

## Dates for your Diary

### DECEMBER

- 7 'Breakfast for Oxfam Unwrapped' South Moreton School
- 9 Christingle Service, All Saints' Church 4.00 pm
- 12 WI meeting, Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 12/13 South Moreton School Nativity Play
- 16 Carol Service, All Saints' Church 6.00 pm
- 20 South Moreton School Carol Service
- 24 Crib Service, All Saints' Church 4.00 pm
- 24 Midnight Mass, All Saints' Church 11.30 pm

### JANUARY

- 4 Fete Meeting, Little Orchard 7.00 pm.
- 9 W I Christmas Dinner, The Bear at Home, 7.30 pm.
- 14 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 8.00 pm.
- 18 MCC AGM, The Bear at Home 8.00 pm
- 26 Book Sale in North Moreton Village Hall 10.30 am - 4 pm.

### FEBRUARY

- 2 MCC Quiz, Village Hall 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
- 13 W.I. Meeting , Village Hall 7.30 pm.

### MAY

- 11 North Moreton Fete

### JUNE

- 15 Open Gardens

# North Moreton News

Issue 79

December 2007

## Gerald Howat

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of North Moreton News's most recent former editor, Gerald Howat. Those, like me, who played tennis with Gerald the day before his last stroke, find it very hard to believe that he is no longer with us. I, like many others, enjoyed a regular chat with Gerald – almost daily in fact, as he seldom missed a day without walking from the Churchyard to the Rec to ensure that his beloved cricket pavilion and square hadn't gone missing in the night.

Others, and notably the *Daily Telegraph*, have eloquently covered Gerald's extraordinarily wide field of activities. He was perhaps the most effective manager of time that I've been privileged to meet. He took on much – but always met his deadlines.

What the *Daily Telegraph* inevitably doesn't tell us, is what Gerald did for North Moreton. He had a wonderful track record of seeing what needed to be done – and doing it. Some jobs may have been high profile – in the Moreton Cricket Club or leading the first Playground Action Group, which got our playground up and running. Others were less obvious, like playing the organ in Church, or almost invisible, like keeping the churchyard clean and tidy. But he was always around when it mattered!

Gerald also took great interest in people and had concern for them. He cared not a jot for status. If someone needed help, or could contribute something to society, he'd be there helping or facilitating.

Gerald Howat will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

*Roger Haycock*

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

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Email: nora.haycock@btinternet.com  
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*North Moreton News is published four times a year*

## North Moreton Parish Council

### Bus survey and timetable

Thank you to all those parishioners who responded to our request for help on the Bus Survey which Roger Templeman has been coordinating for the Parish Council. It will provide helpful information in our efforts to get an improved bus service.

That said, I think we face an uphill struggle. The County Council are reviewing their contracts for bus services, and they have told all the Town and Parish Councils that they are looking to cut costs significantly. We have a less than adequate service now, with no rush hour buses. Although the service is vital to some, numbers using the bus from North Moreton are not great and I suspect we are going to have to come up with some creative ideas for doing things differently if we are not to suffer even further erosion. But we'll try!

### Parish Clerk

We still don't have a Parish Clerk! Anyone who would at least like to find out more about the job should contact Roger Haycock (812202). The job is paid, and takes on average about three hours/week. We'd much prefer to find a local volunteer if we can, but may be forced to advertise further afield.

### Local strategic direction

South Oxfordshire District Council have just advised us that they are starting their strategic planning for how the district should develop in the years up to 2025. The Parish Council will no doubt be providing input in due course, but meanwhile SODC are inviting individuals to give them their views. So if you have strong views on such things as future housing, employment, roads, transport and environment then please go to SODC's website [www.southoxon.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/corestrategy), read the "Issues and Options" document and fill in the online questionnaire. You may also email comments to [planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk). Please note that any comments received will be made public.

*Roger Haycock, Chairman*

**Juliet Price** is currently fundraising for a World Challenge trip to Ecuador with her school:-

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: **Do you have an old Favourite/Family video cassette** :  
: **that you would like transferred to DVD?** :  
: **£2.50 per video cassette** :  
: **(including supply of DVD)** :  
: **Please contact Juliet on 01235 813006** :  
: **Or email [bob.clare\\_price@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.clare_price@btinternet.com)** :  
.....

## Bank Holiday Refuse Collections

Recycling and Refuse collections over the holiday period will be as normal i.e. **Thursday 27th December and Thursday 3rd January.**

Christmas trees can be chopped up and placed in brown bins, returned to some garden centres or taken to local Waste Recycling Centres for composting.

## Useful Information

**Beat Officer:** WPC Susan (Pip) Walker - 0845 8505505

**PCSO:** Thomas Myneham - 0845 8505505

**Crime Stoppers:** 0800 555 111

**Acting Parish Clerk:** Roger Haycock - 812202

**Parish Council Chairman:** Roger Haycock - 812202

**Village Hall Bookings:** Anne Silvester, 17 Bear Lane - 811646

**Concessionary Travel Tokens:** SODC - 01491 832000

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

**Refuse & Recycling Collections:** Thursdays

**Garden Waste Collection:** alternate Thursdays

**Postal Services:** The Village Hall, Brightwell - Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 - 12.

## The Bear at Home

Congratulations to Tim and Alison Haworth - The Bear at Home has been voted Best Pub in Oxfordshire by the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) - a tremendous achievement in only their second year as pub-cans. Well done!!!

## Parish Tree Warden?

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative which enables people to play an active part in conserving and improving their local trees and woodlands. Tree Wardens are volunteers who have an interest in the trees in their local environment. They do not have to be experts because training will be provided. Wardens will act as the "eyes and ears" of SODC's Forestry and Countryside section.

Roles will involve:

- Gathering information - surveys, potential projects, risks
- Protection - compliance, vandalism, planning consents
- Community liaison - advice, projects etc.

Anyone interested in being Tree Warden for North Moreton please contact Roger Haycock. (812202)

## 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

## North Moreton Village Hall

The Charity Card Sale and Soup Lunch held on 10th November was well supported - £165 was raised for Hall funds and the attending Charities were pleased with their takings. Many thanks to everyone who came along to support the event and particular thanks to Mavis Crickmore and Val Bates for their hard work in organising the soup and tombola respectively.

The next event will be the Book Sale to be held on **26th January** from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. when we will have our usual excellent selection of books of all types on sale. If you have books that you would like to dispose of, ring Gar Evans on 813858.

We are delighted that the Hall is being used more often for meetings and parties. However, we would ask hirers to ensure that:

- The boiler is left in frost-stat mode - ie both dials turned to the left with the green light showing - NOT switched off at the socket.
- All taps are turned off including the urinal cistern (we are on a meter!)
- All doors and windows are bolted/locked, all lights (including the emergency lighting) switched off, floors swept and all rubbish removed.

As the Hall is cleaned/maintained by committee members, your cooperation is much appreciated.  
*Nora Haycock, Chairman VHMC*

## Moreton Cricket Club

A very successful Race Night was held at The Bear on the 17 November. It was a very enjoyable evening and in some cases very fruitful! Thank you to all those who came and supported the event, the proceeds of which will help us celebrate the club's 150th anniversary next year. The MCC (the one in Marylebone) have agreed to send a team to play against us on the **27th July** in recognition of the anniversary; more details of this event and others will follow in the coming months. Another date for your diaries is the club's AGM which will be held on **Friday 18th January**, again at The Bear - subject to agreement by the landlord!  
*Trevor Denning, Chairman MCC*

## North Moreton Fete - 2008

Next year's Fete will be held on **Sunday 11th May** and the PCC are looking for an organiser, or joint organisers, who would like to put their own stamp on this village occasion: the format is not set in stone!

The annual Fete is, of course, the main fundraising event for All Saints' Church - however, with the restoration of the tower starting in 2008, more funds than ever will be needed. If you have come across successful fundraising schemes in other villages, the PCC would very much like to hear about them. The exact sum that will need to be raised is not yet known as the work is still being assessed - but it will certainly be considerable.

Patrick and Mary Greene will be giving a drinks and light refreshment party at Little Orchard at 7 p.m. on **Friday 4th January** for anyone who is interested in helping with the Fete or other fundraising schemes. Do come along and exchange ideas.

## South and North Moreton Women's Institute

The October meeting took the form of a "Bring and Share" Harvest Supper, which was greatly enjoyed by members. The Folk and Ceilidh Band Pandemonium entertained us at our November meeting, when everyone present was given the opportunity to join in a wide range of songs, not only by singing, but also playing various percussion instruments. It proved to be a very lively evening!

In December, Mr Ronald Perkins will be giving a talk on British Wildlife and the annual dinner in January will be held this year at The Bear.

We are pleased to welcome visitors and new members to our meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month, usually in North Moreton village hall. Please contact Sandra Monk on 812721 or Judy Hollings on 814173 for further information.

*Penny Busby*

So to help people get to grips with the problem and what we can all do about it, the aim is to set up a local forum, either just in North Moreton or linking with South Moreton and the Astons. Its detailed objectives are still to be established, indeed, that's one of the first topics for discussion. As a first step, I'm writing this letter to gauge reactions and obtain feedback on what topics might be of interest.

I hope that you will support this proposal. Please do let me know your thoughts. My mobile no. is 07808294669 and email sarah.mook@btopenworld.com. *Sarah Mook*

### DID YOU KNOW??

**Oxfordshire has over 200 scientists researching climate change**  
Causes... Solutions... Science... Policy....

**Our local low carbon communities are**  
Wolvercote                      Blewbury                      North Leigh

**There is a new shop in Didcot called the World Traid Store where you can buy fair-trade, whole foods without the packaging and where you can get refills of eco cleaning products - 160 The Broadway OX11 8RJ 01235 819612**

**Information on local events, talks, film showings, games, street stalls, pub quizzes, art and poetry is available on [www.climatex.org](http://www.climatex.org)**

## Moreton Table Tennis Club

MTTC is entering a crucial phase in its history with South Moreton School threatening to at least double the hire costs for their Sports Hall, which is the venue for the club's home league games and coaching and practice sessions. The club has also been informed that it cannot use the hall at all until caretaking arrangements which are required for insurance reasons are made. We have therefore suspended junior coaching until further notice, and withdrawn two of our Division 5 teams from the Didcot League. The other 6 teams are doing reasonable well, especially the Division 3 team which is well placed for promotion. A meeting of the school governors on 1 December, followed by a Special General Meeting of MTTC on 3 December will define the club's future.

*Roger Templeman, Secretary MTTC.*

## Climate Change

Over the past couple of years, climate change has been moving steadily up the political agenda and has gained ever more prominence in the news media. In the main, the issue has been presented in terms of 'what should the Government do about it?'. As for the rest of us, we're told not to put more water than we need in our kettles, and avoid leaving the TV on standby and small and seemingly insignificant acts in the face of such a huge global challenge.

But is there anything more that we can do? And in any case, is there really a problem in the first place? There are still articles and TV programmes telling us that human-induced global warming is just a myth; a great con-trick perpetrated by a bunch of anti-capitalist environmentalists in an unholy alliance with climate scientists who are trying to scare governments into funding their research.

Most of us need some help to pick our way through this minefield of conflicting information and advice...help with both the scientific and the practical issues; is it real, and if so, what, if anything, can I do about it?

To address those questions, Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute has set up an outreach programme called ClimateX-Change (<http://www.climatex.org/>). Its aim is to help local groups and communities set up their own programmes of action, ranging from information on the issues (talks, presentations, quizzes, films) though to advice on what individuals, households and communities can do.

But saving the planet isn't to everyone's taste. 'It'll see me out, so why should I worry?' is a not altogether uncommon response. Well, apart from the moral arguments about our obligations to future generations, how about saving ourselves money? How about building more of a sense of community? How about getting our village elders to share some of their knowledge and expertise with us and our children?

## North Moreton Website


Those of you who are on line will no doubt have visited the North Moreton website and will know that this has been set up over the past twelve months by Dean Beedell.

Sadly, Dean is leaving the village and, due to business commitments, will not have time to continue as unpaid webmaster. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of us all for the many hours of work that he has put in to developing this attractive and informative site. Fortunately the site will remain accessible to all ([www.North-Moreton.co.uk](http://www.North-Moreton.co.uk)) although, for the present, it will not be updated. However, the Noticeboard will remain active and we hope that it will be used; you will need to continue to log-in or register to post items and can reply as a guest - any unpleasant or inappropriate entries will be removed.

There is a calendar facility on the Notice board and it would be really good if this was used: anyone organising an event can register/login, click on the appropriate date and type in the information. Anyone can view the entries by clicking on 'calendar' at the top of the screen.

We wish Dean and Lucy all the best in their new home.

*Editor*



**Book Sale**  
Saturday 26th January  
10 am - 4 pm  
North Moreton Village Hall  
Light refreshments available all day  
Profits in aid of Hall funds

## News from South Moreton School and Pre-School

The great news is that the construction of the new 'Early Years Unit' is progressing well and we expect it to be ready for use in January. This unit will incorporate classrooms for the Pre-School children as well as South Moreton School's Foundation Stage, providing the ideal environment for this age group and facilitating a smooth transition to the main school. If you would like to visit either the school or the pre-school, please phone 01235 813110 (school) or 01235 819657 (pre-school).

We have had some exciting events this term, one of the most colourful being **Food Day**. The children had lots of fun cooking, tasting and discovering new foods and flavours as well as finding out about where food grows, how far it travels and how this affects our environment. At the end of November we will be beginning a new venture involving food and nutrition education. On Thursday afternoons the children will be learning more about food and cookery with the help of a team of staff, parents and grandparents.

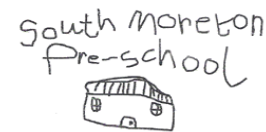
On Monday 5th November, the children of Years 5 & 6, along with their teachers, travelled to 'Steam' which is the **Great Western Railway Museum** in Swindon. Everyone was splendidly attired in their 1940s outfits, complete with gas mask boxes, identity cards and ration books as well as the all-important address label attached to their clothes. The children experienced a slice of life as an evacuee, looking at period artifacts and acting out how roles changed during this time, particularly in relation to women, and how very different their lives became. This was planned to coincide with **Remembrance Day** and was certainly a day to remember for our children. Since then, we have been enjoying many follow up activities around this topic and will be hosting a tea party and entertainment afternoon on Thursday 13th December for people who lived through World War 2.

Looking towards Christmas, parents and children have again done a great job for **Operation Christmas Child** by donating a total of 56 gift boxes to this very worthwhile cause which aims to brighten up the Christmases of those children living in extreme hardship in many parts of the world.

The **Children's Festive Fun Afternoon** was a great success raising c.£900 for school funds. Children were able to meet Santa, make Christmas presents and decorations, play games and paint pottery whilst their parents made a start on their Christmas shopping amongst the wide range of stalls. Many thanks to all those who worked hard to prepare for this event and also to all who gave us their support.

Coming up: our cooks, Sally and Rachel have invited the children to take part in '**Breakfast for Oxfam Unwrapped**' on **Friday 7th December**. The money raised will go towards constructing a well and buying sacks of seeds for communities in the third world.

Of course, closer to Christmas, the Infants will be performing the **Nativity play** on the afternoon of **Wednesday 12th December** and the evening of **Thursday 13th December**. This will then be followed on **Thursday 20th December** by an evening carol concert performed by the Juniors. Both events are sure to put us all in the Christmas spirit not to mention bringing a tear to the eye of parents and visitors alike



### North Moreton Toddler Group.....

meet every Thursday from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in North Moreton Village Hall. Do come along for a coffee and a chat whilst the little ones let off some steam! £2 per session to include tea/coffee/biscuits. For more information ring Anna Grainger on 01865 407274.