

The Villager

Moreton Morrell

December
2016



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District News

Full Council

A Full Council meeting was held on Monday 24th October and which members were unanimous in supporting a motion to challenge the prospect of Stratford on Avon District being divided into four parliamentary constituencies as it would impact on community cohesion and electoral accountability. The view adopted was that the size of the district meant that it should be represented by two MP's and not four. The Parish Council were unanimous that Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox should become part of the Stratford upon Avon constituency in view of proposed changes to the Kenilworth and Southam constituency.

Stratford Area Transport Strategy Project

A draft Stratford Area Transport Strategy is currently being developed which sets out Warwickshire County Council's and Stratford on Avon District Council's shared transport strategy for Stratford-upon-Avon and the town's immediate environs and key strategic links. District and County Councillors will be briefed on the contents at a joint seminar event which is scheduled to take place this month.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults & Children

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is addressing issues concerning safeguarding vulnerable adults and children across the district and is encouraging everyone to report any incidents of abuse or neglect within the community to its Safeguarding Advisors in Martin Cowan (children on 01789 260849) or Nick Cadd (adults on 01789 260841).

Housing Development

The adoption of the Core Strategy by Stratford-on-Avon District Council has put a stop to any large-scale housing proposals in Moreton Morrell, which is line with the new planning policy, and will be welcome news to residents living in Chestnut Grove and John Taylor Way. The policy also reflects the category status of Moreton Morrell as a Local Service Village and means the only type of development which is likely to be granted planning permission up until 2031, the end of the plan period, is small infill windfall sites.



Parish Chat

Defibrillator

The Parish Council unanimously voted in favour of applying for a British Heart Foundation (BHF) Grant to supply a defibrillator to the village. The proposal is to adopt the BT Payphone Box in the village and install a defibrillator for community access and use. Our resident doctors in the village have also kindly offered to provide regular maintenance checks on the equipment in addition to providing training to volunteers wishing to become a responder. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Duncan and Cat Gordon for their help and support with this initiative. The grant application to BHF has been submitted and we will keep you advised of the outcome.



Moreton Morrell Mad Dash!

Villagers wishing to take part in a fund-raising opportunity may be interested to know the Moreton Morrell Mad Dash (10k and 20k) is being held on 4th February 2017. For further information visit www.raceways.eu/site/events/running-events/mad-dash.



New Medical Centre

Full planning permission has now been granted for the new medical centre in Wellesbourne and construction is scheduled to commence in 2017 with completion in 2018. Further details awaited.

Wellesbourne Sports & Community Centre

The new building has now been handed over to Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council and equipment is being ordered for the gym and the interiors are currently being fitted out. Further details with regard to the facilities and classes offered, together with the opening schedule, will be provided in due course.



Parish Chat

A Clean Sweep

Our thanks are extended to Clare Taylor Reeves who organised a team of villagers who, in turn, took time out of their busy weekend to rake up the leaves from the horse chestnut trees at the gateway entrance into the village, in a bid to protect these vulnerable trees from a potential invasion of leaf moth .



While the leaf miner caterpillar doesn't kill the horse chestnuts, some scientists believe it leaves them susceptible to bleeding canker - a fatal disease that already infects more than half of Britain's conker trees. Clearing leaf litter around horse chestnuts can slow the leaf miner moth's spread. The insect lays its eggs in old leaves.

The gang of volunteers succeeded in filling many black sacks of leaves and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Community Laptops

We are delighted to announce the provision of two laptops from **Warwickshire County Council** – one of which is being used for the production of The Villager; and the Village Hall has now become an internet café during the regular Coffee Mornings through the provision of the second laptop.



Parish Chat

And finally...

Another busy month as we approach the end of the year and into the festive season. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their hard work throughout what has been a challenging year and representing the village's best interests. Special thanks to Alison Gregory our editor of The Villager who has done an excellent job in keeping us all up to date with news and views.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Anne Parry
Chair of Moreton Morrell Parish Council

Ward Member for Wellesbourne East
Stratford on Avon District Council

Mobile: 07917 117737

Email: avparry1@btinternet.com



Cllr Anne Parry

The Parish Council met on the
21st November 2016.

To read the full minutes from the meetings
and the latest news and updates
please visit the Parish Council website.

www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk

Free Wi-Fi Hotspot **at Moreton Morrell Village Hall**

To access the service, search Wi-Fi on your device for **MMPC-VH-FREE-WIFI** and connect using password **mmfreewifi2016**



Village News

FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

Another growing season has passed and all is well on the allotments. We are now in that time of planning for next year, ordering plants and seeds or maybe larger purchases of gardening equipment if the budget allows it.

Tending an allotment is about far more than just growing flowers and vegetables, it is also a great hobby, a chance to get outdoors, for great exercise and a time to chat to fellow gardeners comparing notes on varieties, weeds and more.

We have just held our Annual Meeting and rents are being collected for 2017. I believe that there will be some plots available this year so if you are interested, please let me know. If you find a full plot too much, a half plot can be considered.

Sorry for the short report this time but I will try to make up for it with an excellent free verse poem I recently came across written by Karen Ann Gagnon..

"Have you ever just sat in a garden, on a beautiful spring day?

By sitting in a garden, you can relax and watch the wonders of nature that surround you.

If you can sit still long enough you'll get to see butterflies fliting among the flowers or maybe even a robin darting about.

If you look closely, you might see some interesting bugs moving about on their daily business or even an earthworm pushing his way up out of the ground.

If you're adventurous enough, take off your shoes and feel the cold dirt between your toes.

Pull up some weeds and feel the strength of the roots not wanting to let go of their hold on the ground."



Gardens are wondrous places if you take the time to enjoy them.

Happy Christmas to all and good gardening in 2017

John Moverley

**Keep up to date
visit**

[facebook.com/Moretonmorrellpaddox](https://www.facebook.com/Moretonmorrellpaddox)



Moreton Morrell C of E Primary School

The pupils in Year 1 and 2 have been involved in an exciting arts project at Compton Verney. While the pupils were at the gallery, they watched a play entitled 'The Boy Who Bite Picasso', based on the true story of a little boy who bit the great artist when he came for tea at his parents' house.



The pupils went around the gallery to see the work of Pablo Picasso in the exhibition entitled Picasso on Paper. They discovered how the artist was inspired to create wonderful prints exploring themes such as the circus, and how he used different print making methods. The pupils then had the opportunity to make their own poly tile which they brought back to school. The pupils are planning to use the tiles to create their own prints, which will then be displayed at Compton Verney in the spring. As you can imagine the pupils are very excited about seeing their work displayed in such a prestigious venue.



Spotlight on...

Some of you will have read about Rachel elsewhere, and others will have met her already, but although she's been the curate in Moreton Morrell for the past five months many of you won't yet have encountered her.

Name: Revd Rachel Saum

Title: Assistant Curate in the Mid Fosse Parishes & Development Worker for the Field Community

What is a Curate? A curate is a trainee vicar. I'm in Moreton Morrell and the surrounding parishes to learn the art of ministry in a rural context until sometime in 2019, when I've completed a learning portfolio, and the Bishop of Coventry has agreed, I am then able to lead a church.



Where do you live? Unlike previous curates in Moreton Morrell, I'm not living in the village, but down the road in Charlecote.

What does your role include? Exploring ministry with people in their 20s and 30s, and as part of this I have been asked to set up a residential Christian community of young adults in the old vicarage in Charlecote.

What else? Besides planning, leading and preaching at services, I am involved in the school, where I am taking assemblies, and from February I will be preparing those Year 6s who wish to be Confirmed next year.

Anything else? I also spend time most weeks in the college, as a chaplain, getting to know the staff and students, being a friendly face, and offering a listening ear to anyone who wants to talk, whatever their perspective on faith and life. Having been in some form of youth, children and families' ministry for most of the past 15 years, it is great to be part of the school and the college. But there is always more to learn!

Describe a typical day: As a curate no day is the same. For me that's one of the many joys of being a minister!

What's next? In the next few weeks my focus will turn to nativities, Christingles and carol services. But all the while I'll be trying to hold onto the spirit of Advent – a time of conscious waiting, anticipation and expectancy.



Spotlight on...

What does Christmas mean to you? Waiting not only for the joyful indulgence and fun gift-giving of Christmas Day, but also for the time when once again as a Christian I am reminded to rejoice in the birth of Jesus; the gift of a vulnerable baby, demonstrating God's very ordinary yet extraordinary presence with us. So alongside the mince pie munching, the sermon crafting and the carol singing, I also want and need to remember the love of God and his presence in the world. In the madness of the next few weeks I hope you get a chance to stop and ponder what these celebrations are all about too.

Anything else?...Yes, I hope you all have a very happy and blessed Christmas, and if you happen to see me at any of the school, village or church events then please do come and introduce yourself.

Rachel can be contacted on 07815 793625

To find out more about her work in Charlecote visit www.thefieldcommunitycharlecote.org



VILLAGE WELCOME PACK

The Village Welcome Pack is available to anyone who is new to the village or perhaps returning after a spell away.

If you would like to obtain a copy please contact Jane Cleeton: cleej1@btinternet.com
01926 651529

Or visit www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk to download a copy.

DO YOU CLEAN?

The Village Hall is looking for someone to undertake occasional cleaning duties.

If you are interested please contact Diana on 01926 651391 to discuss details and rates of pay.



Nature Watch

By Steve Harvey

December

Mid November, Gaydon, and another Jackdaw day. I love it when they have one. It seems possibly to be triggered by a fine sunny day. The colony rise up into the air, chattering to each other, "Jack!.....Jack!..Daw." they rise and fall as one, if you watch for a minute they are mostly in pairs, changing direction in tandem. If one dives the other follows. I guess not only the pairs are renewing their bonds, the whole colony is bonding. Many a dog walking human walks beneath them, seemingly unaware - not that hat bothers the Jackdaws.

Towards the end of summer people often say where have my Blackbirds gone? Well, with breeding over they nip off to the hedgerows for berries and fruits, stuffing themselves before the Winter. As Natures bounty runs a bit thin and migrant Blackbirds and Thrushes fly in our lot head for the tried and tested gardens. It wont be long before we are knee deep in Blackbirds again.

It's been a treat having more Tawny Owls recently. The "Keeik Keeik" sometimes answered by the "Keoo." they seldom move far away from where they were born so we may be hearing Tawnies from a long line of Owls that have lived round here for generations.

Oh, and Skylarks singing on high in November. They do sing for large parts of the year, so does the Robin - good value birds.

Moorhen and Chick Update. The remaining youngster is thriving. It's now a grey colour and about 3/4 the size of it's mother. Its confident and when I get to the canal side and call it's first to run, paddle or fly towards me. It not only feeds itself but will grab food from the water faster than its parents can. It must be about nine or ten weeks since I first met it and it can now almost look after itself, though it stays close to it's parents. It was born fairly late in the year so it has been nice to help it feed up a bit before winter arrives.



Nature Watch

November

Spider time yeahy! Long-legged insey ones, fat bodied winsey ones, Orb webs covered with dew - beautiful. Try telling a Daddy long Legs that - pure nightmare for them! Ladybirds are finding each other, clustering together in corners of window frames and door frames like Roman shields joined together against the weather.

I usually hear the 'seep' call of the Redwing flocks as they cross the sky in September. This year it was mid October so I guess the Scandinavian Autumn was mild so they hung on before crossing the North Sea to join us. Rubbish Summer for butterflies, only seen one Peacock, hardly a Tortoiseshell but loads of migrant Red Admirals - common as muck this year.

Wasps have had a great time. I have a nest by my compost heap. Not everyone's cup of tea but when I watch how hard they work I wouldn't want to harm them. They were zapping about at first light and continued working until you could hardly see. Some of them flew out of sight while others scoured the borders for caterpillars, spiders and aphids. So, on balance, they were an asset to the garden.



WASP FEEDING
ON IVY FLOWERS

You may remember the Moorhen story (if anybody reads this). Well, I'm still connected to them. As I approach them by crossing the bridge over the canal I make the universal clicking sound that all creatures respond to! The Moorhens stop what they are doing and turn to face me. The chick starts to cheep and head towards me before the parents. If they are on the towpath they run to me like tiny black chickens leaping into the water at the last minute. Anyway, bad news, by October there was only one chick. I'll never know what happened to the other chick but my suspicions are on the eight cygnets that dominate the water. They may be elegant and beautiful but they are spiteful, having a go at the ducks and anything else that comes near them. If the Moorhen chick swam close by it wouldn't stand a chance. The remaining chick is now nearly half the size of its parents and getting all the food and attention so it is thriving.

Oh, just to say I've now been personally introduced to Betty B's Robin. It shows no fear and hopped around my feet and spent some time sitting and looking into the water in my bucket. I could almost touch it.



Village News

YOUR CHURCH

Well, Christmas is soon upon us and the organised have all their shopping done or ordered whilst some of us are still thinking about it! For those of my age, Christmas seems to come round at an ever quicker pace, whilst for the young, it cannot come quickly enough. Since early November, my grandson, Jack, has been able to tell me how many 'sleeps' it is to Christmas Day. It is undoubtedly a very special time seeing all the decorations and lights and the anticipation is very tangible. Yet we must never fail to remember what it is celebrating, the birth of our Lord Jesus.

At your church here in Moreton Morrell, we are holding a number of services and events. Everyone is very welcome to join in and we mean everyone. A warm welcome is guaranteed and these events give opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate. Here is the list:

- * December 5 College Carol Service at 7.30pm
- * December 11 Holy Communion at 8.30am
- * December 14 School Carol Service at 6.30pm
- * December 18 Christmas Prime Time Service
- * December 23 9 Lessons and 9 Carols
- * December 24 Midnight Holy Communion



Our new Church Room is now in the final stages of preparation for use and an official opening is planned early in the New Year. There is a determination that the room is for use by all the community, complementing current activities of the Village Hall. A small group of people drawn from across our village are considering what might be possible – exciting times.

And finally, something which may raise a smile. At a recent school nativity play, two children are dressed as Mary and Joseph and are on the way to the inn in Bethlehem. Meanwhile on the other side of the stage, a lad in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone. He is calling the inn to make a reservation.

Christmas greeting and best wishes to all

John Moverley



Dates & Events

Moreton Morrell "Golden Age" party "Festive Afternoon Tea"

Tuesday 6th December 2 pm in the
village hall

Entertainment will be provided by the wonderful
school musicians, followed by afternoon tea.

This is open to all over 60s and anyone else who
cares to join us.

Please contact

Sara Lawton 651371 or Hilary Williams 651310
to let us know numbers.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Isobel Ollis very much for the
many years, (at least 20) she has organised and provided for this popular event.

The Community Café

At Moreton Morrell Village Hall

will be open at 11:00 am on

- ◇ January 5th & 19th
- ◇ February 2nd & 16th
- ◇ March 2nd, 16th & 30th
- ◇ April 27th



Everyone is welcome.

We always have homemade cake and there
is no charge for the refreshments so why not give us a try if you
haven't done so yet.

Also with free Wi-Fi and use of the community laptop.

For information contact Jo on 650068



Community

WRCC Energy

Do you want to save money on
the cost of your heating oil or LPG?
In November our oil members paid **36.99 pence per litre**
this was a saving of £45.80 for 1000 litres
against the average market price of 41.57 pence per litre

Very competitive rates for bulk LPG and LPG cylinders

Visit our website to find out more and become a member

www.wrccenergy.org.uk

email: energy@wrccrural.org.uk

telephone 01789 472619

Energy Warwickshire is part of the charity WRCC

Registered charity number: 1081017

THE VILLAGER WANTS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send your news, events, letters, stories
and photographs to the editor: Alison Gregory

Email: moreton.morrell@gmail.com

Phone: 07775 994 131

**Deadline for
next edition**

30th January 2017

maximum 200 words per article



Community

Are you in to Win?

Did you know you could
win monthly prizes
just for recycling your
food waste?

Sign up at:
www.feedyourcaddy.co.uk

...to claim your
free welcome pack.

In partnership with:



www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodwaste

 @Recycle4Warks  RecycleForWarwickshire



The Parish Council

Chair: Anne Parry

Email: avparry1@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07917 117737

Vice Chair: Jane Cleeton

Email: cleej1@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01926 651529

Clerk to the Council: Pam Routly

Email: pamroutly@btinternet.com

Councillors:

James Gordon

Bernard Keavy

Gerry Slora

Elizabeth Greetham

Jo Ford

Sub Committees:

Planning: Parry, Gordon, Keavy, Greetham

Playing Field: Cleeton, Slora, Greetham

Speed Awareness: Gordon, Parry

Village Appearance: Keavy, Gordon

Village Hall/Church/College: Greetham, Cleeton, Keavy

Footpaths: Slora, Gordon

**The next parish meeting will be held
in Moreton Morrell Village Hall
Monday 16th January 2017
7.30pm**

For more news from the Parish Council visit
www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk

