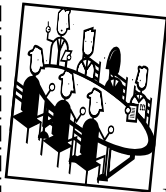


Moulton Parish News

Welcome to new Parish Councillors



Due to business commitments David Wakefield and Mark Leah have resigned as parish councillors. In their place we welcome Yvonne Freeman and Jo Kershaw. They can be contacted on 557622 and 556074 respectively.

Dog Show helps raise £250.

Moulton School's Fundraising Committee recently held a Dog Show running alongside its car boot sale as part of a fund raising event for the school's new ICT suite. "We had a wonderful range of breeds and all the dogs had a wonderful time, judging by the rapid tail wagging" enthused Rose Beardmore, committee member. The show had various classes including Owner/dog look-alike; Scruffdog; Waggiest Dog; Obedience and Obedience for deaf dogs!! Winners and runners up gained rosettes and certificates.

It was also an opportunity to promote responsible dog ownership which is an issue in Moulton and Davenham.

Teenage Area to be ready for Next Summer

The Children's Playing Field Trust is delighted to announce that it has secured enough money to commence the re-development of the children's playing field. As many of you are aware the first phase is for the construction of a multi-use sports area, with a shelter and seats for the youth of the village. The Trust and the Parish Council all feel that young people in the village have little to do to amuse themselves, and that the provision of the games and seating area should give them more opportunities to be active and provide them with a central meeting point.

The work will go out to tender to ensure that the best value is obtained and work will hopefully start early in 2005, with minimal disruption to the current use of the field. The Trust will also start making applications for grants for the second and third phases of development - the provision of junior and toddler play equipment, and general landscape improvement.

More Open Local Government

The Parish Council agreed at a recent meeting that it would change the way it is operating to improve communications within the village.

The first part of this was the publication of the Annual Report with details of the Parish Council's work during 2003/04 plus a current list of members.

Now the Council has decided to allow 15 minutes at the start of its meeting for questions and comments by members of the public. Previously these comments came at the end of the meeting, and meant that any information from villagers would only come to Councillors' attention after the meeting had been concluded. It is hoped that if anyone has something to say they can come along at 7.15pm - voice their concerns before the meeting, and that hopefully their information may help Councillors to make a more informed decision.

In addition the Council is going to post the draft minutes of the previous meeting on the notice boards in the village, so that villagers can see the issues being discussed, and how the Parish Council is managing those issues. We hope that it will help in furthering communications in the village.

Dates of the next six meetings are: **November 8th, December 13th, January 10th, February 14th, March 14th and April 11th.**

Church support Shoe Box appeal

St Stephen's is supporting the "Samaritans Purse" initiative again this year. This is often called the "shoebox" appeal, as a gift-wrapped shoebox is filled with presents for a child in poverty stricken areas of Europe and Russia. More information can be obtained from church.

A Good Time had by All in MAG!

During the first week in August, thirty four leaders and members attended the 35th annual camp, at Silsden, near Skipton. On one of the days, Geoff Crompton, the founder of the group, visited and viewed the ongoing activities.



The group practised its kayaking on Craven reservoir (courtesy of Craven Sailing Club), went climbing on Ilkley crags, and other local crags and completed a number of moorland walks, including the famous waterfall walk at Ingleton, where everyone managed to climb up behind the main waterfall. The members went underground in Stump Cross Caverns, near Settle where they viewed its stalagmites and stalactites. There was also a full programme of sporting events on camp as well as visits to Keighley swimming baths. In the evenings games and events took place in the large marquee on site.

On the final evening all enjoyed a great camp fire and traditional sing-a-long when the young members entertained the staff. During the evening awards and prizes were given for the tent and sports competitions.

Moulton Adventure Group has vacancies on Monday evenings for boys and girls aged 11 years and over and also for those aged 14 years and upwards who wish to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. 8 - 11 year olds are encouraged to come along on Thursday evenings.

Anyone interested please contact the group headquarters in School Lane Moulton or visit our website www.moultonadventuregroup.org.

Pre School

Moulton pre-school continues to go from strength to strength. We have said goodbye to Kim Murphy, who has been joint supervisor with Gill Targett for the past four years, and welcomed Anne Knight as her replacement. We have a very busy ½ term ahead with a visit to Stockley Farm and making Harvest Boxes to distribute to our elderly friends in the village. We raised over £300 at our summer fair from stalls, raffles etc. as well as parents running marathons for us!!

Our AGM is on 24th November to which all parents are invited. We are all looking forward to our Nativity and Christmas Fair to be held on 3rd December, at the Methodist Church from 10.30am. All are welcome.

Waiting list: please apply to **Gill (551490)**

Moulton Drama **FARM**, a play with published in 1945, is pose the 'Soviet animals in ANIMAL

Drama Lates

Group's next production is **ANIMAL** music. George Orwell's novel, a 'fairy story' intended to ex-myth'. The revolution of the **FARM** mirrors the 1917



Russian revolution. Gradually the pigs take control, just as the Communist party under Stalin became more and more powerful and cruelly suppressed opposition. Our play is a dramatisation by Peter Hall, first performed in 1984. It includes additional lyrics by Adrian Mitchell and music by Richard Peaslee. In this production, in which some members of MDG's Youth Group are taking part, the actors wear masks and walk on crutches to simulate four legs. **ANIMAL FARM** will run from *Monday 15 to Saturday 20 November 2004*. Tickets are £5.00 (£3.50 concessions Mon. & Tues. only) from Box Office - 594190. See www.mdg.org.uk

Our Youth Drama Group put on a very successful production of 'Ossie and the Thwartz' in July and hope this will be the first of an annual show by the group. We have started work on a Christmas show which will hopefully be performed in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 8th December. Any children, aged 8 years or over, who are interested in joining the group are welcome to come down on a Wednesday evening at 7pm

Christmas Fair,
Saturday 27th November Village Hall
Watch out for posters

To Contact the Parish Clerk, Elaine Beech
✉ 578 Chester Road, Sandiway, Northwich, CW8 2DU
☎ 01606 888 015 E-Mail: moultonpc@ukgateway.net

PARISH PLAN PROGRESS Moulton Parish Plan was launched in July 2003 at an open meeting when a steering group of 12 volunteers was formed. A questionnaire was developed and sent to every household in the village during February 2004. A number of issues were identified within five categories:

- Business and Economic
- Young People
- Community and Social
- Traffic
- Environment

Two further open days were held in April 2004 to allow villagers to see how the plan was progressing. The completed plan will be printed later in the year.

Whilst this background work has been going on the Community and Young People Action Groups have been busy. Four meetings have been held so far and progress is being made on the Youth front, with one or two possibilities being explored. The Community Action Group got off to a flying start with the Fun Day on Saturday 18th September. In excess of 150 people attended the event to make it a big success, the weather being kind to us.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped make the Fun Day possible by assisting in various ways, donating prizes for the raffle, loaning games and equipment and by helping on the day. Future events are planned and additional volunteers are always welcome.

The Traffic and the Environment Action Groups are pursuing a number of initiatives resulting from the questionnaire but some of these will be of a longer term nature. As Moulton falls within the Mersey Forest area we may be getting some trees to plant in various parts of the village!

The Business and Economic Action Group is set to produce a directory of Businesses and Trades within the village. It is hoped that this will encourage villagers to support local business people.

Allan Burgess

MINOSUS GETS THE GO AHEAD AGAIN

Since our last update, John Prescott reissued the Planning Permission for the Toxic Waste Deposit in the Rock Salt Mine last December. The Environment Agency issued a Waste Permit in August, despite the Legal Challenge brought by a Moulton resident, which will be heard in the High Court in November.

As many of you will know a Traffic Survey was undertaken in March of this year which has resulted in discussions with Cheshire County Council's Highways Engineer. At a recent Parish Council Meeting he gave the results of the survey and agreed that the lighting of the junction with the by-pass would be an improvement and stressed that a review of the junction was ongoing.

We have the support of our Parish and Borough Councillors and we are working with them on the Liaison Committee, which was set up last year and includes representatives from Minosus Ltd, the Environment Agency, Cheshire County Council, Vale Royal Borough Council and County Councillors. RAMP has two members on this Committee and as the only lay-people involved this gives us the opportunity to discuss directly residents concerns.

Laura Williams

I say, I say.....After a successful production of our pantomime of "Wizard of Oz" we are now working hard on the next one, to be performed January 20th – 22nd. If you would like to take part or help out backstage then look out for posters which will be on display in the near future.

Mandy Wood, Pantomime Director and Co-writer ■ 860798

Remembrance Day, Sunday, 14th November

The parade leaves Beehive Corner at 9.45 am for the service in St Stephen's at 10.15.
Everyone is welcome to the British Legion after the service.

World War 2 Book on the horizon

Once again, in late October/early November, members of the Moulton Adventure Group will be calling at every house in the village to sell poppies for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal Fund.

Geoff Crompton wrote a book entitled '34 Men', the story of the villagers who gave their lives in WW1. Geoff is now writing a sequel that tells the story of the 12 men who gave their lives in WW2. He hopes to publish this book, entitled 'Another Dozen', by early 2005.



Most of the 1000 copies of "34 Men" have been sold with all the profits going to the British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund. As sales have now tailed off, Geoff has asked members of the Adventure Group to sell off the remaining stock at a very much reduced price. So, when the knock comes to your door, you will be invited to buy a Poppy and a book for a total of £2.50.

Best Kept Garden Competition

We were once again pleased that Mrs Lesley Cotterill agreed to judge our garden competition. At the September Parish Council meeting Garden vouchers were presented to the prize-winners in the following categories:

Best Annual

Mr and Mrs Crank, 13 Barlow Road

Best Perennial -

Mr and Mrs Walker, 144 Main Road

Best Basket and Tubs

Mr and Mrs Holt, 7 Chapel Street

Best Overall Garden

Mr and Mrs Finney, 12 Beechfield

Apologies

Apologies to all those whose copy has not appeared in this edition. Lack of space has meant more editing than usual!

Editor

St Stephen's sound in body and Soul

Every 5 years the architect visits St Stephen's and outlines the works that ought to be attended to in the short, medium and long term. Nine years ago the job sheet was, shall we say, comprehensive. A lot of effort, money, and time would have to be spent.

Nine years on and the church is in fine condition, structurally and aesthetically, and is a credit to the efforts of so many in the village - both church members and concerned villagers alike. The heating system, the lighting system, the sound system with loop for hearing aid users, the carpet, ceiling plastering and painting, asbestos removal, millennium window, and so many others things have now all been done. Harvest weekend was a special weekend for us as we thanked God not just for the harvest of the fields, but for how he has given us the resources to complete the works needed on the building.

Hand in hand with that refurbishment of the building has been a gradual but steady rebuilding of the worshipping community. People are rediscovering the faith they owned years ago, or finding faith for the first time, and finding that St Stephen's is a great Christian family to belong to.

We were delighted that so many came to see how the church has been transformed - both physically and spiritually - and that so many came to join us at our Songs of Praise, Harvest Festival, and Confirmation. If you missed coming at Harvest, don't despair! We are open every Sunday - so do feel very welcome to join us.