They were on the subject of rural Oxfordshire and have included talks on the wool trade, bats and life on the farm. The final one was the discovery of how people had lived in the 'big house' at Sulgrove Manor. As always, we are pleased to welcome visitors and new faces. The WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the WI Barn in South Moreton. Future meetings are indicated in 'Dates for your Diary'.