AUTUMN 2024

NORTHLEW

NEWS



BANDAMONIUM 3 FESTIVAL

A CURATE FOR NORTHLEW
EUROS, OLYMPICS & ME
TEN YEARS A LANDLORD
300 MILES FOR £3,000. A QUIZ,
NEWS, AND SO MUCH MORE...

www.northlewparishcouncil.org.uk



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FROM THE EDITOR



Since moving back to Devon, I find myself fascinated by place names and meanings. Just recently we discovered Spinsters Rock in an otherwise unremarkable field near Chagford, This neolithic burial chamber dating back as much as 4,000 years, was undoubtedly the final resting place for a number of individuals, not just a single spinster.

I presumed the name related to its isolated location, well away from the many megaliths scattered across Dartmoor. But researching in *Devon Perspectives*, I discovered the legend is much more fun. It concerns three spinsters with time to kill as they waited for a jobber to come and collect the wool they had been spinning. To pass the time they tried what is now a very modern hobby, artfully balancing the stones on top of each other. So, not unmarried women, but artisans with varied skills, a sense of humour, and super strength.

There are similar mysteries in Northlew. Why is there a Lake Farm and Lake House at East Kimber when all the OS map shows is a spring? Does the name of Winnie's bungalow, Glebeland, indicate that the land once belonged to the church. And if it did, was it the Parish church or the Methodists - especially as the Methodist manse is next door?

During my research I also looked up the meaning of Kimber and was surprised to find it it is most likely derived from the Old English word 'cempa', meaning 'warrior'. Does that mean that we should be cautious of the fearsome folk living to the west of our village? What amused our family most is that my wife's name, Luisa, also means 'fearsome warrior', or 'warrior maid'. Perhaps that gives us a modicum of security.

Of course, all of this is just a bit of fun. More important is what are the adjectives we use to describe where we live? Talking to several new residents, they have emphasized how friendly they have found Northlew, whether enjoying a pint in the Green Dragon, Sunday morning worship, walking the lanes and footpaths, or chatting over a coffee, at the mobile shop, or purchasing Tania's tarts. It is hard to walk through the village without a conversation or three. Could that be our greatest strength? It is certainly an attribute that makes us so glad that we live here.

It is also an attribute that you will see coming through in this autumn edition of Northlew News. Enjoy your read, and I look forward to more chats in future wanders around our village.



With 18 bands from around the country descending on our beautiful area of Devon, we at Bandamonium HQ were hoping for a step up from last year. A truly brasstastic weekend, centred around Hatherleigh, with Northlew being a major hub of activity on the main day, Saturday.

Things kicked off on Friday night in Hatherleigh Square with the Brass Holes Brass Band. A seven-piece professional brass group, they entertained us with two hours of Pop/Rock classics. I can't quite believe they played at that level of intensity for so long but they set the tone for a fantastic weekend.

Saturday dawned with blue skies and even a pre-concert at the Manor in Ashbury by three bands staying there, suckers for punishment!

The main event unleashed itself in six locations on the dot of 11 am. The Green Dragon in Northlew, Half Moon in Sheepwash, Hatherleigh Square, The New Inn in Sampford Courtenay, Kings Arms South Zeal, and our new location this year, Okehampton Rugby Club.



At Bandamonium HQ we can't really be sure what actually happened everywhere, indeed anywhere, other than by listening to reports from the bands, audiences, and the odd picture or video clip. What we are sure of was that it was a truly unbelievable celebration of everything bandy, with some quite brilliant sets, costumes,

and effort put in by all the bands.

The 18 bands included over 500 players. But it was more than the bands, without the audiences it would have been a little flat!

Everyone I've spoken to rated Northlew as their favourite location, from Bugs, Tracey & Co on the Burgers, to the friendly welcome at the bar and especially the audiences. You guys 'n gals showed again what an unbelievable place we live in – the biggest round of applause.

The core principles of Bandamonium are:

1. To promote brass bands
2. To get brass bands to let their hair down and have fun
3. To be free for bands and audience
4. To attract players of any age new, or attract people back to playing brass
5. To bring trade to the local area, especially hospitality.

Together I'm sure we went some way to ticking all the boxes.

A word on finance: it is incredibly difficult to balance the books, especially considering the subsidised cost of the coaches provided to bands and the public alike, so another shout out to Northlew who embraced the new range of Bandamonium merchandise launched this year. No other location has supported us with T-shirts, Hoodies, Hats, and T-Towel sales quite like you lovely people in Northlew, so again another thank you.



But the day was not over. Saturday evening saw all 18 bands descend on Hatherleigh for a massed band concert in the square. This is after up to ten hours travelling round the countryside and the challenge of never having played together before, and certainly no practising. It's always a risk, but this is another speciality at Bandamonium which sets us apart from other events.

Three years ago, at our first massed bands there were only five bands. At 18, it is clear just how special the massed band now is. The wall of music by so many banders, mixed with cowboys next to pirates next to hippies, the lights from the marquee and head torches twinkling against the dusk sky with the church spire shadowed behind brought a few people to tears – all in a good way!

Sunday morning concluded the event in Hatherleigh square with a church service supported by 50 or so brass players and one of the more entertaining sermons by Rev Leigh, being well controlled by our new curate, Jonathon, before the Hatherleigh training band played a few numbers.



Next year we want to grow the training band element of the Sunday so that there's a mini Bandamonium just for them… watch this space.

It was a crazy idea to come up with a Brass Band festival of fun, and every year the fun has doubled. It wouldn't have been possible without the support of so many people and organisations.

Please allow us to thank:

- Dartline coaches and Celia who made the impossible logistic plans work! Amazing.
- Our main sponsor Geneva Instruments who gave us so much confidence that we were heading down the right track.
- All our other sponsors, everyone who bought merchandise or a wristband, the Northlew scone ladies (you were brilliant).
- Tracey for making ridiculous quantities of sarnies.
- Tania Haycocks for the strawberries, cream and icecream from her window.
- All the volunteers and helpers who gave way more than they expected to (if you want to be a slave for a day get in touch x).
- Dan & Karla and the other locations for allowing us to turn their lives upside down for one Saturday a year.
- Oh, and Dan who brokered the deal to get Bandamonium Beer as well – that was probably the highlight of the century!

In 2025 the Bandamonium weekend will be around Saturday 16th August, slightly later due to a clash with the British & Irish Lions. Keep in touch via our Facebook page and website as we announce new bands, possible new venues, exciting merchandise, and possibly a few surprises. We already have four returning bands signed up for next year plus a new entrant all the way from Halifax! Fame is spreading.

www.bandamonium.co.uk / Visit our YouTube Channel, @bandamoniumbrassband



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Tel: 01409 220091 Mob: 07850 767686
Proprietor: John Millership

REPAIRS – SERVICING-TYRES – RECOVERY – MOT PREPARATION

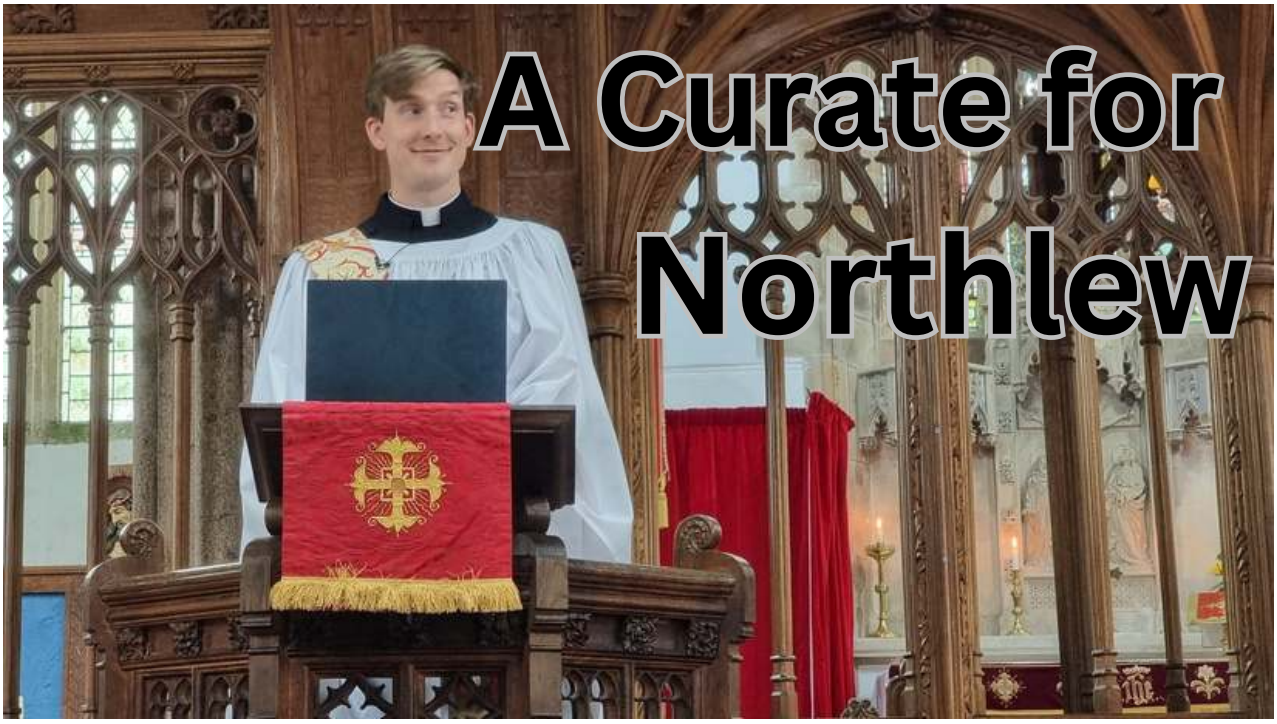
We are your local friendly garage, established for 35 years.

John and Chris are happy to offer servicing, repairs and MOT preparation for all makes and ages of vehicle.

Tyres, batteries and exhausts can be supplied and fitted all at very competitive prices.

Courtesy cars available. No Job is too Big or Small





A Curate for Northlew

It is quite some years since Northlew has had a resident minister, either Methodist or Anglican.

That all changed this July when Rev Jonathan Cook, along with his wife Sarah and two young children moved into the vicarage down below St Thomas church. Recently graduated from Oxford, Jonathan will be curate across the five churches that comprise this part of the North moor Benefice.

“We always wanted to come to Devon,” Jonathan enthuses. “This is partly because Sarah has friends and family in the area, partly that I had spent some time at HMS Drake in Plymouth and then Lee Abbey, and partly that we love the countryside and have memories of great Devon holidays.”

Jonathan also claims a bit of Devon ancestry as his great-grandmother’s side of the family farmed at Doddiscombsleigh, five miles south-west of Exeter. “It felt special that I had ancestors in the graveyard of the local parish church close to the village where my pre-ordination retreat was hosted. It felt like a small ‘welcome home' in getting ordained here.”

“As we drove into Northlew we just went, ‘whow’,” Sarah adds. “We didn’t really know what we were expecting but as we saw the thatched cottages, the pub, the school and enjoyed good company at a coffee morning, we were impressed that this is the place to be. That impression became even stronger as we met up and shared together with Rev Leigh and Lynn.”

Background

Jonathan and Sarah first met in Durham where she was studying Natural Sciences. They both attended the same local church but would say they were acquaintances more than friends. She then moved to London where over the years she has worked at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), with the Alpha course, and with the development charity, Tearfund. They were fulfilling years.

It was also at HTB where their lives collided again. Jonathan had been strongly influenced by his grandfather’s love of problem solving and so wanted an innovative kind of career rather than

a routine nine-to-five working for someone else. He decided to move to London to study Business Management and yes, he ended up attending HTB.

Jonathan says that when he first asked Sarah out she burst out laughing. But that laughter, and all the many things they have in common eventually turned into eight years of marriage with their family expanding to incorporate their two children, Oswald and Tabitha.

The call

The call to ministry can come unexpectedly. A committed and active volunteer in church life, Jonathan found himself on a church holiday worship session praying for someone. Prayer over, he thought, “Maybe I should pray for me as well”. With that prayer, he says, “I felt a strong encouragement, and perhaps, a sense of calling.”

Jonathan applied for ministry but was told, “You need experience. Get out there and work for a while.”

The next few years saw him involved at Hilfield Friary, a Franciscan retreat centre in Dorset; HMS Drake in Plymouth; Lee Abbey Youth camps near Lynton; and at a special needs school. All of that alongside seven years in corporate sales. But the gradual process towards ministry continued forwards until he found himself studying at Oxford.

“It was a joint decision,” Jonathan says, “We almost didn’t go for the interview for Oxford, but I’m so glad we did. Following the interview we both strongly felt this is where we should be.”

Why Northlew?

They feel the same way about Northlew.



“We did go and look at another Devon opportunity first. We loved our visit but when we got home and were praying as to whether it was for us, it just didn’t feel right at this time. Northlew felt very different. In fact, it was the reverse. We were unsure of it until we got here, but as we drove into the village we had a strong positive feeling and a sense of peace.”

Rev Leigh is delighted for that feeling, noting that, “this is a couple who are authentic, have integrity and want to make a positive difference.”

Jonathan and Sarah acknowledge that their new life will not just be honey and roses. “We recognise that there may be some struggles ahead, but we want to learn, serve, be a blessing and just see how God can work through us. For us it just seems we have landed at the right time in the right place.”

Those who have lived in Northlew can only agree that there is no better place to be. Together we wish Jonathan, Sarah and the children a very happy and positive experience in our community.

[Victor Hulbert]

PEWS NEWS: ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH


Revd Leigh Winsbury

Good news;

Yes, and with a world full of bad news right now we could certainly do with some.

In case you don't know, the word 'gospel' literally means good news, and for my part, my experience has been that receiving the gospel has been the best news I've ever received, but how about you?

I talk to a lot of people who have been put off of our Christian 'good news' because to them, it sounded like pretty bad news, and was delivered badly too.

Now, I have a theory, that when each of us, at last, see the real Jesus face to face when we cross the veil out of this life, will instantly fall in love with him. Because he is everything we've ever wanted, needed and didn't even know we wanted or needed. So what goes wrong?

I would suggest, if you've ever been put off of Jesus, it wasn't him you rejected, but something else. Maybe some nasty form of organised religion, some pious, self-righteous, judgemental and critical human saying they were speaking on God's behalf; maybe some negative experience that involved churches or Christians behaving generally badly?

It pains me to say that all these things go on, largely through ignorance, false teaching, inherited bad doctrines of belief, corruptions of Jesus' message over two millennia of messed up human history; there are many reasons for these things.

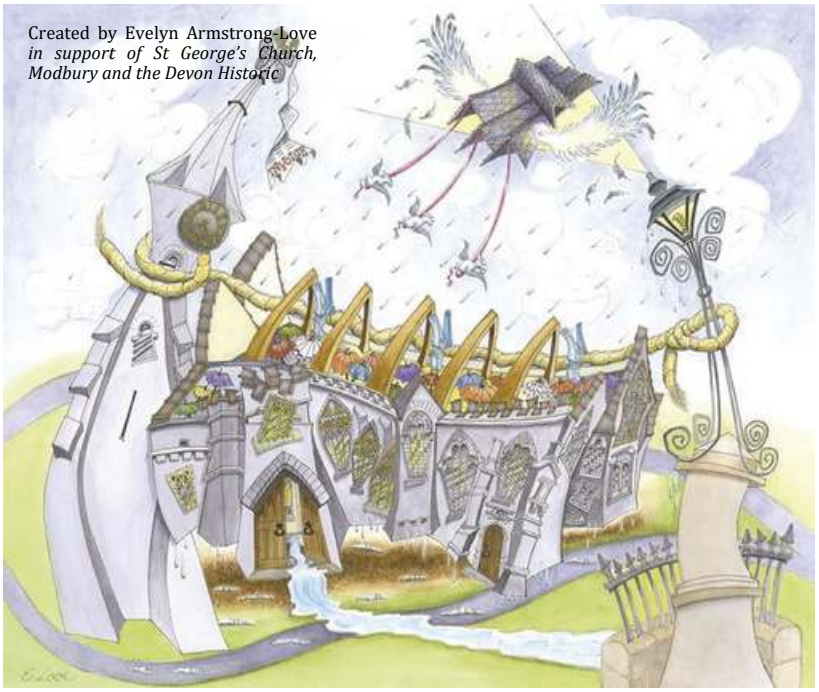


But, and it's a big but; it wasn't him that did it, whatever it was. Jesus has always loved you, even as he imagined you before creation. He has given himself totally for you in taking away everything that could have kept you from his love.

When we accept his love, it is truly transformative and liberating, setting us free to be the people we were always designed to be, always yearned to be and yet fail to manage on our own. Good news? I reckon, if you've walked away from it before, maybe have another look,

Much love, Leigh.

DEVON
HISTORIC CHURCHES



St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Northlew

Open day

Saturday 14 September 10:00 – 16:00

Teas, coffees and light refreshments

An exhibition and tours of our carved oak Tudor bench ends

A chance to find out more about our beautiful Parish church and support the work of Devon Historic Churches Trust

Devon's churches have been a focal part of life in the county for centuries - a spiritual and physical focus for the communities they serve. They are an important part of the landscape and of our natural and built heritage. With your help we can ensure that they remain so.

DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Charity Registration Number 1189807

Music to our ears



The Holway Chapel has been cleared and redecorated, the scaffolding has been removed, some interesting memorial stones have been revealed, and the refurbished organ is back in its rightful home, ready for the next fifty years!

The latest fund-raising venture for the Friends of St Thomas' Church (FOST) is an Open Day on Saturday 14 September from 10am to 4pm. It's a chance to find out more about our beautiful building while supporting the work of the Devon Historic Churches Trust (and having tea and cake).

FOST news is an occasional newsletter with information about the church and churchyard. The September/October issue has a feature about the Norman font and is available in the Church and Church Room. Or you can receive an electronic copy if you prefer by contacting Jackie Ellis on 01837 658750 or jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com

[Val Rowe]

FOST Committee 2024

Chair–Keith Ellis
Secretary – Jackie Ellis 01837 658750/07952 071809
or Email to: jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com
Treasurer-Tony Hazell Email: carmelcoaches@hotmail.com
Allan Welsh
Roger Atkinson
Shaun Millership
Tania Haycocks
Val Welsh
Revd. Leigh Winsbury [ExOfficio]

In the Chapel

Euros, Olympics and me



Sitting with a whole load of people in one of my churches on July 14 was a journey of emotion. Lows, highs and then deep lows... again. Yes, it was the Euros final.

Bring an England fan certainly tests the nerves, and ultimately turns hope to despair... but I don't wat to sound too downbeat, we reached another final. Yes ***ANOTHER*** final. For most of my life we have not even been in touching distance of the final so to have two finals in a matter of a couple of years is fantastic.

There is far more to cheer about than to despair. The back page of my newspaper after Gareth Southgate's resignation headlined, "Thank you for making us believe". We shared a great footballing journey across Germany and I am very proud of the England team. And dare I say it, the best footballing team in the tournament actually won this time.

And then from the Euros to the inspiration of the Olympics. Watching superhuman feats of speed, endurance and grace is often jaw dropping.

Sport can often show us the best of humanity in a world that too often can show us the worst.

As I travel around West Devon preaching and teaching about Jesus, I continually want to see the potential in people. One founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, spent a lot of time preaching about Jesus' sermon on the mount. It is the one that begins 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus spends much time on the practical stuff of life in his sermon.

Faith is both deeply spiritual and immensely practical. Yes, Jesus speaks of the reality of life after death but so much about living life in the hear and now. Much of each is about the relationship we have with each other as well as our relationship with God.

I'm often moved by incredible acts of kindness and self-sacrifice. Seeing the locals of the towns that have been beset with rioting in the past few days, with brushes and black sacks tidying up their streets with a sense of defiance in the face of senseless violence, shows the best of humanity.

It has been great to meet people at our monthly Market Place, hearing people's stories, having a chat, a chuckle and a cup of tea. If you've not been along yet, we'd love to see you on the first Saturday of every month. We'd also love to see you at our regular fortnightly morning services here at 9:30am, and at Boasley at 10:30 am on the other week.

It's not everyday that I can be inspired by Jesus alongside our footballers and the superhuman Olympiads and the everyday people sweeping their streets...but that's 2024 for you.

Many Blessings

Rev Chris Jackson
Superintendent Minister
West Devon Methodists



Photo: Ellen Kerbey/unsplash


Photo: Tracy Barrett

Northlew Market

The market is held on the first Saturday of the month in the Methodist hall, between 10 and 12. We now have a full house of interesting local stalls. These include honey, eggs, preserves, goat meat and goat milk soap, haberdashery, Avon, plants, and cakes ***Lots of Cakes!!!***

We will add a community table where we can sell your excess garden produce, plants, eggs etc. A great way to make a bit of money, maybe for next year's seeds! [We only take 10% the rest is yours.]

Enjoy refreshments, a raffle, hot and cold snacks, and did I mention CAKE? Plus, of course, the chance to catch up with friends and find out about future village events. Look forward to seeing you there. Enquiries: Ros Smith 01409 221814.

50/50 Shop

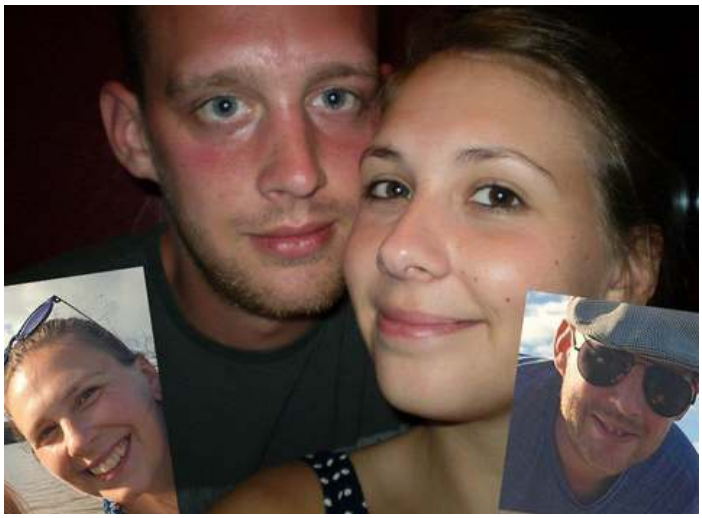
Did you know there is a 50/50 shop in the village? You can bring your unwanted items (not clothes), state a price for them and if the goods are sold you receive half the money, and the other half goes to Northlew Methodist Church.

The shop situated behind the Methodist Hall is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. During this time you can also enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.
Come along and see what bargains are on offer.

[Winnie Davey]



The Green Dragon



Ten Years a Landlord

Congratulations and many thanks to Dan and Karla for creating such a warm and welcoming atmosphere at our local pub for the past ten years. It really is the centre of our village in so many ways. Indeed, visitors frequently mention their delight that the Green Dragon is still a genuine village pub.

If you haven't been for a while, drop in and see for yourself!

Among the congratulations on Facebook, Norman writes, "thanks for all you and your team do to make The Green Dragon the great pub and centre of the village that it is. Cheers mate." Florie adds, "You are the best pub landlord!" And John perhaps sums it up for everyone when he states, "Dan and Karla... we are grateful you took on the challenge."

Quiz Time

Our autumn quiz may be more of a challenge than normal - but do your best before you check your answers on page 27

Enjoyed the quiz? Don't forget the regular quiz and curry nights at the Green Dragon including a ***North Devon Hospice fundraiser on 7 September****.*

Devon placenames anagrams!

Created by Ian Richards.

1 Dwarfish Wooly Tor

2 Ape Hot Monk

3 A Renamed Moth Stop

4 A Lethargic Loon

5 Ferrets Renown

6 Huge Child

7 Crept In Now

8 My Rhubarb Ode

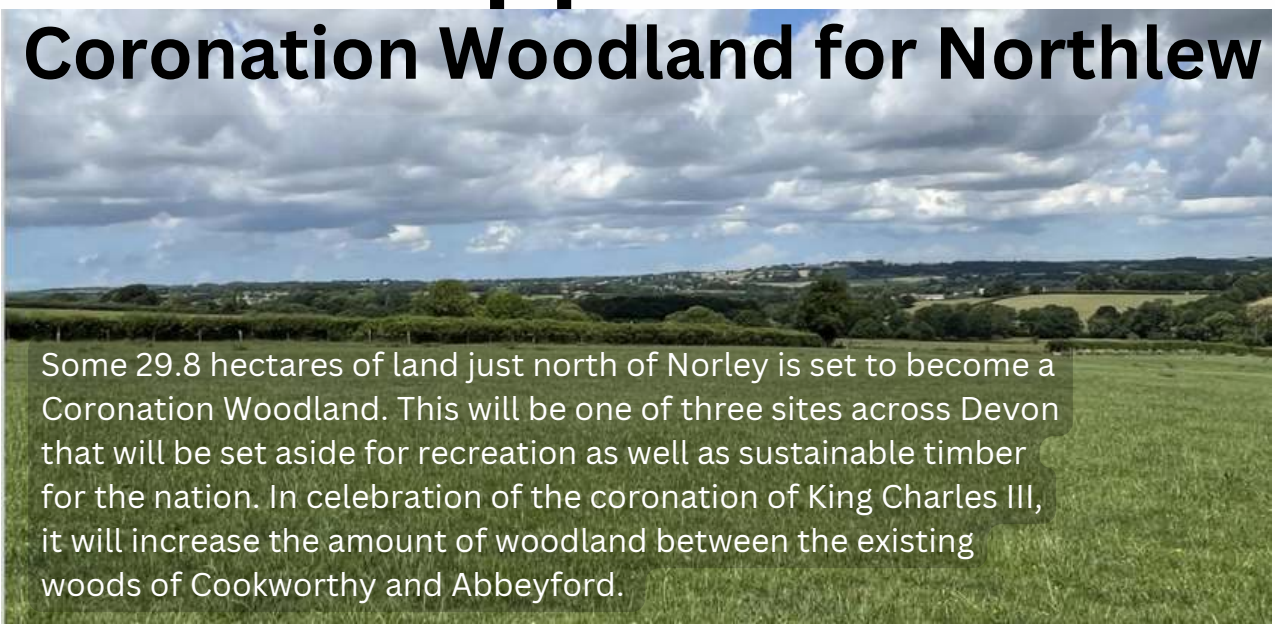
9 Remix Ants

10 Lost Moon Hut



News Snippetts

Coronation Woodland for Northlew



Forestry England plan for a mixture of tree species chosen to match our local soil types and that will be resilient to projected future climate changes. Draft designs are available to view online until 15 September at https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult/

The plans will also be shared at a public drop-in event on Tuesday 10 September between 4.00pm and 7.00pm, at the Victory Hall, Station Road, Northlew EX20 3NP.

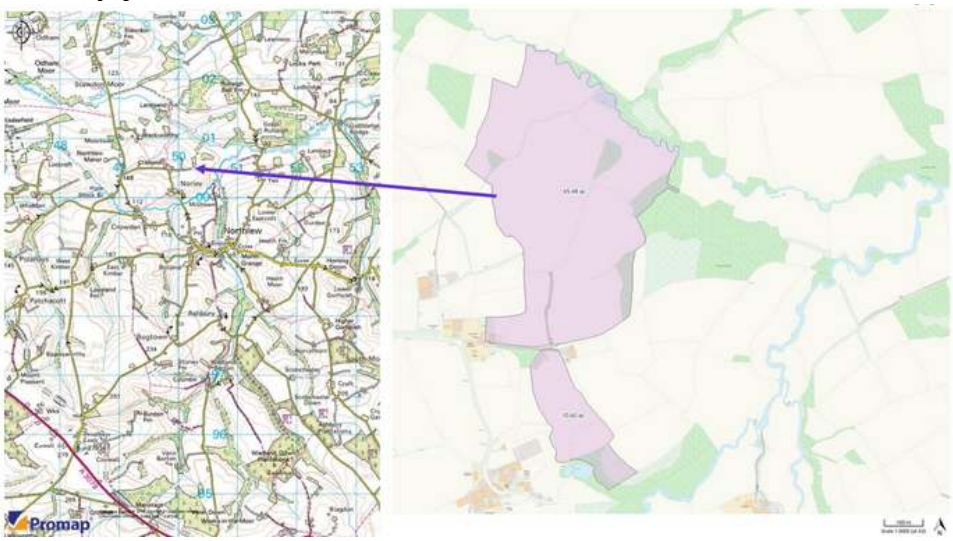
Local Forestry England director Kevin Stannard said: "Creating these new forests from scratch is an exciting opportunity to apply the latest evidence-based forestry quite literally from the ground up, while ensuring that each woodland is designed sympathetically for its landscape."

The other two Coronation woodlands in Devon will be located at Quoditch, and land between High Bickington and Langridge.

Stannard said, "We are keen to engage local communities in the design process and incorporate their needs and hopes for these woodlands." He added: "As much as they will be productive working forests and places for wildlife to thrive, they will also be valuable spaces for people to enjoy."

Becky Morris
Marketing &
Communications Officer
Forestry Commission
West England District

Photo and map
courtesy of
Kivels Estate Agents



Public toilets now open

The Parish Council is delighted to report that the newly refurbished toilets reopened on Bandemonium weekend. They may possibly now be the poshest public toilets in any Devon village.



The accessibility friendly facility is now yours to respect and look after for many years to come.

Our grateful thanks once more to the Parochial Church Council for allowing the public use of the church room toilet during the refurbishment process, and to our local craftsmen who undertook the refurbishment and took it to such a high standard.

John Betjemen Northlew revisited



Many thanks to Steve and Shirley Lofthouse who shared footage of poet laurite, John Betjemen's documentary visit to Northlew in 1962, a visit often referenced in books, leaflets and websites about the village.

The full video compares the effect of the railway on Northlew and Swindon back in the day, and provides an insight into how the village has changed over the years.

The Northlew section of the video is now available to watch on the Northlew YouTube playlist - along with a number of other videos, serious, comical or historic. This includes the outstanding WWI 100-years remembrance in 2014, a youthful lockdown video, a children's imaginative adventure across the village, Northlew bellringers and Lambretta memories.

It is very possible that a lot more is available to be discovered or possibly to be uploaded. If you know of any appropriate village videos that can be added to an archive please email the editor, Victor Hulbert at northlewnews@hulbert.org.uk.

View a current listing of videos at:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxagGvc-vHfYPd8Yig2ErZbnAFc58zVay&si=PRkXKV3RlJPXPv_Z



Playground repairs

Following a safety inspection the Parish Council closed some of the play equipment for safety reasons.

Carefully documented repairs will shortly be underway so that our children can once again enjoy our play and recreation area to it's full extent. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We would also remind residents that the playground is a dog free zone and that parents encourage responsible behaviour with their offspring!

Police House Kids

Following his article in the Spring 2024 Nothlew News, Andy Graves discovered this photo that shows him, together with his sister Simone, outside the police house when his father, Richard Paul Graves was the village bobby,



Andy also recalls that another villager, Peter Dufty, became a policeman in Plymouth. "I don't know if he's still alive, but he would come into my workshop in Plympton and talk about old times," he writes.

"Peter recalled the time when my dad repaired or made a new stock for his shotgun, and the Steak Dinners held in the Victory Hall. He being a bit older, would often say "I don't how he does it, but your dad always knew where we where, especially when up to mischief with my pals!"

Coming Events

A reminder that Chris Baines produces a helpful monthly village Coming Events Diary. This includes special events, clubs, church and chapel service times and even the bus timetable. This is sent out by email and also published on the Northlew and Ashbury Facebook page. This is the best way to stay abreast with village happenings. To subscribe or to submit a coming event email: northlewnews123@gmail.com.

APPLE DAY

NORTHLEW VICTORY HALL

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2024 | 2-4PM

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pear tree Cottage

Peartree Cottage, Howards Gorhuish, Northlew, Okehampton, Devon EX20 3BT



Peartree Cottage is a charming two-bedroom self-catering holiday home standing in the grounds of Howards Gorhuish, 2 miles from Northlew. Howards Gorhuish, is a former dairy farm dating from late 17th century and the cottage was originally the cowshed, converted in the 1990's. It has recently undergone a complex refurbishment but retains its old-world charm. It is warm, cosy and comfortably furnished with Visit England 4 Star Gold Award Accreditation.

Accommodation: Sleeps 4 plus one infant (travel cot provided). Fully equipped kitchen/diner. Triple-aspect sitting room featuring stone inglenook fireplace with wood burning stove and French doors leading to the cottage's private patio and garden. Entrance hall leading to stairs and upper landing which leads to two spacious double bedrooms each with its own en-suite. Both bedrooms are double aspect with lovely views across the gardens, meadow and beyond. Further overflow accommodation available in The Old Cob Barn, which can be let as B&B. Garden features private patio and steps leading up to a secluded lawned area with feature shrubs. Garden furniture and BBQ. Gate leading to wildflowers meadow with summer house and a small shady copse. Dog friendly. Open all year round. Short breaks available. Generous welcome pack provided by The Square Shop, Northlew.

For further information contact: Keith & Jackie Ellis Tel: 01837 658750
Website: https://www.peartreecottagedevon.com or Email: Jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com
Facebook @PeartreeCottageDevon or www.cottages.com





Northlew Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesday mornings 10 – 12

(Term time)

In the Village Hall

£2 per child snack included

Tea and coffee for adults

For more info find us on facebook:

Northlew Toddler Group, Devon







NORTHLEW NATURE: MIGRATION

CHRIS BAINES

The who, what and why of bird migration

What is it?

Birds migrate between their summer and winter locations. In the UK we generally have two sets of birds performing two different migrations.

The first set migrates from the south, typically Africa, breeding and spending their spring and summer in the UK. The second set migrates from the north as far away as the arctic tundra, spending autumn and winter in the UK.

There is a lesser-known third migration between the continent and the UK, with birds increasing our indigenous population in the autumn, returning to the continent in spring to breed.

Probably the best-known of our migratory birds are those that have travelled from Africa. These include swallows, swifts, house martins, sand martins and, of course, the cuckoo. Flying from Africa, in most cases directly over the Sahara desert, is a very risky business, and many don't make it.

Apart from natural causes for bird deaths, it is sad to think that many thousands of our summer birds are shot at as they pass over a number of European countries, including Malta and Cyprus. For birds like the turtle dove the numbers being shot are simply not sustainable, putting the species in danger of extinction.

Possibly due to climate change, some birds are not returning to Africa in the autumn. This is a very high-risk strategy as a severe UK winter can result in a lack of food to sustain the birds through to the following spring, though generous Northlew residents do help with well-stocked bird feeders along with seed and berry producing plants.



Why do birds migrate at all?

The UK has numerous bird species that stay here all year round, so why do so many need to migrate?

The number one reason is to find a sufficient food source. To survive our winter some UK



birds change their diet from live food (insects) in summer to eating seeds in winter.

This is a significant reason why some farmland birds are declining. Due to modern farming practices, there is far less seed left in the fields over winter, resulting in our birds being unable to reach breeding conditions in spring.

Hopefully, some of the government environmental subsidies will help address these issues. It seems that migratory birds are unable to adapt their diet in this way, so have no alternative other than to fly thousands of miles to find a good food source.

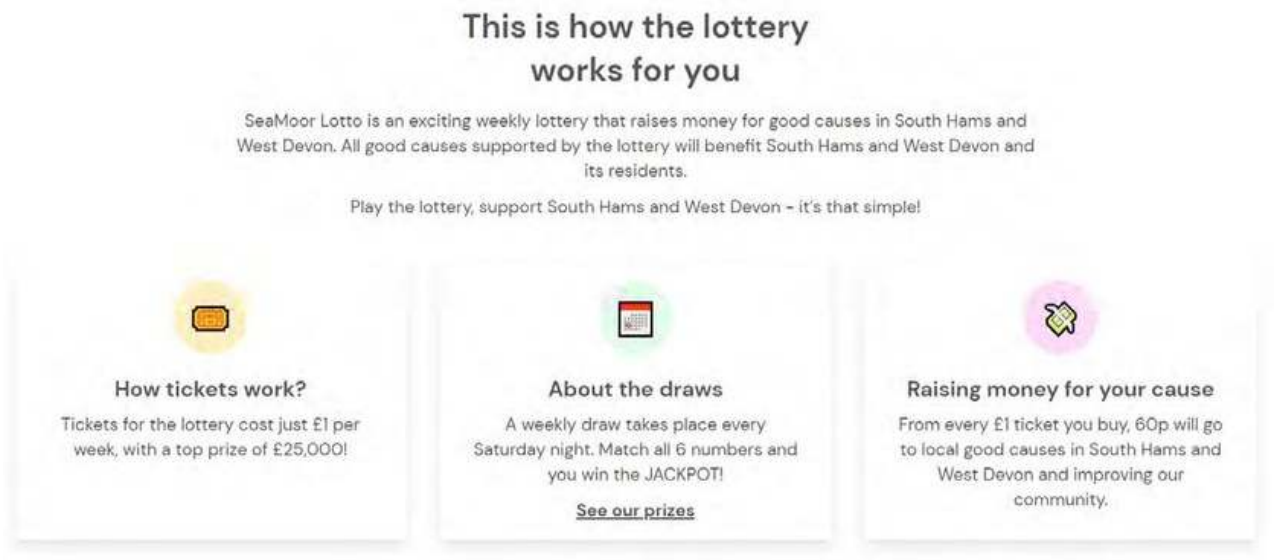
Considering all the dangers involved with migration we should consider ourselves very fortunate to still be able to hear cuckoos each spring and watch swifts as they dart through the village on a calm summer evening.

We have lost millions of UK birds since the mid-1970s. Thankfully a lot of work is now being carried out by organisations such as the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts to educate and advise us as to what we can do to reverse the trend. Will we ever hear the wonderful purring sound of turtle doves in Northlew? We can only hope!

SeaMoor Lotto

SeaMoor Lotto was created in 2018 by West Devon Borough Council. Set up to support community projects in the local area, SeaMoor Lotto operates on the principle of raising money within the community for the community.
We empower local good causes to raise money in a fun and effective way. A ticket for SeaMoor Lotto costs £1 a week and 60p will go directly to good causes! Northlew Parish Council are a registered good cause with SeaMoor Lotto, so you can raise funds for the parish council, and potentially win something for yourself. Google SeaMoor Lotto, it's really simple to join!

www.seamoorlotto.co.uk



Over the years, the children and I have had many happy holidays in Cornwall. We took the caravan and enjoyed the simple pleasure of hot sunny beach days and walking along the cliffs. Last year was our final caravan holiday as everyone has grown up and is getting on with their lives.



While cliff walking at Mullion, Kaitlyn and I pondered what it would be like to walk the entire Cornish coastline and whether it would be feasible for us to do. Over several weekends, we planned, plotted, and prepared our challenge. We decided that it was possible, although due to Kaitlyn's busy university/army schedule, we had only a three-week window to complete it.

300 for £3,000

Jayne and Kaitlyn's Cornish Coastal Challenge

With our backpacks packed (weighing 24kg and 18kg!), we started our mammoth challenge on Sunday 28 July, setting off from Welcombe Bay on the north coast. The elevation was extreme, the 'downs' just as bad as the 'ups'. At one point I was on my hands and knees scrambling to reach the top! It was hard, really hard. The first day we walked 12.5 hours but only got as far as Bude, not as far as intended. By 6am the next morning, we were up and ready to continue along the coast.

Fast forward to Day 3 and my knee gave out. An old injury that has been fine for 6 plus years resurfaced. I carried on with it strapped for most of the day, but by the time we reached Trebarwith Strand, Kaitlyn made the decision that I had to stop. As she quite rightly said, it's not worth messing it up long term. Disappointed and feeling sorry for myself, I called my boys. They collected me, we went home, and repacked the kit into my car before going back down to meet Kaitlyn who had continued alone.

A new format for our trek was born. Kaitlyn would walk on her own and I became her support vehicle, meeting her at various stops throughout the day to replenish food and water as necessary. As she was not carrying extra weight, she was able to walk faster and longer each day, which gave us time to relax and enjoy the scenery in the evenings.

We pootled on happily in our new routine for several days: up at 6am, tent packed down, dressed, breakfasted and walking by 7am. This way she was able to cover most of the miles before the midday heat, have a long lunch, and if necessary, continue after 3pm when the weather cooled. Most days she averaged 15 miles. Although we had walked vast stretches in the past, we discovered some beautiful new coves. Even the 'emmets' (Cornish word for tourists), hadn't found them!

More trauma. After picking Kaitlyn up one day, we were in a car accident. Fortunately, no-one was hurt, but my car came off worse. A very nice young lad came to our rescue, stayed with us, making sure that the other driver didn't bully me. Once insurance details were exchanged, Sam took us to his local garage, who made sure my car was drivable. My front bumper was subsequently cable-tied on! There really are good people out there.

The rest of the time passed in a flash, after a week, I was able to meet Kaitlyn and walk the flat bits with her; it was the downhill aspect that made my knee complain. The weather was kind, with only one wet day in which Kaitlyn was soaked through. Some days would start misty but clear later, others sported drizzle at the end. However, we were generally very lucky.

We finished at Cremyll, near Plymouth, on Tuesday 13 August having completed a total of 307 miles. The Cornish coastline has always had our respect – unrelentingly rugged and yet one of the most beautiful places on earth in our eyes.

We have been very lucky with the support given to our chosen charity, North Devon Hospice (NDH). To date, we have raised just over £3000 with donations still coming in.



Did you know: NDH needs to raise £6.2 million EVERY year to support its patients and their families. There is no government funding; it's all raised by people like us, people who have seen what the hospice nurses do for our good friends, like Marilyn Livingstone and Chris Laughton. NDH are the real heroes.

To raise a little extra, Dan and Ian are hosting a 'Curry and Quiz Night' at the Green Dragon, Northlew, on the 7 September. If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome, but booking is essential. Please call 01409 221228 to reserve your place.

And lastly, thank you all for your support, it really helped spur us on our journey.

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Photo by Liz Mary. Posted on the St Thomas of Canterbury Facebook Page.

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Northlew and Asbury Views

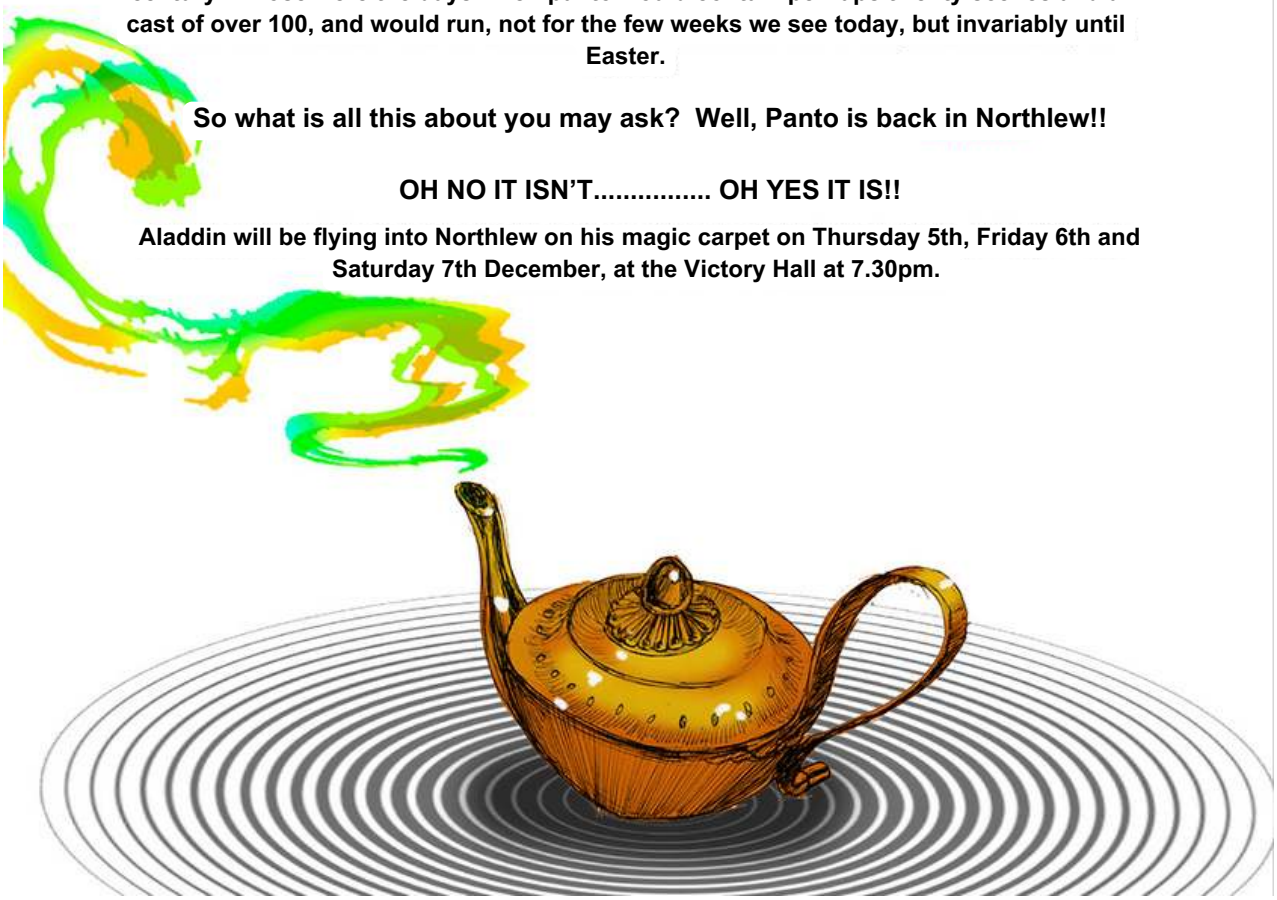
'It's Pantomime Time!'
A magical phrase that conjures up feelings of an English Christmas, with dark, frosty nights and twinkling fairy lights.

It's a form of entertainment that brings people of all ages together, to hear stories they've heard before, laced with jokes they've laughed at before and to join in with silly songs they've sung before. The fact that they have seen and heard these gags before seems to make no difference at all to the amusement, it could even, perhaps, enhance the enjoyment.
Certainly, a lot of the gags and sketches we laugh at today in pantomime, first saw the light of day, or to be more accurate, the light of the gas lamps, around the turn of the 20th century. Those were the days when panto would contain perhaps twenty scenes and a cast of over 100, and would run, not for the few weeks we see today, but invariably until Easter.

So what is all this about you may ask? Well, Panto is back in Northlew!!

OH NO IT ISN'T..... OH YES IT IS!!

Aladdin will be flying into Northlew on his magic carpet on Thursday 5th, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December, at the Victory Hall at 7.30pm.



FUN FACTS: Did you know that of the 615 registered voters in Northlew, 364 voted in person at the General Election in July while a further 95 were registered for postal vote. If every postal vote was used that would give a village turnout of 74.6 percent. The overall turnout for Central Devon was 71.2 percent, still higher than the national turnout of just 60 percent. Mel Stride, Conservative, was returned as our MP with 16,821, a margin of 61 votes more than Labour.

Pickled Plums

Autumn is traditional bottling time so here is a suggestion courtesy of Tania's Tarts.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's recipe for pickled plums (Q's Pickled Plums), a recipe I've used for years. Unfortunately I've lost the actual recipe but here's my version:



Ripe plums, washed and stoned
Spiced malt vinegar to cover plums in a heavy saucepan
Soft dark brown sugar, the same weight as the plums
Pickling spice
Sliced onions (half the weight of the plums)

Put all the ingredients to boil until the liquid has reduced by half, but do not allow to stick to the bottom of the pan. Pour into sterilised jars, seal with screw lids and leave to mature for at least six weeks.

NB. I've still got some that I made four years ago. It may not look pretty but I can assure you that it's even better with age.

[Tania Haycocks]

Quiz answers

How many Anagrams did you solve?

1 Woolfardisworthy
2 Okehampton
3 Moretonhampstead
4 Colaton Raleigh
5 Newton Ferrers
6 Chudleigh
7 Princetown
8 Broadhembury
9 Axminster
10 South Molton



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Information pages

Your Parish Council

Your Councillors are here to help and always welcome your support and comments. Contact details as follows	
Mark Rundle: Chair	mrundle@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Celia Miners:	cminers@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Andrew Alger	aalger@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Bryan Dufty	bdufty@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Shaun Millership	smillership@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Dave Kent	dkent@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Siobhan Williams	swilliams@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk
Rob Woolley	rwoolley@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk

Visit our website, http://www.northlewparishcouncil.org.uk, to discover:

- Details on how to contact your Borough and County Councillors and Member of Parliament.
- Minutes of previous council meetings and agenda for the next meeting.
- news, local information and a memory page.

Parish Council Meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month in the back room of the Victory Hall. **The agenda** is published on the website at least 3 days prior to the meeting. At 7.30pm prior to the start of the formal meeting, there is a public session (if required) which, at the Chair's discretion may last up to 15 minutes to enable members of the public to ask questions of and make comment to the Council. We request that notice of intent to ask questions/make comment be made to the clerk by the Friday prior to the date of the meeting. Questions not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question or may appear as an agenda items for the appropriate parish council or committee meeting. Members of the public are asked to restrict their comments and/or questions to three minutes. This section is not part of the formal meeting of the Council. Any member of the parish can attend the formal part of the meeting but may not contribute to it unless specifically invited by the chair.

Please contact our clerk Johannah Shaw, for further information, for comments or suggestions on the website, or if you would like to raise a topic at the public session of the Parish Council Meeting. Johannah should be contacted at: clerk@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk.

Community Contacts

Medical	
Blake House Surgery, Black Torrington	01409 231628
Derriford Hospital	01752 202082
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	01392 411611
MyDentist, Okehampton	01837 52853
NHS Direct	111
Okehampton Boots (Mon-Sat 9-5.30)	01837 543220
Okehampton Community Hospital	01837 658000
PharmaDerma Pharmacy, Okehampton (Mon-Friday 9-6.30. Sat 9-5.30)	01837 847663
Okehampton Medical Centre	01837 52233
Vets	
Okeford Vets	01837 52148
North Park Veterinary Group	01837 658777
Other	
Police	101 (non-emergencies) 0845 277 7444 (enquiry office)
Samaritans (24 hours)	116 123
Reporting a Power Cut	105
Floodline	0345 988 1188
Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 444
West Devon Borough Council	01822 813600
Devon County Council	0345 155 1015





Sports and Recreation

Please note that this may not be a complete guide and may be subject to change. For further information please contact event organisers.

- BADMINTON — held at the Victory Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday at 5-7pm.Contact Chris Baines for more information on 01409 221362 or email chrisbaines63@btinternet.com

- NORTHLEW NEEDLES - held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the Methodist chapel hall from 2pm until 4pm. Bring your crafting - be it knitting, crochet, sewing or anything else you fancy - and join us for a cuppa and a chat. £2 per session, refreshments included. Contact Julie Phillips on 01409 220088 for more information.

- NORTHLEW AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (NADS) –We have welcomed a few new members but need more volunteers both to perform and to help with costumes, painting, set and programme design, curtain pulling.....oh and not forgetting prompting (probably a big part!) We meet most Monday evenings before our next production so please feel free to come along. Just call us to confirm. Send an email to Lyn Taylor, Chair, 07971 609115 lyntaylor11@live.co.uk, or Martin Perry, Secretary 01409 221376 martinperry.northlew@gmail.com.

- NORTHLEW AND ASHBURY SNOOKER CLUB—this is an active and thriving facility with two full size tables and has a team in the Okehampton League. We welcome new members of all levels of play for a small membership fee. However, have a free go before joining, just contact David on 07977 789734 or david@grindhill.co.uk.

- NORTHLEW CHILDREN'S GROUP–held on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm at the Victory Hall–Contact Jo Drydenvia on Facebook or 07789282990.

- NORTHLEW SILVER BAND—Devon's only Village Silver Band over 100 years sold. For more information please contact: Tim Williams 01409 221754 or Martin Perry 01409 221376.

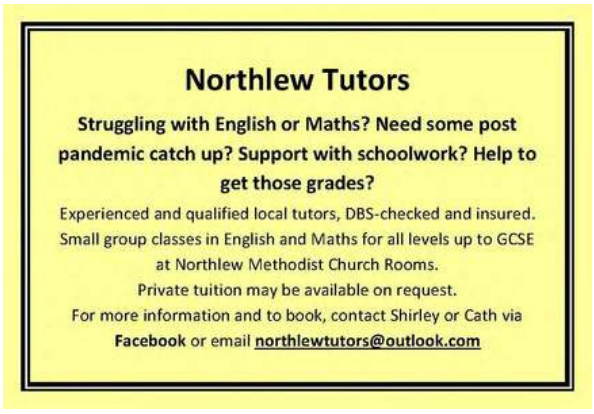
- PLAYGROUP FOR GROWNUPS - come to the Methodist Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4pm for games, refreshments and laughter. All for £1.50. Local transport available. For more information please call Chris on 01409 221797.

- SHORT MAT BOWLS - every Thursday, 2- 4pm at the Victory Hall. For more information call Mike on 01409 220320, Norman on 01409 221518 or Lin Miller 01409 221164.

- SKITTLES — Tuesday 7.30-10pm at the Victory Hall. Contact Mark Turley 07958764143.

- WALKING GROUP including nature walks are organised periodically throughout the year. Please contact Chris Baines, 07917 795072 or chrisbaines63@btinternet.com for more information.





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Bus timetable

Timetable complied from the MD buses and Tor and Torridge buses websites and is up-to-date as of April 2024.
www.mdcoaches.co.uk
www.tawandtorridge.co.uk/Service-Routes



For Okehampton to Exeter Train times please visit https://dartmoorline.com

NORTHLEW - BIDEFORD Via Shebbear 642

Monday only (Except Public Holidays)

NORTHLEW, Square	**0915**
HIGHAMPTON	0925
SHEEPWASH, Square	**0930**
BLACK TORRINGTON, Black River Inn	0935
BRANDIS CORNER	0940
BRADFORD, Lana Cross	0945
DIPPER MILL	0950
SHEBBEAR, Square	**1000**
CAUTE, Phone Box	1006
ROWDEN FARM	1011
STIBB CROSS	1015
LANDCROSS, Chapel	1028
BIDEFORD, The Quay	**1035**

BIDEFORD, The Quay Stop A	**1330**
LANDCROSS, Chapel	1337
STIBB CROSS	1350
ROWDEN FARM	1354
CAUTE, Phone Box	1359
SHEBBEAR, Square	**1405**
DIPPER MILL	1415
BRADFORD, Lana Cross	1420
BRANDIS CORNER	1425
BLACK TORRINGTON, Black River Inn	1430
SHEEPWASH, Square	**1435**
HIGHAMPTON	1440
NORTHLEW, Square	**1450**

NORTHLEW - OKEHAMPTON Via Germansweek & Bratton Clovelly 633

Monday only (Except Public Holidays)

NORTHLEW Square	**0930**
GERMANSWEEK War Memorial	0945
BRATTON CLOVELLY Clovelly Inn	1000
BOASLEY CROSS School	1010
OKEHAMPTON Market Street	**1025**

OKEHAMPTON Market Street	**1230**
BOASLEY CROSS School	1245
BRATTON CLOVELLY Clovelly Inn	1255
GERMANSWEEK War Memorial	1310
NORTHLEW Square	**1325**

NORTHLEW - HOLSWORTHY Via Sheepwash Taw & Torridge 639

Wednesday only (Except Public Holidays)

NORTHLEW Square	**0925**
HATHERLEIGH Market Square	**0940**
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	0942
HIGHAMPTON	0946
SHEEPWASH Square	**0952**
BLACK TORRINGTON Black River Inn	1000
BRANDIS CORNER	1006
BRADFORD Lana Cross	1015
HOLEMOOR CROSS	1016
COOKBURY Church	1022
ANVIL Corner	1030
HOLSWORTHY Manor Car Park	**1035**

HOLSWORTHY Manor Car Park	**1335**
ANVIL Corner	1340
COOKBURY Church	1348
HOLEMOOR CROSS	1354
BRADFORD Lana Cross	1355
BRANDIS CORNER	1404
BLACK TORRINGTON Black River Inn	1410
SHEEPWASH Square	**1418**
HIGHAMPTON	1424
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	1428
HATHERLEIGH Market Car Park	**1430**
NORTHLEW Square	**1445**

This service is financially supported by Devon County Council

NORTHLEW - HATHERLEIGH - OKEHAMPTON 630
NORTHLEW - OKEHAMPTON via Sheepwash 631

Thursday and Saturday only (Except Public Holidays)

	630 Th	631 S
NORTHLEW Square	**0945**	**0945**
SHEEPWASH Square	-	1000
HIGHAMPTON	-	1005
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	-	1010
EXBOURNE Red Lion	-	1020
SAMPFORD COURTENAY New Inn	-	1026
SAMPFORD COURTENAY Station	-	1030
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	1000	-
INWARDLEIGH Memorial	1010	-
OKEHAMPTON Market Street	**1025**	**1037**

	630 Th	631 S
OKEHAMPTON Market Street	**1245**	**1245**
FOLLY GATE Crossways Inn	1250	-
INWARDLEIGH Memorial	1255R	-
SAMPFORD COURTENAY Station	-	1252
SAMPFORD COURTENAY New Inn	-	1256
EXBOURNE Red Lion	-	1302
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	-	1312
HIGHAMPTON	-	1317
SHEEPWASH Square	-	1322
NORTHLEW Square	**1305**	**1337**
HATHERLEIGH Moor View	1320	-

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