

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

- 7 South Moreton School PTA Jumble Sale 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.
- 8 Harvest Thanksgiving 11 am All Saints' - 'Bring and Share' lunch.
- 11 Mayflowers, The Old Bakehouse, Aston Tirrold 2 p.m.
- 11 WI Social Meeting, The Barn South Moreton 7.30 p.m.
- 14 'Quinney Day' & 'Gift Day', All Saints' 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
- 15 'Songs of Praise' All Saints' 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 6 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8 p.m.
- 8 WI Meeting - Country Dancing The Barn South Moreton 7.30 p.m.
- 8 Mayflowers, The Old Bakehouse, Aston Tirrold 2 p.m.
- 11 Soup Lunch and Charity Card Sale, Village Hall
- 25 Candlelit Music at Cobbs Cottage, 7.30 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 2 Book Sale and Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00 p.m.
- 5 South Moreton Junior School Panto - OAP performance
- 6/7 South Moreton Junior School Panto
- 9 Children's Party (under 7's) Village Hall 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.
- 12 South Moreton School Infants' Nativity Play
- 13 South Moreton School Infants' Nativity Play OAP performance
- 13 W I Meeting - 'Rags & Rugs' The Barn, South Moreton 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY

- 19 MCC AGM
- 30 MCC Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 3 MCC Quiz

North Moreton News

Issue 74

October 2006

Life in North Moreton

Wendy, Oliver, Archie and I will leave our home in North Moreton on 21st September after 13 very happy years. We shall be very sad to leave our many good friends (though plan to move to a nearby village). After all, it is the only home that our younger son, Archie, has known, where Oliver has spent most of his life, I a quarter of mine and Wendy a third of hers! I know the village will welcome Nick and Alison Saunders, who are buying our house.

As I reflect on the past 13 years, in a village which has a strong community atmosphere with a work hard, play hard culture, there are a number of traditions which I very much hope will continue.

The first of these is the North Moreton Cricket Club. Although I have never been a member or played (it was Rhoda Carpenter's opening question when I arrived!), the strong team spirit and fun, coupled with their great fund-raising activities (the Quiz on the first Saturday in February and the Discos) have been fantastic.

Wendy and I were very lucky to meet many of the villagers soon after arriving, when we were invited to take part in a Safari Supper, moving from house to house to share meals with different guests, before meeting for a great party to close the evening. When this great event didn't happen again for a couple of years, I formed a team and since then we have held 4 Safari Suppers, using Tin Tin Safari, Hollywood Oscars, Roman and most recently Alice in Wonderland themes, with over 100 guests greatly enjoying themselves and raising several thousand pounds for All Saints' Church, Hall and playground.

The annual fete held in late May is a great community event - and a labour of love for the organisers! After years' of enjoying David & Katie Miles' generous use of their garden, my team moved the fete to the

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recreation ground 7 years ago, had the RAF Falcons Parachute Team drop in and set a record income target, which Alice Penny and Nora Haycock have successfully bettered year on year ever since.

Children are a very important part of North Moreton's community. With this in mind, in a team chaired by Eddie Squires, in 2003 we raised £20,000, including securing a grant of over £11,000 from the SODC, to completely refurbish the recreation playground, based on the prioritised requirements of village children, which has been widely used since. I very much hope that the Playground Committee which succeeded us, will find the way to agree amongst themselves and the Parish Council, to spend the additional funds raised since on facilities which will encourage children to step away from their pc and internet games for outside energetic activities.

When Wendy and I were provided with 120 oak saplings, a team of us led by Liz Elliot, planted these around the recreation ground and the paddock behind the playground. These are now 3 or 4' tall and will be enjoyed by future generations of villagers.

All Saints' Church is very special, beautiful and very much in need of regular upkeep and fundraising to do this. In the annual Quinney day in October, named after Ron Quinney who did so much for the Church, villagers get together to dig up weeds, remove guano, paint walls and polish the walls and furniture. The annual Oxfordshire Churches Ride & Stride, held in early September, provides a great opportunity to raise money for not only our own church, but also others in the county, whilst walking or cycling with friends to some amazingly beautiful churches around the county and stopping off for an excellent lunch in one of our fantastic country pubs. I very much hope that North Moreton secures a permanent vicar for this important church, so that its future is secured.

And speaking of pubs, when we arrived, there were two - The Queen Victoria, which closed unexpectedly overnight, and The Bear. The Bear is an essential centre of our Community. When the owners, Paul and Penny Juffkins, decided after several exhausting years of

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS is a private and confidential help service available to everyone using NHS services. They can help to sort our concerns and problems quickly, listen to your views on health services, provide advice and information on local services and where appropriate, put you in touch with other local services who can help.

PALS are now based in Wallingford Hospital and their new address is PALS, PPI Office, SE & SW Primary Care Trusts, Wallingford Community Hospital, Reading Road, Wallingford, OX10 9DU. Their FreePhone telephone number is 0800 052 3225.

Oxford Planning Consultation

SODC want your views on possible sites for an additional 700 new houses to be built in this area by 2026. Watch local press for details of their consultation exercise, visit the SODC website or phone 01491 823725 for more information. There will be a Public Exhibition of possible options in Wallingford Town Hall on *Friday 20th October* between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and SODC would like to hear your views by *17th November*. This is *your* chance to influence local planning policies so make the most of it.

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: Ann Silvester, 17 Bear Lane - 811646

Concessionary Travel Tokens: Katie Miles, N. M. House - 813283

Mobile Library: Bus Shelter - alternate Wednesdays, 10 - 10.15

Refuse & Recycling Collections: Thursdays

Garden Waste Collection: alternate Thursdays

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

many of which are local and this year range from children's rugs and playmates to Christmas decorations and cards, from unique gifts and flowers to handmade jewellery and from bath and beauty products to children's books.

If you would like to be a Home-Start volunteer offering regular support, friendship and practical help to young families in the area, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are starting a Volunteers' Preparation Course in October and if you would like any further information about the course or Home-Start, please contact Hilary Mundy on 01235 511152 or at info@homestart-southernoxon.org.uk."

South and Vale Carers Centre

In an average street one in ten houses will be home to a person who is long-term ill, frail or disabled. That person will be looked after by a friend or family member who spends between 10 and 60 hours a week in their caring role for no financial reward.

Caring is not an easy job. It often takes place behind closed doors and can be lonely and stressful. Carers are usually glad of a bit of help but sometimes need more than a friendly neighbour can provide.

There is a local charity that can help with benefits advice, carer's breaks and other support. They also provide some much needed fun and are currently taking bookings for a summer outing to Bourne-mouth, an autumn shopping trip to Bristol and a training course in massage techniques. For free advice or more information call the South & Vale Carers Centre on 01235 5100212, or email carers@svcarers.org.uk.

South Oxfordshire Children's Information Guide

The Oxfordshire Children's Information Service has produced an excellent free guide to childcare, leisure activities and family support available in this area. For your copy of this valuable resource email enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk or phone 08452 262636.

running a very successful business, to lease the pub, the number of villagers using the pub fell dramatically in the wake of 3 successive poorly managed leasees and became at risk of closing altogether. With many villagers horrified at this prospect, a team of us worked very hard to discover what would encourage residents and outsiders to use the pub again so as to make it a going concern and negotiated with the Juffkins to re-open the pub. When the new landlord, Mark Stott, decided to move on a year or so later, we were delighted that Tim and Alison Haworth, and their family, decided to take on the business. It is a reflection of the strength of the community, and the affection we have towards Tim and Alison, that villagers banded together to run the pub whilst they enjoyed a 4 week holiday in Australia, soon afterwards. I am delighted by the way they have responded to what villagers want from the pub and that as a result, the pub is so busy and hopefully proving to be successful for them.

I would urge the villagers to remain united in collectively resisting attempts to develop further housing on backlands. North Moreton is in an area of outstanding natural beauty and should remain as such, rather than becoming part of greater Didcot. Wendy and I are very grateful to the many friends and to the Parish Council, who supported our successful appeal against plans to develop the paddock behind our own home.

There are probably many other regular events which I haven't mentioned, which are all well worth attending, including Nora Haycock's annual Salmon Lunch for the Village Hall, Janet Prescott's Open Gardens, Katie Miles' Barn Dance.

Any regrets? I would have loved a repeat of the raucous and bawdy Medieval Banquet, held in Katie & David Miles' Barn, but I'm not sure Katie has recovered from the bread-throwing and bad behaviour of the guests! Oh and its time to have a repeat of the two excellent Bavarian evenings held in the Village Hall - hopefully the rather aged but energetic Band Members are still playing Oompah music rather than harps!

We shall greatly miss North Moreton and our friends and very much hope that newcomers will have as many happy times as we have.

Harry Clark

North Moreton Parish Council

The last few months seem to have been relatively quiet as far as the Parish Council is concerned. There are some long term issues moving slowly, but with little to report.

In the last issue of this publication I mentioned possible developments with the Farmoor Allotments following the decision to allow two houses to be built on the adjoining A J Machinery site. Since then, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Charitable Trust, The Parish Council and the owners of the AJM site, which will require the developers (when the AJM site is sold) to do some agreed landscaping work on the Parish's site as there are unused allotments elsewhere in the village. The intention is to remove some of the dead trees, scrub and undergrowth, let in some light, plant some appropriate new trees and make the area accessible to villagers. The work will be under the strict control of the Charitable Trust.

At the last Parish Council meeting, we discussed a rumour that SODC might be considering saving money by reducing the frequency of refuse collection to once every two weeks. We felt that such action (if the rumour proves to be correct) would be a retrograde step and resolved to make our views known to SODC. Perhaps you don't agree with our position! If you have any strong views on this subject please let Councillors know.

Once again we regret to report vandalism to the Playground fencing - if you see or hear anything untoward, particularly during the late evening, do please contact any member of the Parish Council, Recreation Committee or the Police.

Roger Haycock, Chairman

Moreton Cricket Club

Another season is drawing to a close which has seen some very good performances from both the Sunday and Mid-Week teams with some high quality individual and team performances from players of all ages.

August Bank Holiday week-end saw two good matches, on Saturday The President's XI beat The Chairman's XI with a keen bunch of youngsters taking part and on Sunday, in one of the closest possible finishes, we

Music by Candlelight

On *Saturday 25th November* Janet and Richard Bullard are hosting a musical evening at their home, Cobb's Cottage, in aid of All Saints' Church and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. A programme of Baroque music will be provided by the White Knight Quartet (music teachers from Reading University). The evening will start at 7.30 p.m. and include a finger buffet and wine. Tickets - £10 per head - available in advance only - from the Bullards: email richardandjanet.bullard@btinternet.com or phone 818704.

Barn Dance

Around 70 people, including Ted Morse fans from Abingdon and Compton, attended this lively evening held in the Barn at North Moreton House on 2nd September. All ages enjoyed the dancing plus a delicious fish and chip supper with home-made puds. Many thanks to Katie and David for the use of the barn and to all who supplied the puds and helped to organise the event. The magnificent sum of £457 was raised for Church funds.

Mobile Library

Please note that the Mobile Library now visits North Moreton on alternate Wednesdays between 10 and 10.15 a.m. and parks in High Street opposite the Bus Shelter. This is a service which is demand driven - so it's a case of 'use it or lose it'!

The Wider World....

Home-Start's Family Fun Day and Autumn Fair

"Come along to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire's 5th Annual Family Fun Day and Autumn Fair on *Saturday 14th October* between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. As well as plenty of games and fun activities for children you will be able to buy Christmas gifts or simply browse at all the stalls,

Hatstand Opera

It may be hard to recall but Hatstand Opera arrived in North Moreton with the first really warm evening in June. The audience enjoyed a picnic in the gardens before the concert.

The three singers and their accompanist treated us to a range of arias, some familiar and others less so, all linked by amusing explanations of the songs' contexts. It was a light-hearted and entertaining show and towards the end we were all encouraged to join in the tenor's excellent rendition of 'O Sole Mio' using the words of a well known ice cream advertisement! Indeed the accompanist even burst into song at one point.

Katie and David Miles organised the event to raise money for the Oxfordshire Air Ambulance and thanks go to them for their considerable efforts and for a lovely evening.

Alice Penney

St Peters Nursery & Farm Shop

Bear Lane, North Moreton

Open 10am – 4pm Tuesday – Sunday & Bank Holidays

Pop in for Autumn planting ideas, Bedding, Bulbs, Baskets plus mature Trees, Perennials, Shrubs, Bamboos & Climbers.

Visit our Farm Shop for Gift Ideas, Fantastic Planters & Pots, Garden Furniture plus Beef straight from the Farm.

Come in and see us or call Jon & Annetta on
01235 511348 or 07850 040311/07855 951388

Neighbourhood Watch

There are currently two Neighbourhood Watch schemes in North Moreton: High Street and Elm Road. Jill Fletcher, who has been Coordinator for High Street for the past 5 years, wishes to stand down. If you would like to take over or organise a scheme for your part of the village, please contact Jill on 818703.

beat The Chain Gang by 3 runs. With a ball to go the visitors needed 5 runs - a no ball followed which meant they needed 4 off the last ball, which they failed to get; an exciting finish to a busy week end!! If there is anybody out there who would like to play, please get in touch as we are always on the lookout for new players - the membership secretary is Simon Steen, 814617.

Last year we held a very successful and enjoyable 'Race Night' at The Bear; we intend to do the same again this year, so keep a look out for details which will be announced very soon

Trevor Denning, Chairman

North Moreton Village Hall

The Management Committee spent a hot June weekend 'creosoting' the outside of the Hall - many thanks to all who helped and particularly to Gar Evans (who organised the work and did the most difficult bits) and to Chris and Jacqui Gibson for the loan of their sprayer. Next job will be painting the windows and doors.....

We were fortunate to have had yet another sunny day in July for the Salmon Lunch which appeared to be enjoyed by all who attended - numbers were slightly down on last year owing to several conflicting events but we still made a profit of nearly £280.

In August we held a very successful Saturday book sale and coffee morning, organised by Kate and Gar Evans. We had an excellent selection of books and the event was well supported: we will be holding another sale on *Saturday 2nd December* - so make a note in your diary NOW!

On *Saturday 11th November* we will be holding our second Soup Lunch with sale of Charity Christmas cards - a great opportunity to get your card shopping out of the way as well as enjoying some super soups. See posters nearer the date for details.

Yet another event for your diary is the Christmas Party for the under 7's - this year it will be held on *Saturday 9th December* - details nearer the date - but I can reveal that we've already arranged for Father Christmas to drop in!!

In addition to the tables and chairs available for hire, we now have 40 plain white dinner plates and an additional white/gold service for 12 comprising three different sizes of plates plus a coffee/tea service. Contact Ann Silvester on 811646 for availability and charges.

As a committee we work hard to keep the Hall financially viable but in the process we have a lot of fun. We would be delighted to welcome new members so if you feel that you can spare a couple of hours a month to join the committee or perhaps just to help with events, do let me or any member of the committee know.

Nora Haycock, Chairman VHCMC

Moreton Table Tennis Club

Following Didcot & District Table Tennis League's decision to introduce a 5th Division for the 2006/7 season, Moreton Table Tennis Club has decided to enter 8 teams into the league. We continue with our Division 1 team, have a promoted Division 2 team, two Division 3 teams (one promoted), two Division 4 teams (one new to develop our best cadets to county standard) and two Division 5 teams to introduce more of our better youngsters to league competition. We may also have another Division 5 team for novice adults.

MTTC hosted two table tennis events at South Moreton School in August: a day's coaching under the SODC Schools Activity Programme and the Oxfordshire County Junior trials in which a Moreton player was ranked 1.

As well as the 'serious stuff' we also encourage people to try table tennis as a social sport. We now have sessions (up to 5 tables in concurrent use) each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (evenings) at South Moreton School to suit different player requirements - please contact club secretary Roger Templeman for details (cd2rom@aol.com).

South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The July meeting, held in the garden of Pat Storch in July gave us the opportunity to play boules and croquet on a fine sunny evening. We also

helped, as usual, providing teas for the Open Gardens at "Filberts" at the end of July, which was a very successful afternoon. The summer outing was a trip in a horse-drawn barge along the Kennet Canal, followed by lunch at a local pub.

We returned in September to a meeting with slides on "Wildlife in the Chilterns". The coffee morning, supporting Cycle Cuba which is raising money for the WI Adult Education Centre at Denman College, was on 16th September.

On 11th October, there will be a bring and share Harvest Supper and on 8th November, Country Dancing is the theme for Ted Morse's evening.

We have welcomed several new members recently and are always pleased to see new faces. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the WI Barn, South Moreton.

Penny Busby

"We authors, ma'am"

Two autobiographies by North Moretonians appear this autumn. Polly Vacher's spectacular achievement in becoming in 2003/4 the first pilot to complete a solo flight around the world via The North Pole and Antarctica, was a 60,000 mile adventure taking her to over thirty countries and every continent. She had already completed a lateral solo circumnavigation of the world, two years earlier, for the charity Flying Scholarships for the Disabled. Her descriptions of these flights delighted an audience in North Moreton and her book, *Wings around the World*, was published by Grub Street Publishing, London, last month.

Later this month Gerald Howat's autobiography follows five biographies in which one reviewer described him as the model which aspiring biographers should seek to follow. His *Cricket all my Life* traces his connections with the game – and much else – through a Scottish childhood, teaching at school and university level in the West Indies and the United States and – in later life – as a journalist working for the *Daily Telegraph*. The game has taken him, as writer, journalist or observer, to most of the Test countries in the world. His book will be published by Methuen Ltd, London.