

# Moulton Parish News

April 2003

**W**elcome to our first edition of 2003! Spring certainly seems to have come earlier than ever. During my walks around the village with my new dog I have been delighted to see all the spring flowers and hedges bursting into bloom. I hope many of you managed to see, what must have been, one of the best displays of crocus and daffodils in the village—the wood by the vicarage. The floor was carpeted with white, yellow and purple crocus, intermingled with all varieties of daffodil. A sight to gladden even the most jaded heart!

## Goodbye to Alan

After twelve years in the post of Parish Clerk, Alan McElhinney has decided to retire. We thank him for all he has done over the past twelve years and wish him well in his future activities in Frodsham. Councillors clubbed together to buy Alan an unusual leaving present. Local artist, Andrew Fearnon, was commissioned to draw a series of caricatures of councillors. The composite picture was presented to Alan at the March meeting along with a bottle of something which Alan promised only to use for medicinal purposes!

Elaine Beech took over as Parish Clerk at the March meeting. She comes to us from Halton Borough Council, where she was an Education Officer. We hope that her stay in Moulton will be long and happy.

Elaine can be contacted at :

**478 Chester Road, Sandiway, Northwich, CW8 2DU Tel: 01606 888 015**

**Email: moultonpc@ukgateway.net**

\*Andrew Fearnon specialises in graphite and pastel drawings. If you are interested in having a portrait of a family member or pet contact him on: 01606 860751 or Email: andy@lagniappe-portrait.co.uk

## And Welcome to Elaine

### Borough and Local Elections - May 1st

Thursday, May 1st is local election day so don't forget to use your vote! Voting will be in the Village Hall between 8.00am to 9.00pm.

Moulton Parish Council should have eleven members but as there were only seven nominations there will be no election this time round. We need four more people willing to do their bit for Moulton, so if you are interested why not contact the Parish Clerk for further details?

Borough Elections **will** take place and you will be able to vote for up to three people to represent us on Vale Royal Borough Council.

### PLEASE USE YOUR VOTE

Once again the village has been entered into the Cheshire Best Kept Village Competition (now called the Cheshire Community Pride Competition). We will be judged for the preliminary stages at any time during the period from now until 13th July and if we go through to the later stages, between 27th July and 15th August. In parallel, the Parish Council proposes to run its Best Kept Gardens Competition during July and August, as last year.

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Just as Moulton School is opening tenders for the new building work, St Stephen's church has also received three tenders for the renovation of the nave ceiling. Whilst only a fraction of the school costs, the work is still going to be several



thousand pounds. We are grateful for some generous donations toward this work over the last year and, subject to the relevant permissions, we hope to have the work completed in the next few months.

We were delighted that so many from the village joined us for our Christmas celebrations and we would extend a welcome to you to church over Easter when we remember the crucial events of the death and resurrection of Jesus (details below).

What with **re**-novation of the ceiling and **re**-membering the **re**-surrection, perhaps now is a good time to **re**-awaken our faith. Why not join our "Foundations" group – a series of 8 Monday evenings looking at the basics of the Christian faith, with opportunity for discussion and questions. Starts 28th April, 8pm, The Vicarage.

*Andy Greenhough*

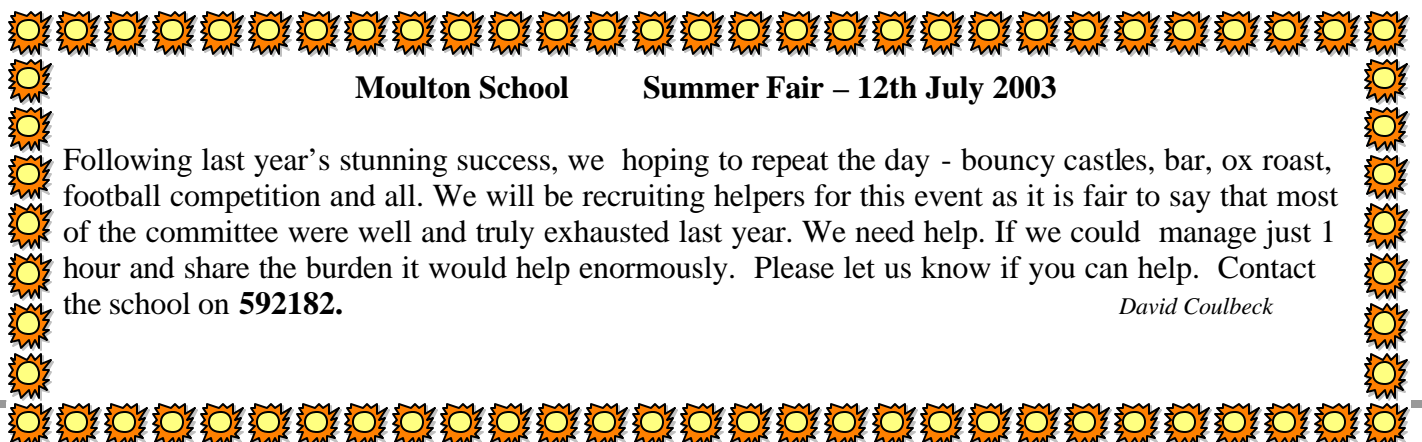
<b>St Stephen's Diary Dates:</b>		
Maundy Thursday	Communion Service	7.30pm
Good Friday	"Hour at the Cross"	2.00pm
Easter Sunday	Communion	10.45am
	Easter Praise	6.30pm


  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING-**  
**THURSDAY, 22TH MAY, 7.30PM,**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL (Back Hall) All Villagers Invited**

**Coffee and Chat**

Why not join us on a Thursday morning in the Village Hall? We meet from 9.30-1100am for our "elevenses" and a chat. Lovely homemade cakes are on sale too! We welcome ANY member of the village who is free at this time. As well as our weekly meetings we also arrange trips, have several lunchtime meals, including a special Christmas repast.

*Enid Newton*


  
**Moulton School Summer Fair – 12th July 2003**

Following last year's stunning success, we hoping to repeat the day - bouncy castles, bar, ox roast, football competition and all. We will be recruiting helpers for this event as it is fair to say that most of the committee were well and truly exhausted last year. We need help. If we could manage just 1 hour and share the burden it would help enormously. Please let us know if you can help. Contact the school on **592182**.

*David Coulbeck*

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## Adventure Group News

Two senior members passed the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme this year and recently received their certificates at the County Council's award ceremony held at County Hall. **Louise Hubbard**, from Poplar Avenue and **Carl Mitchell**, now at Bangor University and formerly of Regent Street, will be travelling to Buckingham Palace in the autumn to receive their badges at a ceremony attended by the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward. Two other members will complete their Gold Awards this summer. The staff wish to congratulate them on their success. They are the first members of MAG to gain the Gold award, although over the years a number of members have gained Bronze and Silver awards. Les Burgess, the only other member of staff with this coveted badge, gained his way back in 1961. He was one of the first in the country to be awarded it.

During the last two years members of staff have gained certification in various fields so that they comply with all the latest Government and County requirements regarding working with young people.

**Andrew Royle** has completed a rigorous two year course in Mountain Leadership from the National Mountaineering Centre in North Wales. This national qualification enables him to lead mountain-walking pursuits throughout Great Britain.

**Daryl Mitchell, David Edwards, Louise Hubbard, and Mike Hubbard** have gained part 2 of the British Canoe Union qualifications for still waters and are pursuing further certificates for white water canoeing.

**Dr. Phil Ashton, Daryl Mitchell and Andrew Royle** are also taking the Rock Climbing Leadership Certificate which they hope to complete it this year.

I would mention that all the Leaders and junior leaders have completed and now hold the Red Cross Basic First Aid Certificate, the Health and Safety Certificate while several also hold the Food Hygiene Certificate.

All in all, the group leaders and members have had a very busy two years and this year will be pursuing further qualifications to enhance our status as one of the best voluntary youth groups in Cheshire.

We are one of the first youth groups to be audited under the new County regulations. We hope to have this completed by the time you read this article. The group already published its Handbook and has risk assessments and safety procedures in place for all its activities. We are also have a website: <http://www.magroup.force9.co.uk>

At present we have some vacancies for 11 - 14 year olds in our Adventure unit and for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award group (14 - 17 years). If you fancy a go at mountaineering canoeing, camping or other outdoor pursuits Contact the group HQ in School Lane on Monday or Thursday evenings for more information on <http://www.magroup.force9.co.uk>



### Dates for your Diary - Moulton Methodist Church

**Palm Sunday (April 13th):** United service commencing at 10.45am. Worship will start at the Methodist Church and then the congregation will walk to St Stephen's for continuation of the service.

**Easter Sunday:** Morning service, with communion, at 10.45am

**Mums & Toddlers:** meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1.30- 3.00pm

**Quiet time for prayer?** The church is open every Monday morning from 9- 9.30am for anyone who wants a quiet prayer time.

## Parish Council Grants

Organisations wishing to apply for grant help from the Parish Council need to complete their application forms and return them by **31st August**. Forms may be obtained from the Parish Clerk.(See page 1)

### MYSTERY RESOLVED - AND ALL BECAUSE OF A SPELLING ERROR!

Anyone who has read Geoff Crompton's book '34 MEN', the story of the Moulton men who died in WW1, will recall that he was unable to discover any information on two of the 34 whose names are inscribed on the village War Memorial and Parish Church Tablet. They were Alfred Barber and Ernest Blyth.

By following up a chance remark made by Steve Woodward, a fellow member of the Western Front Association, Geoff has now, 12 months after publication, unravelled the mystery of Ernest Blyth. The major stumbling block was that the surname Blyth was incorrectly spelt both on the Memorial and Church Tablet with an 'e'. None of the Blythe's listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had any apparent association with Moulton or indeed Northwich.

Sadly, the solution to the mystery was sitting on the doorstep, for Ernest was buried in Davenham Churchyard not two miles from the village. When Andy Greenhough, our Vicar, and Geoff scrapped away the grass and weeds from the small private headstone last November the faint lettering on the face of the stone revealed the last resting place of Ernest William Blyth.

Anyone who wants to read the belated dedication to Ernest go to:

<http://www.madca.org.uk/moultonnews>. You could then download the section and insert it into p 191

#### Old Friends

Moulton Old Friends meet alternate Tuesdays between 2 and 4pm in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome.

**Moulton Mother and Toddler Group** meets on Friday mornings at 10.00am in the Village Hall, and is for pre-school children. The morning involves free play, drinks and biscuits, craft activities and singing, all in a very friendly atmosphere. If you are interested please call **Jo Green** on **01606 553455**, who will put your name on the waiting list and explain how the group is run.



#### School Building Work due to start soon!

#### Village Building Work Update

Work on the re-development of the Regent Street Site will start soon. Initially the work was to be done in two phases but grant availability has meant that the work can now be completed in one session. It will be necessary to have the area cleared of cars while work is carried out and residents will be advised when and where work will start. There may be some inconvenience for householders but I am sure you will appreciate the work once it is complete.

Work starts in April on the extension work at Moulton School with completion expected by the end of the year.