

# NORTHLEW NEWS

**February 2014**

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Published by Northlew Parish  
Council  
Edited by Juliet Yelland  
**northlewnews@gmail.com**  
01409221446

## Your Parish Councillors

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Juliet Yelland (Chair)  
01409221446 Janet Millership  
(Clerk) 01409221409

Alex Crosthwaite-Eyre (vice chair)  
01409220136

Jane Colbourne 01409221220

Ian Dixon 0183710274

Bryan Dufty 01837871256

Simon Dufty 01837871744

Nick O'Connell 01409221225

Ian Richards 01409221973

Mark Rundle 0183753314

CLlr James McInnes  
01837861364

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**Mel Stride MP**  
**Mr Stride's contact details**  
**are:**

**In writing:**  
**Mel Stride MP**

**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

**By phone:**  
**02072197037**

By email:  
[mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk)

## Parish Council

As you are all aware the bridge has been closed for a very long time. This has had an adverse affect on village life and many businesses too.

The Parish Council has been told many diferent dates for the reopening of the bridge and of the repair to another route out of the village. Below is a response from the “**Senior Engineer, Bridges**”, which we received at the last P C meeting. We thought you may like to read their response to our enquiry about the long delays and continual change of dates. Therefore you can understand why nothing had been put in print as to when the bridge would be reopening.

## **The Email**

We fully understand the frustration and inconvenience that the works at Northlew are causing local residents.

Although we have experienced a number of difficulties and setbacks on the project, both my team and most especially the team from South West Highways have been working extremely hard to try to keep the work progressing as much as possible.

We have received a number of complaints about the behaviour of drivers and the volumes of traffic using the back roads around Northlew in an attempt to “beat” the official diversion route and the damage that they have been causing.

Unfortunately, although we have provided a signed official diversion route, we have no legal power to prevent drivers from using alternative routes, irrespective of their suitability. Where we are aware of particular problems, we have been working with local residents to provide additional

signage to try to mitigate the worst effects of the irresponsible behaviour of the minority of motorists using these roads.

The original construction project at Northlew Bridge was expected to be of 7 weeks duration and consisted of the replacement of the existing steel parapets, which were in a dangerous condition, with new masonry walls. To avoid narrowing the bridge, reinforced concrete foundation slabs were designed to allow the walls to safely overhang the face of the existing arch bridge.

Whilst works were progressing on site, by Northlew Parish Council with a request to widen the bridge to allow the County Council were approached over-size agricultural vehicles to use the road. This required some re-design of the original scheme and the design team worked extra hours both early in the mornings and late into the evening in order to complete their work as quickly as possible and to minimise

delays, whilst the demolition and clearance work proceeded on site. However the time required to carry out the this extra work, combined with the time needed to carry out the larger and more complicated construction work resulting from this change meant that the programme of works (and hence the road closure) had to be extended to 20 December 2013.

Progress has been further hampered by the severe weather both before and after Christmas, as well as by the sudden absence or unavailability of key skilled tradesmen such as stonemasons, due to both seasonal illness and to accidental injury (not sustained during work at Northlew Bridge). South West Highways have worked hard to minimise the impact of these events on the scheme – replacement tradesmen have been brought in and work has been taking place at weekends as well, where practicable. The construction of stone walls is not really a

wet-weather activity, but the team of masons on site have continued to try to work despite the recent weather. When the rain got too heavy, a tented canopy was erected to allow them to continue.

Unfortunately, even this had to be abandoned when the wind became too strong and the masons were forced to take shelter in the site office to wait for each storm to pass.

As a result of the delays and the slowing of progress due to these challenges, we currently estimate that the date of completion of the scheme is now 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. It should be noted that we still have a number of weather-sensitive activities to complete – road surfacing works in particular cannot be undertaken during periods of rain or freezing temperatures – but I am assured that South West Highways are aiming to better this date if at all possible.

Also we received in our correspondence an issue of

“Healthwatch Voices”.  
Healthwatch Devon is operated and managed by Community Council of Devon. It is a registered charity.

For any complaints about health or social care contact the following number 08005200640 or visit [www.healthwatchdevon.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchdevon.co.uk) or you can see the magazine in the Church room.



Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Children's Activity Club in the Methodist Hall

## Northlew Parent and Toddler Group

♥ **This Valentine's Day, why not treat your someone special to an evening of Old Fashioned Hollywood Romance?** ♥

Northlew Toddler Group present an evening with Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" on Feb 14th, in the Victory Hall.

Doors open at 7pm with the movie starting at 8pm.

Refreshments include, Tea, Coffee, alcoholic beverages, popcorn etc.

Prices are £3.50 for a pre-booked ticket and £4.50 on the door.

**See posters for more info or contact Gemma on 01837 871744.**

## Methodist Church News

### Services

2<sup>nd</sup> February 9.30 a.m. Rev

Nigel Coke-Woods

9<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 a.m. Mr Andy Hunter

16<sup>th</sup> February 9.30 a.m. Miss Brenda Curtis

23<sup>rd</sup> February 9.30 a.m. Mr Keith Moast

# CARMEL COACHES LTD

Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2014

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Lion King                 |        |
| Plymouth                  | £68.00 |
| February 23 <sup>rd</sup> |        |
| Ice Show                  | £32.00 |
| April 13 <sup>th</sup>    |        |
| Steam & Cream             | T.A.B  |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup>    |        |
| Swanage                   | £16.00 |
| May 5 <sup>th</sup>       |        |
| Guernsey                  | £40.00 |
| May 26 <sup>th</sup>      |        |
| Blenhem Palace            | £32.00 |
| July 12 <sup>th</sup>     |        |
| Fairford Air Display      | £45.00 |
| July 27 <sup>th</sup>     |        |
| Mystery Tour              | £25.00 |
| August 25 <sup>th</sup>   |        |
| Weston S. Mare            | £12.50 |

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## WARNER HOLIDAY

September 29<sup>th</sup>  
 5 days at Corton Coastal  
 Village only           £349.00

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**Pick-ups for these excursions are available from Northlew – Hatherleigh – Okehampton Times will be given on receipt after payment for excursion is made**

## Northlew Post Office

With an array of stalls and coffee to go with some chat, the post office is open Monday and Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12pm.

Anyone fancy a cuppa and a natter on a Thursday morning then please come along to the Churchroom. You will also find a few plants for sale too.



### J & J Services

For all your car repairs and servicing under one roof

Batteries • Tyres • Exhausts • MOT Preparation • Diagnostics  
 Repairs to old and new • All make and models

Ring John or Andrew  
 for a friendly and efficient service  
**01409 220091 07850 767686**

The Knoll Northlew EX20 3BR  
 Established 1981

## Knit – Natter

The Knit and Natter meet in the Chapel room on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm.

Elaine and Maureen wish to say

there is a warm welcome to any-one who would like to come along, if only for a cuppa.



## Parish Church News

Service times for February  
Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion.

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.30pm Evening Prayer.

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Morning Prayer.

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Evening Prayer.

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion.

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Evening Prayer.

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am Family service.

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm Holy Communion.

I know its a bit late for this but


“Happy New Year everyone”!  
We had some lovely Christmas services – lots of carols, candles and music. And most of all, thinking about the real reason we celebrate Christmas each year. Thanks to all who helped to make it all so good, once again. The bells “rang in” the New Year, the old cannon fired and everyone enjoyed Trixie's mulled wine and mince pies! (Thanks also to Shaun and Wenna).

As I am writing this we're in the first week of the year and there is a cluster of snowdrops up in the churchyard. They had a bit of a struggle to get through the sodden earth but eventually managed it. An example to us humans- never give up!

The church 'Catering Corps' usually do a Sunday lunch some time now, but am not sure of the details at the moment. Please see posters in due course. Thank you.

The Christmas Hamper which was in the churchroom before the holiday was won by Helen Thorne. (The lady with the table top selling fudge, birdfood, cards and all sorts of

things). £74.00 was made for Church funds – many thanks to all who took part in the raffle, and especially to Roz Jones who organised it.



**Anthony Stock**  
**DECORATOR**

The Maltings  
Harpers Hill  
Northlew  
Okehampton  
Devon EX20 3NR  
Tel: 01409 220161

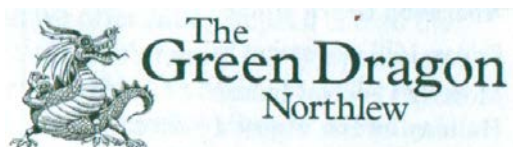
## Yoga Class

### A new session of Yoga starts

7 to 8.30 Wednesday 15th January In the Victory Hall  
All are welcome.

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat to lie on.

For further details contact Angela Blezard  
01409 221110/07809427991



## Open Mike Night

The "First Monday" session at The Green Dragon is on the first Monday of each month from 8.30pm.



**JEANNETTE LAWRENCE**

Traditional  
Freelance  
Mobile Hairdresser

01409 221762

## Valentine Menu

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 15th  
Shellfish Bisque

Tapenade, Taramasalata and olives served with warmed pitta bread  
Pigeon breast in a red wine sauce

Stuffed courgette rolls

Thai Baked Sea Bass

Grilled Calves liver  
Morrocan spiced lamb Rump  
Honey mustard glazed Duck

Choice of Dessert  
£20

**Treat yourself to a Sunday  
Lunch at the Green Dragon  
Inn Northlew  
Only £7.25 for adults and  
£5.25 for children.**



**Northlew Village Stores**  
Northlew Village Stores stock a large range of goods from tins to lovely fresh meats, fruit and veg. Also house hold goods at very competitive prices.

### **Dog Fouling**

Please, please, please would the irresponsible persons not picking up their dog mess do so in the future. The dog warden has been informed about where the problem areas are. **You have been warned.**

NORTHLEW  
OKEHAMPTON  
DEVON

"Warm hospitality, delicious food and great company – just perfect – thank you so much"

"We came for 2 nights and stayed for 4 – do we need to say any more?"

**Elmfield**  
bed and breakfast

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Bed and breakfast accommodation at Elmfield

Prices from £25 per night  
Extensive breakfast menu  
Discounts apply for stays of 3 nights or more

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Contact Martin or Brian on 01409 221376 or 07791 624277  
[www.elmfield-northlew.co.uk](http://www.elmfield-northlew.co.uk)



## WW1 Memorial

Dear all, As you have probably heard the WW1 memorial is steaming ahead and gathering momentum as we hurtle towards our 28th June date. With planting of the world's longest poppy avenue already begun to planning for our outdoor memorial service. We are working hard to bring something truly amazing to show the world that we cared. While trying to make something of this magnitude happen it is key to note that this is NOT a celebration, it's not even about the war, this is simply about remembering the brave young lads who gave up their tomorrows so we could have our today. No one alive today understands what those boys went through and sadly a lot of the world no longer cares. It is up to us as a community to come together and say in one resounding voice we DID remember them. So far we have organised not just the poppy avenue, we have a WW1 Bi plane flyover, a corner of a

foreign field planted with seed obtained from Flanders, our own poppy on sale at Sutton seeds nationwide 'The Northlew Poppy' A new ale called 'Northlew Tommy' an exhibition, over 120 current serving troops who will march into the village and stand guard while we present our 3D presentation turning the buildings around the square into a battlefield using state of the art equipment with distant battle noise and trench poetry being read to give the slightest feeling of what it may of been like for those lads.

Make absolutely no mistake this will be a very moving and solemn occasion with a number of dignitaries in attendance it will be doubtful if you leave without shedding at least a couple of tears. We are trying to get as many groups in the village to take part in this from NADS, the choir, the Victory Hall and of course both churches. We do of course need volunteers, from marshals, to help with food or poppy laying, join the choir or join the silver band we can all play our part to

what could possibly be the biggest event that Northlew has held in it's history.

There will be a public meeting held on Friday 7th Feb in the churchroom with refreshments provided at 7pm. Be part of something truly amazing this year, come and make friends and volunteer or just come along and hear what has been arranged. 100 years ago posters went up saying your country needs you... well 100 years later your village needs you. Join us and show the world we cared.

Northlew Memorial  
Committee