

## Dates for your Diary

### DECEMBER

- 2 Book Sale and Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10.00 - 12.30 p.m.
- 5 South Moreton Junior School Panto - OAP performance
- 5 2007 Fete Meeting, Little Orchard, 8.00 p.m.
- 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.
- 16 Christmas Workshop for parents & children, Village Hall 10 a.m.
- 17 Carol Service, All Saints' North Moreton 4.00 p.m.
- 20 Mayflowers: Carols at The Old Bakehouse, Aston Tirrold 2 p.m.
- 24 Crib Service, All Saints' North Moreton 4.00 p.m.  
*Please note that the Christingle & Midnight Services will be held at Aston Tirrold - see The Link for details.*

### JANUARY

- 8 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8.00 p.m.
- 10 W I Christmas Dinner, The Bear at Home, 7.30 p.m.
- 19 MCC AGM
- 30 MCC Committee Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- 3 MCC Quiz, Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
- 14 W.I. Meeting - 'Local History' The Barn, South Moreton 7.30 p.m.

### Forthcoming Events

With so many organisations running fundraising and other events in the village, it might help to avoid clashes if a list of projected events/dates (however nebulous), together with the organiser's contact details, could be included in the March issue of *NMN*. Details to Editor as below, please.

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# North Moreton News

Issue 75

December 2006

## Christmas Ramblings

"Oh no! I can't believe it's nearly Christmas!" How often do we hear (and say) these words – every year Christmas seems to come round more quickly although for children, the annual visit from Father Christmas can't come quickly enough!

We all know that Father Christmas or Santa Claus was based on Bishop Nicholas who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and who later became the patron saint of children – but did you know that under Cromwell, Santa Claus was banned, along with mince pies, Christmas games and the like?!

Nativity Plays were also banned in England – this time during the Reformation. They are thought to have been started in Italy in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by St Francis of Assisi who introduced a living crib into Midnight Mass while people sang the story of the Baby's birth – the first carols.

The turkey was brought to these shores from America around 1520 and because it was easy to breed and quick to fatten, swiftly became staple Christmas fare. Another Christmas staple (also banned by Cromwell!) was 'Humble Pie' made from the hearts, livers and offal of a deer and eaten by the servants whilst their lords and ladies enjoyed the choice cuts.

'Boxing Day' originated in the Middle Ages when, on the day after Christmas, churches and monasteries opened their alms boxes and distributed their contents to the poor.

The abbreviation of Christmas to Xmas is today generally considered to be disrespectful: however, the Greek word for Christ is Xristos and the letter X was frequently used as religious symbol. The abbreviation was first used by Europeans in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Enough! I shall cease these ramblings and wish each and every one

**A very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!**

## North Moreton Parish Council

The Parish Council were pleased to note that about 40 parishioners visited the recent exhibition in the Village Hall which outlined some of the options for future housing growth (a further 3000 houses) in the Didcot area post - 2016. Most parishioners felt that future growth should continue to be west of the town and the Parish Council shares that view.

I said “some of the options” because the PC is unhappy that the County Council appears to have ignored the proposal submitted by Oxford City Council to build in the area south of Grenoble Road to the east of the city. This land is classified as Green Belt but some of the Didcot options are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which we consider should take priority over Green Belt. It seems stupid to us that Oxford wants the houses and can't get them – Didcot doesn't but is dumped upon.

Clearly there are no easy options and whatever decision is finally made will be a compromise. In our view, the infrastructure (particularly the A34) is inadequate now, and there are no plans on the table for improvements to cope with the traffic which will be generated by people from the houses that are already scheduled to be built. If anybody wishes to see the PC's formal response to the District and County Councils on this emotive issue, they should contact our Clerk, Janet Bullard.

*Roger Haycock, Chairman*

## Moreton Cricket Club

A very successful and enjoyable Race Night run by Ed Squires and Simon Claridge was held at The Bear recently; even the 'losers' left reasonably happy! The next social event will be the annual Quiz Night which will take place on the first Saturday in February so watch out for further information early in the New Year. The club is always on the lookout for new players so if you are interested or know somebody who might be, please get in touch. In the mean time a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

*Trevor Denning, Chairman MCC*

“Around North Moreton”, “Clubs and Associations”, “Hobbies and Interests”, “Small Ads” and “Local Services”. If you would like me to add any new headings then all you need to do is ask.

If you represent any local association and want to post information about your club all you need to do is to register and post the information in the right area, there is nothing more to it than that.

You do not need to register to view the noticeboard as you can browse it at your leisure without ‘logging-in’. Registering just allows you to post under a chosen name and makes you part of the on-line community.

Registering is easy - and to allay your fears about spam please note that by default all email addresses are kept private.

Don't forget it's your postings that make the noticeboard a vibrant place to visit . Your postings will make it an interesting and useful resource for the village. Content will grow as time progresses so feel free to put to make your contribution on any topic whatsoever.

The Village noticeboard is available from the village website at <http://north-moreton.co.uk/html/noticeboard.htm>. Just click on the picture of the noticeboard and you are in.

*Dean Beedell*

### 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:** Anne 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: The Red Lion',** Brightwell - Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.

*Please note that the postal services at 'The Crown', South Moreton have now ceased.*

## Music by Candlelight

On 25th November around fifty people were welcomed to Cobb's Cottage by Janet and Richard Bullard for an evening of music performed with great verve by the White Knight Quartet. A varied programme was enjoyed by all, along with wine and delicious refreshments. £510 was raised in aid of All Saints' Church and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.. Many thanks to the White Knights, to Janet and Richard for their hospitality and to all who supported the event.

## North Moreton Website

The North Moreton on-line Noticeboard has just gone live! For any of you with an internet-connected computer there is now a new way of getting and keeping in touch.

The noticeboard is a forum where you can air your village related opinions, post notices about forthcoming events, read the village gossip or contact other villagers. There is a 'for sale' and 'items wanted' section and plenty of room for information about local clubs and associations.

The noticeboard has been sectioned into the following headings

### St Peters Nursery & Farm Shop

Bear Lane, North Moreton

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

Mature Trees, Perennials, Shrubs, Bamboos & Climbers always available

Visit our Farm Shop for Christmas decorations & gifts including Fair Trade goods - plus Beef straight from the farm.

Christmas Trees available from 1st December,  
FREE Local delivery.

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

## North Moreton Village Hall

November saw our 'Autumn clean' when Trevor Denning and Gar Evans bravely ventured into the hall's nether regions to remove a large accumulation of spiders' webs (and their occupants) whilst the rest of us dealt with 'front of house'.

The Soup Lunch and Charity Christmas card sale was well attended - we made nearly £170 for Hall funds and all the Good Causes were pleased with their takings. Many thanks to all who came along.

Don't forget our December events: Book Sale and Coffee Morning on **Saturday 2nd** (10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.) and the under 8's Christmas Party on **Saturday 9th** (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.). We do need advance bookings for the latter (deadline Monday 4th) or Santa's little helpers won't know how many presents to bring..... £3 per child and pre - school children must be accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager. Booking forms from Nora Haycock - see back page for contact details.

Libby Macdonald has kindly volunteered to run a disco for the 8 to 11 year old in January or February. We haven't decided on a date yet so watch the village email and posters for details.

That just leaves the 12 plus group - we'd love to run something for you - but what???? We're open to suggestions so put your thinking caps on and let us know - contact details as above.

If you want to book the hall or need more tables, chairs or china over the holiday season, contact Anne Silvester on 811646 for availability and charges.

*Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC*

## South and North Moreton Women's Institute

In September members were given an entertaining and informative talk on Wildlife in the Chilterns by Mr d'Ayala. The Bring and Share Supper in October was a very enjoyable evening, as was the November meeting, when the theme was Folk Songs and Country Dancing. Ted Morse shared some traditional songs and music and members even managed to learn a few simple dances

The meeting on 13th December is all about rug making and consists of

both a demonstration and the chance to participate in a rug-making class. The annual dinner will be held at The Bear, North Moreton on 10th January and on 14th February, the title of the meeting is Local History. This will be a chance to discover what life was like in the two villages, by sharing the memories and experiences of some of our members.

We hold our meetings in the WI Barn, South Moreton on the second Wednesday of each month are always pleased to welcome new faces.

*Penny Busby*

## Moreton Table Tennis Club

Nearly 40 of the club's members are registered for its 9 teams which compete in the five divisions of the Didcot & District League. Home league matches are played on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at South Moreton School. The school was recently used by the League to stage its 'Divisional Championships' in which Moreton player Nick Redoing was runner up in the Division 3 competition.

Other activities include social play, coaching and practice sessions for beginners on Wednesdays (1830-1930) and for league players on Wednesdays and Thursdays (1930-2130). The club is happy to welcome new players aged 8 - 80, irrespective of gender and ability. Details from club secretary Roger Templeman (cd2rom@aol.com).

## Calling all Children.....

On **Saturday 16th December** the Christmas tree will be put up in All Saints' Church. Vicki Squires invites all children and their parents to come to the Village Hall at 10 a.m. to help prepare decorations to take along to the Church. We should be finished by 12 noon.

## The Fête

If you are willing to help with the Church Fete in May 2007 Patrick and Mary Greene invite you to come to their home, Little Orchard, for a glass of wine and nibbles on **Friday 5th January** at 8.0 p.m to talk about our plans.

## The Bear-at- Home

Saturday 4th November was The Bear-at-Home's 1st Birthday, and we decided to mark the occasion with a "bit of a party". Live music provided by Sam McNeil from East Hagbourne & The Frontrunners from Aston Tirrold, went down a treat, as did Ray Park's Pig Roast. We shifted some beer too, so even our bank manager was happy ! I doubt The Bear has ever seen so many crammed inside its walls, not to mention those who braved the cold November evening outside. If you didn't make it, you missed a really good evening, hopefully to be repeated next year.

A very big "Thank you" to you all, for supporting your pub throughout the last year; please keep up the good work, especially on those cold February nights we all dread. Alison & I would also like to thank our fantastic staff, and all our good friends who have helped us in numerous ways to make The Bear at Home a friendly & welcoming pub. Finally, a mention for Alex, Lucy & Georgia for their own considerable input into this business.

Hope to see you all during the festive season,

*Tim & Alison*

## Christmas Utilities

This year North Moreton's refuse and recycling collections will be as normal - i.e. on 28th December and 4th January; however collection may take place earlier or later than usual so, if possible, get your bins/boxes out by 7 a.m.

Christmas trees can be placed in your brown bin (cut off the top if necessary), taken to Drayton or Oakley Wood or back to the place where you bought your tree - check when you buy to see if it can be returned for composting. Waste recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day and close at 3 p.m. on 24th and 31st December. They are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all other days over the holiday period.