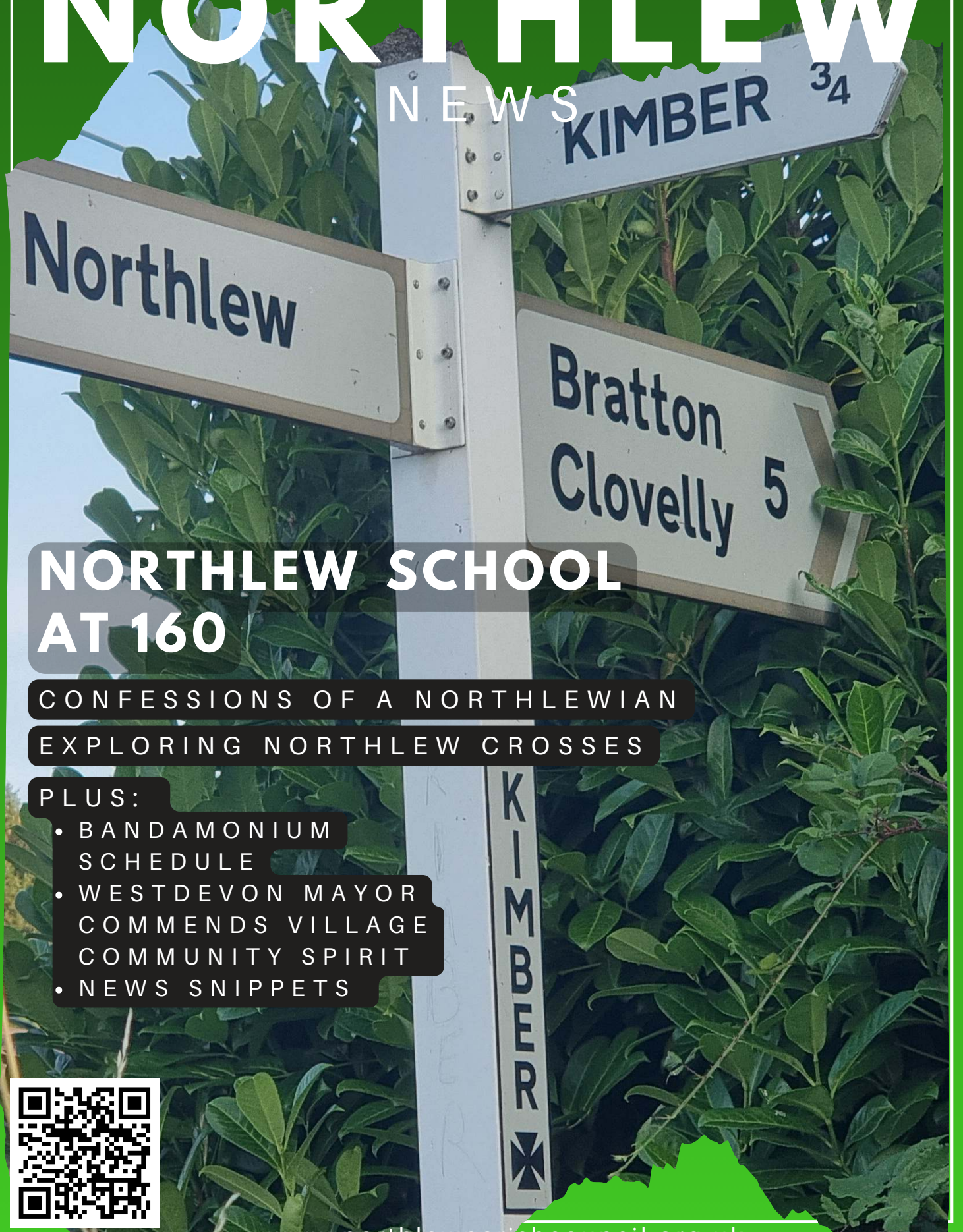
Summer 2026

NORTHLEW NEWS



NORTHLEW SCHOOL AT 160

CONFESSIONS OF A NORTHLEWIAN

EXPLORING NORTHLEW CROSSES

PLUS:

- BANDAMONIUM SCHEDULE
- WESTDEVON MAYOR COMMENDS VILLAGE COMMUNITY SPIRIT
- NEWS SNIPPETS

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Summer Sunday

With all the English shame, the puritan reproach
Of doing nothing on this soft, still day,
I sit and think of little.
I should be doing something, at least,
Mending the battered gate,
Trying to understand Spinoza,
Stop being hypnotised by seed packets.
Get the seed going, and the toolbox open.

If, said my sedated mind, you were rich,
You could send cheques to the Sunday papers like chaff;
The house would shine, high fashioned and impermeable,
With the new toy, the faked-up artistry.
Lowlier men would fix the garden gate,
Unblock the gutters; their exorbitance
Would turn no hair, excite me nothing.

But the head, on Sunday, revolves some old prophets.
If you were rich, perhaps the weight would destroy you.
Watching over the garnering, looking for the rust,
The lower dividend, the fear of being down
To your last million, and a vengeful world
Waiting to break your life, since having
Is the bane and pleasure of us all.

I sit quietly with my love and rest.
The man I envied yesterday
For what he had and I had not,
Died in the night. The lion passes
But the tethered lamb survives.

Let then the famous to their agonies;
The fears they must not show eat them away.
For me, the peace is in my anonymity.

Our poem for this edition was written by the late father of one of our villagers and is very fitting for sunny Sunday's during our season of heatwaves. The photo was taken during one such heatwave just below the White Lady waterfall in the temperate rainforest of Lydford Gorge.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Victor Hulbert

I must be getting old as the GP recommended an audiology visit. I did, and now I am unexpectedly the proud owner of hearing aids - and suddenly the bird song I love has got even clearer!

I'm still not quite used to this amazing technology in my ear, [thank you NHS,] but the most pleasant thing about my whole visit was the friendliness of the audiologist.

She grew up in a nearby village. I won't name it for legal reasons as she was bemoaning it's decline! However, when she learned that I was from Northlew she immediately started enthusing over the village, telling me it was one of the nicest and friendliest villages she has ever visited.

She was particularly enthusiastic about **The Green Dragon** and assured me that these new aids would be a massive asset when I enjoy my Wednesday lunch there. It would also help in church, with the Methodist Market, and the upcoming Produce and Craft show, and when Nads put on their next performance in the the Victory Hall. I may need to turn them down lower for Bandemonium!

The hearing aids certainly helped with the recent Open Gardens afternoon in Ashbury, a delightful social time that raised £1651.75 towards the Victory Hall roof refurbishment. Well done to Marion and Bryan Dufty, Alastair and Catherine Campbell, and all the volunteers who gave us such a brilliant afternoon. Even the weather obliged.

There are so many exciting things happening across the village, a number of which feature in this edition of Northlew News. Most of them also rely on volunteers and it is a delight to see so many involved in keeping our village alive. Of course, there is always room for more so if you would like to join in volunteering - don't be shy - a very warm welcome awaits you.





160 years of service and commitment: Northlew and Ashbury Primary School

Sarah Counter
Headteacher



A particular highlight to conclude my first year as Headteacher of Northlew and Ashbury Primary School, was undoubtedly our 160th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, 5 July. It was a truly wonderful afternoon that brought together current and former pupils, past staff, families, and members of our wider community to celebrate the school's rich history.

The event offered a fascinating journey through the school's past and present. Visitors enjoyed displays of old and recent photographs, reflecting on how both the school and its pupils have changed over the decades. Many also explored the historic log books, gaining a unique insight into the experiences of children and staff who walked through our doors generations ago. It was heart-warming to hear stories shared across generations and to see so many people reunite through their connection to the school. The celebration was a wonderful reminder of the important role Northlew and Ashbury Primary School has played at the heart of the community for 160 years.



The event also included the official opening of our new play area, a delightful result of committed fundraising. The ribbon was cut by two of our committed supporters, Mags Jarvis and Morgan Witzel.



Writing on the Village Facebook page, Louise Fewings enthused, "Well done to all involved today. It was great seeing all the improvements in school since we were last there. And lovely seeing old and new faces. A massive well done to the PTFA on the playground too. That is such an achievement and a lot of hard work put in by you and all of the community."

One year in, I am incredibly proud of what our pupils, staff, families, and wider community have achieved together. I have been touched by the warmth, dedication, and sense of belonging that make our school such a special place. It has been a privilege to be a part of it.

This academic year has been filled with challenges, successes, growth, and opportunities. Our

pupils have worked hard, embraced those challenges, and demonstrated our school values each day. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through creative projects, or during enrichment activities, they have consistently impressed us with their enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness. Their achievements are a testament not only to their own efforts but also to the commitment and professionalism of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide the best learning experiences for every child.

One of the most notable aspects of this year has been the continued support from our families and the wider community. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and I am so grateful for the encouragement, trust, and support that parents and carers provide. From attending school events to volunteering their time and supporting fundraising activities, our families play a crucial role in helping our school thrive.



I have enjoyed seeing strengthened links with the church. Working closely with Reverends Leigh and Jonathan has undoubtedly enriched the life of our school. Through collective worship, special services and shared community events, they have helped our pupils deepen their understanding of compassion, respect and service to others. Such partnerships continue to strengthen the caring and inclusive ethos at the heart of our school.

This year provided some truly memorable opportunities beyond the classroom. This includes three highly successful residential visits. At Okehampton Adventure Centre, children challenged themselves through a range of outdoor activities, boosting their confidence, independence, and teamwork.

Meanwhile, visits to Bristol and Bath gave pupils exciting opportunities to explore history, culture, and heritage in meaningful and engaging ways.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible PTFA, whose hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm make such a difference to our school, especially making the anniversary celebrations such a success. Throughout the year, they have given countless hours organising events and fundraising activities, creating additional opportunities for our pupils and strengthening our school community. We deeply appreciate their efforts.

In the next academic year, we are committed to expanding the enrichment opportunities available to our pupils so they continue to benefit from a broad, inspiring, and memorable educational experience. I am also delighted to welcome Mrs Lora Medland to our team. She will be working alongside our existing staff teaching Early Years and Years 1 and 2. She will make a valuable contribution to the life of our school.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support, encouragement, and dedication. This year, we have achieved so much, and I am excited about future possibilities.



A brilliant afternoon! What an amazing range of old photographs you had and great to see all the old minute books and admissions registers. Helen Hawken



West Devon Mayor visits Northlew Patronal Service and Church fête

The Mayor for West Devon Council, Chris Edmonds, spent what he described as “a highly enjoyable afternoon” at Northlew on Saturday, 4 July.

Mayors are sometimes known to undertake official engagements for a token amount of time before making a discreet exit. After all, they have a busy diary. Not so for Councillor Edmonds, who took the entire afternoon to attend the St Thomas’ church Patronal Service, and then the ensuing fête and cream tea next door in Church Gate Farm.

You can’t blame him for staying. In addition to the normal stalls and activities, this year saw the addition of a fencing display with many adults, youth, and children having a go. Dressed in chain mail, Rev Leigh Winsbury seemed to fit naturally into the role while encouraging others to take part.



He also joined the ‘over 50’s’ team for a very enthusiastic tug-of-war against younger members of the village. Despite their best efforts, and a small amount of good-hearted cheating, the elders’ wisdom and age gave way to the muscle and enthusiasm of the younger set who bested them in two of the three rounds.



Rev Leigh’s engagement perhaps reinforced his earlier message inside the church: Getting involved, standing up for what is right despite the cost, and realising what is important in life.

Sampling the cream teas, the BBQ, various stalls, enjoying the music of Northlew Silver Band, and joining in a few of the challenging games takes time, and with good company, villagers lingered long.



Mayor Edmonds commented on how well the substantial attendance reflected the community spirit of the village.









With all the good food, good fun, and good company, it is, perhaps, unsurprising that Councillor Edmonds spent the entire afternoon sampling all that is best in Northlew.

Having lived his whole life fairly locally, he knows Northlew well with several good friends in the village. But it is not just Northlew that he has committed to visiting.

“When I became mayor, I was told that since the Covid-lockdown there had been a decrease in invites to official functions,” he stated. “I decided to reverse the trend and attempt to visit every parish during my year in office. As there are fifty-two that may be a challenge, but so far, I’m finding it very rewarding.”

Being mayor is a ceremonial role that includes hosting or attending events, welcoming visitors, and promoting the Borough of West Devon. He is also an ambassador for the Borough and its residents. For Northlew residents, it was a particular joy to see the active connection and interest between the Borough Council and the village.

As the main motivating force behind the day, church warden Tania Haycocks, was more than satisfied with the success. “A big ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped make the church festival and fête a great day. A winning combination of traditional teas, bar and BBQ, maypole, sword fighting, the ‘tug o war’, the band, all the stall holders, and the children who murdered St Thomas Beckett.”



The very best of Engagement

Rev Chris Jackson. Superintendent Minister West Devon Circuit of the Methodist Church

Photo Credit: Nelson Ndongala on UnSplash

As I write this article, the World Cup is in full swing, and Wimbledon has just begun. Sports fans are in a state of delirium as though Christmas and birthdays have all come together in some kind of heavenly bonanza.

For others, however, the invasion of silly people hitting and kicking balls around a pitch or a court has simply ruined their TV viewing schedules. However much I keep telling my wife that the WWorld Cup only comes around every four years, I fear my pleas of justification are falling on deaf ears as I sit in front of the TV on yet another evening to watch a country that has us all rushing to our atlases to locate it, playing the mighty France, Spain, or Brazil.

But what of the world itself? Has life stopped just to watch sport? Perhaps sport for a lot of us has become an escape from the realities of the real world? Has our world become so distressing for people that escapism is the preferred state of being?

I know this sounds a little profound for a summer newsletter, but it is something that genuinely concerns me for several reasons. Escapism is good. It is a way to temporarily immerse oneself in something that does not truly matter in the greater scheme of things. The danger comes when that escapism becomes our reality, whether via social media, sport, TV, or any number of other media. It is a bit like shutting our door, closing our curtains, and denying our own involvement in society and community.

As human beings, we are created to be social, to live with other people rather than to be separate from them. As I understand the Bible story, God created our world so that He could dwell with humanity. It is not about individualism but about a community of people coming together to form a society and structure based on ways of living that support those within its community. People are expected to be involved.

So, what goes wrong? I am not going to suggest some grand solution to the world's ills... that is way beyond anything I could possibly imagine. However, there is something important in us looking out for our neighbours and living in the real world that surrounds us outside of our front doors. We learn about each other, we respect others that are different from us (we are all unique), and we serve humanity rather than simply take from it.

Jesus taught this stuff, and obviously, as a Church Minister, that matters deeply to me.



Photo credit: Nensi Patel on UnSplash

Jesus even made a statement about what is the greatest of all the commandments in the Bible… *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*

It is an excellent blueprint for living. It is what I try to live by. So, when things happen in the world that seem horrendous, instead of blocking them out, we can be filled with compassion, driven to intercede with God in prayer, send money to a disaster fund, or simply respond to the needs of those around us in our communities.

So please enjoy the World Cup, Wimbledon, and your scrolling on social media, but do not let it replace the world around us, replace our communities, because the world needs all of us to engage in reality for the betterment of us all.

Amen

Stowford Meadow Singers



On Sunday 14 June a good number of people joined us at the Methodist Church for a time of worship led by Rev Melvyn Cooke along with organist was Mrs Lynda Trigg and special guests, the Stowford Meadow Singers. They sang a mixed selection of gospel hymns. Meanwhile, Rev Cooke told some interesting stories, some of which were about the time he and his wife went to a Cowboy Church in California.

The event was a new and and positive worship experience for Gordon and Rosemary Lethbridge. "As newcomers to the village the service followed by the tea were both really enjoyable experiences," they said.

With the cowboy theme they were especially impressed with Rev Cooke who, "instead of clapping or saying amen at he end of the special musical items, took inspiration from his team in the USA Cowboy church and gave a resounding yeah, har!"

As usual the ladies put on an amazing tea. "We really enjoyed meeting new people, got some great gardening advice from folk as well as continuing to get to know people here in the village," Rosemary said.

£490 was received in the offering and donations for tea. £250 of this will be sent to Tor Support. They hold counselling sessions for 5 – 25 year olds in the Okehampton Area. Chapel members thought this support is vitally needed at a time when so many young people appear to be suffering with mental issues.

[Winifred Davey. Photos: Rosemary Lethbridge]

FROM THE PEW WITH REVD LEIGH WINSBURY



Hi there Northlew,

I hope you've been able to enjoy a bit of decent summer weather? Hasn't it has been great watching the vast quantities of actual hay being made and hauled away to safety? Up on the Lee Abbey Estate, we'd always make hay if we could [and the weather was kind] and silage if we couldn't. I guess it's the same with most of us on the land.

And speaking of land, 'tis only a small space, but a few words about the churchyard.



You may have noticed a few changes. The churchyard has been kept mown and tidy for many years now by a small but dedicated team of local volunteers, for whom I am very grateful. A couple of Fridays back we managed to get most of them together for a 'thank you' breakfast in The Green Dragon. It was truly excellent, thanks guys!

I wonder how many of you came to our Bee weekend at the church? It was an opportunity to learn more about these amazing tiny creatures who make such a big impact on the world, including us, through their valuable pollination of so many food crops (not to mention the honey and other products). This was an opportunity for us to kick start an important little project that has been waiting in the wings; to have some dedicated areas managed specifically for wildflowers.

Now, I know not everyone likes this, and some think that every churchyard should be mown to bowling green perfection, and anyway, haven't we got miles of hedgerows full of wildflower?

To answer the first thing; we will remain dedicated to the aesthetic of respect in the churchyard; the approach area, path edges and all areas with more recent graves will be kept mown and tidy for access. The 'wild' bits will be those less 'in view' and the less visited graves. [I like to think our ancient residents of ages past, who never knew what a lawn mower was, would be delighted to see their old friends of flower kind being made safe again].

Secondly, the 'wilded churchyard' brings something unique and precious to our natural heritage.



These little patches of land all across our country have, by and large, never been ploughed or poisoned and are mostly bounded by wall or hedge. As a result, they carry in their soil a vast range of ancient genetically varied seed of many of our common as well as rarer species. Allowing these to grow and cross pollinate with their neighbours provides for these species what farmers call 'hybrid vigour'; a broader genetic base which enables the



Take a walk around our churchyard - or the entire village, and be amazed by the wide variety of butterflies enjoying the Northlew summer.

subsequent generations, in every environment, to be stronger and healthier. And of course, these plants form the base platform for many other forms of life that have been struggling.

Aware of this research, the Church of England, Exeter Diocese, has been encouraging 'green churchyard' projects throughout the county for some years, and now all five of my churches have areas set aside in this way. Personally I've seen a return of rare butterfly species, a rise in slow worm and hedgehog numbers and an increased presence of swifts which feed on insects drifting upwards from rich locations such as these, and many other birds such as bullfinch who feed happily from seed heads of standing grasses. So please bear with us as we seek to implement these things and try to do them well.





The 'wild' areas will all be cleared at the tail of the year and will likely be indistinguishable from the mown areas for six months of the year.

If you are interested in helping with the management of this initiative, do please get in touch. Likewise, if you have a concern that the grave of a loved one is at risk of being 'lost' to this project, do get in touch and we'll try to adjust the mowing regime accordingly to show all due respect,

Blessings all, and see you soon,
Leigh

A view from the pew

Gordon & Rosemary Lethbridge

When we moved into the village last year we immediately set about creating a beautiful garden. This needed to include a restful place for us, productive and delicious fruit and veg as well as a haven for wildlife. When choosing plants the key was not just aesthetic beauty but food source. For our native wildlife. A £1 box of wildflower seeds allowed us to get started while designing the rest of the garden.

When we heard that St Thomas's Church was working towards a more ecological status we just had to be involved. During the bee weekend we took part in the wild plant survey recording the numerous species of plant in the older part of the graveyard. We aim to do this once a month. Great idea PCC! Please encourage more of us to be involved to protect our native countryside



Friends of St Thomas' Church [FOST]

Bee Fun Weekend

Val Welsh

Painting by Angela Braidwood,
Bratton Clovelly Art Group

Well, who knew there was so much to learn about British native bees! We had great fun in setting this weekend up and the fact that we raised over £900.00 for St Thomas' church roof repairs was a tremendous boost. It was certainly not a good weekend weather-wise for bees (and humans!) but a big thank you to all those who visited us. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with church flowers, raffle prizes, refreshments in the hall and especially the local beekeepers willing to give up their time to share their knowledge with us and show the various items of equipment needed.



In particular, it was exciting to have Maggie Boshanti bring in an observation hive so that everyone could all have a closer look at the lives of honey bees and especially when the queen bee started to lay her eggs. We certainly learnt a lot about these amazing little creatures that day.

The school children had fun creating poetry as did the adults and the toddlers' painted some wonderful bees!! The art and photography section showed what great talent there is in the community of Northlew and surrounding area.

All in all, a successful weekend in what was a first for FOST. What will be next on FOST's agenda? We will have to wait and see!

FOST Committee 2026

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Are you ready, Northlew! 24-26 July, 2026

The 5th Bandamonium Devon is rapidly approaching and it's going to be bigger and better.
We are always on the look out for more volunteers to help with especially the Saturday - please message me if interested, Tim Williams 07770 600047

THE MAIN DAY IN NORTHLEW - SAT 25th JULY. HOT OFF THE PRESS we have the approximate running order of the bands turning up in Northlew & if your thinking about turning up somepoint mid afternoon then we highly recommend changing your mind, setting the alarm clock early and getting to the Green Dragon for the start at 11:00. Thurlstone Band have made the trip all the way from Sheffield after sending a forward party last year & they are coming in numbers with a whole coach full & their conductor is already on the verge of over excitement! Basingstoke Band are also bringing their Drum Corps and that's going to get the juices flowing.

Honestly we love all the bands, but there are some real crackers heading through Northlew. This is an approximate running order, there will be a live tracker on the day so you can see who is actually on the way – but who really cares, just sit back and enjoy the craziness:

- Torrington
- Basingstoke Silver & their Drum Corps
- St Swithuns from Bridport
- Wadhurst Silver Band from East Sussex
- Liss Band (my first band) from Hampshire & the best band at last years Bandamonium
- Lympstone Band (5th year) guaranteed highlight and last years people's choice
- London Metropolitan
- Okehampton Excelsior (5th year)
- BANDAMONIUM BARBARIANS!!!!! Our open to all band who meet for the first time at 11am in Hatherleigh
- London City
- Brass Aid - a band set-up specifically for Bandamonium made up of players from all over the country
- Thurlstone Brass Band - all the way from Sheffield and there are 100s of them
- Hampshire Harlequins
- Gosport Solent Brass

All the performances in Hatherleigh are being live streamed so if you are unable to make the evening massed bands you could watch it on your phone. Even better, send the link to friends and family far and wide so they can join in the fun: https://nxtod.com/bandamonium-2026/

OPENING CONCERT - FRI 24th JULY 7:30 pm
In Hatherleigh square hatherleigh Silver Band are going Folk for the evening. Teaming up with the legendary Crazy Goat there will be singing & fiddles and maybe a bit of dancing and ALOT of folk.

BANDAMONIUM BANDITS - SUN 26th JULY 10:30
Starting in Hatherleigh Square there's a church service with Brass Support & then our new initiative for learners takes over, the Bandamonium Bandits. The learners have their own massed bands performance first in Hatherleigh and then taking it to Okehampton and the bandstand in Simmons Parkat around 12:30/1ish.



I**t's like this.** The Northlew News editor has repeatedly asked me to contribute something to the magazine, and I have run out of excuses to put it off. I suspect that you are wondering why I have been so reluctant. My problem is simple: what on earth have I got to say that anyone is going to be remotely interested in?

After much consideration (and an intrinsic desire not to appear conceited) I have decided to write anonymously. I have worn many hats in my years. Please don't try to work out who I am, and if you do think you have an idea, keep it tucked firmly under your hat!

So, what is or even what are Confessions of a Northlewian? A mightily good question, the answer to which is a work in progress. Those of you of a certain age might confess to having seen one or more of the "Confessions of..." film series (Window Cleaner/Driving Instructor/Pop Performer/Holiday Camp) from the 1970's, ... starring Robin Askwith, Linda Hayden, Antony Booth, and Bill Maynard, to name but a few. Now get yourselves out of the gutter! Goodness gracious, I can't write that sort of content for my local community magazine! - *Well, certainly not free of charge, but maybe I have just unearthed a side hustle ... more to follow!*

More of you are likely to remember Simon Mayo and his Confessions feature, which started out on his Radio 2 Drive time show, where members of his listener group wrote in seeking forgiveness from Father Mayo and his Confessional Collective. – Well, I can't aspire to write as brilliantly as they did...

So here we are: Confessions of a Northlewian is a rough shod, shot from the hip, roll with the punches, grass roots (how many do I need to get close to my suggested word count) no frills, take it or leave it, response to a repeated request for content!

Here we go, buckle up, buttercup, the first-ever **Northlewian Confession!** At some point between the turn of the century and last week, a colleague of mine was attracting quite a bit of negativity from members of the public as he went about his business. The negativity would come in the form of horn honking, fist-waving, and some hollering of uncomplimentary phrases... Of course, some of those charming people felt the need to call our HQ and complain about this fellow.

Was he a victim of unfair criticism? Was he an utter arse on the road? Neither really, just somewhere between the two. Unrest took a surge one day, and the disagreement over tarmac territory saw the member of the public get himself within arm's reach of my colleague, and to put it bluntly, he thumped my guy. Proper thumped him, drew blood, facial bruising, the lot.

Now hark your cries of ‘road rage’, ‘report it to the police’, etc. That didn’t happen, it was an old-fashioned way of sorting stuff out. For clarity, I am absolutely not condoning physical violence, but back then, when you could buy sweets AND have change from 10p, folk didn’t rant anonymously on Facebook. After a brief tussle, a shrug of the shoulders and a shake of the head, they got on with life.

So where were we? Mateyboy, my colleague, has been whacked. He took it (literally) on the chin (nose actually) and came back to the office at the end of the day, blood-stained and bruised, and recounted what had happened.

Now this coincided with me having attended a training event some weeks previously where we talked about diffusing situations. PERFECT, or so I thought! One of the fellow attendees had spoken enthusiastically about similar encounters where, if other road users started getting agitated, they simply ended the exchange without shaking fists or shouting obscenities. Instead, they blew a kiss at the angry person, maybe even accompanied by a cheeky wink. Smiles would break out, everything would return to civility, and on they would go, enjoying their day.

I gleefully shared my gained knowledge, suggesting that should this sort of thing happen again, perhaps they could try the air-kiss-diffuser method. It went down well. Over days, the bruising went down too, and as far as I was concerned, the episode was over.

Fast forward a number of months. I am the lucky one to answer the phone when a fellow with a world-class rage called in to complain bitterly and at volume about a member of our team. The details were sufficient for me to know immediately that it must have been the same chap as before. Location, time, description etc.

My suspicions firmly cemented when Mr Angry finished with ***‘and then, as if that wasn’t bad enough the*** [insert expletives of your choice here] ***blew me a damn KISS’!!***

Tune in here for more great ideas and life hacks!!



The Three Crosses of Northlew

Victor Hulbert

Did you know that Northlew Parish is home to not just two, but three highly significant stone crosses, all protected by Historic England. Two of them are well-known and much-loved, but what do you know about the oldest of the three? Do you even know where it is hiding?

Durdon Cross

The first cross a visitor is likely to note is on the outskirts of our parish at the cross roads of Northlew Road and Waterhouse Hill. Durdon Cross is a traditional medieval wayside cross that would have been used as a route marker. But did you know that the head was once stolen by 'sacrilegious hands? *Continued on next page...*

The Main Northlew Village Cross is very prominent in the small square outside the entrance to St Thomas of Canterbury church.

It is both a Grade II Listed Building and an official Scheduled Monument.

The cross dates back to the 15th century and, while some parts have been restored, the top features an original medieval lantern head. The head is square and features gabled sides with a raised cross carved inside hollowed-out niches. *Continued on next page...*







Durdon Cross continued. Look closely at the cross and you will note that the Maltese style head is secured by metal brackets to the ornate metal shaft. Why the join?

According to **The book of Northlew with Ashbury**, p 34, the head of the cross "was carried off one night by sacrilegious hands and thrown into the well at Durdon moor." It was many years later and during a drought that it was accidentality discovered by passing members of the local hunt, dragged out of the well, and restored to its rightful glory.

A traditional medieval wayside cross used as a route marker. It is uniquely well-documented, having been explicitly mentioned in written records from 1532 as a boundary marker for the 'Chase of Okehampton', which belonged to the Marquis of Exeter.

Today perhaps, not so much a route marker, but more a welcome home sign.



Village Cross continued. The village cross has not always looked as you see it today. Up until 1900 it had no shaft, as illustrated by this drawing in **The book of Northlew and Ashbury**, p 14.

That did give it the advantage of highlighting the incredible three-stepped octagonal base made from large granite slabs. Next time you pass by note the uppermost step decorated with carved ecclesiastical (church) motifs.



The long shaft was restored/renewed in 1900 by a famous regional sculpting firm, Hems & Sons, with the original medieval lantern head raised up back to it's former glory.

The much loved cross is also famous for the legend of Northlew. This may reflect more on the village weather than the truth of the story.



According to the legend the devil died of cold in Northlew and was buried underneath the cross. There are various versions of the story with the thought that 'the devil' might have been a stag or a fighting cock. The idea that it might be buried in the foundations of a 15th century cross is somewhat absurd, but it does fit in well with the myriad legends that abound across the West Country.



And so to our Mystery Cross. It has been hidden behind ivy, brambles and laurel bushes until a moment of recent Indiana Jones like archaeology in a grass bank. Have you worked out where it is yet?

This cross is the simplest and therefore likely the oldest of the three. Both Durdon and the village cross are 15th century but the estimate is that this could date back to the 11th or 12th century.



This cross is built directly into the hedge-bank of a property. It stands about 1.3 meters high and is a simpler, rectangular stone cross with chamfered edges. Looking up at it high on the bank it feels a lot more imposing.

At some point in its history, it was broken near the base but, according to Historic England, was repaired using historic iron clamps to keep it standing.

It also has what some might regard as 'historic graffiti' at it's base.



No, this is not some mystical symbol. It is an Ordnance Survey Benchmark back from the day when map surveying was still done by hand. Engraved into the granite, it is called specifically, a cut benchmark. The chiselled arrow looks like a crow's foot and points upward to a specific reference line. Historically, it also denotes that it is government property.

The Horizontal Line was used to determine elevation above sea level. To get an accurate height reading, the surveyor would place a bracket called a 'bench' into the horizontal slot, so holding their leveling staff perfectly still. Because it provided a literal 'bench' or stable ledge for the equipment, the term benchmark was born — a phrase now adopted to describe any standard used for comparison.



In medieval England, between the 9th and 15th centuries, wayside crosses were erected to reinforce the Christian faith for travellers, to act as parish boundary markers, and to serve as navigational signs through the difficult, unmarked Devon terrain.

So have you found cross #3 yet? The final clue is this OS map extract from the Historic England website. https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013611



If you still can't find it then take a look at the photo on page 29.

[Sources: Historic England. The Book of Northlew, and local knowledge.]

From the Archive.
The Western Times, 24 July 1900
“Renovation of Northlew Village Cross”

Our thanks to Val Welsh for discovering a full report regarding the restoration of the village cross in the archives of The Western Times. The article, dated 24 July 1900, highlighted the previously dilapidated state of the ‘ancient parish cross in Northlew’ and how it was successfully restored. It also noted that the initiative for funding came from the Rector’s wife, Mrs Worthington, who actively encouraged local children to raise the necessary funds.

“It occurred to Mrs Worthington, the beloved wife of the popular Rector of the Parish, that the necessary cost of the renovation could be obtained by the children of the neighbourhood. The little ones entered into their work with considerable zest, with the result that their efforts were crowned with success, and on Friday they had great satisfaction together with the older inhabitants, of seeing the village cross renovated such manner as to be a thing of beauty and joy for ever, instead of the unsightly structure which the parishioners have had to gaze upon for many years past.”

The restoration used Dartmoor granite, with a new monolithic shaft, and what was probably the original apex stone, aiming to replicate the original cross erected by Benedictine monks before the late 13th century. The work was executed by Mr. Harry Hems and Sons of Exeter.

The completed project was then followed by an unveiling and dedication service which “took place on a sunny Friday, marked by a large community gathering, including children, clergy, and villagers.”

This included two church services, a procession from the church to the cross led by the Langtree band along with a surpliced choir, and special prayers for the unveiling.

It was seen as an event of quite some importance as The Bishop of Bristol and ten local clergy participated, emphasising both the cross’s historical and spiritual significance. The Bishop’s address highlighted the cross as a symbol of Christian heritage and community responsibility, distinguishing it as a village cross belonging to the people of Northlew.

He concluded with three lessons: “Firstly, that they must go on restoring and improving things that had been handed down by ancestors. Secondly that it was a village cross and not a churchyard cross and still the symbol and sign of the Cross of Christ. Thirdly that although they were told the devil was buried under the cross they had still to ask themselves whether he was dead and buried and whether he was not still alive in their hearts.”



[*This photo was taken in 1909 and graces the front cover of* ***The Book of Northlew and Ashbury****.]*

Historical and Cultural Significance

“The ancient preaching cross has been for many hundred years one of the chief architectural features of this distinctly rural parish. The exact age of the cross is not known, but it undoubtedly dates from somewhere before the latter end of the thirteenth century, being evidently anterior to the old parish church which stands almost adjoining. The cross was erected by the Benedictine monks of Tavistock Abbey, who were accustomed to send their missioners into the parish of Northlew to preach the Gospel to that benighted Moorsmen.

“It was used as a preaching place, but during the Cromwellian times - like so many other crosses on the faith of our fair land - was sadly desecrated and mutilated. The shaft was torn down and broken in twain and so there only remained three octagonal and moulded steps, some of which at the present time show evidence of tracery.”



Community Involvement and Celebration

Celebrations were held in the vicarage grounds including a sale of work, afternoon tea, and a Maypole dance performed by the Sunday School children.

The article concluded: “The Rev J Worthington and his beloved consort are deserving of the highest praise on the manner in which the whole of the arrangements in connection with the festival were carried out. Word of praise is also due to the youthful Committee, consisting of eleven girls and one boy, who were responsible for the arrangements connected with the collection and to each was presented a silver cross attached to a red bow.”

[Selections from the full article which can be found in the British Newspaper Archive]

Quiz Time

1 How long is Exmouth Beach Promenade 1,2 or 3 miles?

2 Where would you find the tallest sand dunes in Devon?

3 Jacobs Ladder has closed for safety reasons. In which seaside town would you find it?

4 A La Ronde house near Exmouth has how many sides?

5 Exercise Tiger took place in 1944 at what coastal spot?

6 Bantham Beach has views of which Devon Island?

7 Where did William of Orange land in 1688?

8 COLA WEB MOO is an anagram of which seaside resort?

9 Which island off the Devon coast takes its name from the Norse word for Puffin?

10 Charles Kingsley’s novel The Water Babies was inspired by which Devon resort where he spent much of his childhood?

Answers on page 29

Do you know your Devon beaches?

Compiled, as always, by our inimitable quiz master, Ian Richards.

News Snippets

Passing on the Legacy



It was standing room only at Northlew Parish Church on Friday 12 June as much of the village came to say good-bye to one of Northlew's much loved 'characters'. John Millership passed to his rest following a valient battle with illness but his memory will carry on through the legacy of his business of over forty years, J&J Services.

That business is now in the capable hands of his work companion of many years, Chris Peck. Chris writes: "John always said throughout his illness the garage was his life for many many years and wanted to see it continue for many years to come. I plan on making this happen and feel honoured to do so as I know how much the garage meant to John."

John worked hard to make the transition as smooth as possible which, somewhat unfortunately, has had to include a change of name. Chris says, "I have tried to pay a little bit of a tribute to John by changing it from J&J Motor Services to C&S Motor services which is mine and my wife's initials as was J&J to him."

He adds, "As many of you are aware I have been running the garage on behalf of John during his illness and have worked for him for many years so everything will be the same, just under a different name. I look forward to keeping John's memory alive by doing exactly as he wanted and carrying on his life's work by looking after all our brilliant loyal customers, and giving the best possible customer service that John always prided himself on."



Our condolances join with those of the whole village for those who miss the legend of John Millership.

Northlew Victory Hall



A big thank you to everyone who supported our **Open Garden** event on Saturday 13 June. We estimate that over 130 people came and enjoyed the hospitality of Marion and Bryan Dufty, and Alastair and Catherine Campbell at Ashbury. The weather was fantastic and everyone was very generous with their money buying cakes, plants, raffle/hamper tickets and donations. £1651.75 was raised for our roof refurbishment.

We have been very lucky to secure a grant from WDBC, with that and our own funds, we have just under half the amount needed to complete the work. We will use this as match funding to try and raise more money from other grant providers.

We have two more fundraisers booked for this year, please do support us, every penny counts to ensure this vital work goes ahead to repair your village hall:
Bingo : Wednesday 21st October. Christmas Lunch: Sunday 13th December

ANGI's Ambients going from Strength to Strength.



Thank you so much to everyone who has supported my little pop-up grocery shop so far. Every visit, purchase, share and recommendation really does mean a lot. Things are going really well, and I'm continuing to grow bit by bit.

As always, stock will vary depending on availability especially with fresh and chilled items, but I'll keep sharing updates so you know what's available. I'm still starting small, but my goal hasn't changed – I hope to eventually become a mobile grocery shop, and making shopping a little easier for those who need it. Thank you for being part of this journey with me. Your support is helping turn a long-held dream into a reality, and I can't wait to see where it leads!

LATEST: I'm venturing outside! With kind permission from the Parish Council, I plan is to be in the village square on Friday mornings, weather permitting... I'm definitely a fair-weather trader!

Stock up with your essentials from Angi's Ambients every Monday, 9am - 12pm in the Church Room and every Saturday, 10am - 12pm in the Methodist Hall.



Northlew Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesday mornings 10 – 12

(Term time)

In the Village Hall

VACANCIES for September

£2 per child snack included

Tea and coffee for adults

For more info find us on facebook:

Northlew Toddler Group, Devon





NORTHLEW NATURE: WORMS

Family of Annelids

CHRIS BAINES

Earthworms are crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem and are probably up there with bees as one of the most important organisms on Earth.

Britain has about 16 species of earthworms likely to be found in our gardens, while there are over 7000 species worldwide. They eat decaying organic matter, excreting what they don't digest, producing a rich soil as a result. They are valuable invertebrates that help produce a healthy soil structure and should be encouraged if a productive garden is required. In a typical moist soil, there can be as many as two tonnes of worms per hectare. That's over a million worms!

Typically, they range from about 10mm to around 1m, but in the UK they are usually no more than 300mm long. The longest earthworm on record can be found along the banks of the Mekong River in South East Asia. It around 3m long.

Being hermaphrodite, they contain both male and female reproductive cells, and so when they meet up with another worm, they pass reproductive cells to each other, therefore enabling each worm to produce young. Worms lay about 2 to 20 eggs, which hatch out in about three weeks. A typical lifespan of a worm is about 18 months although they can live to over four years. However, as they are eaten by just about everything, they may well have a very short lifespan. Having said that, there are some worms that can reproduce without coming into contact with another worm. Amazing, eh?

They don't like very acidic or waterlogged soil, and during heavy rain will come to the surface.

Has anyone watched Gulls 'paddling' about on a lawn or grassy meadow? They are trying to fool the worms into thinking it is raining, therefore encouraging them to come to the surface, whereby the Gull then gets an easy meal.

It was once thought that worms come to the surface during heavy rain to prevent them from drowning, but it has been found that worms can breathe under water for around two weeks. It is now thought that they come to the surface because it is easier to travel over land when it is wet. Whatever the reason, gulls and some other birds have taken advantage of this behaviour.



Photo Credit: Joshua Manjgo on UnSplash

Worms are basically a tube within a tube. The inner tube pushes organic matter from the mouth to the anus, while the outer tube is designed for enabling the worm to move and breathe. The outer tube is covered in slime, helping the worm remain hydrated and breathe, and it also has bristles along its length to aid locomotion.

Living underground, most worms don't have eyes, although a few do.

They do have light receptors at the front end, however, and will instinctively move away from light. Although they don't communicate with other worms as we would describe it, they do share information by touch, and will make decisions as a group, like where to go to for more food. This sort of behaviour is similar to the way bees communicate. It's called a 'Hive mind'. They can regenerate lost segments, but contrary to belief, if you cut a worm in half, you won't produce two worms. Usually, only the head end will survive. They have 10 hearts, or more accurately pumping valves, that push blood up and down the length of the worm.

Similar to some birds, crocodiles, and Triceratops, worms swallow small stones to help them to digest food matter, as they don't have teeth.

Earthworms aerate the soil, play a vital role in the decomposition of vegetable matter, and help produce a fertile, nutrient-rich soil.


Photo Credit:Sippakorn Yamkasikorn/Unsplash

They do not eat our prized vegetables or flowers, and feed lots of wildlife. Without earthworms, our soils would become compacted, making it more difficult for plant life to grow.

In conclusion, therefore, why would we want to do anything to harm earthworms? In that the use of some herbicides and pesticides can harm worms, that is among the things I like to bear in mind when working in my garden. A quest I recommend to you.

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





Opening times at the Green Dragon

Monday: Closed
Tuesday 5 - 11
Wednesday 12 - 11
Thursday 5-11 pm
Friday 10am until late
Saturday 2 - late
Sunday 12 - late

Food served:

Lunchtime Wed/Fri/Sun 12:00-2:00pm

Evenings Tues 6:00-8:00pm
Wed-Sat 5.30-9.00pm
Friday only: Food all day.

Special nights/events will be posted on our Facebook Page @GreenDragonNorthlew.
Please book by dropping us a message or calling 01409 221228

Tania's Tarts: Leintz Torte

This is a lovely summer tart to make when there are lots of raspberries. It is said to be the oldest cake in the world and dates back to at least 1653, but no one knows who invented it.



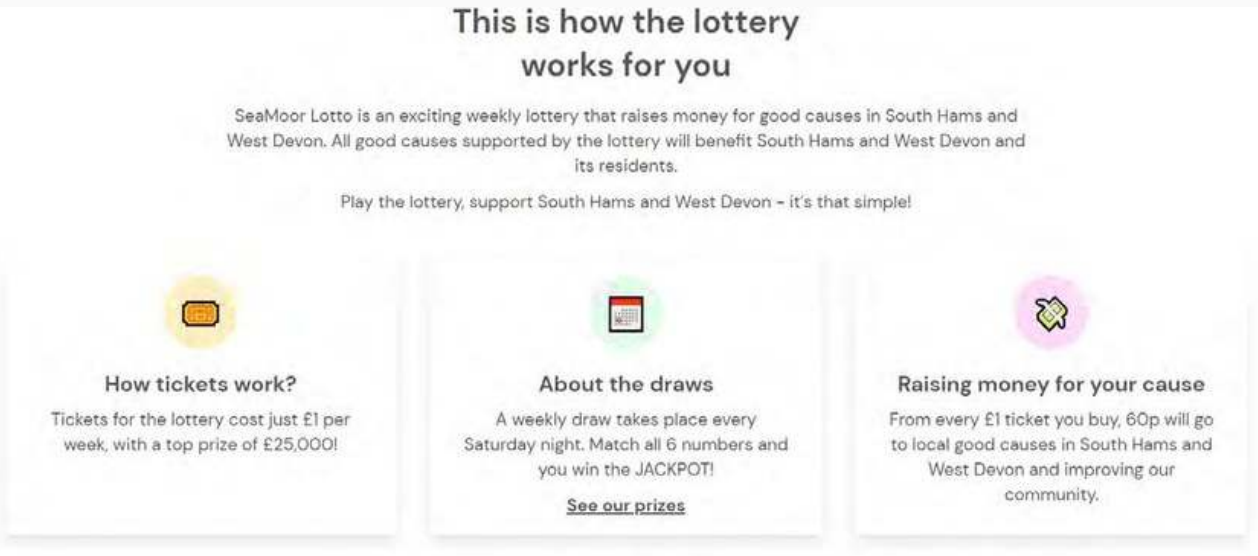
Recipe:
8oz plain flour
4oz butter
4oz caster sugar
1 whole egg plus 1 yolk
2oz ground almonds
Cinnamon and lemon zest
to flavour
1lb fresh or frozen raspberries
cooked with sugar to sweeten

Method:
Mix flour, cinnamon, lemon zest, sugar, ground almonds and chopped butter, blitz in a blender then add the lemon rind and eggs, beaten to form a dough. Rest for 1/2 hour. Roll the pastry to between 1/4 and half an inch thick and line into a flan ring. Fill with the cold raspberry mixture and put a lattice of pastry on the top. Bake in a moderate oven for 30-40 minutes. Allow to cool and dust with icing sugar.

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





Cottage Garden Wildlife

Therapy for the soul by Country Mouse

It's summertime - insects and birds hurtling everywhere – carefree behaviour resulting in two young goldcrests being evicted from the greenhouse, and a dazed garden warbler having to recover after hitting the kitchen window. Ant colonies have begun expanding in the warmth - leading to our very first sighting of a jay 'anting' on the patio – deterring parasites by crushing the ants and wiping their formic acid into its feathers.

Warmer weather means outdoor meals and in turn more wasps. To defend these much-maligned creatures, let's just say this - wasps not only help protect our gardens and crops by predating large numbers of aphids and caterpillars, but are essential pollinators, especially for orchids, figs and some fruit trees. Remember - without wasps in the world there would be no chocolate! Waving hands about to shoo them away does the opposite – instead pheromones are released to attract other wasps to help. On discovering a good nectar source, wasps return to their nests to bang their abdomens against its walls to inform other wasps – known as 'gastral drumming'.

To have fewer wasps in your garden consider growing more eucalyptus, cloves, peppermint, spearmint, basil, geranium, thyme, lemongrass, or bay leaves. Also try scattering cinnamon, coffee grounds, vinegar, or sliced cucumber around as natural repellents.

This summer has seen more 'cuckoo spit' on our plants than usual. This white frothy foam is made from plant sap by a small harmless insect called a froghopper or 'spittlebug'. Nestled inside each bubbly blob is a small green nymph being brilliantly protected from dehydration and predators. Cuckoo spit – so named because it appears in spring when cuckoos are first heard – is commonly found on roses, dahlias, lavender and fuchsias. By autumn the adults will have laid next year's eggs in plant stems and bark crevices before dying.

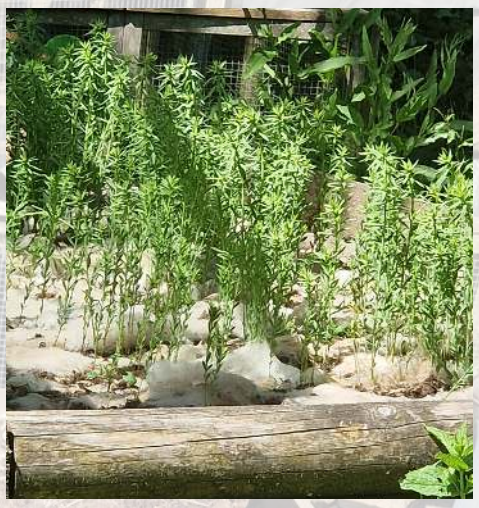
Rat numbers are on the increase – providing us much amusement trying to outwit them by placing the bird feeders out of their reach. The successful solution was to hang them high on the washing line – resulting in grumpy rats but spectacular squirrel gymnastics.

Who knew that hedgehogs like cheese or fat balls? – both items used to live-trap the rat family – but attracting two hedgehogs instead. While the original name for hedgehog was 'urchin' (hence 'sea urchins' because they are also spiky) – locally known in Devon and Cornwall as 'fuzzy-pegs' or 'sort'.

Having put niger seeds out to attract goldfinches we were surprised to spot a pair of siskins. Small, attractive birds normally seen higher up in conifers – the male has a bright yellow breast and black cap, while the female is paler with dark streaks. Now visiting daily – they bring our total garden bird species count to fifty-three.

My Flax journey

Angela Baines



After much deliberation, I decided to grow flax with the idea of preparing it for spinning and possibly weaving it. So hear goes as I'm taking you along with me!

To start I needed somewhere to grow it. We do have a fairly large garden, but I'm no gardener. I love flowers but hate the first bit, growing them!! Getting my hands dirty and bumping into creepy crawlies isn't my idea of fun so this gardening malarky is my husband, Chris' job.

Lets do a bit of history first though. Plant fibre was used before wool to make garments, in fact our ancient ancestors were spinning and weaving plant fibres as early as 30,000 to 36,000 years ago. When I say spinning, it wasn't using a spinning wheel, these came in to play about 1,000 years ago. Flax doesn't require as much water to grow, for about 1kg of fibre it will use approximately 2,000 to 3,000 litres of water, whereas cotton needs 10,000 to 20,000 litres.

No doubt there are other spinners in the village, and if you've ever spun flax I think you would agree with me its not the easiest, very inelastic, wiry and rigid. But when done it can turn into a beautiful fabric.

I know I'm banging on about fabric, but flax isn't just used for that. Being a very strong member of the bast family along with hemp, it can be used for door mats, upholstery, draperies, bed linen, rope, canvas, and other garments.

Flax when weaved turns into linen, which is cool in summer and because it allows the skin to breath, is absorbant, and smooth.

Anyway, Chris offered the raised bed which was vacant, measuring approximately 8ft x 4ft and kindly set about preparing it for me. Horse manure was added plus fresh soil so plenty of nutrients for my seeds.

The rest was my job sowing the little devils. Fearing they would attract slugs, I layered fleece in rows across the raised bed and sowed the flax seeds in between the fleece.

After sewing, I gave them a good watering, then left the rest to nature, watching and waiting. After about 14 days, just before we left for our two week holiday, I noticed tiny seedlings appearing. Off we went on our holiday, hoping they wouldn't be eaten by the local deer and slugs.

When we came home they had grown, and it appeared as though not one had been eaten. Phew! We had a few hot days before June arrived, and then true to form the rain came, but this made them grow all the more. Not that I went out with a tape measure but by the first week of June they were now at least approximately 6" tall.

Above picture taken 2nd June.

Will I succeed? Find out in the next Newsletter

Devon Beach quiz answers:

1 How long is Exmouth Beach Promenade. 2 miles.
2 Where would you find the tallest sand dunes in Devon? Braunton Burrows
3 Jacobs Ladder has closed for safety reasons. In which seaside town would you find it? Sidmouth
4 A La Ronde house near Exmouth has how many sides? 16
5 Exercise Tiger took place in 1944 at what coastal spot? Slapton Sands
6 Bantham Beach has views of which Devon Island? Burgh Island
7 Where did William of Orange land in 1688? Brixham
8 COLA WEB MOO is an anagram of which seaside resort? Woolacombe
9 Which island off the Devon coast takes its name from the Norse word for Puffin? Lundy
10 Charles Kingsley's novel The Water Babies was inspired by which Devon resort where he spent much of his childhood? Clovelly.

FROM PAGE 18

Your final clue to finding the oldest of the three Northlew Medieval Crosses. Now uncovered, at least for a time, you can find it in the bank opposite Eastcombe farm. The photo on the right shows how hidden it was before 'Indiana Jones' did his work.





All three crosses are protected and listed monuments. An interesting and quirky note on Durdon Cross, and one that frustrates photographers, is that the whole of the triangle is listed apart from the give way sign and the fire hydrant.

In our next edition: 'Indiana Jones' will reveal a splendid fourth historic cross that was almost lost to the reversing manoeuvres of an articulated lorry.



**. SPECIAL OFFER. ** SPECIAL OFFER **

Have you ever tried Reiki before? This beautiful relaxing treatment can help with Insomnia, Migraines, Fibromyalgia, bad backs, cramps, aches and pains and so much more.
Or do you just want to spend a peaceful hour taking time for you, letting yourself totally relax.
I am offering a special offer of £30 for an hour session.
I have a beautiful Reiki Lodge near Northlew with plenty of parking.
Call or text me, Nicky, on 0789 459 4019 .
I look forward to hearing from you xx

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.gov.uk
Andrew Alger: Vice chair	aalger@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Amanda Valance	avalance@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Bryan Dufty	bdufty@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Celia Rundle:	cminers@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Dave Kent	dkent@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Pat Hutton	phutton@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk
Shaun Millership	smillership@northlewparishcouncil.gov.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.gov.uk.

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 Victory Hall Meeting Room 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 & Ashbury Snooker Club - A friendly, local hub for snooker lovers of all levels. Whether you're a seasoned player or just picking up a cue, join us for casual games, friendly matches and even play league matches with other clubs. There are two tables, annual membership £30, pay-as-you-go lighting for table lights, friendly internal competitions & league games with other clubs, open 7 days a week for members using a passcode, and bring a guest for only £5. If you would like to join, contact Fiona, Secretary 07540 116374, fe.kimber@gmail.com, https://www.facebook.com/northlewsnooker.

- 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 old. For more information please contact: Tim Williams 01409 221754 or Martin Perry 01409 221376.

- PLAYGROUP FOR GROWNUPS — Join Marg Rundle and friends at Higher Gorhuish, 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4pm for games, refreshments and laughter. All for £1.50. For more details call Marg on 01837 53314l

- 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.



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 Late Autumn. 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.gov.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.

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