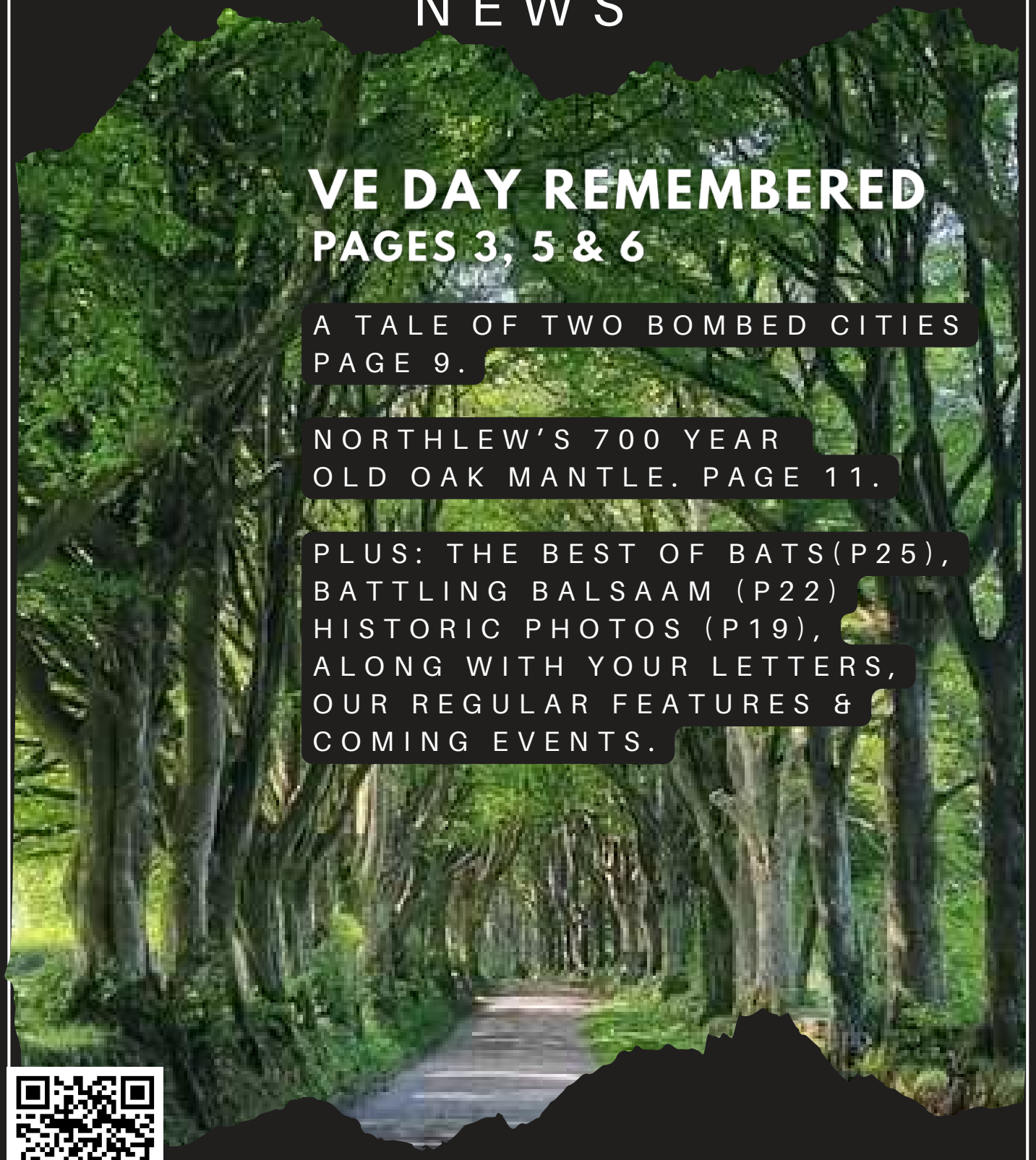
Summer 2025

NORTHLEW NEWS



VE DAY REMEMBERED
PAGES 3, 5 & 6

A TALE OF TWO BOMBED CITIES PAGE 9.

NORTHLEW'S 700 YEAR OLD OAK MANTLE. PAGE 11.

PLUS: THE BEST OF BATS(P25), BATTLING BALSAAM (P22) HISTORIC PHOTOS (P19), ALONG WITH YOUR LETTERS, OUR REGULAR FEATURES & COMING EVENTS.

www.northlewparishcouncil.org.uk



PLEASE NOTE: If anyone has any old photographs or scrapbook items relating to Northlew Methodist Church that have been passed down through generations would you mind lending them to us? They can be handed in at the coffee morning any Saturday from 10 am – 12 noon, between now and 9 August. We will photocopy them and return the originals.



In this issue.....

From the Editor....Page 2
Northlew Celebrates VE Day....Page 3
Pews News: Rev Leigh Winsbury & VE Day....Page 5
Victory in time of Dread: Rev Chris Jackson....Page 6
Chapel News....Page 7
Friends of St Thomas....Page 8
A tale of two bombed Cities: The Elvira and Derek Chivers story....Page 9
Solidarity: A Poem....Page 10
The Oldest Piece of Oak in Northlew?....Page 11
With Gratitude....Page 13
Bandamonium Preview....Page 16
Letter to the Editor....Page 18
Produce Show Entry Form....Page 20
Battle of the Balsam....Page 22
Quiz Time: Some murderous clues!....Page 24
Northlew Nature: Bats....Page 25
Cottage Garden Wildlife....Page 28
Tania's recipe: *Picnic time* ....Page 29

INFORMATION PAGES

Your Parish Council ....Page 30
NEW! Coming Events - Late Summer and Autumn....Page 31
Sports and Recreation ....Page 32
Community Contacts....Page 33

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FROM THE EDITOR

Victor Hulbert

One of the first people I ever met in Northlew was Derek Chivers. It was before we had even put an offer on the house. On a damp December day and we chose to take a wander around the village to see if it was the kind of place where we would like to live.

We wandered into the church where we could hear Derek at the organ, practising for the Sunday service. His kind and friendly conversation confirmed that this might be the place to call home. Shortly after moving we met his wife, Elvira, a pleasant and generous soul.

A few months later the Parish Council invited me to become editor – and one of my first interview requests was to visit with Derek and Elvira. Sadly that never happened. Circumstances kept getting in the way, with her finally succumbing to cancer. Nevertheless, theirs is a story worth telling. I am very grateful to Derek and to their daughter Nikki, for sharing their memories of a very special lady who was much loved in this community.

Sharing the story of one of the 'oldies' in our village is balanced by two 'newbies' Alice and Jack. In two separate articles they share their passion for the environment and for history.

I was also delighted to hear from Trixie Hannaford who has added significant information as to why Northlew and Ashbury is a daffodil heaven.

Gratefulness remains a theme as we look back at our VE day celebration, and both Rev Leigh Winsbury and Rev Chris Jackson take it as a basis for living life to the full today.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I have enjoyed editing your varied contributions. It has been a delight. Please keep them coming. Our next edition is in November.

Letter to the editor are welcomed at Northlewnews@hulbert.org.uk





Northlew Celebrates VE Day

Pat Hutton.

Northlewians rarely need to be asked twice to hold a beacon lighting event, and the fact that government guidelines for celebrating the 80th Anniversary on 8 May, included the lighting of Beacons across the land, played right into the hands of the Parish Council!

Once again, Hazel and Graham Butt kindly allowed the event to be held on their land at Heathmoor, where an impressive beacon was built by Parish Chair Mark Rundle with donations of materials from several other councillors.

[Photo credit: Catherine Wensley "Too young to understand the significance, yet thankful she can enjoy the experience freely. Thank you wonderful Northlew "]

The gates opened at 7.30 and, with the glorious weather, in came a sizeable crowd, including those taking up Siobhan Williams' kind offer of lifts from the village square.



Food and drink were available from Dartmoor Bars in collaboration with the Green Dragon, while the PTFA had a stall brimming with sweets and goodies.

There was also a raffle with prizes donated by many villagers. This raised £233 for the Parish Council.

Rev. Leigh Winsbury spoke about the significance of celebrating this historic milestone, honouring the memory of the generation who lived through such dark days, offering gratefulness for their commitment and faithfulness to face such a terrifying evil, and acknowledging their sacrifice so that we are able to enjoy the life and freedoms we have come to think of as normal.

He then led the minute's silence before Shaun Millership sounded his canon and the beacon was lit. In line with the guidelines for the event, everyone sang 'I Vow To Thee My Country', accompanied by Tim Williams on the trombone.

The organisers, Northlew Parish Council, would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a success, and everyone who came along and celebrated, and of course those who fought for our country, back in the 40s.



Drone photo credit: Jack Savage

PEWS NEWS: REV LEIGH WINSBURY & VE DAY

Hello Northlew,


Photo credit; Shaun McCarthy

I'd just like to thank Victor for inviting me back into the pages of this auspicious mag! He asked me if I had anything to say following Northlew's magnificent V.E. Day beacon event.

Well, to start with, many thanks, for giving me the honour of lighting the fire and the opportunity to say a few words. Apparently, no one much heard them on the night, but it was something like this… I was glad of the chance to honour, remember, and thank in my heart the memory of the generation in this land who lived through such dark days. Grateful for their commitment and faithfulness to face such a terrifying evil for the benefit of those who came after them: for us, to be able to enjoy the life and freedoms we have come to think of as normal. The alternative was too awful to contemplate, yet it was they who suffered for us.

What was it that enabled that generation to give what they did? Essentially, it was their faith. It's easy for us to fall into 'golden age syndrome', to look back at a high point in our history, associate with it, draw pride from it, and think that it epitomises who we are today. But are we? If we're going to do nostalgia, let's do it right and recognise the whole picture. In the 1940s, pretty much everyone in this land would call themselves 'Christian' with various levels of commitment. Certainly, most of our great leaders were very aware of their need for God, as much in battle as in life. Montgomery, Dowding, the King, and many others were vocal about their faith, and the desperate need of God they had in the struggle against the Third Reich.

But after the 'big win', what happened? The 1950s, bringing 'post-modern' thinking, happened; in short, you can believe what you like, and everyone's different 'truths' have equal value. In other words, there is no ultimate truth; pick what you like and do what you like. This led to the '60s with a new and systematic abandonment of both God and the values of previous generations.

And here we are, a generation or two later, wondering what happened and where it all went wrong. We look back at V.E. Day remembering the people but wiping out the memory of the God who sustained them. We now want Christmas with no Jesus to challenge us, pretty churches in our villages without any desire to meet the God they were built for, holidays without the Holy. We want all the benefits that God alone can bring, but without Him interfering with our lives. It doesn't work; it hasn't worked.

I don't know if you, like me, keep a watchful eye on events in this country. If you do, you will know we are living in fragile times where anything could happen. There is a solution, and it won't be found in politics or protests, but in Almighty God. Britain avoided a revolution once before, unlike France and Russia. Thanks to the preaching of John Wesley and others like him, we had a Christian revival instead, and an age of this nation's history was rescued.

We need rescuing again, a different kind of revolution, a turning back to God. Let's make Jesus welcome in this nation, acknowledging our insufficiency without Him. The Northlew beacon was a sight to behold, but let's light a new fire of faith, hope, and self-sacrifice, as we look not just to the past but to the future with a vision that our grandchildren could take pride in. Consider well what you want the legacy of this generation to be.

With my love, Leigh Winsbury.

Victory in a time of dread

VE Day was 80 years ago, but war is, sadly, still a present reality. Our Methodist Superintendent Minister, the Rev Chris Jackson wrote this thought piece in early June. The news agenda may change, but the sense of dread remains. How to turn it into optimism?



It's not often I wake up in the morning and turn on the TV with a sense of dread. But that is exactly what happened this Sunday morning. Surely the USA was not going to attack Iran? Surely a diplomatic whispering in the ear of the President would avert such an action? However, my optimism was unfounded on this occasion, and the bombs had fallen. It seemed that the US was heading for yet another prolonged war in the Middle East.

As a church minister, it is sometimes hard to reflect on the state of the world in an honest way and with the spiritual reflection that we are required to voice on such occasions.

Putting all politics aside, my reflection is from a Christian perspective. Jesus spoke about the need to love one's enemy, to do good to those who hate us. This is hard, but what is it that Jesus is trying to urge us to reflect on? Is it simply a matter of being a door mat, turning the other cheek in all circumstances, and simply appearing weak in the face of aggression? I think Jesus was onto something far stronger. Many years ago, I learnt the maxim, 'behaviour breeds behaviour'. One of the best ways to handle difficult situations in order to de-escalate them is not to respond with violence or hatred. Violence begets violence, peace begets peace. No, it is not always as simple as that and there are occasions when a different response is needed.

What we need to ask ourselves is, what is the motivation behind our/their actions? Are we/they responding in a particular way gain something for ourselves, to satisfy our greed or power? Or are we looking to the good of those whom we love, or represent in the case of leadership?

My prayer is that the current crop of world leaders look deep inside themselves to ask just that question. I once told a group of mayors that remember who it was that gave you your office...those in leadership could learn a lot from the servanthood of Jesus Christ...who, after all, is known as the King of Kings...there is none higher, and Jesus sacrificed everything for those he loved... all of humanity.





Sunday School Centenary

On Sunday, 8 June, we had a time of worship at the Methodist Church, led by Mrs Kath Brimacombe. She started talking about memories. When many of us were younger and went to Sunday school, we would sit on a platform so that all the people could see us. There, we would say our recitation and sing some choruses. This was a nostalgia moment for many of us.

As it was Pentecost Sunday, Kath's message reflected on Acts chapter 2, that first Pentecost when the heavens opened and poured down not only rain, but the Holy Spirit. This was a gift not just for the Jewish people, but truly for all people, regardless of race, sex, or age. It is still the same today. "The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22 – 23)

The Stowford Meadow Singers were a highlight of the service, including in their repertoire several songs from our childhood memories such as 'I am H A P P Y', together with some more modern gospel songs.

The event concluded with a beautiful tea prepared by our ladies.

You will notice the chapel has a fresh coat of paint. The offering on the day, together with donations for tea totalled £401.30, helping towards the upkeep of this historic village amenity. A big thank you to all our supporters.



Photos:
Top: The Stowford Meadow Singers
Above: Mrs Kath Brimacombe.
Below: A good spread and a time for friendship, sharing and reminisances.





Friends of St Thomas' Church, [FOST]

Our art and photography exhibition in May was a great success, attracting about 200 visitors. We raised over £1,300, shared equally between Northlew Church repairs and the North Devon Hospice. Alongside exhibits from local artists and photographers, special entries from our school and toddler group, the Hospice art therapy group, Made-Well in Hatherleigh and the Well-Being Cafe in Okehampton ensured there was work from all ages and abilities on display.

Annual open day: St Thomas': past, present, future. Saturday 13 September. The Church Open Day supports the work of Devon Historic Churches Trust which aims to protect churches and chapels of all Christian denominations in Devon and the Diocese of Exeter. The Trust offers support for repairs and maintenance through advice and grants, helping to keep the historic churches structurally sound, look after their precious fabric and help with modernisation and reordering as needed.

We will be highlighting the many different aspects of church life in Northlew and its work in the community through a series of displays and activities suitable for all ages. If you have any old photos of church events or weddings/baptisms that you are happy for us to use, please let Val Welsh know on 01409 221690 or email valofgreen@gmail.com.

Away in a manger: Saturday 13 December. A seasonal display of an astonishing 40+ Nativity sets from around the world and around the village. Includes activities for children. More details to follow.



FOST Committee 2025

Chair: Keith Ellis
Secretary: Jackie Ellis 01837 658750/07952 071809
or email jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com
Treasurer: Tony Hazell Email: carmelcoaches@hotmail.com
Tania Haycocks
Charlotte Rowland
Alan Welsh
Val Welsh
Revd Leigh Winsbury [ExOfficio]

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https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/26506#!

A tale of two bombed cities

The Elvira & Derek Chivers story

It was the first blitz on Bristol. 24 November, 1940. Aiming at the city centre, an incompetent German bomber released a bomb that narrowly missed a young Derek Chivers.

In 1944, a similarly incompetent *British* bomber over Hannover released a bomb that narrowly missed a 4-year-old Elvira. She was sheltering with her mother in the entrance to a cellar opposite. They watched as their house went up in flames.

Both children of World War 2, born to opposing nations, what were the chances of them meeting, marrying, and bringing up two children? “Not known to us at the time,” Derek says, “God had plans for us, and was intent on bringing us together.”

Leaving school at 15, Elvira trained as a secretary and then worked for a large haulage company, but in 1959, aged 19, she took the brave step to come to England to improve her language skills. She arrived in Bristol to work as an au pair. Professor Darling, the Queen’s dentist, his wife, and three children were to become her family for a year. They treated Elvira like their own daughter.

Elvira attended Broadmead Baptist Church in the centre of Bristol. With her limited English, she didn’t understand too much of the sermon.

She was about to leave at the end of the service, when she was encouraged to attend the Young People's Fellowship. With some trepidation at the sight of 60 young people, she built up enough courage to stay.

And who was the chairman of this august organisation? None other than Derek, who was immediately enchanted by this shy but ravishing German visitor.

An all-day ramble over the Quantocks with the YPF, and cunningly purchased tickets for the Sadlers Wells Opera and the rest, you could say, is history. They married on 5 August 1961.

Elvira was determined to become thoroughly English and almost immediately became a naturalised citizen, swearing allegiance to the Queen and her successors in front of a solicitor. By 1966 she was shouting for England when we won the Wembley World Cup Final over Germany.

Nicola arrived in 1962 and Patrick in 1965, and the ensuing years saw many happy family times in Germany and England, with holidays in Exmoor and Wales.

Derek led a rewarding career as a school master while Elvira, after gaining O-levels in English Language and English literature, also moved into teaching.

Starting with German conversation groups, she moved on to teaching typing and secretarial skills, eventually becoming a lecturer in business studies at Norton Radstock Technical College.



Wedding day in Hannover, 5 August 1961



Elvira was chosen out of the half dozen other applicants because she was foreign, and they thought she would empathise with the many Hong Kong students they had at the time. Derek was always amused at the thought of a German teaching the Chinese to speak English!



After 15 happy years there, she joined Derek in retirement, and concentrated on Church work. Elvira was elected to become an Elder of the Church, where she visited sick members, offering help or simply chatting with them. She loved doing this, and missed it very much at first when they moved to Northlew and became Anglicans. She also became a busy Oma to her three adored grandchildren, not to mention her great grandchild.

Derek shares that they "spent the happiest 25 years here in Northlew, becoming immersed in church and village life, singing in the choir and enjoying the beautiful Devon countryside." Elvira continued to visit, support, and pray for people who needed a chat, usually bringing little bunches of flowers with her, as many of you will know. Derek was welcomed as the church organist, and together they would often lead out in morning prayers.

While Elvira sadly passed away earlier this year, following an illness borne with very great bravery, her memory continues and is treasured by many. Equally, the church family and the larger Northlew family continue to appreciate Derek's musical skills and warm personality.

Solidarity

When you see someone suffering
don't pass them by, sit with them.
When you see someone hurting
don't pass them by, sit with them.
When you see someone cruel and unkind
don't pass them by, sit with them.
Only our deepest love and empathy
will save them.
Only our compassion and understanding
will change them.
Only the fire of love and kindness
will set the world on fire.

An original poem submitted by J P Heyns, a regular visitor to this village, as a contribution that very much fits the Northlew spirit and the theme of this issue.



Is this the oldest piece of oak in Northlew?


Jack and Alice Savage with Victor Hulbert

Villagers might be surprised to know that a piece of 14th-century Cornish oak can be found as a significant feature in a former 1950s Northlew council house.

How did it get there? You would need to ask Jack and Alice who moved into the property on Station Road just over two years ago. They have been busy renovating it ever since.

“Alice, our dog Basil, and I began searching for our first home during the post-covid housing boom in the summer of 2021, after two years living with my parents in Morwenstow, near Bude,” Jack states.

Like many other recent residents, Jack and Alice had never heard of Northlew until they came to view a property in the village. “The house wasn’t quite the right fit for us,” Jack says, “but after the viewing we had a walk round the village and both felt like it was the sort of place we would like to end up in, having both been raised in similar communities.”

The next twelve months became increasingly frustrating for them as they went on to view another 18 properties, had seven offers declined due to the highly competitive market, and wondered whether they would ever be able to move out from under the parental roof.

Alice then found what looked to be a perfect first home: a driveway big enough for two cars, decent- sized gardens for Basil to play in, and a house with lots of potential.

“We immediately phoned the estate agent and booked the last viewing of the day, despite it only going live a few hours previously,” Alice enthused. The rest, you could say, is history.

But what about this 700-year-old oak beam? Jack takes up the story:

“I was raised in The Rectory Farm Tearooms in Morwenstow, which is run by my lovely mum. I didn’t realise just how popular it was until I moved out, even a few people in Alice’s village in South Northamptonshire have visited!

Dad’s dad bought the farm in the 1950s, before selling to The National Trust in 1979. He was born in my old bedroom and is still there 68 years later.


Rectory Farm Tearooms



A truss from Rectory Farm. Photo credit: Nat Alcock



Alice, Jack & Basil in their new home.



Rectory Farm Tearooms, Morwenstow,.
http://rectory-tearooms.co.uk/

The first records of a building on the site date back to the early 13th century, and much of the house remains relatively unchanged since the mid-14th century. Due to it's age, the farmhouse is Grade II* listed, with a key feature being the "Cornish Base-Cruck Truss" roof.

We knew very little about this until we were contacted by the University of Warwick a few years ago, asking to study the roof of the house. Through carbon dating, they were able to establish that the oak used in the roof was felled between 1316-1348. Their findings have now been published in an academic paper.

Some of the original roof timbers were removed in the 1980s when the house was re-slated. One of them is now sitting above the redesigned fireplace in our new home. It serves as a wonderful reminder of my roots.

I am not alone in this nostalgia. One of my brothers used some of the same wood for his customised wedding ring. Clearly, the farm is very special to us.

Since moving in, we have been extremely busy inside the house and in the back garden, but I must say, we both love living here. We made the right choice. Thank you to everyone we have met so far for welcoming us into your wonderful village.

I may be biased, but if you haven't visited the tearooms, please go and do so; there are very few places that can match the "olde worlde" atmosphere of that old house! I'm pleased that a small sliver of it is now in Northlew.



Before and after shots of the fireplace, now with the 700 year old beam in place.

With gratitude

Complied by Victor Hulbert







Looking Pretty

Have you noticed how lovely the village is looking in the summer sunshine? So many beautiful gardens, and several delightful wildflower patches. This village makes for very good nature therapy.

A thank you message from Rev Jonathan Cook

The first Sunday in June saw a number of villagers driving to Hatherleigh for a very special service at the Parish Church. A packed congregation from across the diocese was joined by Jonathan's family and friends as the Bishop of Plymouth ordained him as a priest. As a village we offer our congratulations, our prayers and our support for Jonathan, Sarah and family in their life forward together. This is his response to you:



It's been a long old journey becoming a priest, having been told a number of times to get more experience first. Part of me always wondered if I'd sensed wrong. So my ordination this June was a special occasion, to feel the church officially entrusting me with this.

'Priest' is a funny word, and I've never had such a varied 'job' in practical terms, but at its heart it's all about Jesus and His church serving the world. It's me committing to a life of service and love through private prayer, public preaching, and the privileged priority of hosting Jesus's call to baptise and to receive the Lord's supper, acts that mark those spiritual truths.



Publicly declaring my love for Christ, his church, and the world, is a funny thing. I know it's a commitment to imperfect people, and a greater visibility of my own imperfect life in public service - so it does feel daunting. I'm not signing up for an easy path, yet scriptures promises, God is always faithful. The cost of hiding from my 'true' self is always more costly - even if at times it appears simpler. I'm proud of myself for stepping out, and thankful for those who have supported me.



Perhaps reading this you have your own sense of call you've walked with for many years, and I pray now God will give you the wisdom and courage to continue to pursue it, or commit to it amidst struggles (be it a career, a talent, a home or a relationship). If that involves exploring your faith, why not share that with someone else. If you don't know any Christians, I hope you know I'd always be happy to talk, share and/or pray (rev.jonathan.cook@gmail.com).



Please do also pray for us as a family as we continue in this adventure, and a huge thanks from us to you all. Northlew is such a special community, and we daily see the goodness and kindness of God present through you all.

Yours in Christ, Jonathan





It's All in the Family

Congratulations to Amanda Marshall and 3 donkeys clothing. Amanda found herself on screen in the House of Lords after her business was selected to highlight the success of the *Small Business Britain x Adobe Express Marketing School*. The online programme is designed specifically for small business owners like Amanda, who are looking to boost their marketing and design skills. It seems it worked! Amanda confessed that she "found it rather cool" being on screen in the House of Lords. More importantly, she says, "I really am so lucky to have the best support network around who have helped make this happen and been on this journey with me. Click the QRcode to watch the video.

And her three children got themselves in the fund-raising limelight as well. Philippa, Ben and Toby supported by Louis Heal, did a phenomenal job of finishing with an impressive amount of paint on them during the 5k Rainbow Run, Cornwall, raising funds for the Children's Hospice South-West. Philippa states, "Ben and Toby were amazing troopers and loved the coloured paint."

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Sat 16th Aug

"WAAS ALL THIS ERE BANDAMONIUM BUSINESS THEN?"

We return for the 4th year on **Saturday August 16th** with our Bandamonium Brass Band Festival- larger and potentially more organised than ever before.

It is a free to all (players & audiences) day of hearing 23+ Brassbands play their hearts out at 10 pub venues. Then in the evening the bands return to Hatherleigh to play as one Massed Band of some 500+ musicians.

So yes that's 23 bands, 5 concerts each, 10 locations (split into 2 loops), 1 gurt big final concert = a bit of a full day! Blimey.

The aim is for the Bands to be themselves, relax, not take themselves too seriously and enjoy a day of music & cider. Some will dress up in crazy costumes, others will display their fine uniform- all will delight & surprise audiences with a cornucopia of quality music. Bands start at 11am having been given their specific loop and starting venue, tour the other 4 locations in the loop, finishing at their final pub venue approx 6.30pm to then race to Hatherleigh for the ***Massed Band Concert***. This will be an extraordinary spectacular concert that has to be seen & heard to be believed. (C. 8-8.30 start)

Spoiler alert:

We might not be so Bandamonium this year. Huh? That's right- we've only gone and got a computer ('puuter) boffin (our trustee Craig) to crunch the numbers, loops, coaches & bands (it got exceedingly messy & complicated- with sparks flying and everything!) to come up with a simple winning formula that means we know and crucially each band knows: Their starting pub, which route to take, how long at each venue, what time the last venue stop should be. Its not that simple but luckily each band & coach also has a geotracker so that you can track the bands' & coaches' movements.

Scan the QR code on the day for a live view!



IMPORTANT!!

Call For Volunteers (at mainly Hatherleigh location (transport can be provided):

Please get in touch if you can to offer your services on the day - Sat 16th Aug

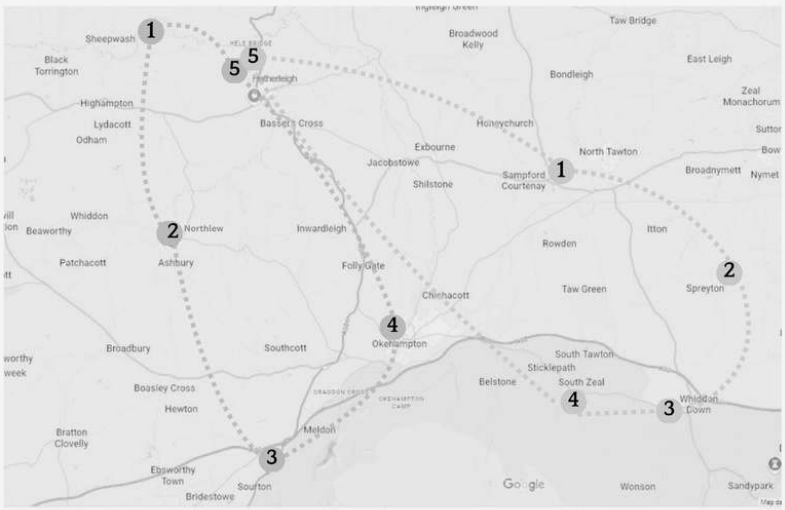
We require: First Aiders, Cider & Pasty servers, Programme Sellers, Litter Pickers/Loo Attendants etc. Please contact Shuv at **bandamoniumhq@gmail.com**

MEET THE BANDS

As you can see there is an eclectic mix of bands this year- some old favourites who have been with us from the start, others return for a second year and the ones..... who have absolutely no idea what's in store for them!!!

Lympstone Band · Okehampton Excelsior · Cathays Brass · Hampshire Harlequins · Liss Band · London Metropolitan Brass · Bandamonium Barbarians · West Somerset Brass · The Brass Toffs · Pendennis Brass · Newquay Band · Horsham Borough Band · Jurassic Brass · Weston Brass · Hatherleigh Silver Band · City of Bath · Rayleigh Brass · London City Brass · Holsworthy Town Band · Lanner & District Silver Band · Torrington Silver Band · The Merry Mouthpieces · Alder Valley Brass

THE VENUE LOOPS



- *both loops operate clockwise & anticlockwise*
- *loop routes not to scale- just for illustration purposes*

Granite Way

1. The Half Moon, Sheepwash
2. The Green Dragon, Northlew
3. The Pump and Pedal, Sourton
4. Okehampton Rugby Club, Oke
5. Hatherleigh Square

Ruby Way

1. The New Inn, Sampford Courtenay
2. Tom Cobley Tavern, Spreyton
3. The Post Inn, Whiddon Down
4. The King's Arms, South Zeal
5. Hatherleigh Square

Here is a map of the venue routes (loops) in Bandamonium this year. Audiences can visit all of the locations & you might be able to hop on to a band coach if there are spare seats.

Or you can stay at one venue for the day. Wherever you are, you can expect to hear at least 5 blummin great band concerts during the day.

Most venues will be serving food & drink throughout the day. In Northlew, **The Green Dragon** will be open from 11am & serving bbq/burgers outside. **Tania's Tarts** will be serving sweet pastries. There will also be a merch truck for Bandamonium Bear teddies, t shirts, hats, mugs, water bottles, prize draw wristbands (money prizes) and.....the sparkling new Souvenir Programme giving you more info on the bands, venues and the all important Peoples' Choice Award - voting for your fave band.

In Hatherleigh there will be a cider bar & pasties under the marquee in the Square and in the evening, at the Market, **Dartmoor Bars** will be serving drinks, **The Currant Bun**-burgers, kebabs & all sorts!

Bandamonium is now a charity - we are committed to Brass Bands becoming more accessible to new audiences & attracting players back into playing, new players to banding. Doing this all in a free & fun inclusive environment that boosts mental well-being that also showcases the beautiful Devonshire countryside, it's distinctive pubs & venues and warm welcoming communities- that's you Northlew!!

We work tirelessly all year to fund this charity, through organising charity walks, bingo (special thanks to Tracey B!) designing merchandise and sponsorship, however we always welcome donations to help us keep going - no matter how large or small. Please scan the QR code or go to https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/bandamonium-brass-band

BANDAMONIUM.CO.UK

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed at northlewnews@hulbert.org.uk. Trixie Hannaford was inspired to write after the mention of Stan Percy's daffodil planting in the spring edition editorial. Her letter certainly adds insight to a fascinating part of village history.

Dear editor,

I read with interest your article about Stan Percy. I first met Stan at Whidden Chapel. He was friends with Edward and Lucy Luxton who looked after the chapel. On special services like Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter he would come to these services.

Me and my two daughters, Andrea (9) and Helen (7) planted daffodil bulbs and snowdrops along the hedges to Whidden Chapel as well as at Lower West Kimber where we lived.

Mr Percy remarked on the daffodils and snowdrops which were out and told me he had an old orchard with a lot of daffodils in it. He wanted to do away with the orchard as the trees were past their best. Did I think the daffodils would live?

I told him I had removed a lot of daffodils from an old orchard in Northlew. This orchard was sold for building bungalows on Crowden road. I had to get them out within four weeks as the machines were coming in.

I dug them up and placed them in the hedges going towards Crowden. The weather was very kind to me with no rain during the whole month. Those daffodils are still going strong today.

From then on I would buy bulbs, take a road and plant up along the banks.

Mr Percy was a keen hunting man and use to say he was glad to listen to a woman as the bulbs were thickening up. As he walked the lanes he would plant daffodils, one bulb at a time.

I like to think that I had a small part in encouraging Stan Percy to transplant his bulbs. The snowdrops came from Mr Smallacombe's sons farm near Exborne where they were growing on the hedges and riverbanks. Fred would bring back sacks full of them, then me and my daughters would plant them at Whidden and West Kimber.



Over the years others joined in filling the village and churchyard with spring colour. Crocuses were planted just inside the church gate and down the lane from from the churchyard to Harpers Hill.

I planted daffodils and snowdrops for the church ladies to pick and decorate the church, little knowing that my efforts would become a such a focal point of spring in Northlew.

Trixie Hannaford – the daffodil lady!

Dear Victor,

Here are 3 old photos of Northlew which might interest your readers:



Wilf Nino outside Church House. *[Left]* Wilf and his wife lived there in the 1970s. Here he is talking to one of Shaun Millership's sisters.

Jubilee Celebrations. *[Below]* I'm guessing it might have been on the Queen's Jubilee (in '77?) because of the bunting.

Shaun thinks the boy on the bike might be him.



Gardening time. *[below]* Ted Gay digging the garden of Church House at the point where the garages now stand.

Best wishes,

Roger Atkinson



Editors note: For those who may not know, Roger lives in Church House. Retired from fourteen years of faithful service as PCC treasurer, he now has some time to pour through the archives while still getting his exercise helping keep the church yard in order!

Our grateful thanks to Roger for all he has done. Charlotte Rowland has now taken on the role of PCC treasurer as well as taking tutelage from Sean in the art of bell ringing.

Dear Victor,

This is a good opportunity to say to you and all the team, what a fantastic little booklet the Northlew News is. It sits permanently on our coffee table as we often pick it up to browse through, even though we live in Worcestershire! It's packed with useful and interesting information and colourful photos - a wonderful tribute to the warmth and friendliness of the Northlew community.

All good wishes from myself and Andrew.
Nikki *(Daughter of Derek and Elvira Chivers)*

PRODUCE SHOW, 6 SEPTEMBER: PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENTRY FORM BELOW

Completed entry form and entry fees, in a SEALED ENVELOPE, to be returned to:

The Church room (the post office), Station Rd, Northlew from the first week of August.

CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY before the show.

CLASS NO	1 OR 2 ENTRIES	CLASS NO.	1 OR 2 ENTRIES

ENTRIES LIMITED TO 2 PER CLASS

TOTAL ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED **£** _____

50p per entry (children's entries in children's section free) After 10 entries no further charge.

Children may enter adult classes at 50p per entry

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Contact telephone no. _____

Age (child entry) _____





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



Battle of the Balsam Alice Wyness

Have you seen those tall, pink flowers growing alongside our river and streams around the village? This is Himalayan Balsam, a pretty plant, but as the name suggests, an invasive species introduced to the UK from the Himalayas back in the Victorian era as a garden plant.

It thrived in our wet climate and soon escaped from gardens to spread across the countryside.. You might think, “what's the harm? It is quite pretty, and the bees seem to like it!”

But its thick, dense stands and effective seed dispersal method of shooting ripened seeds up to 7 metres from the plant, means it can really take over if not dealt with. It will soon shade out important native species, which might be rare, and leave a very undiverse riverbank. Seeds are also washed downstream, settling and growing where they become caught, meaning they can spread a long way.

But there is good news! Balsam is easy to remove, especially if done before it takes over. Plants can be easily pulled up as they have shallow roots.

Alice and Jack pause their hack/cycle/dog walk to engage in some balsam pulling in Ashbury



Pulled plants should then be snapped at each node. This is because the plants are hollow tubes that hold water very well, meaning they can easily regrow if they hold enough water, so snapping after pulling is essential.

Plants can then be put into small piles to dessicate, ensuring they don't regrow. The best time to do pulling is around the end of July/start of August, but it can be done anytime before the seeds ripen they are just easier to spot when they are larger but pull them as you spot them when you are out and about! Once seeds are ripe, pulling can cause pods to explode, which can cause further spread.

Balsam pulling is an easy activity that anyone can get involved in. Even the children can enjoy it as a family activity. Playing your part can make a real difference to controlling this invasive species and helping to restore areas for our native plant species to recolonise!


Himalayan Balsam in flower

[Alice Wyness is passionate for the environment. With a BSc in biology from Swansea university, she has previously worked for the Devon Wildlife Trust before her current role as a farm engagement officer for south Devon National Landscape (formally AONB) where she works with farmers to develop funded projects which aim to support the environment, heritage, local people and small farm business resilience.]

Peartree Cottage

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



Peartree Cottage, a charming two-bedroom self-catering holiday home standing in the 2 acre grounds of Howards Gorhuish, 2 miles from Northlew. Howards Gorhuish was a former dairy farm (the original farmhouse built in the late 17th century) and Peartree Cottage was the cowshed converted in the 1990s. The Cottage has undergone a complete refurbishment but retains its old world charm with character features such as oak beams and a wood burning stove. It is warm and cosy (with central heating for the colder months) and is comfortably furnished.

Accommodation: Sleeps 4 plus one infant (travel cot provided). Fully equipped kitchen/diner with electric oven, hob & grill, fridge, deep freezer, microwave, dishwasher and all the essentials. Triple-aspect sitting room with 3 piece suite, occasional tables, bookcase, Freeview tv, etc., & features a stone inglenook fireplace with wood burning stove and French doors leading out to the cottage's private patio & garden. Entrance hall and stairs to upper landing leading 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.

Garden features private patio and steps leading up to a secluded lawned area with feature shrubs. Garden furniture & Barbecue. Garden leading to wild flower meadow with summer house and a small shady copse. Dog friendly!

For further information: Website: http://www.peartreecottagedevon.com
Contact: Keith & Jackie Ellis Tel: 01837 658750 or Email: jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com

Quiz Time: *Some murderous clues*

Jessica Fletcher		Kingsmarkham
Miss Marple		Denton
Inspector Wexford		Kembleford
Brother Caedfel		Cabot Cove
Jonathan Creek		Grantchester
Father Brown		St Mary Mead
Inspector Frost		Shipley
Tom Barnaby		Bath
Det Geordie Keating		Midsomer
DI Dodds		Shrewsbury

With his poor damaged foot up on a stool, Ian Richards has had to forgo socialising at the Green Dragon in favour of watching countless hours of Murder Mysteries.

He has now watched so many that he is confused. Can you help him matching the names of these fictional detectives with their correct locations?

Answers on page 29.

Don't forget the regular quiz and curry nights at the Green Dragon.
Plus food specials that include:

- the Wednesday lunchtime meal deal,
- Wednesday night pizza,
- and Friday night Fish and Chips.

And yet more gratitude...

Congratulations to Karla and Dan on the birth of baby George on 9 July.

Regulars at the Green Dragon have joked that this was the only possible boys name for a child at our favourite pub. As we see his height marker start to appear next to big sister, Hettie's, we wish him and the growing family our very best. May he slay many dragons.



NORTHLEW NATURE: BATS!



PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFREY HAMILTON ON UNSPLASH

CHRIS BAINES

Bats are among the most amazing of all mammals.

They are the only mammal to have mastered flight, are more agile in flight than most birds, and to top it all, they use echo-location to home in on their prey. It is only because our UK bats come out at night that we rarely have the opportunity to see how amazing they are.

We are lucky enough to have 18 species of bat in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed here - that's almost a quarter of our mammal species.

In order to fly, their front and back limbs have developed 'webbing' to act as wings. Their incredible agility, along with echo location allows them to hunt their prey in the dark. Beware if you are a moth or a flying insect.

British bats hibernate over the winter and come out to breed between March and May. They only have one offspring per year, called a pup, and it can take several months before taking flight. Until then, the mother carries her pup around with her as she hunts for insects to feed it.

How to 'observe' bats

A calm Northlew evening is an ideal opportunity to observe bats.

These little creatures can be found just about anywhere, although gaps between trees or buildings and ponds or lakes are good places to find a variety of different species. All our UK bats use echo-location to detect their prey and to navigate, each species transmitting sounds at a very high pitch, usually above the audible range of most humans. When a potential prey is detected, the bat increases the frequency of the 'beeps' until the moth or insect is caught.

Modern technology allows us to reduce the pitch of the bats 'beeps' to a pitch that we can hear. You can now get an App for your smartphone that even tells you the species of bat you are 'hearing'.

If you want to have a go at bat detecting and have got yourself the smartphone app, it's best to go out as it is just going dark on a still warm evening. Different bats come out at different times, the first out usually being the Common Pipistrelle.

How to attract bats to your garden

The loss of old buildings, woodland, and ancient trees has led to a decline in their habitat, and because they rely on woods and hedgerows to navigate, bats are often left lost and disoriented when landscapes are flattened for development or agriculture.

Bats need our help, and if you have a garden, there are things you can do to help them out.

Gardening tips

Grow plants that flower early and late in the season to support as many insects as you possibly can.

Plant evening-scented flowers such as honeysuckle to attract night-flying insects like moths, a favourite food of bats.

Avoid showy, double-petalled flowers. They don't produce much nectar.

Plant trees and hedges, both to help bats navigate and to provide places for roosting. Mature shrubs can also be good roosts.

Consider creating a pond. Even small ponds boost insect biodiversity for species such as hover-flies, mosquitoes, and midges. Leave untidy areas, such as piles of compost and log piles, to encourage insects.

Avoid pesticides.

Install bat boxes on mature trees or the sides of buildings.

Plant trees.

Bats and trees go together. From their food source to navigation and shelter, bats have evolved to rely on trees, and they use different parts depending on the temperature and season. They use features like rot holes, crevices, loose bark, and even the canopy for roosting and hibernation.

If you have space, plant a tree or two in your garden. Oak, beech, and ash are really useful to bats, but any native tree has potential for a roost – especially as it develops cavities, woodpecker holes, loose bark, cracks, splits, and a covering of ivy.

Protected by law. How to help?

Bats and their roosts are protected by law in the UK, so you mustn't disturb or harm them in any way. If you find a bat on the ground, it may be injured or sick and should be taken to a vet. Wear gloves while handling the bat, as a scratch can cause an infection.

If you find a bat flying around your house and at night, then keep the room calm and quiet to stop the bat from becoming stressed. Close the door to contain the bat in one room, then open all the windows as widely as you can. Move



PHOTO BY DENLEY PHOTOGRAPHY ON UNSPLASH

anything that might block the bat's way out of the window, such as the curtains. Finally, dim the lights, and the bat should make its own way out of the room.

It's easy to mistake an adult bat for a baby, as people don't realise how small they can be! Baby bats are found between June and August. They will be smaller than a 50p coin, have no fur, and their eyes will be closed. Juvenile bats will be a bit bigger, have their eyes open, and have short, velvety-grey fur.

Young bats need specialist care if they're orphaned, so contact the Bat Conservation Trust, which can put you in touch with your local bat carer for more advice. Remember where you found the bat, as it may be possible to return it to its mother. Treat baby bats with great care - if you're told to pick them up, handle them with gloves or use a soft towel.

The large and the small of it.

The smallest bat in the world is the Kitti's hog-nosed bat, which is 29–34 mm in length, 150 mm across the wings, and 2–2.6 g in mass. That is lighter than a 1p piece. By contrast, the largest bats are the flying foxes, with the giant golden-crowned flying fox reaching a weight of 1.6 kg and having a wingspan of 1.7 m.

I hope this has inspired you to look a bit closer into the world of bats.



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

This is how the lottery works for you

SeaMoor Lotto is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in South Hams and West Devon. All good causes supported by the lottery will benefit South Hams and West Devon and its residents.

Play the lottery, support South Hams and West Devon - it's that simple!

How tickets work?

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week, with a top prize of £25,000!

About the draws

A weekly draw takes place every Saturday night. Match all 6 numbers and you win the JACKPOT!

See our prizes

Raising money for your cause

From every £1 ticket you buy, 60p will go to local good causes in South Hams and West Devon and improving our community.



While the old proverb suggests ‘one swallow does not a summer make’, numerous swallows gyrating over the cottage rooftop suggests it’s here. As does the frog chorus underway around the pond. Their premature spring spawning survived this year’s hard frosts, and now myriads of froglets, toad and newt-poles have appeared.

All bird boxes have been thoroughly checked for suitability by the sparrow, tit and nuthatch populations – but only seven are currently occupied. A recent chiff-chaff sighting takes our garden bird count total to 51.

After creating an exquisite moss, leaf, and feather nest in the lawnmower shed, two resident robins worked tirelessly caring for their youngsters until they safely fledged. My reasonable argument to halt mowing for four weeks to avoid disturbing them fell on deaf ears though!

All our favourite insects have begun returning in abundance. Bee-flies with their furry body and flexible proboscis in search of nectar. Stunning humming-bird moths - once only summer visitors but now UK residents as annual temperatures rise - with orange underbody and long coiled proboscis searching for valerian and honeysuckle nectar. Shield bugs with bright green triangular bodies exploring ivy-covered walls. These harmless sap-suckers produce a noxious chemical when threatened – as my wife unwittingly discovered when she mistook one for a piece of chocolate she had dropped!

Around twenty field mice and voles, all thinking the greenhouse seedlings were being grown specially for them, have been carefully removed, using live traps, and released unharmed in local woods. They’ll probably find their way back though!

Our first red kite recently flew over but has not yet returned - suspect the high density of local buzzards may deter them. Sunnier days have encouraged slowworms to resume sunbathing on the corrugated iron under the hedge, and common lizards to congregate for the same reason on the old water pipe. Showery days have meant midge swarms are back – as non-biting males attempt to attract one of the circling and biting females. Individual females are easily observed darting into the swarm to select a suitable mate, before eating him!

Despite national trends downwards, it’s been a very good year so far for butterflies – mostly whites, both large and small, orange-tips, speckled woods and red admirals. They love the Buddleia ‘butterfly bush’ and appreciate the nettle clumps allowed to grow along the garden edges. It was pleasing to discover that all the BBC Gardeners World top ten plants for attracting butterflies grow in our garden - including Verbena, Valerian, Hebes, Sedum, Marjoram, Knapweed, Hemp-agrimony, Scabious, and Erysimum. Encouraging them to stay and breed is another matter, as the caterpillars need different plants such as oak, hawthorn and ivy nearby. Brimstones, for example, require alder and buckthorn.

Tania's Tarts: Time for a picnic!

The picnic season is here. Whether it's the beach or the moors, a picnic is a must. Sand in the sandwiches and wasps in the tea, or stinging nettles and brambles; the berries crammed into mouths and the juice staining fingers. Elaborate or simple, eating outdoors is a time honoured tradition that can't be beaten or forgotten.

As a child, picnics on the beach, regardless of the weather meant a freezing cold swim in the sea and a rough towelling by mother as we came hobbling up the beach. This, closely followed by a mug of thermos tea, sandy fish paste sandwiches and a banana was, for my brothers an me, a typical start to our summer month in Cornwall. We always had a steaming hot bath afterwards, all in together with me at the tap end, the hot water creeping up my back.

Picnics are hugely nostalgic and (occasionally) live up to their expectation! I have a few favourites to share with you:

- Beef bouillon with chilli and a slug of brandy-this can warm you from head to toe!
- Olive soda bread with sliced pimentos, mozzarella and tomatoes.
- Potted salmon in finger rolls with herby cream cheese.
- Triple chocolate brownies.
- Jam jar trifles.

Recipe for olive soda bread:
1 lb strong white bread flour
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons soda bicarbonate
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons chopped black olives
2 teaspoons dried rosemary
1 teaspoon garlic powder
2 cartons buttermilk or plain yogurt

Mix all the ingredients together and put into a greased loaf tin. Bake in a hot oven 180c or 160c fan for 45-50 minutes or until it sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom after taking out of the tin. Turn onto a wire rack to cool.



Did you solved the mystery match from our quiz on page 24? Here are the correct answers.

Cabot Cove	Jessica Fletcher
St Mary Mead	Miss Marple
Kingsmarkham	Inspector Wexford
Shrewsbury	Brother Caedfel
Shipley	Jonathan Creek
Kembleford	Father Brown
Denton	Inspector Frost
Midsomer	Tom Barnaby
Grantchester	Det Geordie Keating
Bath	DI Dodds

Photo credit: Cin on Unsplash

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.

Coming Events: Summer and Autumn 2025

Victory Hall Badminton Skittles Short mat bowling Toddlers group Basically Pilates Christmas lunch.	General booking enquiries Tuesday & Wednesday evening Tuesday evening Thursday afternoon – 2pm to 3pm Wednesday morning – 10am to 12 noon Thursday morning – 9.30am to 11.30am Sunday 14th December, doors open 12.30 for 1pm	Jayne – 01409 221225 Chris Baines – 07917795072 Colin Jarvis – 07980457976 Lin Miller – 01409 221164 Megan Brooking – 07887786880 Dawn Herridge – 07901767412 hello@basicallypilates.com
Green Dragon Lunchtime special Fish & Chips Pizza night **Church Room**	Landlord Wednesday 12noon to 2pm. 2 courses with tea/coffee for £10 Friday evening – 5pm to 8pm Wednesday's as advertised	Dan – 01409 221228
Post Office Coffee Morning Ladies Guild Daisy chain **Chapel Room**	General booking enquiries Monday and Friday – 10am to 12noon Monday and Friday – 10am to 12noon Monthly, 1st Wed – 2:30pm to 4pm 2nd Tuesday of the month – 7pm	Ruth Squire – 01409 221382 Mollie – 01409 221 929
Coffee Morning 50-50 sale Northlew Market **C of E Church**	General booking enquiries Saturday – 10am to 12noon Saturday – 10am to 12noon 1st Saturday of the month – 10am to 12noon	Winnie – 01409 221642 Ros Smith – 01409 221814
Sunday services Heritage Open Day Harvest Festival Ashbury Service of Light. Remembrance Service Away in a Manger… Carol Service	General enquiries Sunday 9.30am. See notice in porch for details. Saturday 13 September -- 10:00 - 16:00 Sunday 5 October. Sunday 2 November. Sunday 9 November. Saturday 13 December display of Nativity sets from around the world with activities for children	Tania Haycocks – 01409 220 053 Val Welsh -- 01409 221690 Val Welsh -- 01409 221690 Luisa Hulbert – 07847 259019
Methodist Chapel Sunday services Dissenting Voices Harvest Festival Carol Service	Sunday 14 December. General enquiries Alternate Sundays, 9.30am. Details on notice board. Saturday 30 August. Touring exhibition and Concert. Sunday 12 October, 2.30 pm. Followed by tea. Sunday 21 December, 6.30 pm.	Winnie – 01409 221642
Primary School Annual Duck Race PTFA Christmas Fayre	General enquiries Sunday, 7 September. 12 – 4 pm. (subject to weather) TBA.	admin@northlewprimary.org.uk MD Coaches 01363 82200
Bus Service No 642 No 633 No 639 No 630 No 631	Leaving from the square Monday - Bideford – 9.15am Monday – Okehampton – 9.30am Wednesday – Holsworthy – 9.25am Thursday – Okehampton – 9.45am Saturday – Okehampton – 9.45am	
Harvest Mobile Farm Shop	Friday – 10am to 12noon Saturday & Sunday, – 11am to 4pm	01837 318050 Siobhan Williams - 01409 221754
Tania's Tarts **Hof Gallery**	Friday – 10am to 12noon	Tania Haycocks – 01409 221642

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 07917 795072 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.



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

Your Magazine needs you!

Northlew News is published three times per year in Spring, Summer and Winter. It is YOUR magazine so the content is up to you!

- **Advertise!** This space could be promoting your local business to our 'in print' and wider online community. Email clerk@northlewparishcouncil.org.uk for details and rates.
- **Volunteer writers.** Got a bit of Northlew history to tell? Want to share the stories of some of our long-time residents? Got a craft or skill you want to talk about? Good at interviewing? Contact the editor, Victor Hulbert, at Northlewnews@hulbert.org.uk to see how you can help.
- **Have some poetry, artwork or an important coming event?** Let us know. Your contributions are always welcomed.

inkprint

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design services

business stationery

- business cards
- letterheads
- compliment slips
- menus
- labels
- laminating

NCR & invoices

- books
- pads
- sets

events & advertising

- flyers & leaflets
- posters
- orders of service
- invitations
- draw tickets
- banners
- signs

books & circulars

- magazines
- stapled booklets
- perfect bound
- spiral bound
- newsletters
- mailouts
- binding

artists

- prints
- greetings cards
- calendars

large format

- posters
- plans
- scanning

shop

- stationery
- paper
- ink cartridges
- letterboxing supplies