



Northlew News

<http://www.northlew.com>

December 2008

Produced by Northlew Parish Council



Parish Council News

This Christmas edition is being published a few days early but anything for the January edition needs to be with me before Weds 21st January at the latest. Email if you prefer to brianbasrab@hotmail.com

The Northlew News is available free with your newspaper from Lin at 1 The Arcade, at the 50/50 shop on Saturday mornings in the Methodist Hall and copies will be left in the notice board outside the Church Room and in The Green Dragon.

The articles for sale is proving very successful with most things going for the asking price and at only 50p per item a good way to get a return on unwanted goods.

More Parish Council News.

Some villagers have been asking quite what we the Parish Council have been doing with regard to the closure of the post office and village stores - we are happy to provide a summary below.

We organised an emergency Parish Council meeting at which over 100 people turned up, with no advertising beforehand.

Organised and ran a steering committee consisting of the entire Parish Council plus several volunteers - this group met regularly as well as normal Parish Council duties.

Organised both radio and television appearances protesting against closure of the Post Office

Met on several occasions with Post Office representatives to try to prevent closure and to ensure that the best possible service was in place if closure occurred.

Organised and ran the well attended public meeting held in The Square

Photographed a large number of villagers over several days outside the P.O

Prepared a 7000 word dossier with 25 pages of photographs detailing why Northlew deserved to keep its Post Office. This dossier was acknowledged as one of the best submissions with regard to Post Office closure and is available to be seen if anyone would like – just ask.

Organised the pensioners relay event that attracted local press coverage.

Unfortunately our efforts were in vain and as you know the Post Office closure went ahead. The consultation was not as it seemed and we were led to believe, but faced with a similar situation we would have repeated all our efforts detailed above

The next problem to be faced was what action we could take with regard to the village shop. We looked at all the options available from doing nothing to opening a full time enterprise.

We were offered the football changing rooms to convert into a shop and looked at re-siting them next to the public toilets to be close to the square.

A public meeting was arranged to ask you the villagers what they would like. This meeting was very poorly attended with only 30 people turning up. Opinions varied from “There’s no point we can get deliveries from Somerfield” to one or two people wanting to go for a fulltime village operation.

A steering committee was set up at that meeting, fully supported by your Parish Council and a questionnaire was produced to

canvass wider interest, paid for out of Parish Council funds.

A further meeting was organised again very poorly attended, 25 this time !

The next meeting organised by the committee and supported by The Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on January 14th in The Church Room.

Please do your utmost to attend, not only to have your views heard but to support those in the village who have worked so hard on your behalf.

Victory Hall News

The Christmas lunch, superbly prepared by Libby and Tracey, was a huge success.

A wonderful meal was enjoyed by over 100 people. A grand total of £613.00 was raised for hall funds so a big thank-you to all you came and to those who assisted in any way.

The date for the next lunch will be posted as soon as it is available.

The Christmas Bingo

First a enormous thank-you must go to Janet who organised the evening and sorted out the important things like the prizes! A total of £140.00 was raised. Another bingo evening will be arranged soon

Northlew Farmers Club

The Club Dinner will be held on Saturday 24th January at Ashbury Golf Course Hotel at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

Happy Birthday !

Christmas Day sees the birthday of one of our senior villagers - Lewis Davey will be the grand age of 80 on the 25th December so many happy returns.

Thanks Very Much

Jade and Terry would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who sent cards and gifts following the birth of their son Aiden.

N.A.D.S

Rehearsals for the next panto are going very well although still early days.

We are planning 3 performances, Friday and Saturday evenings the 20th and 21st February and a matinee on Saturday. Times and ticket prices will be announced closer to the date.

An early request to all cast members, please please make an effort to learn your lines

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before the next rehearsal in January. The action and real acting begins only when we are free from looking at the script so do your best although we appreciate Christmas is a busy time for us all. A little bed time reading of the script may aid sleep !

We now have funds available to go out and buy new some new lighting equipment but need advice as to what would be "the best buy". Please contact me or Martin at Elmfield 01409 221376 if you have any ideas..

Backstage help is still required to join Laurie, Simon and Ian so if you can wield a paintbrush or hammer a nail in that would be welcome.

The costume and props department is also keen to involve more people so please come forward if you think you might be able to help. Contact Cathy Feathers on 220276

Northlew Football club

As you already know the football club was forced to fold due to the lack of players, we hope this may be a temporary thing and we hope that in future we may be in a position to reform and start playing again.

The whole club would like to thank everyone who supported us over the years.

The final draw for the 150 club will be drawn in The Green Dragon on 21st December during the evening. With £100.00 for the winner, £50.00 for runner up and 4X £50.00 for the places.

The draw is only open to members who are already in the club, the results will be published in January.

Neighbourhood Watch

The whole concept of neighbourhood watch is to look out for things happening near you. A co-ordinator to possibly arrange meetings and to oversee this is needed. So if anyone is interested please let me or any of the parish councillors know. A property covered by a local neighbourhood watch is often in receipt of a reduction in home insurance premium.

We are still hoping someone will take on the responsibility to be our new co-ordinator.

Northlew Parent and Toddler Group

The proceeds from the Christmas shopping evening on Friday 28th November went towards group funds. A big thank-you to everyone who came and supported us - with

your generous help we raised the princely sum of £450.46p

All new babies and toddlers are welcome to come along on Wednesday mornings from 10am till 12.00.

Northlew and Ashbury Primary School

The P.T.F.A would like to thank everyone who came and supported their Christmas Fayre.

The amount raised was approximately £655.00 with a little still to come in.

An extra big thank-you to local businesses who so kindly donated draw prizes, without their help and the support from the whole village we would be unable to provide so much financial aid to the school for the benefit of the children.

A Community shop for Northlew? Probably not.

After collecting/receiving back of only 119 of the 250 questionnaires distributed we collated the data and came to the conclusion that a shop in Northlew is just not a viable option. The reasons are set out below.

Everybody wants a shop in Northlew. Of course we all do, it's convenient. But how many of us would ACTUALLY use it regularly? It would need to be used by everybody at least three times a week for it to be a viable proposition.

The last three owners of the shop have struggled to make any kind of living out of it and have only managed to maintain the shop because of the Post Office being on site despite their best efforts. We now only have an Outreach service for the Post Office for two mornings a week and so the rest of the time a shop would have to rely on it's own merits.

Thank you to all the very kind offers of donations and to buy shares – we really appreciate that – but feel that we would just be throwing away your money to try and get a full time or even part time commercial shop running.

There was a disappointing turnout at the meeting on Wednesday 10th December, we'd hoped that those of you who had volunteered to help would have turned out but there were only about 20 people in the end. Thanks very much to them for coming.

The results of the questionnaire were discussed and it was found to have been a valuable exercise, even though it has put us off

running a shop as such. We've discovered what people need most of and what items would sell best and what times people would ideally use the shop. The time most popular was mornings and people said they would use it 2/3 times per week so this coincides with the Post Office Outreach service supplied by Hatherleigh Sub Post Office and run by Angi Short.

So...an idea...a pannier market in the church rooms at the same time as the Post Office service.

Madeleine from Hatherleigh Post Office has already brought along a few items to sell while the PO is running such as sweets, a few off-the-shelf medicines, wrapping paper and other stationery items. She is also willing to take orders for milk and bread (from Pete's bakery in Hatherleigh) and bring them out with her on the Tuesday and Friday PO sessions. **There is now an order book and pricelist at the post office sessions for you to fill in with your requirements (milk and bread).** Payment will need to be taken with your order for it to be viable for her to do.

And we were hoping to set up a small store of essential items such as toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, bin bags washing up liquid etc, those things people run out of and that don't have a limited shelf life – if we could have your suggestions of things you'd find useful to have in stock that would make a difference. We will also be approaching local meat and veg producers to see if they want to sell their produce. If you know of anybody who may want to set up a stall selling whatever they like please put them in touch with us.

For any of you who would like to be on the steering committee and help sort out the general running of the market **the next meeting will be in The Church Room at 7.30pm on January 14th.** We need to form a committee to oversee the running of the market so we can maybe expand and create a real community service for the village.

Rachel Richards 221973 and Cathy Fethers 220276

Line Dancing in The Victory Hall

The classes which started in October have been enjoyed and well received, so why not come along and join those of us who are already having fun in a really friendly atmosphere.

All are welcome, the classes cater for total novices right through to intermediate and advanced dancing.

Great Fun- Great Music- Great Exercise

For further information please contact:-

Norman Spink or Jane Peckham on 01409 221005

A few Ideas which may help re: credit crunch

Lots of people may be experiencing difficulties in these hard times. We have decided to give a couple of addresses and contacts you may find useful.

Citizens Advice Bureaux. They maybe able to help out with any legal and financial advice and other problems arising. They have offices in the Okement Centre, Okehampton and Kingdom House in Tavistock.

Okehampton C A B 018375 52574

Tavistock 01822 612 359

www.tavistockcab.org

Email bureau.tavistockcab@cabnet.org.uk

Southwest Pound

This offers a single place to go to find out more about money related services offered include, financial health checks, affordable loans, savings, energy and fuel efficiency advice. These have been designed to help improve long term security.

[Tel:- 0800 310 92 96](tel:08003109296)

Making homes warmer

Warm up West Devon aims to help make homes warmer and safer by offering, loft, cavity wall and safety works at low cost or in some cases free. Also on offer are free benefits health checks, chain and mirror door entry system installed at low cost, 2 free low energy light bulbs when fitted free and a free home fire safety check from the Devon & Somerset Fire and rescue service.

Tel Freephone 0800 512012

www.westdevon.gov.uk/warmupwestdevon

Warm front grants

A warm front grant will help make homes warmer, healthier and more energy efficient. The grant provides a package of insulation and heating improvements up to £2,700 (£4,000 if oil central heating is recommended) To be eligible for a grant applicants must be in receipt of certain benefits including, income

support, Council tax benefit and job seekers allowance.

Freephone 0800 316 2805

www.warmfront.co.uk/index.htm

Email enquiry@eaga.com

Northlew Methodist Church

The Chicken and Tinsel evening at Elmfield was a huge success and over £280.00 was raised. Thanks again to Martin and Brian who made such wonderful hosts.

Saturday 20th December 10am-12 Middy Coffee and mince pies at the 50/50 shop

Sunday 21st December 6.30pm Carol Service led by Rev. John Peak with The Northlew Silver Band

Sunday 28th, sees the Ruby Wedding anniversary of John and Elaine Peak, 40 years or married bliss !

Christmas Day 9.30am morning service with Rev. John Peak.

Northlew Parish Church

24th December 4pm Children's carol service and nativity play

25th December 10.30am Holy Communion

28th December 10am, Family Service

New Years Eve. The bells will start to be rung at 11.30pm. All welcome to come and watch the ringers.

January 11th New Year Lunch in The Victory Hall, tickets £7 available from John Spry, Pip Wilson or Pat Durston. Book early to avoid disappointment as all the best salesmen say!

Farmers Group New Year Dinner will be on Thursday 8th January at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum. The Bishop of Crediton will give a talk – the subject being “Bangkok to Bishop” – sounds intriguing!

Family Service will be at 10.00 a.m. on January 25th. Holy Communion at 6.30 p.m. All other services at usual times. 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 6.30 p.m. Evensong.

Note from the Vicar: If anyone would like to be confirmed this year could they please contact him for further information.

Feeling a little under the weather ?

A healthy alternative...

Homeopathy

- Effective, gentle medicine, without side effects.
 - Treats the whole person - Treats you as an individual.
- Can be taken alongside your usual medication.

At the Ockment Centre in North Street,
Okehampton,

Or Hooperton Farm, Crockernwell, Exeter.

For a private, "no obligation" chat to find out if homeopathy could help you

Please phone: Jenny Grist RSHom, on 01647 281110.

Recipe of the month

Farmhouse Pie

This might be useful with the Christmas leftovers

8 oz Chicken (Turkey, goose – whatever)

4 oz cooked bacon

4 oz mushrooms

2 oz butter

1 oz flour

½ pint milk

Juice of ½ lemon

Mace, salt, pepper, parsley

6 oz puff pastry

Cut chicken and ham into pieces. Fry the mushrooms in 1 oz of the butter remove and melt rest of butter – blend in flour and cook the resulting roux for 1 minute. Remove from heat – stir in the milk and cook for 2 minutes. Add mace, salt, pepper, lemon juice and parsley. Stir in the meat and mushrooms – leave to cool. Then cover with pastry and cook at 220 degrees for about 30 mins.

Anyone else got any recipes? Martins mother's scribbles are my only source!

Advertising Space

Advertising space is now available for you to give details of your business. Please ring Brian on 01409 221376 to hear about terms and conditions, on advertising. The News will reach

150 homes so could be well worth a small cost.

Have you made your Christmas cake yet ?

It's still not too late to order a special cake for a special occasion, maybe a New Year cake to give 2009 a kick start. Call Brian on 221376 to chat about what you'd like. Christmas is only days away now, you don't want to go short regardless of the credit crunch..

These cakes come ready covered in home-made almond paste and royal icing, with suitable decoration.

Elmfield Bed and Breakfast

Have you got friends or family visiting and nowhere for them to stay ?

Elmfield can offer a home from home from as little as £25.00 per night with a wonderful breakfast thrown in. Single, twin or double rooms are available with a little extra to go en-suite.

www.elmfield-northlew.co.uk

To book telephone Martin or Brian 01409 221376 or 07791624277

J & J Services

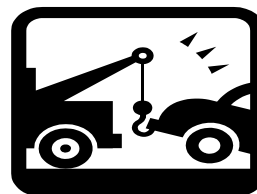
For all your car repairs and services, under one roof !

Repairs-Servicing-Batteries-Tyres-Exhausts. M.O.T. preparation

Come to J & J services for a friendly efficient service everytime. A courtesy car is available for you while the work on your car is being carried out.

The Knoll, Northlew EX20 3BR

Telephone/fax 01409 220091 or mobile 07850 767686



Ian Colbourne

Traditional lime plasterer, expertly carried out renovations to period property.

Lime plaster, lime render, pointing, cob & stone repairs, lath & plaster walls.

Call Ian 01409 221220

Anthony Stock

Painter & Decorator

(over 30 years experience)

The Maltings

Northlew

EX20 3NR

Tel: 01409 220161

Carmel Coaches

Carmel coaches offer a wide range of trips and outings this winter.

Take a trip to see the greatest pantomime of all Cinderella at The Theatre Royal Plymouth on Sunday 11th January 2009.

Tickets for the show are £24.00 for adults and £23.00 for children.

The show stars Lesley Joseph as fairy Godmother and Matt Slack as buttons with Laura Evans as Cinderella.

Holiday on ice at West Point Exeter on Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd of February. The most visited show in the world choreographed by Robin Cousins M.B.E the new mystery production. All tickets £28.00

Please call 01409 221237 for full details of all trips, departure times and pick-up points etc. Debit and credit card bookings can be made over the phone.

For Sale

Still up for grabs - **a lot of very adaptable book shelving, computer desk etc.** Offers.

A Hewlett Packard, laser jet printer 3100.

This does just about everything, print, scan, fax and copy. Has a memory for over 100 telephone/fax numbers. 10 one touch keys with full instruction manual.

Toner cartridge included. £40.00

Call 01409 221376

Elmfield Station Road.

A green R reg. Vauxhall Vectra. M.O.T. and tax till May 2009. C D player, electric windows with full service history.

£700.00 ono

Telephone Tracey 01409 221835 or 07825285246

Toshiba 27" L C D television. (brushed silver)

H D ready H D M 1 socket, scart sockets, Nicam stereo

Plus all the usual accessory sockets.

As new a real pre-Christmas bargain

£200.00 O.N.O

01409 221005

A lovely dining table is for sale, a light wood, 48"X36" with a 19" leaf, the table seats 6 comfortably and 8 with the extension.

£25.00 O.N.O

Contact Hilary, Phone number 221175.

Hey it's Christmas !

David and Harriet would like to wish all their friends and in fact everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year. "We won't be sending individual personal cards to anyone we see around the village every day, in case we miss anyone !

So please accept seasons greeting from us both"

Harriet and David

Taking a lead from above Martin and Brian at Elmfield will be not be sending cards in the village this year.

Instead we have sent a donation to the Congo Relief fund.

Nevertheless we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

