

NORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019 INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19



Images courtesy of Graham Hobbs

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, CLLR JOHN HIMAN

I hope you are enjoying the lovely summer weather.

My new term of office began in May and was quickly followed by the Mayor's Introduction Ceremony. The Appledore band entertained the guests on arrival and we were honoured to be joined by visiting Mayors and dignitaries from Torridge and North Devon. I was presented with my badge of office by the outgoing Mayor Cllr Ken Davis. I then went on to appoint the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Heather McCarthy, my Cadet, Samuel Johnson, and my Chaplain, Rev Derek Arnold.

I have since attended several civic functions including South Molton Old English Fayre, Holsworthy Pretty Maid Ceremony, as well as schools events, fetes and charitable fundraising events. The Mayor's charities for this year are the Appledore Lifeboat and the Devon Air Ambulance. I will be hosting events throughout the year to raise money these very worthy causes.

I am encouraging Councillors to get engaged with new and ongoing projects and to bring forward fresh ideas for Northam, Westward Ho!, Appledore and Orchard Hill. The Council has now taken ownership of recreation and play areas providing new play equipment. Bone Hill is now looking spick and span with the new flag pole and the information boards about the Burrows will soon be updated and renewed.

In the Council Chamber, there are many artefacts that have been presented to Northam from our twinning towns of Mondeville and Büddenstedt. I was invited to Mondeville on the 18th July for the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Mondeville. This was a very moving day and it was a great honour to represent Northam on such a momentous occasion. Northam Twinning hosted families from Mondeville in May and Northam Twinning members will be returning to France in September.

Summer has seen the floral hanging baskets and flower displays looking wonderful and the grass verges looking neat and tidy. A huge thank you to our staff and maintenance team for the all their efforts they have put in to make our area a place to be truly proud of.

TOWN MATTERS

NORTHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Northam Twinning is looking for new members to join the Association which was formed 45 years ago.

Northam Twinners visit Mondeville (Normandy) on an annual basis and stay with local families, usually in September. Mondeville makes the return visit in April. For further information please contact:

Keith Lane
(Chairman) ka_lane@hotmail.co.uk
01237 476944
or
Lesley Shaw (Secretary)
lesleycshaw@btinternet.com
01237 471187

ELECTIONS

Following the elections in May, the Council has seven new Councillors. Their photos are on the back page and you can find contact information for each Member on our website. The Ward boundaries also changed in May. The Orchard Hill Ward has now become part of a larger ward incorporating Northam and Orchard Hill. The Appledore ward has also been made slightly bigger but with the number of Councillors remaining the same. The biggest change comes in Westward Ho! with an increase of Members from two to four.

APPLEDORE

A few months ago, the Town Projects Committee received a request regarding the boat planters in Appledore. The group of people who used to maintain the planting were no longer able to carry on due to ill health. The Council agreed to take this on and you will see that the Maintenance Team have done a superb job planting them up for the summer. They also noticed that the bollards next to the boat on Marine Parade were in need of some TLC and have re-painted them in an attractive black and gold scheme.



NEW BUS SHELTERS

Following an inspection of the Town Council's bus shelters, the Town Projects committee took the decision to replace four shelters. The stops are located at Aysha Gardens, Kingsley Park, Golf Links Road and Sandymere Road. The original shelters were installed by the Council circa 1995 and have seen a few repairs since then. With an expected life span of about 10 years, these shelters certainly have served us well for nearly 25 years. The rest of the Council's shelters will all be cleaned and tidied up by the Maintenance Team throughout the summer.

TOWN MATTERS

BEADLE

Northam Town Council has a vacancy for a Town Beadle. The Beadle acts primarily as the custodian of the Mayoral Chain and will accompany the Mayor to various civic functions and services in a wide variety of locations throughout the year. Applicants must have a car as you will also be the Mayor's driver on such occasions. Travel expenses will be paid along with an honorarium. A uniform is also provided. You will work alongside our current Beadle, Gerry. A job description and application form are obtainable from The Town Clerk, Northam Town Council, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam EX39 1BY (Tel; 01237 474976) or from the Town Council website (www.northamtowncouncil.gov.uk). **Closing date 27th September 2019 by 12 noon.**

BENCHES



In recent years, the Town Council has taken over a number of benches from Torridge District Council so that we can ensure they are kept to a high standard of repair. Now the Council is responsible for a number of benches, the Town Projects Committee have approved a Bench Sponsorship/Dedication Scheme. A number of the benches on Appledore Quay (pictured)

have now been refurbished and dedication plaques have been installed. The scheme offers refurbishment of existing benches and installation of new ones. There are also benches available for dedication in our parks. If you would like to dedicate a bench to your loved one or sponsor one for a special occasion, you can find more information on our website (www.northamtowncouncil.gov.uk/benches), or you can contact the Office for more information.

RIDGEWAY DRIVE

Since the last newsletter in December, the long awaited scheme of refurbishment at the Ridgeway Drive play area has been completed. The area was completely cleared and all new equipment and surfacing has been installed. This includes a roundabout, slide, two types of swing, a talking litter bin and more!



TOWN MATTERS

NORTHAM BURROWS FORUM

The next Northam Burrows Forum meeting will be held on Monday 9th September at 10am in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The agenda will be published six days before the meeting (Tuesday 3rd September) and can be found on the website and noticeboards in the area.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town Projects committee have decided to set up a sub-committee consisting of four Councillors and up to four co-opted members of the community to produce an action plan. If you would like to be part of the group, please contact the Town Clerk (Tel; 01237 474976 or e-mail; townclerk@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2 nd September	Town Projects
9 th September	Burrows Forum
11 th September	Planning
16 th September	Finance
25 th September	Planning
	Full Council
7 th October	Town Projects
9 th October	Planning
21 st October	Finance
30 th October	Planning
	Full Council

Agendas are published 6 days before the meeting and can be found on the website and in notice boards around the area.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2020

As you may be aware, the May Bank Holiday in 2020 has been moved from Monday to Friday. Due to this change from the norm, the Council have confirmed the date of the May Fair in 2020 as 2nd May. Preparations for the day are already underway with lots of attractions booked.

The Bank holiday being moved to Friday 8th May, is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. At a recent meeting, Members discussed ideas for a commemoration event during that weekend. We will publicise such an event in good time next year and we hope members of the public will be able to attend to mark this important day.

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

We have a new member of staff in the office. Tina joined us in April on an apprenticeship scheme and is working in the office for 30 hours a week. She will be your first line of contact if you call or visit the Council Offices. She is proving to be an invaluable line of support for the existing Office Staff and their ever increasing workloads.



TOWN MATTERS

TWINNING EVENING

This year, the Northam Twinning Association celebrated it's 45th Anniversary. On 1st June, during the visit of the French Twinning families, the Council hosted a celebratory concert and supper at Northam Hall. Guests were entertained by the Westward Ho! Youth Theatre, the Appledore Singers, the Appledore Shanty Singers and Robert Stirzaker. The Chairmen of both the Northam and Mondeville Twinning Association gave speeches and everyone made comments about what a good time was had. *(all photos below are courtesy of Graham Hobbs)*



THE MAYOR'S VISION

The Mayor of Northam Cllr John Himan was invited to the twinning town of Mondeville to represent Northam Town Council at the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Mondeville on July 18th 1944.

Bertrand Havard, Maire Adjoint thanked those from England and Germany who made the journey to celebrate the liberation of Mondeville and said "how attached we are to our twinning towns, living proof of the friendship uniting our people".

Others present were Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Berchem representative of the British Embassy, Capitaine de Corvette Bruno Tremblay, représentant Militaire Canadien, Wittich Schobert, Mayor of Helmstedt and the Chairmen of the twinning committees Keith Lane and Madam Liliane Delorire.

The Mayor, Cllr Himan in his speech said:

"It is a great honour to be invited here today to represent Northam Town Council which has been twinned with Mondeville and Büddenstedt for 45 years.

We join with you to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Mondeville and to remember those who served in the armed forces whose courage and sacrifice allowed Mondeville to regain its freedom and liberty. Cllr Himan then read the poem:-

For the Fallen – by Robert Laurence Binyon

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them".

The Ceremony was also reported in the local press, which included some interesting information about the liberation of Mondeville. We have translated it and reproduced it below;

"It was a great honour to take part in the CEREMONY TRIBUTE TO THE LIBERATORS OF MONDEVILLE

On July 18 1944, the British-controlled Northshore, Glen's and Chaudiere regiments released Mondeville, before heading to the Right Bank to liberate Caen. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of this liberation, the City organised various events on Thursday.

The day began with the reception of two delegations from the English and German twin cities of Northam and Helmstedt. A visit of the city and its buildings was organised, as well as the visit of symbolic places of the Second World War such as the American cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer.

At 6:30 pm, an official ceremony brought together some one hundred people in front of City Hall in the presence of twinning committees, the municipal council of children and youth, the two associations of veterans Amac and Fnaca. In turn, Bertrand Havard, Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Berchem, representing the British Embassy and Lieutenant-Commander Bruno Tremblay, Canadian Military Representative, recalled the harshness of the battles fought by Canadian regiments to liberate the city."

T TO MONDEVILLE



Top L-R; Chairman of Northam Twinning Association, Keith Lane, Mrs Rosemary Lane, Wittich Schobert, Mayor of Helmstedt, Mayoress of Northam, Catherine Himan, Mayor of Northam, Cllr John Himan, Chairman of Mondeville Twinning Association, Madam Liliane Delorire.

Bottom Left L-R; Capitaine de Corvette Bruno Tremblay, représentant Militaire Canadien, Mayoress of Northam, Catherine Himan, Mayor of Northam, Cllr John Himan, Lieutenant-Colonel Nick Berchem representative of the British Embassy.

Bottom Right; Representatives of France, UK and Germany

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

RETIRING MAYOR'S REPORT

How the time flies and it has certainly flown for me. It only seems like yesterday when I was presented with the Chain of Office by my predecessor at my Mayor's Introduction Ceremony. Despite Jasmin's setback over her knee operation and having to miss many functions, I can't begin to tell you what an honour it has been for the both of us to be Mayor and Mayoress.

The term of office has been variable to say the least; from chairing Full Council to the full Mayoral calendar attending functions representing Northam Town Council on many civic occasions around Devon, rubbing shoulders with the Lord Mayor of Exeter, Mayors from other Councils and dignitaries such as the High Sheriff of Devon. One of the most memorable for the Mayoress and myself was helping with the Armistice Ceremonies, as 2018 was the centenary to the day when the war to end all wars ceased, paying tribute to the lads from the greater Northam area who made the supreme sacrifice in two world wars and conflicts since. These were moving occasions, especially when I presented the Union Flag to Appledore Church to be used during future Remembrance Parades.

Also as Mayor and Mayoress our duties took us beyond these shores to our twin town of Mondeville, celebrating our annual visit to our French and German twinning associations to which, in my address at the civic reception, I wished our friends well in their great endeavour towards nationhood and unity, but also to reassure them to our commitment to the true spirit of twinning and whatever the future may hold in this world or uncertainty, Northam is still only a day's sail and a few hours in the air away from our twin towns of Mondeville and Büddenstedt. Coming a little closer to home, from French cheese, wine and hospitality, I think Northam Town Council deserves to give themselves a pat on the back over the many town projects it has been involved with in my time as Mayor. From the restoration of the Ridgeway Drive play area to an area fit for purpose, to bringing the public toilets in Northam into the 21st century, also adding a bit of brightness with the additional festoon lighting at Westward Ho! and providing a bus shelter opposite the Durrant House Hotel. Not forgetting also the wonderful floral displays at certain points along the way in memory of deceased Councillors who served this Council well and their input sadly missed.

Talking of inputs I would like also to thank those who donated to the Mayor's Charities.

Last but not least, a big thank you to the back room staff who, through their hard work and devotion to duty, keep the wheels of administration turning, the grass cut, the hedges tidy and sidewalks clean, all of which is pleasing to the eye and credit to our Council.

Ken Davis Mayor of Northam (2018/2019)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 18/19

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
Bonehill Car Park	£166.25	War Memorials	£1,227.40
Neighbourhood Plan	£90.82	Appledore Community Hall	£5,000.00
Northam Hall	£19,096.79	Public Works Loan Board	£20,866.63
Mayor's Charity	£2,850.48	Anchor Park	£11,063.25
General Council Equipment	£3,100.00	Allotments Windmill Lane	£106.58
Administration	£7,577.28	Burrough Farm	£335.81
Northam May Fair	£6,418.45	Northam Burrows	£9,328.83
Town Projects	£71,073.74	Footpaths	£2,870.12
Precept	£319,765.00	Town Projects	£139,680.81
Footpaths	£1,600.00	Administration (inc. Staffing)	£175,307.81
Twinning	£112.50	Town Hall	£118.89
Northam Burrows	£15,469.41	Precept	£10,000.00
Burrough Farm	£880.00	General Council Equipment	£44,860.01
Allotments Windmill Lane	£497.50	Northam Hall	£16,880.32
NTC Car Park	£9,075.00	Jubilee and Commemorations	£1,001.29
Blue Lights Hall	£1,800.00	Twinning	£1,612.50
	£459,573.22	Northam May Fair	£6,714.58
		Grants Other	£1,132.00
		Human Resources	£2,566.60
		Council Tax Support Grant	£465.90
		Neighbourhood Plan	£2,014.81
		Mayor & Cllr Allowances	£26,284.09
		S137 Grants	£13,571.97
		Bonehill Car Park	£3,120.42
			£496,130.62
<u>General Fund</u>			
Balance at 01 Apr 2018	£261,378.17		
ADD Total Income	£459,573.22		
	£720,951.39		
DEDUCT Total Expenditure	£496,130.62		
	£224,820.77		
Transfer to/from Reserves	£0.00		
Balance at 31 Mar 2019	£224,820.77		

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Over the last twelve months the finance committee have met regularly to discuss council finances and of course pay the bills! It's been an important year of trying to balance services and budget as we are ever conscious the money we are spending belongs to Council Tax payers of this council area. Whilst we did take the decision to make a small increase to precept of 1.44% this does represent good value for the area based on all of the work the town council now undertake in the town council area including grass cutting, litter picking and general maintenance.

As always, the highlight of the year for the finance committee is deciding on which grants to award to local community groups; it's always a pleasure to read what these hard working volunteer groups do in the local area.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

TOWN PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Looking back at the last 12 months, it is amazing the variety of topics that Town Projects has been involved in.

I have listed below (in no particular order) some of the business from the agendas from this past year. My sincere thanks to the committee for their hard work and to those members who produced the various Business Plans we are using.

Anchor Park 1 - additional fencing; examined and replaced surface under the slide; installation of litter bins; replace chain link fencing

Anchor Park 2 - removed the dead cherry trees and pruned trees as required (following Maintenance Men's chainsaw training)

Local Footpaths 1 - May Hilder Way; Ladies Walk; 5 walk booklet (produced by Admin Officer/P3 Co-ordinator)

Local Footpaths 2 - Footpath below Kipling Tors being added to footpaths register; repair work authorised after footpaths surveyed

Trees and fencing at Windmill Lane Allotments

Northam Hall - electrical work/additional power points for the stage; purchase of additional tables; asbestos checks; maintenance of flooring

Appledore Skate Park refurbishment including local artwork

Northam May Fair – much of the organisation courtesy of NTC office staff and maintenance men

Traffic calming in Jackets Lane; feasibility of employing a Community Warden

Bone Hill flag pole - modification and provision of steps; new flags to meet revised NTC flag policy; renewal of information boards at Bone Hill

Monthly financial report in respect of Town Projects and Asset Management

Festoon/Festive lighting extension in Westward Ho!

Festoon/Festive lighting in Appledore

Festive Lighting for Northam

Adoption of shrub bed in Chichester Way

Adoption of grassed area in Kimberley Park

Replacement dog bins/dispensers and new locations

Purchase of shredder/chipper

Recommended site for Air Ambulance night landing

Mapping Services (Pear Technology)

Projects using TAP monies, new homes bonus and Devon County Council community fund

Renewing Christmas trees and hanging baskets plus new trees for Westbourne Terrace; safety check all lights fittings.

New bus shelter on Heywood Road, replace shelters by Golf Course, Kingsley Park, Aysha Gardens and Sandymere Road

Quarterly reports from the Maintenance Men

Replacement slats/refurbishment of benches on Appledore Quay

Cleaning War Memorials

Seagate Car Park

Offer of boats for planting

Ridgeway Drive play area and business plan

Lord's Meadow - French drain; wood chippings laid in muddy areas; business plan

Westward Ho! Park - Business plan and initial approaches to TDC

Consider possible locations for the new boat planter

Concerns over number of potholes referred from Full Council

Offering alternative benches for sponsorship

Grass at Millennium Way

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

NORTHAM BURROWS

In the last year the general business of the Town Council Burrows Committee in allocating the grazing allowances, issuing of the Burrows passes and the welfare of the livestock has all gone smoothly although not for the land owners, whose minds have been concentrated by the further serious erosion of the fabric of the Burrows with the sea getting ever closer to the old refuse site. Torridge District Council are taking the situation very seriously and have had meetings with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Devon County Council to formulate a long-term plan for this vulnerable area of the Burrows.

Controlled retreat may be inevitable but to see the turf simply falling into the sea with no effort to stop the erosion is not acceptable to Northam Town Council as custodians of the grazing.

This year Torridge also secured a large grant to replace the Burrows centre building with a two storey building sitting on the same site, this will offer an enhanced learning experience. It is planned to be a year round visitor attraction and include a café viewing balcony, it is of contemporary design and clad in cedar.

We must always remember the Burrows is a grazing common of which we are the custodians and is our primary role and must include the monitoring of the effects the increased visitor number has on the grazing.

PLANNING

The Committee has carried on its good work every two weeks through the year and most of our recommendations continue to align with the decisions of the Local Planning Authority.

The big development application considered during the year was for the site between Wooda Road and Pitt Lane. Although the site is allocated in the new Local Plan Committee members highlighted what they considered to be serious flaws in the application relating to access, traffic impact, visibility, green infrastructure, biodiversity and amenity and the application was recommended for refusal. The application is now due to be discussed at Torridge Plans Committee.

Members also rejected a plan for bungalows on Long Lane at the edge of Appledore, expressing concern that such applications in the area could lead to coalescence with Northam, and the application was refused by Torridge, partly on grounds of the site being vulnerable to rise in sea levels.

Thankfully the Draft Local Plan has been adopted after a long process of consultation and revision and now a Steering Group of Town Councillors and representatives from the community is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan with the aim of having a community say in shaping the future of our area. Recently the draft policies of the Plan have been circulated for public comment and local meetings have been held to discuss the policies. Currently the Steering Group is going through the many responses received and once revisions have been made It is hoped the Plan will be approved by local people in a referendum and then adopted as part of the Local Plan.

COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

CONTACT DETAILS FOR COUNCILLORS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

NORTHAM WARD



Cllr Daniel Bell
Tel; 07814899960



Mayor, Cllr John Himan
Tel; 01237 422227



Cllr Chris Leather
Tel; 01237 425940



Cllr Miss Jo Manley
Tel; 01237 721189



Deputy Mayor
Cllr Mrs Heather McCarthy
Tel; 07765079551



Cllr Laurence Shelley
Tel; 01237 424424

APPLEDORE WARD



Cllr David Chalmers
Tel; 07909497487



Cllr Kenny Davis
Tel; 01237 472136



Cllr Barry Edwards
Tel; 01237 477441



Cllr Peter Hames
Tel; 01237 421065

WESTWARD HO! WARD



Cllr Mrs Claire Hodson
Tel; 01237 700411



Cllr Nick Laws
Tel; 07818706280



Cllr Derek Sargent
Tel; 01237 475999



Cllr Roger Tisdale
Tel; 01237 474703

STAFF

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Admin Officer
Admin Apprentice
Maintenance Team

Mrs M J Mills MILCM
Mrs Pat Moores
Miss Alice Kendall
Miss Tina Tucker
Tim Martin
Ivan Heuze
Dominic Callebaut
Dean Stewardson
Gerry Montague

Town Beadle

THE OFFICE

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