

THE *Moreton Morrell* VILLAGER

August 2021



*New Equipment in the
Playing Field*

Sponsored by  **WCG**

The Parish Council

Chair: Robert James

Vice Chair: Gerry Slora

Councillors:

Eileen Edwards, James Gordon, Bernard Keavy & Claire Monks

County Councillor: Penny-Anne O'Donnell

District Councillor: Anne Parry

The next Parish Council meeting

will be on

Monday 20th September at 7.30_{pm}

and all are welcome to join

For more news from the Parish Council visit

www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk

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News from the Parish Council

It was good to be joined at our recent meeting by a number of villagers, including those new to Moreton Morrell.

Like many, the Parish Council is concerned by litter and damage at the playing field, particularly because of the investment that we have made and that we know the facilities are hugely enjoyed and used properly by the vast majority. We are exploring options for improving security and our thanks go to Jane Cleeton for her ongoing vigilance in reporting and tackling issues when they arise.

Save the date – Sunday 19 September

We will be arranging a village picnic as our first get together in a while, and to celebrate the new equipment at the park. Details to be finalised, so watch this space,

but it will be from 12-4 and we are hoping to organise a hog roast and some musical entertainment. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Road Safety

Our PCSO has agreed that it would be possible to site a speed gun near John Taylor Way, but we need some volunteers to run it. If you are interested in being trained, please contact Anne Parry on cllranneparry@gmail.com or 07917 117737. This is the only place in the village where it is legally possible to put a speed gun.

The full minutes of the meeting are available on www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk. The next meeting is on 20 September at 7.30pm and all are welcome to join.

Village Welcome Pack

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

If you would like to obtain a copy please contact

Jane Cleeton: cleej1@btinternet.com

Or call 01926 651529

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

District and County News

Volunteers Required for Community Speed Watch Group

I have been in contact with PCSO Liam Allen (Warwickshire Police) as they are starting up training for a Community Speed Watch Group in Moreton Morrell. He has carried out a survey of Moreton Morrell and the only place this can be administered from in the parish is on the junction of John Taylor Way, next to the weight restriction road sign, facing up into the village (30mph area). It would not be suitable for checks to be conducted facing the 50mph section due to the regulations we have to follow for the sites.

PCSO Allen has asked me to send him details of the nominated Team Leader and volunteers with contact emails and numbers so that he can organise the training. Please can villagers wishing to be trained to using a speed gun and monitor the speed of both vehicles and bikes, as instructed on behalf of the village, email me on avparry1@btinternet.com with their contact details so that these can be forwarded to PCSO Allen.

Pure Recycling Centre

Following the major fire incident at the Pure Recycling Centre in Ettington last month, the waste recycling collections have been halted temporarily as the

operational function of the site has been destroyed.

SDC is hoping that services will commence as normal as soon as possible and are doing everything possible to get solutions from Kier and Biffa.

Thank you for your understanding and continued patience and information regarding this situation has been posted on social media sites and featured in the press and on local radio.

As previously reported SDC has already committed a £multi-million investment along with other local authorities in a new Multi Recycling Facility to be built in Coventry and will be operational within the next 12-18 months.

New Era for Land Charges Service

SDC transferred its Local Land Charges Register (LLCR) to HM Land Registry (HMLR) in May which follows the completion of a challenging project over the last two years to data cleanse and digitise approximately 95,000 records held in a variety of paper and digital formats.

Benefits of the new system will be faster response times to search requests and a foundation to enable officers to work with more accurate data, accessible systems

District and County News

and continuously improve its processes. SDC will continue to be responsible for updating and maintaining the LLC register to provide replies to CON29 enquiries which are currently being turned round in less than 15 working days.

Planning and Enforcement

The planning teams continue to be swamped by householder applications for extensions which reflects the increase of homeworking during Covid and the new hybrid model of working that is being adopted by many businesses to look at greater flexibility of working routines amongst staff combining a mix of office based with home working routines. Whilst applications have recently been taking 5 weeks to validated this has now reduced to around 2 – 3 weeks despite the volume and staff shortages within the planning team.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have commenced the initial stages in the development of a Local Plan and have undertaken a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, which closed on Monday 21 June 2021. This is the first stage in a long process and the consultation

asked a series of questions about what issues the new Local Plan should cover and sought views on how we should tackle these issues. In our part of the District, we have received nearly 3,000 responses and nearly 400 potential sites.

Business Grants

Throughout the pandemic local government has been responsible for the administration and payment of the various and numerous Central Government Grant Schemes. To date SDC has paid out over £70 million in grant funding and it is great news that local businesses and the village hall have been able to benefit from these grants over the last 16 months.

SDC has worked closely with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub to ensure that payments of grants have reached those in most need. SDC has subsequently received a further indicative funding of £1.4 million from July which was only available to those local authorities who had spent their original allocation. This new tranche will consequently be used to support existing businesses to flourish post-pandemic. Further details awaited.

Anne Parry

From the Allotments

On a recent visit to the local supermarket, I looked at the array of vegetables and fruit on offer, seemingly all good quality and plentiful. It made me think. Why do I want to grow my own? Is it because it is cheaper? Well, not sure on that one. If you count in labour as well as seeds, plants and nutrients added, looking at those supermarket prices, as said not sure? Is it because growing is relatively simple. Well anyone growing vegetables and fruit can tell you that it is not always straightforward. You have to deal with the weather, let alone those weeds which grow when nothing else does. So why do I do it and why have an allotment?

To me this can be summed up in the words, exercise, freshness, nature, companionship and enjoyment. To me my allotment is my outside gym – nothing like a bout of digging or weeding – beats the rowing machines any day. Freshness – a real key factor. I can pop out, pick those peas or dig those potatoes and cook and eat them almost immediately. How long was it since those items in the supermarket were picked? As for nature, well I see this in two parts. Firstly walking around or working on the allotment, you can get a real sense of getting away from it all, listening to and experiencing nature in all its forms. Then of course there is the

carbon footprint. When I see those kiwi fruit on display (which of course I cannot grow), flown in from foreign parts, it makes me reflect not just on the cost but the carbon emissions. No such carbon footprint from my home grown.

As for companionship, well I see this as a real value. The ability to chat to and learn from fellow allotment holders is always helpful. And finally to my last sword, enjoyment. Yes, the work can be hard, the weeds intolerable, the weather a challenge but the real enjoyment from growing and walking round the plot is immense. Getting up early morning, making a cup of tea and then afterwards walking round the garden planning what needs to be done – nothing can beat it. It sets up the day whatever it might bring.

As I have previously reported, we have 100% occupation this year but vacancies may arise towards the end of the year so if you are interested, drop me an email for our waiting list. If you are unsure and would like to visit to chat about it, again get in touch. To use a quote originally by Mirabel Osler “There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling.”

John Moverley

Nature Watch

By Steve Harvey

Well, I think I mentioned in May that there was a chance of hearing a Cuckoo at that time of year and said good luck with that. Now I can go years between hearing them but, low and behold, soon after mid-May at 5.40am I heard one! It called its strange echoey 'cuckoo' in the still morning air, only four times but that will do for me.

In mid-June I heard it again. Five calls this time in the early morning. It may be years until I hear to again but it's better than nothing!

Back in the cottage now scribbling away and I can make out the calls of the young Tawny Owls in the spinney out the front. Since records began, or should I say, since I first noticed a couple of years back, the pair of Tawneys have had two youngsters. This year its three owlets out there. One night the three baby. Owls sat in the Cedar tree and called all night long, (not the Lionel Richie hit), they didn't stop calling to their parents for food and to stay in contact with each other. Can't blame them really. On one evening all three moved from tree to tree, from spinney, along the gardens and to the tall trees near the end of our garden. There they took turns in calling as light faded

on deep dark blue. A parent arrived from the parkland with a furry food parcel, either a mouse or a vole and one baby got lucky. As they gain confidence they'll move more into the park each night then start to learn just how to catch that food.

The hot weather in June made many a Frog dash to the very wild pond for sanctuary. Frogs of all ages and sizes arrived. We had our own 'Frog Fest'. When it cooled down in the evenings they would venture out into the slightly overgrown, I mean well stocked, garden. Moths fluttered around the flowers as Bats flitted about overhead hoping to catch one.

The Fox family seems to be still loosely hanging out together. I saw a cub suckle from its mother last month. By now they are both almost her size and often squabbling with each other. Nice to see them emerge from the shadows for a sniff about.

The Blue Tits left the nest box without me seeing them go. There's a couple of baby Goldfinches here each day. Not many yet.

The male Great Spotted Woodpecker arrives to the bird table several times a day. Its developed a technique for

Nature Watch

gathering sunflower hearts. It uses the tip of its substantial beak to start filling, then it turns its head to one side to carefully fill the sides of the beak so it has maximum load when it takes off to return to its young. I now have several Jackdaws, a male Blackbird, a Collard Dove and a limping Pheasant that recognise and approach me for dietary

supplements. Every little helps and its a privilege to be trusted by them.

Follow me on Instagram -
steviespics56



STAYING CLOSE

Pick it up!

Whatever some people may believe, there's no such thing as the dog poo fairy. So dog walkers, bag that poo - any rubbish bin will do.
(This includes Box Field)

Together let's put an end to this offensive, harmful litter.

Your Church

Each morning I walk from my home to the church to unlock it. Generally it about 7.30am but it can vary a little. Indeed recently, having been delayed by a phone call, I got a slight reprimand from a villager waiting to gain access!

During the restrictions, we have operated a system which allows us to estimate how many people visit during the day, linked to our health and safety procedures. The results might be surprising to some, in that it is clear that the church is widely used as a place to rest, reflect and take time out from the busy and often challenging world around. It emphasises the important place your church holds in the village. It can be a way mark when navigating, a place to view nature and to visit family graves, rekindling memories, and, as said, a place to sit and think, whether in the building or the churchyard. It is also importantly the site of the village war memorial, a spot where each year in November we gather to remember all who have given their lives for us.

So clearly whether you have a faith or not, the church is an important building and now we have the Room, a community resource in so many ways. Of course our services are important and we often worry about how we can fund the building

maintenance and running but we must not lose sight of the key role it plays.

Recently a group of us met to consider future plans and how the church and its activities could take a greater place in community life. How could we increase activity for young people, how could we support more those in need, how could we increase access to services for those who find weekends so busy and not so easy to attend regular worship? It would be really good to hear your views.

Doing nothing is not an option.

I am sure that we all do not want to see our church lost due to financial pressures and lack of community support. So we are looking for bold ideas, thinking outside the box I think is the common terms. So if you can spare a few moments and have access to email, let us have your thoughts.

Email

HolyCrossMM@outlook.com

Looking ahead our service programme on the first and third Sundays continues, commencing 10.30am. We like to think that we have a really friendly and welcoming atmosphere and

Your Church

services. So please do join us whenever you can or wish to.

On the third Sunday in October, the service will be our Harvest Festival and we hope to get really good support for this. The pandemic has made us all reflect on many things but especially the importance of a good food supply and of our farming sector.

So whether it be just to visit or attend an event, please make use of your church and its facilities.

Your church in your community.

And finally I understand some

have been missing my often corny jokes so here is one which hopefully does not offend but raises a smile.

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the colour of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

*John Moverley
Church Warden*

Village General Maintenance Person Required

The Parish Council is looking for a capable, reliable person to carry out minor maintenance and repairs around the village.

The type of jobs would be varied but would include minor repairs to playing field equipment, painting, carpentry, bench staining, bus stop and sign cleaning, rubbish removal, weekly field inspection using a checklist, trimming and cutting back overgrown footpaths etc.

This role would be on a self-employed basis and hours would vary and be paid in accordance with skills of applicant and tasks carried out.

Anyone interested in finding out more, please contact the Parish Clerk, Pam Routly via email - pamroutly@btinternet.com

The College Update

New equipment thanks to tutor's legacy fund

A former college tutor, distinguished equestrian competitor and BHSI Examiner is continuing to support the next generation of equine students with a £10,000 legacy fund. Clarissa Dawson passed away two years ago after a brave battle with leukaemia and had been a tutor at Moreton Morrell College for more than two decades. She left a legacy fund at the college to support the further development of equine training, which was her passion, and the college group has now purchased two new pieces of equipment with the fund.

More than £3,000 has been used to buy two new mechanical horse exercisers for the college, which will be used by Level 3 students to develop rider fitness as part of their riding module, as well as benefiting teaching on other courses too.

Sue Weatherburn, a lecturer who worked with Clarissa for more than 15 years, said: "I feel very lucky to have worked alongside Clarissa for such a long period of time. She was a great colleague and friend.

"To buy this equipment with the legacy fund is a fitting way to remember Clarissa and we know that she would have approved of

spending some of the money in this way."



From left to right - Grace Debruyne (student), Jan Dawson, Geoff Dawson, Ellie Rowe (student), Fran Penn (WCG) and Sue Weatherburn (WCG)

Laurissa Astfalck named Student of the Year

An extraordinary personal transformation has helped an apprentice veterinary nurse claim a top college award.

Laurissa Astfalck, from Coventry, has been named Student of the Year by Moreton Morrell College after experiencing a positive growth in confidence.

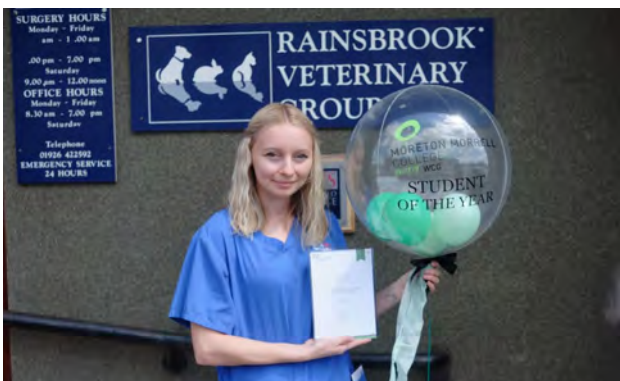
Laurissa's employers at Medivet Leamington in Upper Grove Street and tutors at the college hailed her transition from a shy newcomer who was reluctant to speak on the phone to a confident and knowledgeable veterinary nurse as the main reason for her success.

The apprentice, who is set to

The College Update

complete her two-year apprenticeship this year, also excelled in online tests and written assignments and impressed tutors with her commitment and professional development on her way to receiving the award.

Laurissa said: “I’ve always loved animals and have learnt so much on the Veterinary Nursing course but the best thing about it has been the confidence that the team and the college have installed in me.”



Laurissa Astfalck

Students shine at the Game Fair

Moreton Morrell College students and staff were part of a collective which created a show-stopping garden at The Game Fair.

Green-fingered guests arrived in full force to enjoy this year’s The Game Fair at Ragley Hall, with thousands stopping by the show garden to take photos under its

outstanding floral arch.

The project, which promoted the use of technology in gardens and how horticulture is adapting to modern times, saw staff and students join forces from a range of courses across college group WCG, including horticulture, landscaping and floristry, to create the garden.

Mark Whittaker, of WCG, said: “The students put together a very unique and engaging range of attractions and the feedback we have received has been absolutely superb.

“It provided not only an opportunity for students and staff to show their skills, but offered something a little different to the rest of the show.

“We even had guests asking if the students could come and do some horticultural work or floristry displays for them, which is extremely promising for the future and indicates the high standards that they are reaching in their work.”



The garden at the Game Fair

The College Update

Rhino Run

A seasoned marathon runner and former zookeeper has received a show of support from her animal-loving students as she prepares for a half-marathon with a wild twist.

Amber Bence is hoping to raise at least £1,000 for the Save the Rhino charity by taking on the Hackney Half-Marathon in full rhino costume, and Animal Management students at Moreton Morrell College have helped to kick off the fundraising drive by joining Amber on a 5k run.

The group of 25 students decided to take part in the charity run after studying Level 3 modules on Zoological Health and Husbandry and Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, which Amber leads, and have been inspired to continue

their activism after graduation. Amber said: “I used to be a Zoo Keeper looking after Southern White Rhinos and now teach about their needs within the captive environment in the Zoo module and their plight in the Wildlife module, so running in a rhino costume seemed like a perfect challenge that my students could get behind.”



Amber Bence (centre) and students at Moreton Morrell College



Transport

Dial a Ride UBUS service in Moreton Morrell

The UBUS dial a ride community transport service operates in Moreton Morrell and surrounding areas on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays between 09:30 - 14:30.

UBUS is available to anyone who struggles to access public transport due to mobility issues, health problems or due to infrequent or no public transport.

Travel locally or into Stratford upon Avon to go shopping, visit friends or attend social groups.

Single journey fare: £2.90 | Return fare: £5.80

To register with UBUS or for more information please call 01789 264491 between 09:30 - 14:30 on weekdays.



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transport@vasa.org.uk

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Community



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We need your clothes and shoes

Don't forget the school has a hungry clothes monster... or a recycling bin if you prefer!

Have your children outgrown their clothes or shoes or perhaps you need some space for your summer wardrobe! If you have any bedding, clothing or shoes that no longer fit or you simply no longer want or can be bothered to repair! why not feed the blue bin located opposite the main reception entrance to school.

The bin is emptied by an external company and the school is paid an amount depending on the weight of the clothing.



The Silver Line is a helpline for older people that offers information, friendship and advice 24 hours day, 365 days a year.

Originally founded by Dame Esther Rantzen, it is the only national, free and confidential helpline for older people in the UK.

The Silver Line also offers telephone and letter befriending by matching up a Silver Liner to a volunteer for regular conversation.

So if anyone is lying awake at night - or feeling lonely at anytime - or is worried about a problem that they have - and think that a chat with someone friendly who cares might help, **please call The Silver Line on 0800 4708090** www.thesilverline.org.uk



Community



The Room

**This new facility is suitable for
small gatherings, meetings and regular events.**

To make an enquiry or to book The Room please contact
contact.tramm@gmail.com

or visit the website for more details

www.midfosse.co.uk/moreton-morrell-holy-cross/the-room

The Church of the Holy Cross, Main Street, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9AL

Help us make The Villager!

Please continue to send your news, events, letters, photos, stories
and comments by email to cleetonjane@gmail.com

The deadline for the next edition is

27th September 2021

This is your magazine, please do contribute in any way you can.

Extra copies of The Villager are left in the church

and a copy is online at www.moretonmorrellpc.co.uk