

Scotts Lane Activities

The annual Summer Cut took place in June when MMCG volunteers cut the cow parsley that was about to go to seed. Gill and Steve Orton offered to take away the vegetation, which if left would have added more nitrogen to the soil and encouraged nettles but not wild flowers. MMCG is very grateful to Steve and Gill and their trailer. Thanks also to MMCG volunteers who worked so hard to rake up the greenery. Next year let's hope we have even more volunteers!



Long tailed wasp



The AGM of the Conservation Group was held by Zoom in July, and Michael Larg aged 15 gave a presentation of his Scotts Lane wildlife project for his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Both Michael's photography and his talk were brilliant. He showed us how he had built a hybernaculum in the lane for great-crested newts and other amphibians to over-winter in, as well as his photographs of unusual moths and insects.

9.30 – 12.30pm Saturday 12th September & 1.30 – 4.30pm Sunday 13th September

Volunteers are urgently needed to cut encroaching sycamore saplings, to create 'windows' in the hedgerows, and to tidy up Scots Lane for winter. Volunteers will be rewarded with well-rotted leaf mould if they bring a bucket (and cutting tools for work).

Maids Moreton Conservation Group

Like other organisations in the village we are sorry that our meetings will continue in Zoom form rather than socially in the Village Hall. Please join us on Zoom at 7.20/7.30pm on Wednesday 16th September. Further meetings will be on 21st October and 18th November.

For Zoom info contact jenny@lishman.co.uk

"Lives in Maids Moreton 1320 – 2020 Using resources for Local History"

This new book tells the story of Maids Moreton through nine biographies of men and women who have lived in our village from the 1300s to today. With over 50 illustrations it's interesting and easy to read. It should make a great Christmas present when the time comes. Price £13.99. Please contact Lyn Robinson 01280 813014 or mmbook2020@outlook.com

Coping with Covid en Bretagne

Many people know Derek as the MMCG member who for years has led the maintenance of the footpaths around the village, especially the 'Church Path' linking the Old Manor House in Duck Lake across Scotts Lane to St. Edmund's Church. This was reputedly the path taken by the Maids of Moreton, according to some old Parish Council minutes. These days we refer to them as the west path and the east path – which isn't so interesting.

After his footpath gravel-laying this year Derek deserved his annual sojourn in Brittany. But he has been forced to return early due to Covid and the need to quarantine for a fortnight. He reports that Brittany Ferries are suffering financially despite offering a great service, that the bar-tabacs in northern Bretagne continue to flourish, and that French citizens are stoically wearing masks and respecting social distancing. Welcome back Derek.

Maids Moreton C of E School

Miss Ainsworth, headteacher, and her staff are looking forward to the school re-opening fully on 2nd September. Gradually the school will become a full primary by 2024 covering Reception to Year 6.

Moreton Man's Dartmoor Escape-

Found injured in Quarry
Dec 1951

26 years old William Brown (name changed to protect relatives), of Wellmore, escaped with another convict from Princetown Prison, Dartmoor. He escaped from a working party in mist-enshrouded Dartmoor , was found 29 hours later with an injured back lying in a large granite quarry, the main face of which is 300 feet deep.

The other man stopped a car on the road and asked the occupants to take him to the nearest hospital. The driver went on without him after promising to telephone the Tavistock hospital and reported the incident to the police post at Hartford Bridge. He was arrested walking along the Mary-Tavy-Oakhampton road. He gave himself up without a struggle to a lone policeman, still wearing prison grey, and earth-stained dungaree. Hunger and exposure after 29 hours on the moor rendered him half-unconscious.

In the meantime, an intensive search was being made for the Maids Moreton man, William Brown.

With the fog increasing, the police closed in on Cleave quarry. Brown had fallen down a steep slope and injured his back. He was taken to Tavistock hospital.

In November 1950, Brown was charged with armed robbery and offences relating to explosives.

He was also charged with robbing a caretaker at Dagenham stadium while armed with offensive weapons, placing explosives in the office where an explosion took place, breaking into The Odeon Cinema at Hornchurch, Essex and numerous other charges.

His house at Maids Moreton was searched and cartridges of 808 explosive and detonators were found along with a scarf and beret similar to the ones seen by various witnesses.

Committed for trial at the Old Bailey, Brown and his companion were sentenced to ten years imprisonment. In a statement he had said he'd taken the explosives from Tingewick Camp two years previously.

*Reg Doble
M.M.C.G*

What was Tingewick Camp?

Tingewick Camp was built during World War II to house huge number of soldiers and airmen. It was built beside the golf course at Grove Hill and over towards Finmere where there is still evidence of a runway and control tower. Now most traces of the military camp have gone completely.

INTERESTING HOUSES

Do you have an interesting house in the village that you would like to give a short talk on to the Conservation Group?
Ring Pauline 01280 815314

SCARECROW DAY

What a great day in the village! Crowds of people were seen strolling round, searching, chatting and laughing. With over 30 scarecrows, there was plenty to see and comment on but it was exceedingly difficult choosing a favourite from such imaginative, creative, even bloodcurling scarecrows!

A big thank you to all who organised it, took part and made the day so enjoyable. There are plenty of people who are already looking forward to next year!

Congratulations to the winner—'Scott of the Antarctic'.



Birds in Scotts Lane in Summer

During the Summer months I have enjoyed seeing a variety of birds whilst walking down Scotts Lane and also from my window. Particularly noticeable were the Red Kites flying over the fields and just over the chimney tops through the village. Every afternoon one could be seen with its distinctive forked tail. Other larger birds seen by residents were the 2 ravens, a buzzard, a hobby and the frequent, hovering kestrels. Owls are worth listening for all year round both the Screech Owl and the Tawny. A pair of cuckoos call across the village and nest in Scotts Lane also. Usual sightings include the green woodpecker, tit family including long-tailed, green and gold finches, song thrushes, blackbirds, jackdaws by the dozen, wrens, chaffinches, chaff-chaffs and the troublesome magpies which upset the smaller birds and take chicks off the Pond. On the Pond can be seen mallards, moorhens with babies, and the Grey Heron perching or hunting for food across the fields. It is important to keep pets out of this area to give the water birds and small birds a chance. One particularly interesting sighting in the summer of 2014 was the Red Legged Partridge, a beautiful bird, which can just as easily be on your garden wall as in the meadows. Oh for the skills of an artist.



Jenny Dixon

MILL LANE CAMPAIGN

There is no news or action to report about the 400 houses proposed for the site along Mill Lane and A422. The AV Planning website published the comments of Bucks CC highways which has concluded against the planning agreement (Ref. 15/00051/AOP). Highways were the last of the departments to respond so the next stage is probably the publication of the Strategic Planning Management Committee meeting.



MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP

ARCHAEOLOGY IN MAIDS MORETON



For many years people have wondered about the man-made earthwork in the field behind Meadow Bank Guest House (formerly the Buckingham Arms). Thanks to new owners, Steven and Emma Tysom, the mound was made available for several weeks this summer for archaeologists to try to find out when the mound was dug and why. Most of the volunteers were from the Conservation Group, so we were very grateful for practical help and advice from professionals Gary Marshall, Sandy Kidd and David Fell. Dr Susan Fern is now helping us record the large amounts of medieval pottery found in the two trenches that were excavated: one across the ditch and the other on top of the mound.



We believe we can answer our first question: the mound was dug in the medieval period. Next summer we hope to make further progress to find out why. An exhibition and talk will be given at the AGM of the Conservation Group in the spring, when the full report will be available, and plans will be revealed for the continuation of the project.

Working with Nature



Maids Moreton Conservation Group joined forces with Vale Volunteers recently to cut back areas in and around Scotts Lane. The nearby pond is a haven for hedgerow birds and waterfowl as it is completely enclosed by bushes, willows and brambles. Old nests of coots and moorhens were spotted and chicks were seen on the pond earlier in the summer. Careful cutting back of overhanging branches and invasive plants will allow more light to reach the water and improve its quality. At the same time other volunteers were creating a new habitat pile from a tidy-up of the Scotts Lane verges. Very happy with their day's work, and the village group is grateful to Vale Volunteers for their continued support.

MUSICAL SCARECROW DAY

In the afternoon the sun surprised us all by shining on the splendid and imaginative collection of scarecrows hanging from windows, perched on roofs and pirouetting in gardens. It was a very friendly and chatty way to walk round the village accompanied in some instances by the music itself.

Winner: 'Singing in the Rain'

New Old Village Map



The September meeting of MMCG was very special as Tim Buckingham unrolled his old map of the village dating from c.1803. It had belonged to Tim's uncle, Gaius Beckett, and it measures about 1.5 metres square.

The entire parish of Maids Moreton is shown in great detail: field and furlong names, footpaths, buildings and barns with the names of their occupants - all hand drawn. This was the village just after the Enclosure Act of 1801 when the entire landscape was reorganised from the ancient field strip system to large open fields. The Commissioners made their own map, but Tim's map is different and unique, and we are very grateful to him for sharing it with the meeting.

Have you seen Maids Moreton's Osier Beds?

An Osier bed is where historically willows were planted and coppiced to produce withies which were used for basket making, fish-traps, and other purposes. During the last century baskets were made in the village. To be able to work the willow it was soaked firstly in beds by the stream. A footpath leads up to these beds which are still visible. Join our walk to the osier beds on Saturday 18th October at 1.45pm. Meet in the car park of Meadowbank (aka Buckingham Arms).

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP MEETINGS

Come and join us. Our meetings are held at 7.45pm in the village hall

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 2014 - Susan Hatton will speak about her memories of growing up in Main St

MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2014

Read our minutes on the village website: www.maids-moreton.org.uk

Capt. Starlight He Died As He Had Lived

Buckingham Advertiser 13 Jan 1940

Buckingham has lost a well-known and a quaint character by the passing of Mr. Richard Jones, aged 63, who lived for many years in a dug-out in the fields at Maids Moreton, but some months ago went under cover of a shed.

Mr Jones, who had been engaged by Mr R Stopps on some casual carpentering work, apparently died at his work on Tuesday from a sudden heart failure. It is understood that he had been working with a hammer, and Mr Stopps, after hearing the hammering cease, went, after a time, to see how Mr Jones was getting on. The police were informed and PC Slatter, who often used to pass a little time in conversation with the quaint old character at his lonely haunt, was called to the scene. After a post mortem examination an inquest was deemed unnecessary.

REFUSED A RATION CARD

A native of Maids Moreton, Richard Jones lived for a time with his mother, Mrs Mary Ann Jones, (in Duck Lake), before adopting the "dug-out" method of life. Independent, he refused help from local charities and even refused to have a ration card. At night he studied the stars and could talk about them! He served in France during the war (WW1) and was badly wounded. It is re-corded that in recounting his experiences on returning home he became so excited that he pushed his bayonet through the ceiling of the Wheatsheaf Inn. He died, as he had lived, in the open air, with the fields around him.

Roll of Honour

Buckingham Advertiser Nov 1916

Private RICHARD JONES, single, aged 40. He joined the Oxon & Bucks L.I. last March. His mother, Mrs Mary Ann

Jones, Duck Lake, Maids Moreton, has received a letter from him stating that he is lying in a hospital in Wales. He was wounded in four places and that the poison from the shell was retarding the healing. He was to undergo another operation to remove a piece of shell from his thigh. He was always cheerful and his letters to his widowed mother are full of hope in recovery and a visit to his native village.

(Ed). It is said that, in WW1, he saved his unit from annihilation in France, due to his knowledge of the stars, by advising officers they were marching, at night, towards the German lines.

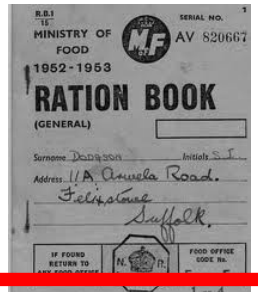
He became known in the village as Capt. Starlight.

(From Beris Slack). Yes I do remember Captain Starlight, known to us as Dick Jones. The pit that he lived in along Chackmore Farm road was known as Dicks Pit. He lived in a hovel with a faggot of wood as his front door. He was a very clever man and used to study the stars, hence his title. As a very small child I can remember him coming into our bakery, he and my Dad were friends, and he would ask dad to leave a loaf of bread in the oven until it was burnt black, with that he would grind it up and make his coffee. I don't really remember a lot about him except that if the faggot of wood was not in place he was at home if not he was out.

Compiled by Reg Doble

Acknowledgments: G. Kirk, J Wood,

Buck. Advr. Archives.



Nature Notes from Matthew Evans 'Spring into Action'

By definition, spring starts on the 21st of March with the Spring Equinox, the date on which day and night are of equal length. This season of warmer weather and increased sunshine brings growth and greenery with buds bursting and leaves unfolding. Watch the progress of spring in our hedgerows, particularly down Scotts Lane and along our field boundaries. The buds of hawthorn for instance burst open and fresh green leaves appear followed by creamy white flowers. This blossom was once known as 'May blossom' but in many places flowers appear in April, perhaps an indication that spring now comes early. The bird cherry trees on South Hall will also bloom around this time providing a wonderful spectacle of colour.

Birdsong reaches a peak and many flowers appear at this time, in turn attracting insect-life, including bees and butterflies. Look out for the first bumblebees on warm days in March. These will be queens which have survived the winter and are now seeking nectar and pollen from fresh flowers. Animals which have hibernated over winter will appear on the first warm days of spring so keep an eye out for hedgehogs, grass snakes, lizards and adders again particularly down Scotts Lane and our more rural footpaths. Animals such as squirrels become more active and are easier to spot and of course we will see many lambs in our local fields too. Take a little time to sit and enjoy these sites and scenes along our village paths making use of the benches kindly provided.

POSTCARDS OF MAIDS MORETON

Come and see David Partridge's collection of postcards at our AGM on 30th April at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP MEETINGS

Monday 26th March at 7.30 in the Village Hall
Monday 30th April AGM at 7.30 in the Village Hall
Further copies of the DVD are available at £3.50 (TEL 815314)



MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP

Visit the Website
www.maids-moreton.org.uk
Read our minutes

MAIDS MORETON ANNUAL LITTER PICK Saturday 24th March

Meet in the Playing Field
car park

1.45-2.00pm

Litter picks provided
Please bring gloves
and extra bin liners



Rubbish cleared by AVDC
Children are welcome but must
be accompanied by adults.

We need lots of helpers -
see you on the 24th.

Tel: 813014
for further information.



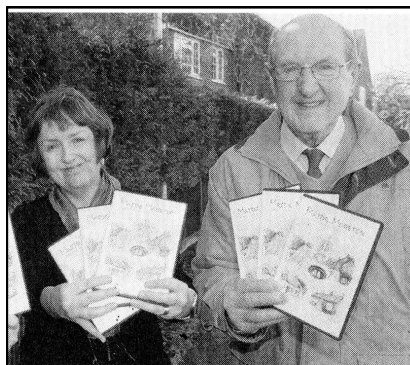
Are you good with food?

Can you help organise the
children's races?

Help out on the Jubilee
weekend.

Ring Ian Smith 822019 or
email ips61@talktalk.net

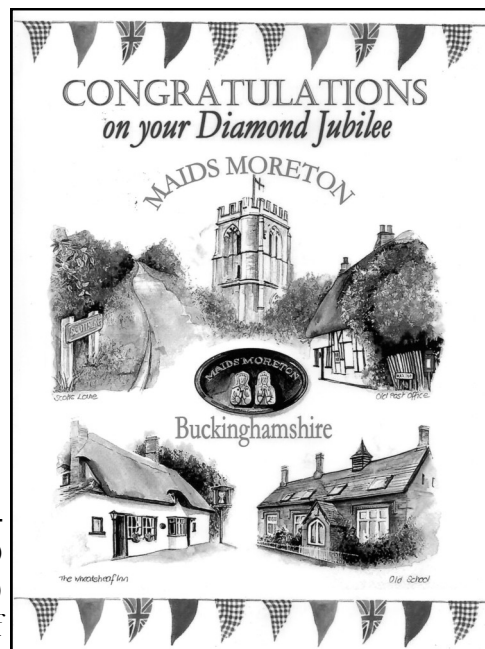
A JUBILEE CARD FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II FROM THE RESIDENTS OF MAIDS MORETON



Val Goldfinch with her father Mick Clements

Val Goldfinch, the artist who designed the cover for the DVD (recently delivered to your door) asked the Jubilee Committee if they would like her to design a

card for the village to send to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. The committee was delighted with the design and there will be the opportunity to include **your signature** on an insert to the card. Inserts will be taken to the School, Merrymakers, WI, Soup Lunch and Church (Easter Sunday) for signing. If you would like a short message to be included email it to Pauline by **15th April**:
jubileemessage@gmail.com



JUBILEE WEEKEND

Maids Moreton Conservation Group is working with the Jubilee Committee to hold an exhibition of pictures and memorabilia of the Coronation of Elizabeth II. The pictures and ephemera will be on display in the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June. If you have a souvenir or some memorabilia of the Coronation and would be happy for it to be on display,

please contact Jane 821927. You may prefer to bring it to the village hall and stay with it for an hour over the weekend. Whatever you decide, it will be lovely to share some souvenirs of a great occasion.

A JUBILEE TREE

Maids Moreton Conservation Group planted an English walnut tree in Scotts Lane. Maids Moreton already has a splendid walnut tree near to the Wheatsheaf and the road in which it stands is called Walnut Drive. There used to be two walnut trees at the foot of Walnut Drive standing either side of the gate leading up to Moreton House.



MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP



Newsletter 20. April 2011

Buckingham & District Horticultural Society Daffodil Show

The Daffodil Show will be held in Maids Moreton Village Hall on Saturday 9 April. Come and enjoy the blooms from 10.15am, entrance free. To have a go at entering some of your own daffs, see the Society's website at www.bucksinfo.net/buckingham-hort-soc or contact Bernard Stopps for a schedule (813465).

OLD PHOTOS REQUEST

Do you have any photos or pictures of the inside of the old Village School which is on Main St?

EXCITING NEWS

MMCG is making a DVD of the village and its history and we would like to include shots of old photos. If you have any that we may borrow of Maids Moreton 'in days gone by', please ring Pauline on 815314.

We will stop
filming in
September and



when the production is complete, each household within the Village can look forward to receiving one copy of the DVD free of charge.

DATES OF MMCG FUTURE MEETINGS

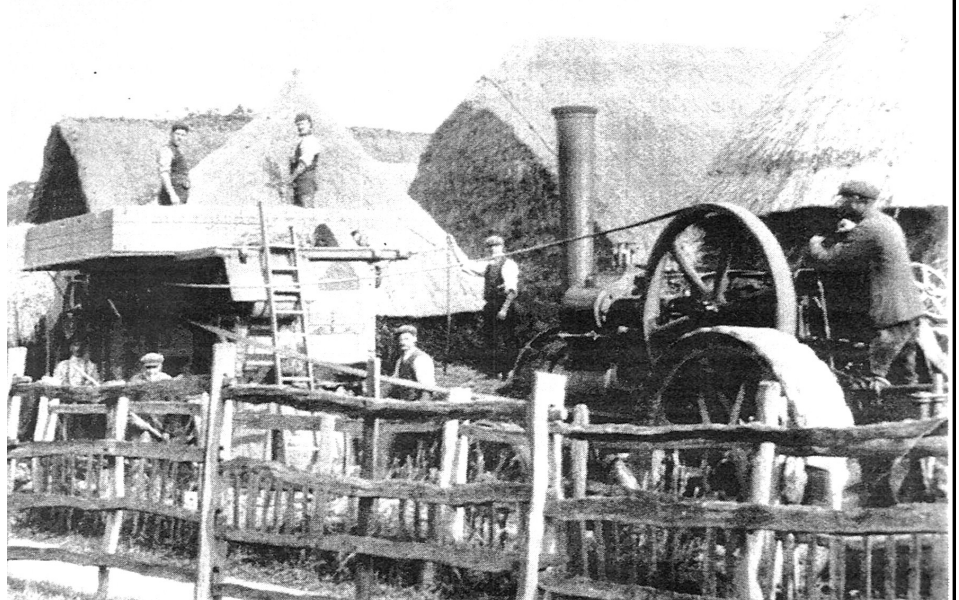
Thursday 14th April

Thursday 15th September

Thursday 20th October

Thursday 17th November

BUMPAS YARD MAIDS MORETON



When Mick Clements produced this photograph at the March meeting of MMCG many questions arose. We found out that the picture was taken down Scotts Lane in Bumpas Yard which was named after the large family who lived in Maids Moreton in the 1700s and early 1800s.

Eventually we took the picture to Mr Staley who worked on threshing machines in the 1950s. He said that the scene dates from the early 1900s when steam engines went around villages with a threshing box to thresh the corn, bag the grain and make straw bundles for winter fodder. Although the men are in shirt sleeves it was probably around October.

Mr Staley was born in Lillingstone Dayrell but moved to Akeley when he was seven. He remembers how the threshing machines were surrounded by a high wire fence, and after school the boys tried to catch the rats and mice that raced out from the wheat sheaves. As a teenager he helped work a tractor, threshing box and baler and his team went from farm to farm as far as Quainton. From the 1950s he spent 42 years working at College Farm in Maids Moreton. He remembers seven working farms and smallholdings in Maids Moreton.

Scotts Lane Lambs



We can look forward to lambs in Scotts Lane in the coming weeks. Apparently the sheep will have a brief visit back to their home farm to give birth, but will be back with their lambs soon after. We hear that the name of the very large brown sheep is Fluffy!



MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP



Visit the website
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Read our minutes

MAIDS MORETON
CONSERVATION
GROUP

Autumn Meetings
Thursday 23rd September
Thursday 21st October
Thursday 18th November
at
7.30pm
in
Village Hall

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS HEADHUNT

Members of MMCG were up extra early one April morning this year to watch the results of the Great Crested Newts hunt. The previous night Derek Whitcher (wildlife consultant) and his assistants had placed bottles in the various ponds surrounding Scotts Lane to catch GCNs and conduct a 'headhunt'. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd. had been commissioned by the owners of Maids Moreton Hall.

Great Crested Newts were found in three ponds, including 13 in the pond at the far end of Scotts Lane. Derek advised that the pond needed careful clearing to let more light into the centre to improve the habitat area. We took pictures of a male and female which were about 10cm/4" long. Both had spring-time orangey-yellow colouring underneath, and the male had very distinct crests along his back. He truly looked like a small dragon!

