

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP



Newsletter 20. October 2011

Visit the Website

www.maids-moreton.org.uk

Read our minutes

School Pond Improvements

Maids Moreton CE School PTA is holding two working party days to restore the pond in the school grounds. Common newts, great crested newts and grass snakes have been spotted living in and around the pond in recent times, but as it has become overgrown and the liner needs replacing, work is needed to improve the habitat both for the wildlife and for the children at school to observe.

- The working party days are on Wednesday 2 November (clearing out the old) and
- Friday 4 November (installing a new liner and replanting), 10.15 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. each day.

If you can help for all or part of either day, please contact
Liz Baxter on 01280
823146.



Can you help?

The afternoons of

- Saturday 8th October and
 - Sunday 9th October
- will be busy in Scotts Lane.

Over the past few years various bushes and saplings have grown up, obliterating the views into the fields beyond. We hope to cut these back to create again the 'windows' and also to allow light to reach the wild flowers and spring bulbs.



Scotts Lane

WE NEED HELPERS PLEASE to do light work and heavier work involving saws. A trailer will be available on Sunday afternoon to take debris away. We plan to do the cutting on Saturday afternoon (from 1.30pm) and the clearing on Sunday 1.30pm onwards. All help welcome.

No Crows in Maids Moreton

Did you take part in scaring the crows out of the village or join in the fun and spot the strange scarecrows round the village on October 1st? Who could have suspected that scarecrows might hanker after a new occupation.

All proceeds went to St Edmund's Church.



Have you ever walked round Maids Moreton Churchyard? Are you a family history enthusiast?



In 1994 a local group surveyed the gravestones of St. Edmund's churchyard but their records remained in draft form. Maids Moreton Conservation Group has been checking these and our aim is to add them to our website (and produce a small booklet) so that the 1994 information becomes available for everyone. We have also been given recent digital pictures of all the gravestones which were taken as part of a school study. We will give further details of this project in our Spring newsletter.

THE PHEASANT INN - Maids Moreton

There have been some developments in the above saga. We now have photographs of the Inn and one, donated by Paul Philpotts, is attached. The lad in the cart, we are told by writing on the back of the card, is Jimmy Tompkins, aged about 12 –14 and the lady in the doorway, we think, is his aunt Bessie Tompkins who married George Jones. The year is about 1912-14. A few years later, in 1928, Jimmy was listed as the tenant of the Pheasant and as such was given first choice at the sale, which he exercised. See previous article. He was a bell ringer at Maids Moreton and moved on to farm at the New Inn farm at Stowe. There are folk in the village who knew him well and by all accounts he was well liked. He has the distinction of being the last person to be buried in Foscothe church cemetery, in 1989.



Jimmy Tompkins in front of The Pheasant

Just to the right is Woodlands Farm (as was) now Woodlands Cottage and Jimmy married the girl next door, one Rose Nicholls.

As a result of my previous articles I have heard of the existence of other pieces of hardware associated with the Pheasant. One is a pottery version of the pewter mug shown last time. Also that there is at least another pewter mug somewhere. People also say to me “I’ve got a lot of old photographs somewhere, must look them out”. To this I say, please do and then we can publish them here.

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The Buckingham Arms

This milestone is a local treasure! If you look closely, you'll spot the spelling mistake. It stands outside the Buckingham Arms pub which sadly closed down recently, and could well have been there since c.1800 when it is believed that the Duke of Buckingham (who owned the site) agreed that another pub should be opened in the village to serve the navvies who were working on the new canal cut to Buckingham.

A recent application to turn the Buckingham Arms pub into a private residence was turned down this summer on grounds that it was not proved that the business was still not viable.



Conservation Group News

Ross Brandon is in the process of editing the filming of the DVD of Maids Moreton. He was supported in the filming by another resident of the village, Mark Ballantyne, who has very generously given his time to the project.

The artist, Val Goldfinch, who was brought up in the village and whose parents, Mick and Molly Clements, still live here, very kindly offered to do the artwork for the DVD cover. She has painted some lovely watercolours of various parts of Maids Moreton so the cover is going to look very special indeed. We hope that she will also have printed some cards with these views as they would make lovely notelets for her sell and for residents to buy.

With the grant that we received from Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, we should be able to give one copy of our finished DVD to each household in Maids Moreton free of charge. This should be ready by the end of November if everything goes according to plan.

If you would like to purchase further copies as a Christmas present for grown up children or people who have left the village, we shall have some spare copies for which there will be a small charge.

Our next meeting is Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm in the village hall. Everyone is welcome.