Winter 2026

NORTHLEW NEWS



UNDER PRESSURE!
NORTHLEW FARMERS DEAL WITH DROUGHT

CHRISTMAS AT A GLANCE: COMPLETE LISTING

NEW RELEASE: 'LOCAL HEROES' FILM

LITTLE SCHOOL ACORNS TO GIANT TREES

PLUS:

- BANDAMONIUM IS BUSY
- DISCOVERING THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH
- CONFESSIONS PT2
- NEWS SNIPPETS

www.northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk

CHRISTMAS AT A GLANCE.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
WED, 18 NOV	6.45 PM	BINGO	VICTORY HALL
SAT, 21 NOV	7.30 PM	CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT	GREEN DRAGON
THUR, 26 NOV	7.30 PM	PTFA FESTIVE QUIZ	GREEN DRAGON
FRI, 27 NOV SAT. 28 NOV	7.30 PM	NADS PRESENTS: A TOAD IN A HOLE	VICTORY HALL
SAT, 28 NOV SUN, 29 NOV	11.00 - 4.00 PM	CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE	ST. THOMAS CHURCH
SAT, 5 DEC	10.00 - 12.00	NORTHLEW CHRISTMAS MARKET	METHODIST HALL
SUN, 6 DEC	4.00 PM	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE	ST. THOMAS CHURCH
WED, 9 DEC & WED, 16 DEC	12.00 - 2.00 PM	PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH	GREEN DRAGON
FRI, 11 DEC	2.30 PM & 5.45 PM	SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE	VICTORY HALL
SUN, 13 DEC	1.00 PM 6.30 PM	VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH METHODIST CAROL SERVICE	VICTORY HALL METHODIST CHURCH
THUR, 17 DEC	7.00 PM	SELF EMPLOYED DINNER (OPEN TO EVERYONE)	GREEN DRAGON
FRI, 18 DEC	2.00 PM	SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE	ST THOMAS CHURCH
SAT, 19 DEC		CHRISTMAS JUMPER PARTY	GREEN DRAGON
SUN, 20 DEC	6.00 PM	CAROL SERVICE	ST THOMAS
THUR, 24 DEC	4.00 PM 11.30 PM	CRIB SERVICE MIDNIGHT MASS	ST THOMAS
FRI, 25 DEC		CHRISTMAS DAY	
TUE, 29 DEC		BIN RECYCLING DAY	
THUR, 31 DEC		NEW YEARS EVE CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT.	GREEN DRAGON
TUES, 5 JAN		BIN RECYCLING – GENERAL RUBBISH	

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

NORTHLEW
VICTORY HALL

Christmas LUNCH

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2026

Doors open 12.30 for 1pm

Adults £15 – Children (11 and under) £10

Roast turkey and all the trimmings

Vegetarian and delivery options available

Bar – Raffle

Call Jayne by
Thursday 10th December on
01409 221225

You are warmly invited to a

Christmas *Gift Fayre*



at

St Thomas' Church

and Church Room, Northlew

in aid of

much needed repairs to the beautiful and historical Church.

Saturday	Sunday
28th November	29th November
11am to 4pm	11am to 4pm

Come and find some lovely gifts created by local crafters and artisans

- Jewellery
- Children's gifts
- Christmas decorations/ seasonal goods
- Arts & Crafts
- Artisan food & drink
- Homeware gifts
- Knitwear & clothing



Please contact Jackie
jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com
if you would like to hold a stall.

Toad in a Hole

NADS
Northlew Amateur Dramatic Society
Est 2007



Friday & Saturday
27th & 28th November

Northlew Victory Hall
7.30pm

Tickets £10
from Janet 01409 221409
Under 10years old £5

Save the date!

WANDERING WORDS



Home library deliveries

Following the unfortunate closure of the mobile library, St. Thomas Church can now offer home deliveries from the Church Room library.

Four books, every four weeks
Delivered on a Friday

There is a wide selection of books, including a few in large print.

This new service is for those living within the Northlew Parish who find themselves housebound.

Interested? Please contact
Janet on 01409 221409

This is a free service.
Donations towards transport costs would be gratefully accepted.



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ALL PHOTOS ARE BY THE EDITOR UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.



FROM THE EDITOR

Victor Hulbert

I confess I am a fair-weather cyclist. I guess that means that with winter coming on the ebike may find itself to be more in hibernation.

But I do like to get out around the lanes. Riding a bike gives a different perspective of the countryside - plus it is more relaxing than Ian Richards' one thousand miles annual walking challenge!

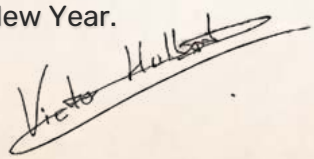
It also means it is easy to stop, enjoy a view, or chat with others I meet on the road. That has led to good conversations and discoveries, as well as enjoying favourite routes thoughout the different seasons. Recent conversations have provided lessons in local history. I've also discovered a spectacular waymark cross, been shown a secret location for deer spotting, and enjoyed the beauty of numerous Northlew gardens.

Of course, I don't even need to leave the village to enjoy such variety. So much has happened over the months since our summer edition it is a job to cram it all in here. And then just look at our 'Christmas at a Glance' page. We have such an exciting run up to Christmas across the Victory Hall, the Green Dragon and the two churches - all culminating with Shaun firing the New Year cannon on or around midnight on New Years Eve. There appears to be something for everyone!

Please enjoy this edition. In effect, it is just a big 'Thank you' to those who make Northlew and Ashbury such a special place.

On behalf of the Northlew Parish Council and all those who serve and volunteer across the village,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





Under Pressure!

With Meldon Reservoir at less than 35% capacity howhave farmers coped with this years unusual weather.

Cross the bridge at the bottom of Harpers Hill and for most of the summer the River Lew has been little more than a trickle.

Take a visit to Meldon or Roadford reservoirs and one wonders how they will ever fill to capacity even if we have an exceptionally wet winter.

High-pressure weather systems sitting over the UK for much of the summer brought clear, sunny skies to Northlew creating warm, dry conditions, turning our normally green fields brown and leaving stressed gardeners with empty water butts and hosepipe bans.

Most severely affected are the farmers.

Bryan Dufty, reports that in July we had only 8mm of rain, though we did slightly better with 80 and then 76mm in August and September. This is roughly 32% less than an average summer.

“It’s not all bad news,” Bryan told me during harvest supper at the Methodist church. “The warm and wet spring meant we did exceptionally well with the spring silage cutting so our winter supplies are actually at about the normal level.”

With rapid growth having returned in the last six weeks farmers are also aiming at two more silage cuts. While beef and especially dairy farmers had to use some of their winter supplies during the summer, some of that is now returning to normal.

But it has been hot!

Met office data indicates that the average daily high during June, July and August was 23.3C. That is 3.8C higher than the long-term summer average between 1991 and 2020.

For Northlew that included 35 days above 25C, the local temperature threshold for a heatwave. *[www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9zvw47v90o]*

“It has certainly been a very challenging year for both livestock and arable farming,” states Jack Savage, a Ruminant Nutritionist at Mole Valley Farmers. He would agree with Bryan that up until the end of May it had been a great year.

“Crops were planted in good conditions and there was plenty of early season grass,” he says. “However, with next to no rain from the start of June until the end of August, along with multiple heatwaves, grass disappeared, grains did not fill out and winter forage stocks were rapidly depleted.”



Bluetongue has been another issue. While not as badly affected as further east on the other side of Crediton, cattle in this area have been affected. Jack says, “I think the stress of the lack of food and extreme heat made the bluetongue outbreak much more severe than it would have been in a good year.” For Bryan and fellow farmer, Philip Hutton, the concern is with possible reduced fertility in both rams and ewes. With testing underway, and with fingers crossed, they are hoping for the best.

Despite difficult growing conditions, farmers and gardeners alike still managed some magnificent displays at the Northlew Produce and Craft show. Pre-eminent among these, perhaps, Ben Ranson who, with copious amounts of manure from his neighbours farm, grew a giant Boston Winter Squash. Ben’s passion is propagating historic species including this 200 year old New England heirloom variety.



Ben Ranson shows his giant winter squash

It would be easy to say that for farmers, this summer was the ‘perfect storm’. Jack concludes, “Alongside inflated input costs due to ongoing global conflicts/unfavourable weather globally, has made it the most difficult farming year in my memory, and most senior farmers say the same! The recent rains have brought a flush of grass, which has eased some of the fears of having enough forage to last the winter, but costs (feed, fertiliser and fuel) remain way above average levels.”

Nevertheless, we remain optimistic as we give thanks at the Harvest services, make the most of caring for our countryside and community, and keep an avid eye on Bryan’s rainfall gauge.



‘All things bright and beautiful’ at the Methodist Harvest Service

Winifred Davey

On Sunday 11th October the Methodist Church was beautifully decorated for the annual Harvest Festival. Enthusiastically led be trainee preacher, Mrs Helena Haywood, the harvest hymns were sung with gusto by the 40 people in the congregation accompanied by Mrs Lynda Trigg on the organ. Mrs Diana Sizmur read appropriate lessons from Deuteronomy and Corinthians encouraging us to take the first fruits which we produce from the soil and give them to God. If we sow our seeds sparingly we will reap sparingly, but if we sow generously we will reap generously, God loves a cheerful giver.

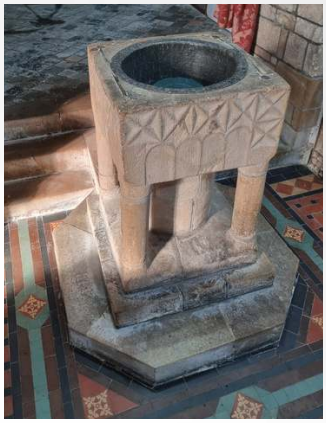
Helena spoke of being thankful for everything, making special mention of the continuous hard work of the farmers as they plough, sow the seed and harvest the crops. However, she emphasised, it is our Lord Jesus Christ who provides the sun and rain to enable the crops to grow. She shared how personally she choses to give thanks every day for life, for family, friends, neighbours and those we meet. Sometimes all we need to do is say good morning or just smile and it can really make someone's day. This is not something just for harvest time but every day.

Following the service everyone gathered in the hall for a chat and a lovely tea prepared and served by the ladies. The offering and donations for the goods and tea amounted to £491.24, with £250 donated to The Stroke Association. Thank you to everyone for your support.



NORTHLEW'S FONT

(and it's not Wingdings!)



Have you ever been asked what you would save if your home was on fire? What would you rush in to get?

Usually, it isn't something expensive, but something precious, something that cuts to the core of who we are. Photographs. Cards. Gifts from loved ones.

Our parish church has been rebuilt and changed countless times over the centuries. Yet one precious part has remained at its heart: our Romanesque stone font, dating from the 12th century.

More than 800 years old, it has witnessed generations of Northlew people through Reformation, civil war, and modern life.

Much of the church around it has changed, but the font remains: an anchor to our past and platform for our future. To place your hand upon it is, in a small way, to touch the same stone generations before us have touched, and those yet to come.

Even the word 'font' comes from the Latin 'fons', meaning 'spring' or 'fountain'. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the water he gives as becoming "a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

For Christians, baptismal water is a sign of this new life in Christ, and the font marks the beginning of that journey.

Recently, we had the joy of celebrating the baptism of a beautiful child in this very font. Continuing to weave their family into the spiritual fabric that God has been weaving here since before we can remember. It was a wonderful moment of new life, hope, and faith.

It touches me that, through so much change, Northlew has kept something like this sacred, not because of its price, but because of what it means. In essence, as a community, this is the item we have chosen to save throughout the years. A simple stone font: a place of welcome, belonging, new life, faith and hope.

Perhaps what we have chosen to preserve says something about who we are.

And remember: your parish church is always here for you. You are always welcome to come and look around, maybe see the font. Whether you're a regular or haven't been in for years (or ever!).

And, if you'd be interested in finding out more, or even, perhaps consider you or your child getting baptised, why not reach out for a chat. Pop me an email at rev.jonathan.cook@gmail.com, or just say hello when you spot me around the village).

God bless, Jonathan Cook

THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH



Revd Leigh Winsbury

Dear all,

Once again, the Northlew St. Thomas events team pulled a great idea out of the hat with their 'The People's Church' exhibition. I do hope you had the chance to pop in.

The exhibition, and of course the goodies, were supported by tours around the church by our own Douglas Young. The nice thing was that Douglas wasn't doing typical 'direct history' of what is there, interesting though that is, but was pointing out that everything in the church (including the building) was conceived and constructed locally; by local people, for local people, and expressing the direct faith of those people in what and how they arranged and decorated the place.



Douglas Young bringing local church history to life.

It's a common enough complaint that central government, church or church commissioners don't pick up any responsibility for the incredible heritage that our churches represent. We hold the idea that their building was originally an organised affair. Far from it, it turns out. The buildings were always the responsibility of the local population and were left unmolested by any hierarchy. Pretty much where we are now, apart from all the societies and committees that we have to please before we can do anything with the old places.

Back to introducing people. Douglas, mentioned above, will be in evidence both in Northlew and around other local parishes as he is training towards ordination. We also welcome Donald Miles. new to the team, Donald is a Hatherleigh man, and a cowman. Recently ordained, he is in his first year of curacy with us. Do look out for these 'new guys' alongside our old favourites Tania, Julian and others who keep this particular 'people's church' open and doing what it was built for; providing a space for the people of God to worship and give thanks and glory to God.

You may have seen more of these folks of late as I've been taking some rest with a short sabbatical after nearly eight years here. I am so thankful for the whole team.

If you've not been along before, why not come and try out your parish church. After all, it is yours if you live here, and get yourself a taste of the very local flavour of worship that is St. Thomas's.

Revd Leigh



Photo credit: Alan Welsh

Friends of St Thomas' Church [FOST]

Devon Historic Churches Trust Open Weekend!

Jackie Ellis

The Theme this year was 'The People's Church' and Douglas Young did us proud, spending the whole weekend with us providing guided tours and a wealth of history which complemented the main display about The People's Book – the story of the different translations of the Bible through the ages and how it was made more accessible to us all.

We were most grateful to all those who contributed to this providing the various Bibles, some ancient, some modern.

The PCC was especially grateful to Val Welsh for putting this display together. Visitors to the Church not only enjoyed learning about its history but also the refreshments including some delicious home-made cakes.

Thank you to all those for their baking skills and to the lovely visitors who came along and were so generous. Almost £500 was raised which has been sent to the DHCT.

A visitor's view

Dr Julian Lethbridge was on holiday from Tübingen, Germany. A professor of history, he found his visit to be intriguing:

There is much for head and heart to admire and the soul to rest in. The church is ancient, and has seen hard times, but in this generation is obviously well cared for.

I enjoyed the research behind the bible display, patiently done and detailed, revealing Val's scholarly mentality at work, and the great church bible so beautifully preserved: someone cared.

Of course, the great screen is the structural feature that grabs the attention of a newcomer, and Douglas spent a good few minutes on me, explaining its age and restoration, and we fell to talking about the theology of it. Douglas had a compelling interpretation of the carvings from bottom to the top, from seed to tree, which highlighted the history, local and national, of the functions of the screen, the prayer book rebellion and on to the Oxford movement. It was both informative and meditative. Revealing!

I was allowed to examine the great chest, too, though not for any scholarly or spiritual purpose. I wanted to see how it was put together, for I have long intended to make one myself. As an off duty scholar, on holiday visiting family, I must say I came away better informed and quite elated to have stumbled across other scholars very much on duty, friendly and willing to share so much of such interest with a stranger.



HALLOWEEN TRACTOR RUN

A big thank you to **Northlew Bell ringers** for taking the wonderful initiative to organise the Halloween Tractor Run. What a fun way to add to a weekend of village celebrations while raising vital funds needed for repairs to the church tower.

Despite the high cost of diesel, farmers were keen to join in. Some 36 tractors left Northlew square for a journey through Patchacott, Halwill Junction, Black Torrington, Sheepwash and Highampton before returning up Crowden Road, lights flashing and horns sounding, for a triumphant return into the village. A big thank you to all who participated - and who enjoyed it so much that you have already booked in for a rerun next year! A total of £810.16 was raised in the midst of all the fun - a significant contribution towards the £10,000 needed to repair one of the historic church bells which sadly developed a crack.

Watch the tractors roam the Northlew countryside in a short video on the Parish Council YouTube channel.

Christmas Gift Fayre

As most of you will be aware, St Thomas' is badly in need of costly roof and tower repairs – the PCC and FOST (Friends of St Thomas') need to raise about £150,000 and it's hoped we will secure a grant from DHCT towards this.

However, that's only a fraction of the amount needed, so our next major fundraiser, a Christmas Gift Fayre, is planned for the weekend of 28 - 29th November in the Church and Church Room.

We still have space for more stallholders so any crafters out there who are free on either of those days (or both) we would love to hear from you. Please email Jackie Ellis on jackie.ann.ellis@btinternet.com.

And there may be a special visitor calling into Northlew over that weekend especially to see the children, so watch out for further news!!

FOST Committee 2026

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
Shaun Millership
Charlotte Rowland
Alan Welsh
Val Welsh
Revd Leigh Winsbury [ExOfficio]

Use this QR code to donate to FOST

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

Visit our website:
www.fostnorthlew.org

‘Local Heroes’ Remembered



Local heroes sometimes get recognised further afield. This is true for two locally created films that highlight sacrifices made during time of war.

The first, ***Local Heroes***, is the creative work of Morwenna Millership. She designed it as ‘visualising the abstract’. As such, it allows us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice of the 22 Northlew men who lost their lives during WWI. That reflection has now gone way beyond the boundaries of Northlew or even Devon, as the film has recently been shortlisted in the Central Scotland Documentary Festival. Watch it here: https://bit.ly/4zZrudA



Our second documentary, ***In the Face of Revenge***, is an international collaboration filmed and directed by Victor Hulbert and released earlier this year.

It tells the story of Finnish farmer Viktor Ståhlberg. His son, Väinö, ran away to fight in the 1918 Finnish Civil War. He was captured and killed that same night. Many expected Viktor to seek revenge. Instead, the documentary explores his remarkable choice that saved lives, transformed families, and still continues to inspire more than a century later.

It is a true story of faith, forgiveness, and grace in the aftermath of tragedy during war, and fits very well with our thoughts around Remembrance Day. Watch it here: https://bit.ly/3WJOI97

Victor Hulbert was so struck by the drama and impact of the story that he felt compelled to fly to Finland to film it himself. But while filmed in Finland, the documentary has more local roots. Volunteer editor, Edward Hilburn, spent much of his childhood in Bude. He is a recent TV and Film production graduate of Bournemouth University. With Ed being much the same age as Väinö, the film made a big impact on him.

More importantly, the film challenges us, as viewers, to ask what choices we would make when faced with conflict, betrayal, and hate. Can we, as individuals, make a difference?









Trust and Obey!

Devon Historic Crosses pt 2.

Victor Hulbert

The signs are there for a reason. It is a long and narrow lane, and no, it is definitely not a through route, despite what your sat-nav may say.

The driver of a large articulated lorry discovered that limitation when he attempted the route in order to deliver a heavy load to Ashbury Golf Course in 2015. Realising his mistake and attempting to turn around in the hamlet of Southcott he allegedly managed to dislodge and damage a significant waymarker, the Southcott Cross. Thankfully, due to the efforts of the homeowners, Historic England, and the Dartmoor National Park Authority, the cross was discretely repaired and relocated a couple of feet further back from the lane to prevent further accidents.

Southcott Cross is a magnificent specimen and perhaps unique to Devon. I discovered it by accident just after previously writing about the three crosses of Northlew for our Summer edition. Exploring the local lanes on my e-bike I wondered what was up this narrow lane with such prominently placed warning signs.



What I discovered was a delight! A substantial octagonal cross in a private front garden. Very nice. But what really caught my eye was the figure of the crucified Christ incised on the front or western face. That is unusual in itself, but what makes it even rarer is that the feet are crossed – depicting that a single nail would have been used to secure both feet.

The cross is on private land, the front garden of Southcott Cross Cottage. When I visited, the very friendly owners, Richard and Gail Parker, were just returning from their afternoon walk and happily shared with me the challenges and joys of caring for an ancient monument, including the arduous process of repair and relocation. However, the cross is clearly a real treasure for them.

They kindly invited me into their garden to view the Eastern side of the cross where, if the light is right, you can see a further engraving.

Personally, I couldn't make it out, but a photo on the Dartmoor Crosses website shows it more clearly. The engraving is either of the Virgin Mary with hands clasped or of a monk in prayer. I may need to look again in different light, while equally respecting the privacy of the homeowners.

There is something special about these waymarker crosses – the original sat-navs of Devon and Cornwall -- mixing rural navigation with Christian symbols. This one is thought to be 13th century. Suggestions are that it could, originally, have been a waymarker for the Cistercian Monks of Brightley Priory, which once stood on the banks of the West Okement River, near Okehampton Castle. Today, it is simply a hidden gem of Devon history while for Richard and Gail, as curators, it brings them both a certain pride and joy.

Do you have a piece of secret local history you would like to share? Why not send your suggestion to news@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk. We would love to include it in a future edition.

Sources:
http://www.dartmoor-crosses.org.uk/southcott.htm
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013612?section=official-list-entry


Note the crossed feet on the carving. Highly unusual.

What a rich heritage we have in the area. Southcott cross adds a fourth beauty to the three we already admire closer to the village.





Left: Durdon cross
Bottom left: Eastcombe Cross.
Below: The village Cross.




The faint outline on the eastern side of the cross. [Photo credit: Bob Noakes on Dartmoor Crosses.


Southcott Cross Cottage



CHRIS BAINES

NORTHLEW NATURE: FUNGI

Did you know that there are over 140,000 recorded species of Fungi, although there are probably over 3 million still to be recoded. They are found on every continent on the planet, even in the Arctic and Antarctic in the form of lichens.

Fungi are not plants since they don't photo-synthesise using chlorophyll, but they are clearly not animals either. This makes them unique in nature.

The work of fungi in nature is to interact with their host, maybe supporting decomposition, or acting as a parasite. They go about their life cycle largely unnoticed until they 'fruit' and want to spread their spores. This is when we see the many mushrooms and toadstools in the countryside. The fruiting spores (mushrooms) can be microscopic or huge. One mushroom found in southern China measured 10.8 meters (35.4 feet) in length and 82–88 cm (2.7–2.9 feet) in width. It may have held some 450 million spores and weighed an estimated 400–500 kg (882–1,102 pounds), at the time making it the largest fungal fruiting body ever documented. Puffballsalso can grow to an impressive size.

The largest puffballs on record measured 150 cm (5 feet) in diameter. The number of spores within such giants reaches several trillion. Thankfully, the wonderful spread of varieties to be found around Northlew are somewhat smaller!

Fungi spread in the ground as mycelium, which are seen as thin white threads spreading through the ground or rotting vegetation. After the mycelium has spread out radially from a central point for some time, the organism decides to fruit and spread its spores. This is when you see a ring of mushrooms in a field for example. This is known as a fairy ring, because back in the Middle ages it was thought that they were created by dancing fairies.

Fungi are everywhere in very large numbers, in the air, the soil, the sea, and even in the human body (athletes foot for example). As yeast they are essential for making bread, wine, beer and certain cheeses. They are also a delicious and nutritious food item as, for example, mushrooms and truffles, although caution should be exercised when foraging fungi in the wild, as at least 20 species are poisonous and can cause death.



Fungi have been studied by scientists for their medical benefits, and it was Alexander Fleming in 1928 who discovered that a form of green mould could inhibit the growth of bacteria. In 1929 he published a paper announcing penicillin as the first antibiotic. Some of the other uses of fungi developed by scientists can now induce the onset of labour or control blood pressure in the form of statins.

Little Acorns to Giant Trees will grow

Sarah Counter. Executive Headteacher
Northlew & Ashbury Primary School



As we settle into the new academic year, there is so much to celebrate at Northlew and Ashbury Primary School. We have been delighted by the positive start our pupils have made, particularly in relation to attendance, which has improved significantly compared with previous years. This reflects the strong partnership between home and school and demonstrates our shared commitment to ensuring that every child benefits from the widest possible range of learning opportunities.

It has also been wonderful to see a growing sense of pride in pupils' work across the school, with children taking great care over their presentation, celebrating their achievements and striving to do their very best. This perfectly reflects our school value, "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16), as pupils increasingly demonstrate confidence, perseverance and a desire to share their talents with others.

We are equally proud of the excellent behaviours for learning that have been evident throughout the school. Our classrooms are calm, purposeful places where pupils are eager to learn, ask thoughtful questions and support one another. A particular highlight has been the nurturing approach shown by our older pupils towards our youngest children. Their kindness, patience and willingness to act as role models help create the warm, inclusive environment that makes our school so special. This sense of community and belonging has been strengthened further by the introduction of our newly named classes, Acorn Class and Oak Class. The names are inspired by the magnificent old oak tree that stands proudly in our school grounds, a symbol of strength, growth and deep roots within our community.

We are also delighted to celebrate the successful recruitment of four new governors across the Moorland Hub. School governors play a vital role in supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that pupils receive the very best education possible. They help to shape the strategic direction of our schools, monitor progress and standards, oversee finances and ensure that decisions are always made in the best interests of children. We are incredibly grateful to those who have stepped forward to serve our communities in this important voluntary role and look forward to the positive impact their skills, knowledge and experience will bring.

Whilst we are pleased to have welcomed new governors, we are still keen to recruit additional members from the local community. You do not need to have a child at the school or any direct link with education to become a governor; what matters most is a passion for helping our school continue to improve and thrive. If you are interested in supporting the future success of Northlew and Ashbury Primary School and the wider Moorland Hub, we would love to hear from you.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our families, parish communities and supporters for their continued encouragement and commitment. Together, we are creating a school where every child is encouraged to let their light shine and achieve their very best.

Photo credit: Charlotte Ogborne

COULD YOU HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LOCAL CHILDREN?

BECOME A LOCAL GOVERNOR!



Why join us?

- As a governor, you will:
  - Champion local children to help ensure they receive the best education and opportunities.
  - Give back to your community, making a real, lasting impact.
  - Bring your experience and perspective to support and challenge school leaders.
  - Develop new skills in leadership, governance, and strategic thinking – with full training provided.

What's involved?

- The role will require approximately 15 hours per year
- Attend three meetings a year (term time only) for 2 hours each.
- Spend a couple of hours each term in your local school
- Read papers and contribute to discussions that shape school improvement (1 hr per meeting).
- Training sessions to build your confidence and knowledge of schools and education.

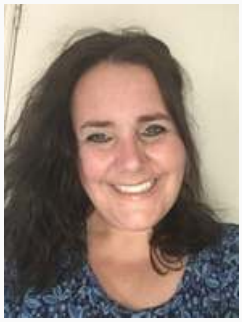
Skills needed:

- A passion for education and community.
- Commitment to fairness and opportunity for all.
- Ability to listen, ask questions, and work as part of a team.

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Want to find out more?
Contact Melissa Trudgill in the governance team:

mtrudgill@dmatschools.org.uk



Northlew and Ashbury Produce and Craft Show 2026

Report by Claire Webb with photos by Rosemary Lethbridge.



Success despite the drought.



Top marks to the skillful flower arrangers and growers.



Always good for a laugh: The wonky vegetable display.



As summer winds down and school restarts, it's always time to look out for the Northlew Produce and Craft Show - and what a show it is!

In it's current incarnation the show is only in it's 6th year, but it is already seriously impressive. Year on year we receive more entries, over 500 this year, and the standard is remarkable for a village this size. The judges have been blown away by the skills and the variety displayed. Aren't we a clever bunch?

The age range of the participants is admirable too. Our youngest entrants are only 4 years old and, not wishing to be indelicate, our oldest entrants are unlikely to see their 80th birthday again.

We are also very pleased that our sunflower competition raised £72 for the Force Cancer Charity.

We know that the timing isn't perfect for everyone. With summers getting hotter and drier, the fruit, vegetables and flowers are difficult to keep going into September, but we believe this date is worth holding on to, because it enables us to involve the school. The children's engagement in growing and making is fabulous to see.

Gardeners are resilient by nature anyway. Growing vegetables has been described as the triumph of hope over experience, as each year poses new combinations of challenges. For instance, 2024 had a long, cold, damp spring that sutted slugs and slowed the growth of young plants. The result was what social media termed 'sluggagedon', everything aaten before having a chance to mature.

This year it was drought, but those plants that did survive put on a spectacular growth spurt when the rain eventually returned. My hope was wearing thin, but in the end I found 7 stems of flowers for my display, and my courgettes, tomatoes, and cucumber were entered. Sadly my butternut squashes didn't make it (R.I.P.), but I'll try again next year..

As a committee, we're still learning, a tweak here and there. To carry on improving, incorporating new ideas, it would be lovely to welcome more new members to our team, especially as our chair, Maggie, is retiring. Her enthusiasm and hard work has made the show so much fun. We usually have six meetings a year, lasting around an hour, after which we move on to the Green Dragon for a well-earned drink.

If you're interested in joining us, our AGM will be 7.30pm 17th February in the Victory Hall. We will remind you nearer the time on the village Facebook page.



A prize winning family. Arabella and Harlow both won trophies. Watch out adults as the younger elements in the village entered and won many certificates.



Marian Dufty (left) won the trophy in the home-baked goods section. Tonya Dufty's award was for the most points in show.





Stephan Payne won the Best in Show trophy as a consumate blender of whiskey liquers.



Behind the scenes, Chris and Mags sort certificates for the over 500 entries.





If you like Brass Bands then Northlew is clearly the place to live. Not only Bandamonium 5 on 25 July, but then Oktoberfest and, of course, our very own Northlew Silver band on demand at the Church fete, various services, and leading the November Carnival procession.

Bandamonium 5

This year saw 27 bands performing across 10 venues in the Hatherleigh/Okehampton area. Many of the bands commented on the enthusiastic all day response of the Northlew crowd. Mind you, with School PTFA, the Green Dragon, and Tania's Tarts all providing copious refreshments it was not hard to stay all day.

It also appears to have become a tradition over recent years for Northlew to create an atmospheric summery video of the day. Discover it on the Northlew YouTube Playlist. https://bit.ly/4inaTsM

The Bandamonium tradition is now spreading. Tim Williams enthuses, "After the stellar Bandamonium in Devon which we still can't believe was so brilliant, we moved swiftly on to what some people think is the heart of the Brass Band world, Yorkshire for our second Bandamonium Yorkshire." This is his report:

Bandamonium 2, Yorkshire

A van, a mini bus and a mini were packed up with gear and helpers and we set off to the beautiful area of North Yorkshire, Kirkbymoorside to be exact. Bandamonium Yorkshire had 8 bands, 6 locations and a beautiful complication of being on the same day as the start of the fourth leg of the Tour Britain Cycle race. That meant on the Saturday we had bands and bikes. As bands played their hearts out in Helmsley square and at the Brewery, the bikes went whoosh down the road.

Yorkshire is just a beautiful event and reminds us of the Devon Bandamonium before it got brilliantly totally crazy. This year is the first year I managed to go round playing with the Bandamonium Barbarians band. Actually playing in a Bandamonium for the very first time I really get why everyone enjoys it so much!



The final massed bands in Kirkbymoorside was lovely and even better in that it was right by our centre of operations, the White Swan. Bandamonium also gate crashed the Sunday church service before the long trip home. A exhausting but successful weekend promoting banding and even though in Yorkshire, there were people being converted all over the place.

Oktoberfest



This year's brass celebrations celebrations continued in Hatherleigh on 3 October, when Bandamonium and Hatherleigh Silver Band joined forces to organise the town's first Oktoberfest at Hatherleigh Community Market. The Bavarian-themed evening featured German music, beer and food, games and competitions, with a commemorative festival stein included with the ticket. It was a night full of smiles, laughs and new friends as we raised money for the two banding charities. On the Sunday we popped back home and combined an Ooompah outside The Green Dragon with Harvest Festival at St Thomas'.

The whole Oktoberfest was such fun we'll be back next year so watch out for the date – probably be October! Oh and nearly forgot a massive thank you to Andy & Chip who were the master minds and constructors of 25 awesome benches – thank you so much guys.

Bandamonium at Christmas

This is a quiet time for us as we do a load of admin and planning for 2027 with maybe some new events in the pipeline... but we will be playing at the turning on of the Widecombe-in-the Moor Xmas lights on 21st Nov and watch out for tooting around the village in the lead up to Christmas.

News Snippets



New Website for Northlew & Ashbury

Northlew Parish Council {NPC} is pleased to announce the release of a new website for Northlew and Ashbury to coincide with this edition of Northlew News. The upgraded site, www.northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk, will replace the previous NPC website which had served well for a number of years but was showing its age and in need of much updating

With changing accessibility legislation, security updates and a contemporary web design, the aim of the new site is to:

- Provide information about Northlew & Ashbury Parish Council and what it is responsible for
- Signpost useful information about local services
- List local activities, groups and organisations, and local facilities
- Provide information about who your local parish councillors are and how to contact them
- Provide parishioners with a simple way to approach the council with ideas, suggestions or concerns
- Host current and back issues of Northlew News
- Highlight the fascinating history and geography of the area
- Help residents engage with local and regional issues and governance

The Council chose a local website designer, Richard Burrow of Hatherleigh based We Raise Digital. Richard currently sits on Hatherleigh Town Council and is experienced in creating websites for town and parish councils having recently built new sites for Hatherleigh Town Council, Highampton Parish Council and Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council.

Richard worked closely with the NPC members in designing the site according to the needs of the parish. In designing and populating the site he has frequently expressed his delight at how much activity and community life there is in Northlew & Ashbury.

While the site goes live this month it will still be developing with additional and updated content. Currently the NPC are extremely interested in adding to the Northlew Walks page and would be delighted to hear from you with your favourite short, medium or longer walks in the local area. Your contributions may, perhaps, enhance what Paul Turner recently stated in a Facebook post, **"Doesn't matter where you walk, as long as you finish in the Green Dragon!"** Email your walk suggestions to news@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Enjoy the new site, and share your thoughts and suggestions by clicking on the 'report an issue, send a suggestion' link in the navigation bar.

Mariners Away

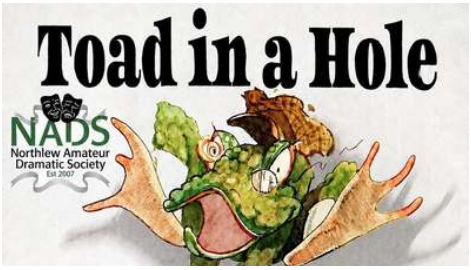


Ahoy me Hearties! We had a full house for the wonderful evening of sea shanties, pasties and a little drink or two, a good time was had by all especially in the sing along at the end.

£1260.09 profit was raised and will be added to our Roof Refurbishment Project. We are delighted to tell you that we have secured another grant and are now at half the total needed. Our maintenance team have made remedial repairs that we hope will last the winter so that we can be prepared for the overhall in the Spring.

Please join us for our remaining fundraisers this year.
With grateful thanks
NVH Management Committee

Northlew Amateur Dramatics Society are back!



Northlew Amateur Dramatics invites you to take a trip to The Riverbank to meet all its colourful characters!

Moley, fed up with spring cleaning, pops up and meets Ratty. Good, solid, sensible Ratty takes Mole to meet Toad. 🐸 Exuberant Toad, full of life, energy and joire de vivre takes Ratty and Moley on one of his hair brained adventures along the open road! Adventures that include crossing paths with the wascally weasels from the Wild Wood, a stolen car and a stint in prison!

Does Toad escape? Do they save Toad Hall from the Chief Weasel and his cunning plan? Only one way to find out (short of reading the book!) is to put the dates on your calendar NOW and come and join the madness and mayhem that is.... 'A TOAD IN A HOLE' 🐸 By Lee Baddock & Chris Kirby.

Join us to Northlew's take on 'The Wind in the Willows', Friday 27th & Saturday 28th November 2026, Northlew Victory Hall- 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 Adults, £5 under 10s.
Call Janet on 01409 221409 to book.



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From the Archive: The Western Times

Researched and complied by Val Welsh

WRESTLING MATCH Tuesday 17 July 1866.

A wrestling match for £5, announced for the annual festival, came off on Monday near the village. The first prize being £2, it brought together many who delight in the rough sports of Tom Brown's School Days. But all who tried their strength and skill had to succumb to John Carnell, of Broadwoodkelly. The second prize, £1, was carried off by James Down, of Black Torrington. The third prize, 10s, was won by Stephen Hill, of Northlew, James Smale, of the same place, coming in for the fourth prize, 5s. Sixteen standards were made, who received 2s each for their pains and bruises. The play throughout was good, and gave satisfaction to all. The landlords of the Green Dragon and Honeychurch Arms coming in for their share of credit and custom in getting up such a day's amusement.

THE WAR MISERIES Wednesday October 18th 1870 [Franco-Prussian War]

A meeting in aid of the sick and wounded was recently held at which Archdeacon Woollcombe kindly gave illustrated readings on the War, in the school-room, interspersed with appropriate vocal and instrumental music, afforded by the valuable exertions of Mrs. and Miss Woollcombe, of Ashbury, the Misses England, Messrs. Burd, Maxwell, and other friends. The large building, erected by Miss Woollcombe, of N[M]orth Grange, was densely crowded. The meeting responded to the Archdeacon's efforts by a liberal contribution. The plans and maps of the seat of war gave much valuable instruction to young and old.

Tragic death of George Hunkin Friday, August 27th 1880

We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Hunkin, of Kimber Farm, Northlew, under the following painful circumstances: - He received a kick from a horse. The deceased walked into the house without assistance, and survived the accident in great pain for 24 hours. Mr. Hunkin, who is about 74 years of age, is much respected, and great sympathy is expressed to his family.

Law change on burial at St Thomas Church Tuesday May 19th 1885

NORTHLEW The Nonconformists of this place are taking advantage of the Burial Act of 1880. During the past fortnight three persons have been interred in the parish church-yard, in each case the Rev. E Rogers, Bible Christian Minister, officiated.
[The Burial laws Amendment Act allowed non-Anglicans to be buried in parish churchyards without using the official Church of England service]

Quiz Time: Cryptic Devon Place Names

1 She broke down after the wedding

2 Soaking the woolly beasts

3 Tied up neatly

4 Building up the Archangel's fire

5 Where the rodents are kept

6 Not outgoing - just the opposite

7 Between the trenches

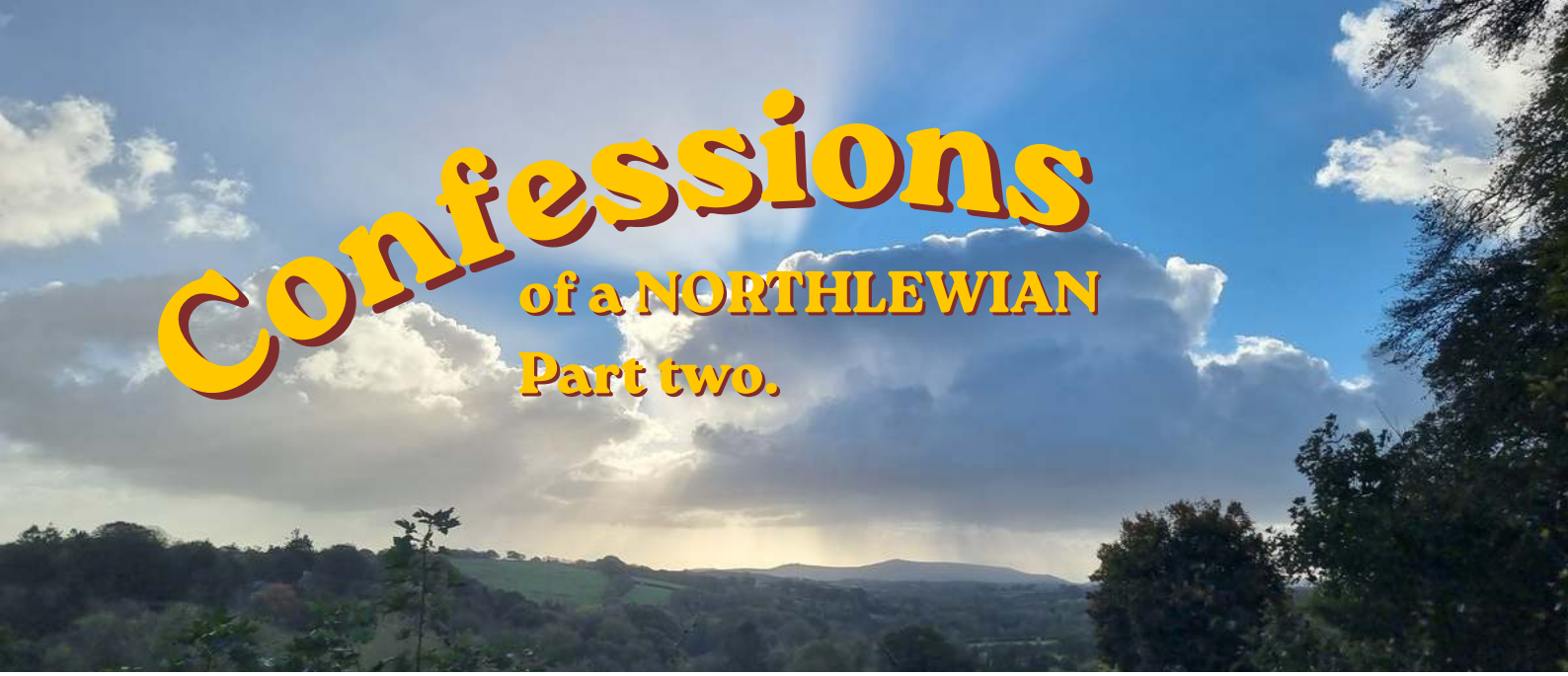
8 Weighty timber in Exeter suburb

9 Celebrity in a bad mood

10 Promontory where the spanner fits

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

Answers on page 28



Many, many years ago, and I really do mean a loooong time ago, when Busby was sitting on a telephone wire, and Angel Delight was a regular treat, I remember being told a tale of a young Northlewian heading to the bright lights of Exeter to make their fortune and cultivate a new romance.

A rental property was secured from the most ferocious of landladies, feared even more than Miss Shobrooke*, young Miss Northlew was quaking in her Pixie Boots.

Several months into the rental, Miss Northlew or her Beau Mr Cheffie, must have moved strangely whilst using the very tiny loo in their equally tiny flat. The loo seat snapped in half. This, I'm told, caused quite a pinch to the back of the thigh!

Even worse, fearing that should the landlady turn up unannounced and see such wilful damage, they would surely be flogged, or even worse charged a fortune for a replacement, they were filled with terror.

Well, later the same evening Mr Cheffie came back from his shift in a City Centre Hotel. He had a bounce about his step and seemed to have lost the noose that was around his neck. What could it be, why so happy when they were both doomed?

From his large work bag, he produced a perfectly whole and intact toilet seat. It was gone 10 pm on a Saturday night! How could this be? He hadn't been able to go to a B&Q (other such stores did exist then too). Mr Cheffie didn't drive and had been working solidly since 2 pm. Just how?

Well, the hotel was full. A touring rugby team were in and had taken all the rooms. They were in high spirits, the sorts of which occurred in the 80's. Lots of beer, few inhibitions, and much harmless tomfoolery.

So imagine the chambermaids face the following morning when cleaning the public areas, only to find the entire toilet seat from the ground floor bathroom had disappeared over night, not broken, not twisted, not found in another room. Simply completely and utterly disappeared.

So, a heartfelt belated apology to the touring rugby team, who no doubt got a very frosty reception when checking out, and maybe even had to pay a surcharge, whilst no body had any recollection of what had happened to the loo seat!

Meanwhile Miss Northlew and Mr Cheffie could rest comfortably, if a tad guiltily, and use the loo without risk of thigh pinches for the rest of their tenancy!

**For those not in the know, the author remembers Miss Shobrooke as a very small but terrifying old lady who lived next to the school in the thatched cottage at the top of Harper's Hill. Whenever a ball was kicked over her fence from the school playground, she would spear it with a garden fork before handing it back.*

My Flax journey, pt 2

Angela Baines

Well, this has been fun. Flax is growing on me! It was 100 days from start to harvest, and I have to say it was a slight blessing that the weather was warm, as I do believe this has helped with the process. Each morning I was greeted with beautiful blue flowers until the day came to harvest the Flax stalks following the seven steps in processing:

1. Pulling. Harvesting the flax by the roots to maximise fibre length.
2. Rippling. Combing the dry stalks to remove the seed pods.
3. Retting. Soaking or weathering the stalks to dissolve plant glues, then dry.
4. Drying. Dry thoroughly.
5. Breaking. Crushing the stalks to snap the woody inner core
6. Scutching. Beating the stalks to scrape away the woody bits.
7. Hackling. Combing the fibres through a hackle to straighten and smooth.

The Flax stalks were harvested by 'Pulling' them up. I was waiting for the blooms to finish and the bottom to turn a slight yellow.

Now... did I want the seeds? I decided not to save them. I removed seed pods by 'Rippling', which uses a handmade hackle (if you can call a row of nails from the hardware store that). It was the experience of doing this that enhanced my understanding of what our ancestors did to make cloth.

The next stage in processing the Flax stalks was to Rett them. There are two ways this can be done:

1. Dew Retting: Flax bundles are left on the ground for 3 to 6 weeks, allowing weather and field fungi to dissolve the plant's binding tissues. This method results in a darker-coloured flax.

2. Water Method: Done in a pool, pond, or large tub, this method takes just 1 to 2 weeks. The lack of oxygen encourages specialised bacteria to ferment the stalks, producing a lighter, golden flax. As I only had a small amount of Flax, and the weather produced no rain and very little dew, I opted to Rett the Flax fibre using the water method and a paddling pool. Although the water method was the best way for me, it's not as kind to the environment as dew retting.

It took a week for the Flax stems to be ready for the next phase, 'Drying'. I hung the plants in bundles and waited for them to dry, which took a good week, and I think the weather helped a bit although flax isn't too keen on really dry hot weather.

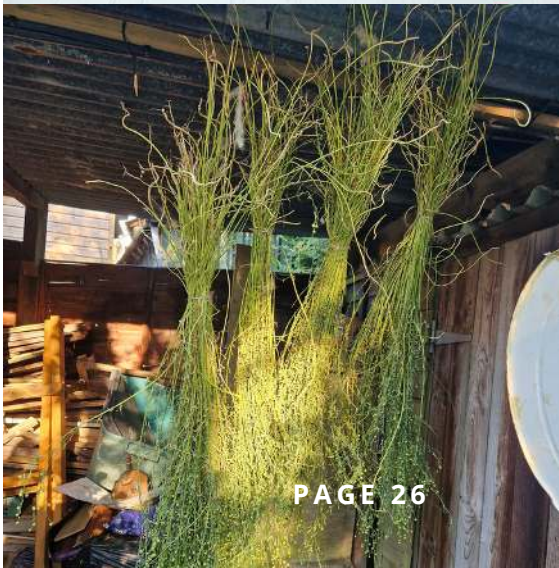
Checking the Flax stems were dry enough to extract fibres, I broke a stalk, listening for a snapping sound, inside. I could see the Flax fibres It was now ready to move to the next step towards removing the Flax fibres, 'Breaking'. The outer layer must be broken to release the fibre inside.











You need to get the stem off using a process called Flax Breaking. Using a tool made of a flat piece of hinged wood with a handle, you lay the flax on the bottom piece of wood and bring the hinged piece down onto the flax, breaking the stalks. In the 18th century this is what a lot of households did to make cloth.

Next, you go on to the Scutching step, which removes the more stubborn bits from the broken stalks. A wooden blade is used to strike the Flax in a downward motion, whilst holding the Flax with one hand across the edge of a table or a piece of wood. You will find smaller pieces will come off, this is called TOW which is used to spin a more coarser flax, used for ropes etc.

This then goes through a coarse hackle, which is made from evenly spaced tines (teeth). You can make your own by using nails. You run the flax through, combing it, removing more short bits (tow). This process is repeated two more times, each time using a finer hackle.

The yield from a 2.44m × 1.22m (8 x 4 ft) plot was 32g Flax fibre plus 18g Tow. This is around 22% less than expected, probably due to the series of heat waves this summer. I wasn't really surprised but all is not lost as I have a stash of flax to spin and some tow.

From Plant to Pure Fibre: Ready for the Wheel.

Many thanks to those who helped me through this project and for lending me the equipment .

Will I do this again? Anyone got a field?







Cryptic Devon Place Names answers:

1 She broke down after the wedding : Bridestowe
2 Soaking the woolly beasts: Sheepwash
3 Tied up neatly: Bow
4 Building up the Archangels fire: Stoke Gabriel
5 Where the rodents are kept: Rattery
6 Not outgoing - just the opposite: Inwardleigh
7 Between the trenches: Nomansland
8 Weighty timber in Exeter suburb: Heavitree
9 Celebrity in a bad mood: Starcross
10 Promontory where the spanner fits: Bolt Head



Tania's Tarts: French bread pizza

Great for the party season, these can be eaten hot or cold.


Photo by Khalid Boutchich on Unsplash

Tomato base:
Fry 2 finely sliced cloves of garlic in 2 tablespoons of olive oil until just starting to brown slightly.

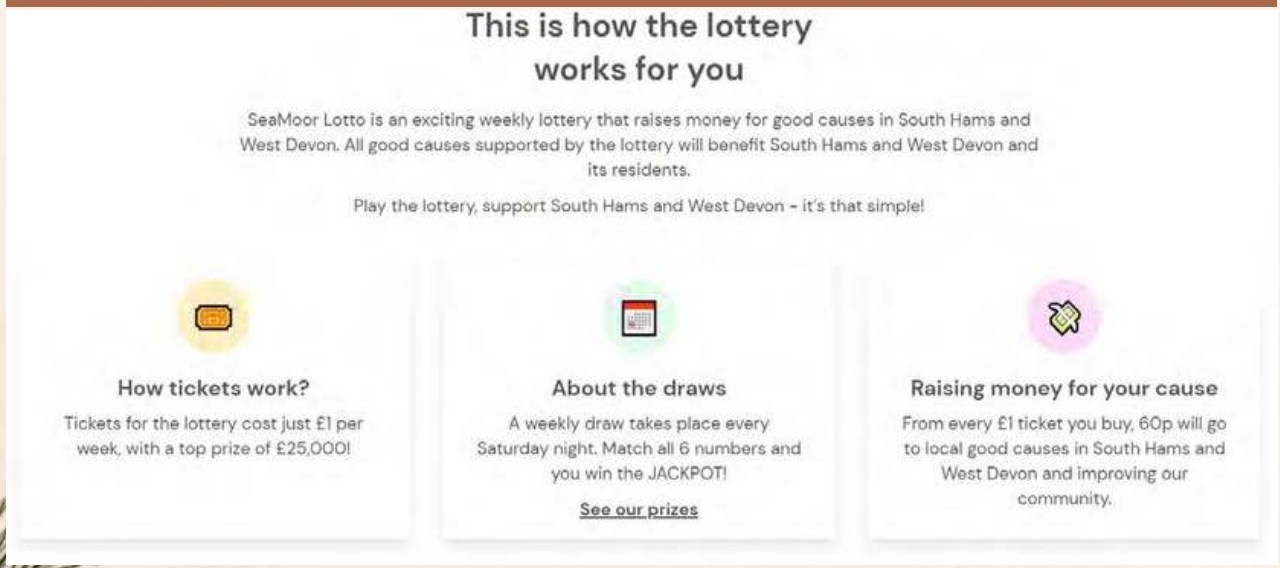
Add a can of chopped tomatoes, a tablespoon of tomato purée, 1/2-1 teaspoon chopped chilli flakes, 1 teaspoon dried oregano, sea salt to taste.

Cook gently until reduced and thickened (about 15 minutes). Grate 400g cheddar and mix with some grated mozzarella.

Cut French bread into 2" slices and spread well with butter. Bake in the oven at 180c for 6-8 minutes.

Finally, load a generous amount of the tomato onto the buttered bread and top with cheese. Put back into the oven until browned and bubbling,

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

Having enjoyed the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' (Keats), it's sad to see so many of Autumns fungal wonders disappearing - puff balls along the flower-bed edges, large colourful bracket fungi on the oaks, 'Chicken-of-the-woods' on the yew tree, and Scarlet Elf-cups back among the fallen beech branches near the dew pond.

Which reminds me – if it's raining when you read this, you'll only have yourself to blame if you picked up any beech nuts back on All Saints Day (November 1st). Local folklore tells us that if a wet beechnut is found on that day it'll be a wet and windy winter – but if a dry one is found, it'll be worse!

Short cold winter days means most garden invertebrates are now hibernating – burrowed underground or hiding in trees and crevices. Expose any dark, damp place however – such as a log, stone or flower-pot - and you should discover some of my favourite garden creatures. Sometimes called chiggy wigs, granny grunters or chucky pigs in Devon – woodlice are lively terrestrial crustaceans that feed on decaying plant material thus playing a vital role in nutrient recycling in healthy gardens. Their collective name is a quabble.

It's always a pleasant surprise to spot moths still flying too. Although not being able to access much nectar at this time of year, two species to look out for – having stocked up well on earlier supplies as caterpillars - are the pale-brown Winter Moth and the charcoal brown December Moth – both aptly named.

With mouse and vole numbers visibly up on last year, our resident tawny owls already have their work cut out!. Not yet showing any interest in their newly constructed owl box, evening courting duets are regularly heard from the old pine tree at the front of the cottage - the female hooting her familiar 'ke-wick' and the male responding with 'hoo-hoo'.

Despite the negative impact of the summer heat waves on our trees, we still seem to have more generous clumps of holly, hawthorn, spindle, dogrose, sloe and rowan berries than usual. Even the cotoneaster, pyracantha bushes and crab-apple trees produced a good harvest - all providing valuable winter forage for the blackbirds and other members of the thrush family. One bird currently singing loudly for us is a solitary mistle thrush perched high in our neighbours' woods. It's loud and distinctive tune can be clearly heard high above the rain, wind and creaking trees. This mistletoe-loving bird certainly deserves its alternative name of 'storm cock', or in Devon, the 'holm screech'

Now don't forget – once the Christmas and New Year celebrations are over – it will be time to check, clean and repair all your bird, bat, butterfly and bee boxes. Be careful though, if you have any residents.



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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



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Call or text me, Nicky, on 0789 459 4019 .
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Information pages

Your Parish Council

Your Councillors are here to help and always welcome your support and comments. Contact details as follows	
Mark Rundle: Chair	mrundle@northlewparishcouncil.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.gov.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 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 0778 9282990.

- NORTHLEW LADIES GROUP meet 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Church rooml. Contact Tonya Dufty for details. 0789 9913759

- 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.

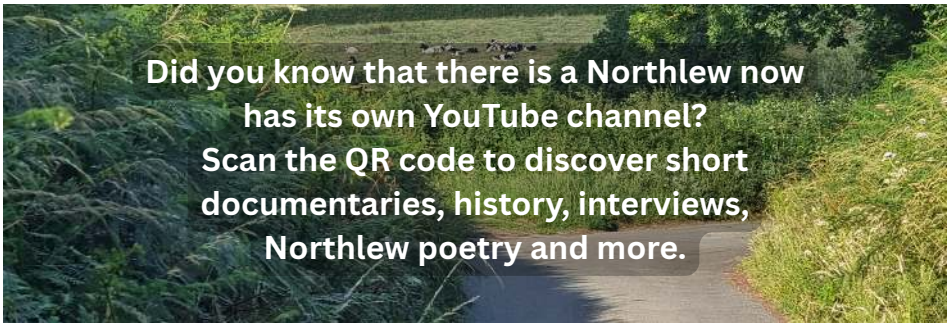
- NORTHLEW SILVER BAND — Devon's only Village Silver Band over 100 years old. For more information please contact: Tim Williams 01409 221754 or Martin Perry 01409 221376.

- 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.

- 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 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?
- Have some poetry, artwork or an important coming event?
- Email the editor, Victor Hulbert, at news@northlewparishcouncil.gov.uk to see how you can help. Your contributions are always welcomed.

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