

North Moreton News

Volume 144

March 2024

Nora Haycock informed everyone that the December 2023 copy of North Moreton News would be her last as Editor. She has stepped down from producing the newsletter after 17 years and 70 editions. She pointed out that the previous editor, my father Gerald Howat, had served the ball into her court in 2006. After some time Nora has returned that serve and Old School House is again the epicentre of NMN compilation. I am sure the thanks of us all go to Nora for her hard work in keeping us informed and up to speed all these years. As one of her contributors I know she always kept us up to the mark in ensuring copy came in on time! She will continue to run the service of sending out village e-mails for which we are grateful.

Mike Howat

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Village Verge Clearance – Saturday March 9th

A reminder that the village verge clean will take place on Saturday March 9th. Meet at the grass triangle in Long Wittenham Road from **10 a.m.** to help clear all the accumulated rubbish from the hedgerows and verges before the stinging nettles take over. Rubbish bags, pick-sticks and fluorescent jackets will be provided but garden gloves and wellies are recommended!

Please note that **only the bags provided should be used** (ordinary black bags will **not** be collected by OCC either from the roadside or the trailer) and any items that can't be picked up with the grabber should be left in situ and the location noted (use 'what3words' if you have it on your phone).

Tyres should **not** be collected as they are processed differently and they should be left in situ and reported as fly-tip using the 'FixMyStreet' app.

As always, even just half an hour of your time would be very much appreciated.

Maggie & Muir

Parish Meeting – Tuesday March 19th

Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm in the Village Hall. Local groups will give reports of their activities in the village. Please do let me know if you would like to give a report and I haven't sent you an invitation. Of course, as at all Parish Council meetings, everyone is welcome to attend. The usual PC meeting will follow the reports.

Veronica Gibbs ; vagibbs@btinternet.com

Book Sale – Saturday April 6th

The North Moreton Book Sale will be held on Saturday 6th April in North Moreton Church, from 10am until 3pm. As usual, thousands of books will be on sale, with all proceeds going to support the village hall and church. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be available. Free entry and car parking. Donations of spare books are always welcome. Email northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com or call 01235 818900 or 07908314771 if you have any books to give, and the organisers will happily collect them.

Safari Supper - Saturday April 27th

Have you bought your tickets yet ?. The theme for this year's safari supper is **Games**. The evening will start in 'The Bear' with a free glass of fizz. After your three course safari supper head back to The Bear where the party will be **Game on !** Medals for the best costumes will be presented by The Bear's very own Sam Smith. To buy your tickets use the QR code or contact the safari supper committee.

alison@wolfe.co.uk

clairesteen@outlook.com



Church fete - Sunday May 5th

The fabulous Spring Fete will be held on Sunday 5 May 1.30pm until 4.00pm

We have booked the ukulele band and the usual stalls: teas, books, plants, raffle and cakes have been organised. However, as everyone knows the Fete is a huge attraction for families with children. Vickie Squires is looking for a young team to organise more stalls and activities for the young and young at heart! We need your help !

Please contact Vickie if you are willing to help on the day or be on the committee with fresh ideas! The committee will meet about 5 times before the big day! Many thanks in anticipation to all!

Vickie Squires 07770 783468 e-mail: Victoriacreates@btinternet.com

Parish Council – ('The Bear' as an Asset of Community Value)

We are all very pleased and grateful that 'The Bear of North Moreton' is busy and thriving and playing such a valuable part in our village community. Some of you will remember that five years ago we wrote to you about our listing of the pub as an Asset of Community Value and the time has come for us to renew that listing. Successful listing means that in the event of the The Bear being put up for sale and ceasing to be a pub, the village would have a period of 6 months to devise a plan to buy it.

To do this, I need to put together a detailed proposal about the value of the pub to the community in terms of our social, recreational, sporting and general well being. In particular, I need to know about groups who regularly use the facilities there, including meetings and the social benefits that we would no longer have without the pub. They are especially keen to have evidence of how the pub contributes to the community while not carrying out its primary function as a pub, for example as a place where community events are held (like the safari supper), local items can be purchased (like Green Shoots honey), or the sponsorship of sporting events (like links with the cricket club). I would be hugely grateful if you could send me some information by email .The more data I can give the better our chances.

Veronica Gibbs Chair North Moreton Parish Council - vagibbs@btinternet.com

North and South Moreton W.I.

We are very lucky to have a thriving WI group that we share with South Moreton, although meetings take place in our Village Hall. The good thing about this group is that it brings together people who might not otherwise meet each other whilst offering a range of talks on a variety of topics that, as far as I remember, don't include cakes and jam! We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 and have recently enjoyed talks from a BBC World Service broadcaster, a children's book illustrator and a retired Royal Footman as well a New Year dinner. Upcoming events include talks from a Forensic Scientist and a Wildlife photographer.

To find out more please call Sue on 07879633736 or Veronica on 07788752628

Church News

We are so pleased to announce that Father Jason (our rector) has been made a Canon of Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford. This is an honorary post in recognition of Jason's hard work looking after the seven churches of the Churn Benefice whilst also being Area Dean. His position has meant he is automatically a trustee of two schools which adds to his workload. I am sure you would all like to join me in sending him our Congratulations!

Lent is a time for reflection and as the snowdrops and early daffodils appear it is a time to be thankful. It seems appropriate to give thanks to those people who work tirelessly to keep our church running and in good order and to those who read the lessons each week and at special services. I list a few here but ask for forgiveness if I have missed any of you out.

John Harrison -	tirelessly works as treasurer and is our resident organist.
Vickie Squires -	for all her hard work organising many events
Beryl Jones -	provides delicious cakes after each Sunday afternoon service
Bridget Macfarlane -	runs the flower rota, The flowers have been beautiful since Bridget has held the reins
Sue White -	who organises regular cleaning of the church
Rob Nickless	for organising the bell ringers and our thanks go to all the Nickless family for helping with anything that needs doing in the church and churchyard.

Chris Macdonald, Steve Vinnicombe, Dickie Macfarlane and Ed Squires - for the hours they have already put in to get the Chantry window project up and running with the prospect of many more hours before the project is complete.

We thank all of you who give your time and effort quietly working away without looking for any reward. Without all this help the church simply could not function.

Chantry Window

On a very positive note the Chantry window renovation project is moving ahead with leaps and bounds. The Committee have now applied for a faculty and are awaiting the approval of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Funding from various trusts have been and are being applied for. The incredible generosity of the village will help enormously towards getting the job done!

Easter Services - EVERYONE WELCOME

Good Friday Friday 29 March	An hour at the cross
Easter Sunday 31 March	10.30am Easter Celebration Eucharist

Polly Vacher - on behalf of the PCC for North Moreton

North Moreton Village Hall

'Village Halls Week' (yes, there really is such a thing!) is the third week in March and we're planning to embrace this with a timely update on our hall. An evening presentation on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm will explain what's planned, why those aspects are being prioritised, and what's (hopefully) funding the work.

Since the December News, I was delighted to receive a donation for the project from the NM Charitable Trust, for which we are very grateful. Other grant applications are still awaiting decision and I'd like to thank Jeremy Howland for leading on these applications. Decisions are due later in the spring.

In the meantime, we have managed to secure another clothing bank. This one takes clothes, shoes, bed linen, towels, soft toys, and accessories such as hats bags, belts etc. They only things they do not accept are duvets, pillows, offcuts of fabric or curtains. Please do support this initiative - the hall receives 40p per kilo and, probably more importantly, 99% of what they receive are reused or recycled.

Finally, if you're planning social events for the long days of summer ahead, a reminder that we have china, cutlery and the village marquee available to hire.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Wednesday 20 March at 7.30pm for our Village Hall update.

Jo Nickless, Chair, NM Village Hall Committee

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 20 March, 7.30pm - Village Hall Update

Wednesday 27 March, 7.30pm - Stitch n Sewcial

Moreton Cricket Club

Not long to go before the start of the new season. Huge thanks go to Steve and Helena Vinnicombe for organising a very enjoyable and well supported quiz at the start of February in 'The Bear'. The outdoor season may not have started, but already we have one trophy in the bag. The Mavericks have won the Oxfordshire Women's Indoor Competition for the fifth year in succession. We won all nine matches – indeed our unbeaten record in the competition now stretches to twenty four matches.. For future reference the Beer and Cricket Festival is scheduled for Thursday July 18th to Sunday July 21st. We have entered the National Village Cricket Competition once again and the road to Lord's starts with a Second Round home fixture against Peppard and Stoke Row CC on May 12th (we have been given a bye in the First Round|).

We will be running the Junior coaching sessions again on Friday nights and hope to run both Under 11 and Under 13 teams..Anthony Barreiro has taken over the co-ordination of Junior Cricket from Ed Squires and may be contacted on antbar28@gmail.com

We welcome ALL new players - so, if any North Moretonian has been wavering on whether to give it a go, make 2024 the summer when you get involved.

Moreton Golf Society

With the impetus coming from Jason Winterbourne, for a couple of years now a Moreton Golf Society has been operating. Members are almost all from North and South Moreton with just a few guests. We have held meetings at Hadden Hill, Hennerton, West Berkshire GC, Studley Wood and The Springs. Unfortunately no North Moretonian was in the winning team at the Christmas meeting at the Springs, but at least Ed Squires, Mike Toolan and Chris Gibson won the 'nearest the pin' competitions. There are usually three meetings a year (in March, September and December). There is also a singles handicap knock out competition which runs through the year. Anyone wishing to join in can contact Jason at jm.winterbourne@btinternet.com.. There is an annual subscription of £25 to join.

NMGreenShoots your community sustainability and growing group

North Moreton GreenShoots is a village group interested in 'growing fresh and local' vegetables and flowers, helping wildlife diversity and recycling, all in an eco-friendly and sustainable way in a place that enhances wellbeing. There is plenty of room both inside and outside the polytunnels at the GreenShoots allotment garden, for you to take on space for your own growing projects, small or large. If you feel that enhancing the environment and sustainability is more for you, there are wildlife hedges, woodland trees, a pond and the community orchard to help look after. Everyone and their ideas are welcome; contact nmgreenshoots@gmail.com.

The new season work at NMGreenShoots has started. Garlic is growing, the lavender patch is looking very healthy, the daffodils are beginning to show and the polytunnels have been cleared. The community orchard looks good after the early season wash and grease banding and the Flowers for Giving and Herb beds are ready for sowing soon.

This year's community days include **Garden Art Days** on **April 14th** and **May 19th** with possible further days in the summer. We want to recycle some of the donated wood into garden art to place throughout the GreenShoots space. Villagers of all ages are invited to help paint or write something for both the community garden or their own garden or both. We would like to call on all the talented artists out there to help us with design and painting beforehand and on the art days. All resources supplied and time that fits with you. Get in touch via the email above.

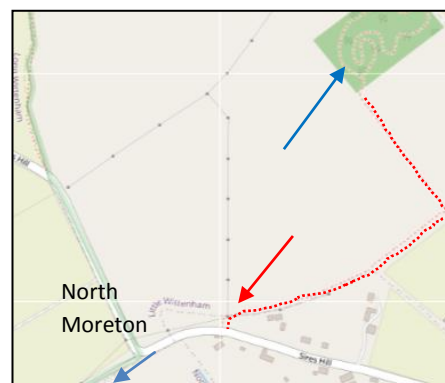
GreenShoots continues to supply local North Moreton Honey from the allotment garden beehives which The Bear has available for purchase. If you prefer you can order via the email contact above.

Footpaths....Go Wild!

Walking North Moreton's footpaths is not only an opportunity to exercise your Fitbit, but a chance to explore. A great footpath, just outside our Parish, goes from Sires Hill, just past the sharp corner to Long Wittenham (the red arrow) to the Earth Trust's arboretum, (blue arrow). As you walk our local footpaths you find many of them lined with hedges and larger trees that have often grown out of the hedge. The arboretum is a collection of trees native to our Isles- all nicely labelled.

Historically hedges were planted to demarcate fields and footpaths naturally followed their line. A keen eye can spot 'Spindle', a tree with beautiful red seed capsules in autumn and traditionally used for making a Spindle whorl, a precursor of the Spinning Wheel. 'Dog wood', with its vibrant coloured bark was used to make 'dogs' – butchers' skewers. Perhaps the most apt tree to spot is the 'Wayfaring tree', so called by the botanist John Gerard because it was so widespread along the lanes and paths of Southern England. Anyway, whether 'bagging' tree species, or looking out for the return of the first Spring bird migrants in March, it's a great time to get out and about!

Bob Price - NM Footpath Warden



Didcot and District University of the Third Age

Monthly meetings take place at Didcot Civic Hall on the third Tuesday in the month starting at 2:30 pm. Forthcoming meetings are as follows ; March 19th ('Curiosities and the Cotwolds'), April 16th ('Coaches and Coach horns ; their story from the Golden Age to the Present Day) and May 21st (AGM and a talk from the Prostate Cancer Charity). Further information can be obtained from either of the following ; Chair: Kath Oldham; chair@didcotu3a.org or Secretary: Chris Jones; secretary@didcotu3a.org

Contact numbers and Useful Information

Police Community Support Officers and Non Urgent Polices Calls ; 101

Crime Stoppers ; 0800 555 111

NHS non-emergency number ; 101

Parish Clerk ; Clerk@north-moreton.com 07501 033 123

SODC Councillor ; Ben Manning 07946 476733

SODC Councillor ; Anne-Marie Simpson 07770 781 233

Church Benefice Office ; Blewbury ; 01235 850267

Parish Council Chairman (and Transport Rep.) Veronica Gibbs ; 01235 813829

Recreation Ground Representative ; Ian Shipton 07801 704 508

Village Hall Bookings ; Marion Shipton NMVH@hotmail.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator ; Nora Haycock ; northmoreton@btinternet.com 01235 812202

Concessionary Travel ; 0845 310 1111 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Wallingford Volunteer Centre ; 01491 836345

Didcot Volunteer Drivers ; 01235 816709

North Moreton Volunteers ; 07979 865737 or 07969 349831

Citizens Advice Line ; 08444 111 444

Waste collection information ; southoxon.gov.uk/wastecalendar (or call Biffa on 03000 610 610)

Postal Services ; The Village Stores Brightwell (01491 835551) . Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 Sat 9.00-13.00

Aston Village Hall . Tuesday 9.30-12.30

Previous editions of North Moreton News can be read on line at www.North-Moreton.com.

North Moreton News is published four times a year. The editor is Mike Howat. Contact can be made via northmoretonnews@gmail.com. Copy for the June 2024 issue should be submitted by May 23rd

