



Northlew News

<http://www.northlew.com>

August 2009

Produced by Northlew Parish Council

More great news for Northlew ... Charity Square Dance ... Northlew's very own festival

Northlew Parish Council

Some more great news for Northlew! Not only has the broadband committee got the funding we needed but our application to Devon County Council for a grant to renovate the playing field has been approved. Northlew came top of the 21 councils applying with a whopping 86%! This means that work will start soon. As mentioned in the last issue, the scheme not only includes play equipment suitable for all ages but landscaping which will make the park a good area for the whole village to enjoy. Harriet's designs will be on show in the Post Office as soon as we get them back from Devon County Council.

As soon as the dust settles the committee will apply for lottery money for the all weather pitch, in the mean time many thanks to Jo Luxton, Jayne O'Connell, Ian & Jane Colbourne, Vicky Stotter and the rest of the committee for the masses of work it took to get this far.

As mentioned in last months issue, if there is anything you would like to put in the Northlew News please do post it through my door at Bolland Cottage or email me on ian.colbourne@btinternet.com

Charity Square Dance

Be there in the Square on Saturday 22nd August for the Northlew Square Dance in aid of Northlew Silver Band and Devon Air Ambulance. Warm up with the Northlew line dancers at 7.30pm followed by dancing to Water Shortage and the Hose Pipe Band from 8.30 to 11.00. There will

be a bar service available, spit roast and barbecue – eat all you want!

Tickets £8 each. Available on sale at the Post Office, the Green Dragon or phone 01409 220013/220060

It would be greatly appreciated if all cars could be removed from the square on Saturday morning in order for the stage to be set up.

See you there!

The latest on Broadband for Northlew

The waiting is over! We have been successful on our proposal to LEAF for funding and have been awarded 72% of the total cost of instillation, this is fantastic news and I am sure, like me, you have cause to celebrate!

LEAF liked our proposal although there are some conditions that come with the agreement that we have to follow such as making a white paper for other communities to follow and also that a third of any surplus is reinvested into other projects so they can have a future. I'm sure you will agree that this is a small price to pay for us having a connection. I will shortly be calling in at every house to do a residential survey. This is to see where the antenna is going to be fitted and any requirements you may have such as a fixed or wifi network in your home or business and other information that the instillation company, LA Aerials may need on the day.

There will be an instillation charge of £50 per subscriber meaning we will subsidise it by £131 (the total cost would have been £181). We have already raised over £3,000 which is why we don't have to pay

the full cost. This not only keeps prices low but in line with other instillation companies like Virgin.

The monthly subscription will be £17.99 per month.

See you all soon – I'll be the one wearing the high visibility jacket and hat!

Chris Marson

Broadband Run

Katie Voaden would like to thank all those you sponsored her in the Ruby Run half marathon in aid of Broadband for Northlew.

Altogether she raised £213.50

Tukae Garden Party

The Tukae Garden Party is organised by the Methodist, Anglican and Catholic Churches and is to be held at Elmfield on Saturday 15th August from 12 noon. All funds raised will go directly to the Tanga region of Tanzania – one of the poorest areas in the world, to help alleviate poverty and provide healthcare, education and training.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORK
AMOUNGST SOME OF THE WORLDS
POOREST PEOPLE

If you can help with the supply of cakes, plants, toys, books, household goods, tombola and raffle prizes, - all will be gratefully received on the day or preferably beforehand by any of the churches.

In addition to the stalls there will be games and competitions for the children both young and old and a thoroughly good day out for all the family. Admission will remain at £1 and 50p for children.

Make a note in your diary and come & support it on the day.

Northlew Methodist Church news

The Sunday school outing will be on 19th August, leaving the square at 9am to the Donkey Sanctuary then on to Sidmouth.

To book please see Brenda Curtis

The Methodist Church would like to everyone who supported the Fun Day on

Northlew News

18th July. Although it rained, and had to be held in the chapel and hall, it was well supported and we raised £476.81.

Thanks from Winifred Davey

I would like to thank everyone for cards, flowers and enquiries following my operation. A special thanks to Sally, Bet and Ollie for all their help. Also thanks to Tony – the postman – who helped me when I collapsed at Kimberlands.

Northlew Primary School Duck Race

The PTFA would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended or helped at the annual Duck Race at Wadland Barton last month. The weather was kind to us this year and on a lovely summers evening the amount raised for the PTFA fund stands at £684, which is a fantastic amount for a small school like ours.

The winning ducks were –

1st prize – Brenda Curtis

2nd prize – Carol Williamson

3rd prize – Angi Dennis

We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Friend for allowing us use of their field, NADS for their brilliant Punch 'n' Judy show, Tracey Davey and girls for organising the 'It's a Knockout', Carmel Coaches for supplying the shuttle bus and Mr Lea for being a sport and getting drenched, yet again! Also a big thank you to all the usual helpers and volunteers.

See you again next year!

Garden and card waste recycling

Please bring along your garden waste and thick card in suitable bags – old compost sacks are ideal. The crew will be happy to help you and will return your bags to you to take home.

The recycle truck will be in the square from 9.00am-12.00 noon on the 8th and 29th of August.

Coffee 'n' Chat outing to Looe

The bus will leave the square at 9.00am.
Adults - £6.00 Children - £3.00
To book call Marlene on 01409 221508

Northlew's very own Glastonbury!

From the 31st of June to the 2nd of August Crowden will play host to 'Crowdenbury', Northlew's very own mini festival.

Friday the 31st of July will gather us all together for a few drinks and a chill out after a hard week's work.

On Saturday the 1st there will be a mini fete and cream tea starting at 2pm. Followed by a hog roast and then we will let the bands loose as we dance the night away.

Sunday the 2nd sees us nurse the hangover, have breakfast together then time to clear up and look forward to next year.

We really need donations for the white elephant and cake stalls on the 1st. Any prizes would be gratefully appreciated too.

Please contact Harriet, 3 Old Orchard – 01409 220086

ATTENTION PENSION AND BENFIT CLAIMANTS

It has been brought to my notice that several people who collect their pension/benefit payment using the Post Office Card have received letters that may be misleading.

I would like to make it clear that pensions and benefits can still be collected using the Post Office Card. Pensions and benefits can also be collected on production of a Giro cheque. There are no plans to withdraw these facilities. New claimants can also request to be paid using a Post Office Card.

Madeline Taylor – Post Mistress,
Hatherleigh Post Office

Your concerns - Do we still need bonfires?

In this day and age of garden refuse recycling collectors do we still need to pollute the atmosphere with bonfires?

The amount of times we have hung washing out and had to go and get it in again or open the windows to air out the house and it fill with smoky fumes. Tried to eat out in the garden or just sit in or the kids have gone to play in their sandpit only to be driven in again by the choking smoke are too numerous to mention.

These bonfires aren't discreetly lit at the end of the day when they have less effect on people – they are lit at 10 o'clock in the morning and left to burn for hours!

Please, please, please can you leave lighting your bonfires (if you MUST have one) until after 8pm at night? We don't get many days when where able to sit out in the garden in this country and when one does come around it is often spoilt by people just not thinking their bonfire effect anybody else.

Rachel Richards

Dates For Your Diary

Jul 31st – Aug 2nd - Crowdenbury

Aug 6th – Coffee 'n' Chat outing

Aug 8th – Recycle truck in square

Aug 15th – Tukae Garden Party

Aug 19th – Sunday School Outing

Aug 22nd – Charity Square Dance

Aug 29th – Recycle truck in square

Sep 2nd – Woman's guild meeting (2.30pm)

Northlew Historical Records

Northlew is fortunate to have a considerable number of medieval records concerning the village. These records survive from the 15th century and are held at the Devon Record Office. Most of the early records concern Northlew Manor and its farms and tenants. There were several other manors with in Northlew (Ashbury, Kimber, Gorhuish and Rutleigh) but the number of documents which have survived for Northlew Manor means that it is possible to know more about it than any of the others. These records have been very little used except by one medieval

historian, the late Harold Fox, who used them in his study of the pasturing of animals on Dartmoor.

There are two particularly interesting types of documents which survive for Northlew: the manor court rolls and the accounts.

Manor court rolls record the business which took place at courts in the village (or possibly at the manor house). Manor courts were supposed to take place at least once per month, but often were less frequent than that and the rolls (written in Latin shorthand on parchment and rolled into tubes) record all that happened at the court. The courts were run by the Lord's bailiff or reeve and they dealt with disputes between the lord and his tenants, as well as disputes between tenants, petty crimes such as theft and assault. For example a court roll dated the Thursday after St George's day, 1437 records a case of assault involving, Robert Denys, the vicar of Northlew and two women, Alice, wife of Richard Smyth and Thomasina, wife of Thomas Glamvyll. Denys was accused of hitting the women with his hand and he in his turn accused them of assaulting him. Such cases could appear in several courts until the problem was sorted out by using the testimony of witnesses. It is easy to imagine the scene in the court with accusations flying between the clergyman and the women.

Tenants of the manor were expected to attend these courts; the more important tenants would act as jurors and their names are listed on the court rolls. If they could not attend were required either to appoint someone to go in their place or to pay a fine to the lord. People who were tenants of more than one manor would be required to attend more than one manor court!

The purpose of these courts was to control the activities of the manor's tenants, to solve problems and to collect fines from the tenants for a range of different offenses and activities. Tenants paid fines

for such activities as brewing ale, baking bread, using the lord's mill - using the lord's anything really. These fines could mount up; in the early 15th century the court revenues for the year were 48s 9d from 12 courts in one year. It is because the court rolls for Northlew manor that it is possible to know that both geese and pigs were being pastured on the village green in 1512. Manor courts also acted as the controller for sales of land between tenants (the lord of the manor collected a fine on each sale).

Debts between tenants were registered and controlled by the court which also levied a fine for this; in 1437 William atte Worth owed John Anthony 9s and William used John Wadland as his agent for the debt. In the same court several tenants, Robert atte Lake, Nicholas Gelet, John Gelet, John Lawrence, Thomas Edward, Thomas Chapman, William Parys, Richard Poke and Richard Hameleigh were fined a total of 2s 3½ d for letting their cows feed in the lord's pasture without licence; the fines ranged from 12d to 1½ d per person.

A study of the court rolls for Northlew manor could reveal a lot about what was going on in the village (particularly the western part of the village), who was living there, what they did and how they lived. There are not that many villages in England that have such a long run of good court roll records.

The other type of record which survives for Northlew manor is the account roll and these exist for about the same period of time as the court rolls. They provide a good deal of information about who was renting what land from the manor and how much they paid. We know for example that Northlew manor had at least ten different tenants in the 15th century. One of these, William Glamvyll (a relative of Thomas above?) paid 4s 4d for land at Estecott. It is also possible to know what animals the lord of Northlew Manor was selling from his estate; in the 15th century he sold quite a lot of cattle and horses. No sheep appear in these accounts, but that does not mean there were no sheep being

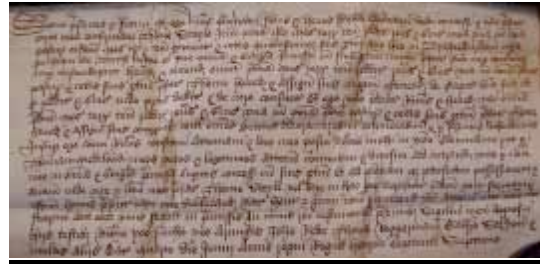
raised on the manor. The manor tenants may have had sheep, or it may be that the manor was raising so many sheep that they had a separate account for these which has not survived.

The names of the lords servants also appear in the accounts; for example John Walssh, a servant on the manor was paid wages of 8s 6d for 26 weeks work. The manor's bailiff was paid 23s for 46 weeks (or 6d per week). The ages for such people were not all they received; they would also be housed and get food and clothing paid for them. The accounts also record how much was paid for works on various parts of the estate and how long and how many people did the work. For example at Southdorme 2 men were paid 9d for 3 days work to build a close and 24 men were paid 2d each to eradicate trees from the same place. In the same account there is reference to a mill at Halegwell [Halwill?]

There is another type of record which can tell us about Northlew people in the middle ages and that is the rental. Like the manor court rolls and the accounts these exist for a period of over 200 years although not as many of them survive. One rental written in the 15th century (on paper rather than parchment) lists tenants and what they paid for individual parcels of land. A mill is mentioned at some place called Crylwlnd [the writing here is unclear] and John Wadlond is recorded as paying 16s for a tenement with meadow land at South Yeo.

The above examples give a flavour of the wealth of information that these medieval documents have to offer.

Marilyn Livingstone
Honeychurch



Devon Record Office document dated

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14 June 1492. Sale of land at Netherdurdon.

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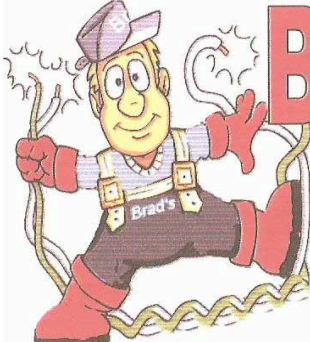
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