

THE

Jan-Feb 2026

Nymphsfield

NEWS & ADVERTISER





Editorial

The editors wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The deadline for the next issue is 20 Feb 2026. We hope that by then the sale of the pub will be complete and we can call it our own.

Cover photo: the caganer in a nativity scene: see article inside page 10.

POST COLLECTION
MON-FRI 09 :00 AM,
SAT 07:00 AM

BOOKING CONTACTS **KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD**

Bookings:
npfbookings@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Marie Knight 860115 or
nympsfieldvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

NYMPSFIELD CLUB

nympsfieldclub@hotmail.com

BUS TIMES

The Cross, to Dursley

09:28 (65) Dursley and Gloucester
10:21 (65A) Dursley and Coaley (Sat only)
11:28 (65) Dursley and Gloucester
12:36 (65A) Dursley and Coaley (Sat only)
13:28 (65) Dursley and Gloucester
14:17 (165) from Nailsworth) to Dursley
then Coaley (Mon to Fri)
15:58 (65) Dursley and Gloucester
18:04 (65) Dursley to Cam & Dursley Stn
(18:35) terminating Horsemarling Lane,
Stonehouse

The Cross, to Stroud:

08:05 (08:00 Saturdays) (65) Stroud,
leaving Cam & Dursley Station at 07:30
10:25 (165) Stroud via Nailsworth (Mon-Fri
only)
11:21 (65) Stroud
11:17 (65A) Stroud (Sat only)
13:21 (65) Stroud
13:32 (65A) Stroud & Whiteway (Sat only)
15:21 (65) Stroud
17:56 (65) Stroud (leaves Cam & Dursley
17:25)

All services Mon-Sat unless stated
otherwise. No buses on Sundays and Bank
Holidays.

The online timetables can be found at:
<https://tinyurl.com/65nympsfield1> for the
Stagecoach services and
<https://tinyurl.com/65anympsfield> for the
Saturday Cotswold Green service.

The Robin dial and ride:
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/the-robin/> 0345 2638139 or the app.

Classified Ads

Services

ADAM REYNOLDS AGRICULTURAL FENCING & FORESTRY CONTRACTOR

Agricultural Fencing, Gates/ Posts/ Rails, Hedge Laying, Firewood, Mobile Firewood Processing

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SPRING SNOW GRAPHIC DESIGN

Logos, business cards, letterheads, adverts, leaflets, brochures, posters, vehicle livery, signs and websites. Whatever you need designing or printing, just ask.

Contact Janet or David 861067

email: Janet@springsnow.co.uk

CAPER CAFE at Bristol & Glos Gliding Club

Open 9:30 - 4pm Fri, Sat, Sun

Brunch & lunch, menu changes weekly

Coffee & homemade cake all day, bookings taken caper.org.uk

CINDI HERBERT MAKEUP ARTISTRY

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email: enquiries@makeupbycindi.com

DANIEL TAYLOR LEATHERWORK

I make custom leather products and gifts to order, including wallets, bookmarks, knife sheaths and more! All products are made to order and can be customised to suit any need. Email: dan@dtm.co.uk,

Phone: 01453 860968, Web:

www.dtdm.co.uk

IRONING

Like help with your ironing? Contact Julie Trinder 860078 or 07548 918659

DOMESTIC HEATING OIL

Nympsfield (and surrounding area) oil buying group. This not only benefits the smaller users but also the bigger users significantly. Typically we save around 5p per litre over the price for smaller quantities. Next order dates: 2Feb, 6 Apr, 6 Jul, 5 Oct & 7 Dec '26

colinfairbrother@hotmail.com or

mike@leopardpress.com

FARRER FINANCIALS

Accountancy and Bookkeeping

For all your finance needs: self-assessment, book-keeping, annual accounts, company start-ups. Contact Leah 07789 000474

Email: leah@farrerfinancials.co.uk

www.farrerfinancials.co.uk

GARDENING

Do you need some help in the garden?

Honest, reliable, local gardeners. Regular garden upkeep, lawns mowed and edged, weeding, pruning, planting. Planting plans/design on request. Contact Janet or David on 861067 or email janet@springsnow.co.uk

LANGUAGE TUITION

Oxford graduate offers French, Italian, Spanish, German. All ages, all levels. Annabelle 861143 / 07811 464559

TRAVEL AGENT

Nympsfield born independent travel agent. Helping you sort through the current minefield of holiday options. ABTA bonded ATOL protected holidays, staycations, city breaks, ski, fly-drive, groups, cruises and

much more. Contact Peter Woodman
01453 299669.
peterwoodman.notjusttravel.com

FIREWOOD

Locally sourced seasoned firewood
Contact 861117 or 07860 572905

FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER Fay
O'Mahony (based in Nailsworth). 07947
634956 / faysuzanne1@gmail.com

M AND N MOTOR SERVICES LTD

Servicing and repairs to all makes and
models of vehicle. Fully equipped garage
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visit our website for further details:
www.mandnmotorservices.co.uk
Contact: 860153 or email
info@mandnmotorservices.co.uk

PADDOCKS4PAWS

A safe place to exercise or train your dog. A
secure 4-acre field with 1.8 metre (6ft) high
fence in Nympsfield is available for you and
your dog to hire on an individual basis.
Please visit our website for more info
www.paddocks4paws.com
Contact Sue 861117 or 07815 568718

FOR HIRE: WHITE PARTY TENTS / MARQUEES

4 x 8m @£75 and 4 x 12m, we have 2 of
these that can be joined together @£100
each. Self-erect and dismantle, min. 3 day
hire. 3 x 3m pagoda available f.o.c.
Contact: playing field committee

SEAL CONSTRUCTION

Cotswold stone tiling and walling. Member
of Guild of Master Craftsmen. Listed and
period property specialists. Renovations,
Extensions, Roofing, Landscaping, New
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Plastering, Painting/ Decorating, Loft
Conversions, Insurance work. Contact:
Wayne 07816 634755

ROB GAZZARD – COMPLETE BUILDING SOLUTIONS

Maintenance and repairs / Extensions and
alterations / hard and soft landscaping.
Free estimates and advice. Contact Rob
860112 / gazzards@hotmail.co.uk
www.robazzard.co.uk

EVERYTHING NYMPSFIELD!

Join us in the "Everything Nympsfield!"
Facebook group for the very latest news

ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL Mon to Fri, term
time only, 9am to 3pm, in the Leigh
building, St Joseph's Catholic Primary
School. We accept children from the age of
two. Registered provider for 9-23 months,
2, 3 and 4 year old nursery education
funded children. Including the new working
parents' 9 to 23 months old funding
available from 1/9/2024. We are also
registered to offer 30 hours free childcare
entitlement.

Contact Natalie Finn-Powers on 07851
592924 or email
sjpleadpractitioner@gmail.com. See
Facebook: 'St Joseph's Pre-school' and
article later in this edition.

What's on

NYMPSFIELD CLUB

31 December - Music through the decades
quiz then karaoke to take us into 2026
Also fortnightly **charity coffee mornings**,
Monday night **bingo** and **quizzes**
throughout the year!
See Facebook page and inside for more
details.

U3A BRIDGE GROUP U3A Bridge has
resumed at the Methodist Meeting Room,
Dursley starting at a prompt 2 pm, and
continue each Tuesday until further notice.

Call Richard Gwyer on 01453 860512, or see Cam U3A website for details.

MORE BRIDGE Want to learn a fascinating and time consuming pastime – then bridge is for you! Contact Bridget Lumb (07899 968220) or google Wotton-under-Edge Bridge Club for information about lessons starting this Autumn. Alternatively contact the teacher; Ian Cooke (fully qualified member of the EBU Teachers Association) Tel:01666 890261 or 07704 946846
Email: tresham.bridge@gmail.com



THE BOOK

CLUB is normally held monthly. We are a very informal group whose aim is to discuss the book selected and have a social evening too. 🏠🍷 Everyone is welcome (whether you have read the book or not, there's always one!)

Jan 21 Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt (Tina)

Feb 18 The book thief by Marcus
Zusak (Dan)

New members welcome! Don't be
shy, give it a try!
Enquiries to Carol 860610.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Here are the 100 club winners.

Week 1 No. 23 Anne Gazzard.

Week 2 No. 54. Diane Davis.

Week 3 No. 16 Jane Williams.

Week 4 No. 93 Chris Keith.

Week 5 No. 68 David Hillam.

Week 6 No. 47 Tween Blair.

Week 7 No. 11 Richard Mayes.

Week 8 No. 21 Frank Wooldridge.

We still have some spare numbers. £12 per number.

£600 given out in winnings and £600 for Nympsfield village hall.

If you would like to join, please phone Malcolm or Pat Jones 01453 860696.

Wanted

UNUSED GARAGE/SHED/WORKSHOP

space with electricity to rent for use as a small wood workshop. Contact me if you have any spaces available! : 01453 860968 or dan@dttdm.co.uk .

What goes 'Oh, oh, oh'?

Santa walking backwards

What carol do they sing in the desert?

O Camel Ye Faithful

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas Eve

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield

(Part of The Ewelme Benefice.)

Revd Juliet Jensen

ewelmerector@gmail.com

01453 350810

Churchwardens:

Nikki Clarke and David Thomas

Parish Office T: 01453 549280

E: ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com

Service at St Bartholomew's usually
the first Sunday of the month at
10am.

Details of all services on the
Benefice website.

www.ewelmebenefice.co.uk

ST JOSEPH'S RC SERVICES

Vigil Mass every Saturday 5:30pm
in Nympsfield. Sunday Masses at St
Dominic's Dursley

Parish Priest Fr Philip Thomas
542039

dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk

SEE WEB SITES FOR CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

LONGFIELD HOSPICE

is already talking about Christmas and
calling for volunteers to help with their
highly successful green 'Christmas
Treecycling Campaign'.

The project, which is run in partnership
with national organisation Just Helping,
last year saw more than 4100 real trees
recycled into chippings, raising £81,000
through donations from residents
booking for their tree to be picked up.
This year the collections will take place
between **10th and 13th January** and will
be run with the help of more than 180
volunteers; all committed to helping
Longfield raise much-needed funds and
support the environment through this
green campaign.

Households will be able to book their
tree collection via the JustHelping
website from November 14th:

www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree
but before then Longfield is encouraging
volunteers to sign up by emailing:
events@longfield.org.uk

The charity is also keen to hear from
companies willing to sponsor a van and
fuel or provide volunteers and vans.
All money raised helps to fund the
hospice's vital work supporting patients
and families.

Christmas and New Year Events at The Nympsfield Club

Sat 20th Dec Coffee Morning to raise money for Children's Christmas Presents 10 - 12

Mon 22nd Dec Christmas Bingo Special! Great prizes & cash prizes
Eyes down at 7pm

Christmas Eve Open from 3pm
Santa will be in the Club at 3.30pm handing out Presents (for Children who have prebooked)
4.30pm The Big Man himself will leave the Club to travel around the village with his Elves & Helpers, Come out & give him a wave! His helpers will be rattling buckets for donations to the Village Hall. Come into the Club after for a couple of drinks.

Christmas Day - 11.30 - 2.30pm

Boxing Day - 11.30 - 5pm Mini Quiz
1pm then the Xmas Squares Draw

Sat 27th Dec – open 1.30: Race Night
7pm Have a bet on a horse, always a good night! Or just watch the fun!

Sun 28th - 11.30 - 5pm

New Years Eve open 4pm; Music through the Decades Quiz 7pm & then Karaoke to take us into 2026

New Year's Day 11.30 - 5pm

We have monthly charity Coffee Mornings, Monday fortnightly Bingo & Quizzes throughout the year
Look out for events etc on the Nympsfield & Club Facebook pages

January 2026

Mon 5th Jan - Bingo restarts 7pm

Sat 24th - Macmillan Coffee Morning
10 - 12

Opening times from January '26

Fridays 5pm -

Saturdays - 2.30pm -

Sundays 11.30 - 5pm

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from us all at the Club and thanks to all who help the Club in any way, it's very much appreciated.

Barry Cryer Corner

I went on an alcohol
diet last month. I lost
three days

Quotation Corner

Where art thou, Mother Christmas?
I only wish I knew
Why Father should get all the praise
And no-one mentions you

Roald Dahl

Nymphsfield Community Pub Newsletter

Purchase

The purchase is progressing slowly, but we expect to exchange contracts once the local search reports are available.

Renovation and Reopening

We had a constructive onsite meeting with SDC's planning and conservation officers regarding our planning application and now await the decision of the planning committee.

The two trees at the front of the pub and the bay tree at the side entrance have been felled and most of the ivy has been removed. The bar area



and entrance are now noticeably brighter. The tree stumps will be removed from the stone planters to free up space for a new display.

The installation of the wood burner in the main fireplace is complete and will be operational for the pop-in pub event on 20th December. We continue to strip out the cellar ready for a complete refit.

Filming

Many of you will be aware that the Rose & Crown Inn is being used as a location for an upcoming BBC One comedy series, *The Reluctant Vampire*. By the time you read this the filming will be complete. The production company will have been preparing (dressing) the pub on 16th and 17th Dec, and filming will have taken place on 18th and 19th Dec. The production company will have vacated the pub by noon on 20th December – just in time to allow us to prepare for the pop-in pub event!

Grants

Our Stroud Funding crowdfunding campaign gathers momentum ahead of its 22nd December close. With the recent pledge of £8,000 from SDC, we have now raised **£17,311** from **146** backers. To secure SDC's pledge, we must reach our **£19,306** target. Thank you to everyone that has pledged so far, we'll know if we have met the target by the time you are reading this.

We met with our regional Pub is the Hub representative to discuss grant funding for the café or shop. We'll reconnect in the New Year after phase one works begin, aiming to include the café or shop in our reopening plan if funding is available.

We received helpful feedback from the National Lottery Heritage Fund on our project enquiry to fund a new roof. A call with the regional manager is scheduled to discuss the feedback in detail, and we plan to submit a full application early in the New Year.

Last month we applied to SDC's Small Grants fund for a £1,000 grant for the replacement of the condemned wood burner next to the bar. We should know the outcome of the application shortly after 19th December.

Keeping in touch

We will continue to share further updates through our various communications channels as they progress. If you haven't already done so, please:

- Join our Facebook page: Nympsfield Community Pub
- Follow us on Instagram: @the_nympsfield_community_pub_
- Visit our website: nympsfieldcommunitypub.co.uk

NYMPSFIELD VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING

Father Christmas

Father Christmas will be making his traditional visit to the village on Christmas Eve starting from the pub car park at 4:30 pm. Elves at the ready!



Burns Night Supper Saturday 24th January 2026 from 7pm SAVE THE DATE – mark your calendar now!

Join us in the Village Hall for a warm and lively evening celebrating Burns Night! Enjoy a traditional supper, fun games, and a raffle—all in support of the upkeep of our village hall. Tartan attire is optional but encouraged.

Tickets from Barb Thomas, barb@nympsfield.net or Gwyneth gwyneth.hodgkinson@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE MAGIC

There's a big juicy carrot in the garden -It can be seen in the moon's gentle light
And we know that someone's enjoyed it for they've taken a very large bite
Of course we all know it was Rudolph, and the children will certainly know
For he's left several of his tiny hoofprints all over the white powdery snow.

* *

There are big muddy prints on the doorstep and even some inside the door
And you know Santa has eaten the mince pies for there's crumbs all over the
floor.

The turkey and veg are all ready - all they need now is to be cooked
And the table all laid up with crackers - I hope nothing's been overlooked.

* *

Now I'm having a drink with old Santa, and then we will turn out the light
To get a few hours of sleep in – there isn't much left of the night!

My wish is that our lovely children, when they are adults, fully grown
Will continue the magic of Christmas, with the families they have of their own.

* *

I hope you will have a good Christmas – that it is full of blessings and cheer
And that all of your hopes and your wishes will come true at the start of New
Year.

JENNY NISBETT

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS: THE CAGANER

In Catalonia and the Basque lands of north-east Spain the nativity scene often contains a person pooping in the background: the caganer. This tradition is said to remind us that we are all flesh-and-blood carbon based lifeforms with earthly habits and needs, and not fairies. Nowadays one can get caganers from Spanish shops in many forms, modelled on politicians, "royalty", celebrities and nonebrities as well as the traditional peasant. See the cover photo for the caganer of one of the eds.

WINNIE MORGAN

We were shocked to hear that Winnie Morgan died on Friday 12 December.
Our sympathies to family and friends. The eds.

NATURE WATCH by “Miss Daisy”

I was all set to write something “Christmassy” but then something far more important came to my attention. The question on the lips of most of my nature loving friends at the moment appears to be:

“WHERE HAVE ALL THE BLACKBIRDS GONE?”

This has been something we, too, have been saying for some months now, so I decided to do a little research into this.

It is true, blackbirds have become more and more rare recently and it is a sad fact that it is once again the result of global warming. The culprit is the mosquito which carries a virus and as it was first found near the Usutu river in South Africa it is called the Usutu virus. It largely affects birds and whilst our sparrows and magpies can recover, the blackbird is more susceptible, with the symptoms being weakness, lethargy and lack of co-ordination, and ultimately death.

Our changing climate has meant that the mosquito has spread northwards and was first identified in London in 2020 when blackbird numbers fell by fifty per cent.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Garden hygiene is by far the best deterrent – any stagnant water, such as in a wheelbarrow in the corner of the garden should be removed, water butts should have a cover on, and the feeding stations around the garden should be kept as clean as possible.

At this time of the year we actually sing about blackbirds – In the “Twelve Days of Christmas”, the ‘four calling birds’ have derived from ‘colly birds’ – coal-black birds, or “blackbirds”.

We cannot stand by and lose yet another of our beautiful song-birds, so please, let’s all do our very best to help them.

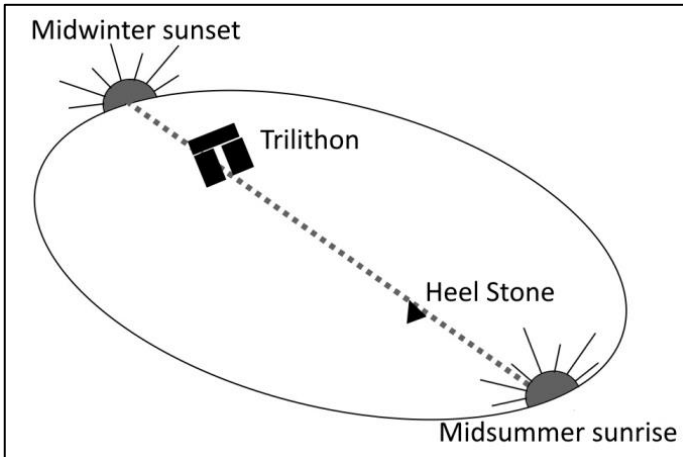
WOKE ARE WE IN OLD NYMPY

An interesting aside: the typeface that we normally use at Nymphy News, Calibri, has been deemed too woke by the USAnian government. It is friendly to people with visual disabilities and renders very clearly on a small screen. They want to use Times New Roman typeface which is “classier” but harder to read. It's good to be on the side of the good! Article in the Guardian: [tinyurl.com/nymphywoke](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/dec/16/microsoft-cambria-replaces-calibri-as-us-government-official-font)

OLD NEWS FROM NYMPFIELD

Christmas dates

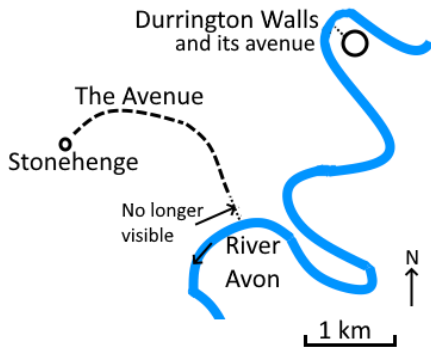
For anyone who fancies an early morning excursion, English Heritage will give free access to Stonehenge to see the sunrise on December 21st. You will probably be reading this too late to take part but in that case you might want to mark it on your 2026 calendar. Access to the stones is forbidden under normal circumstances but a concession is made for the winter and summer solstices. Everyone will have seen TV footage of the Druids, pagans and miscellaneous misfits greeting the Sun as it rises above the heel stone - but that happens in June. Putting aside the fact that the Druids' ceremony is a modern invention, how it might to be translated to sunrise on the winter solstice is a mystery because a Druid standing in the centre of the circle and expecting to see the sun above the heel stone would find that it was facing his right ear. And if he wanted to find a stone that marked this he'd be disappointed because it seems that the Stonehenge builders did not have sufficient interest in midwinter sunrise to want to dedicate a stone to it. But astronomical geometry



dictates that sunset at the winter solstice and sunrise at the summer solstice directly face each other. So at sunset on the winter solstice, Neolithic folk only needed to put their back to the heel stone to see the fading rays of the Sun through the gap in the central

trilithon. It was no fluke. When the large Stonehenge trilithons were being erected, the builders had at least seven centuries of astronomical observations to draw on and they must have known that midwinter sunset and midsummer sunrise were on the same axis and would have placed the trilithon on that alignment.

What was it all for? Well, Prof Mike Parker-Pearson reckons it was centred on ancestor worship: Stonehenge was the place of the dead while a few miles away Durrington Walls was for the living. Here there were wood henges, one of them aligned with the winter solstice sunrise. All this draws on pre-colonial Madagascar where, again, ancestor worship ruled. Stone was reserved for the dead (i.e. tombs)



while wood was for houses. Excavations at Durrington Walls revealed evidence of about 1000 houses and people gathering from all over Britain for mid-winter feasting. Maybe their labour was needed for moving the stones. The folk who built the Cotswold barrows could well have been amongst them. And, at a time when it was difficult to keep animals fed over winter, this end of year feasting had a dual purpose of celebrating the return of the sun and

reducing the number of livestock – a combination of the spiritual and practical that continued almost into modern times.

Did early Christians hitch a ride on this practice by setting Christmas to coincide with the midwinter feast time? Probably not. Going back to the very beginnings, Christian thinkers claimed Jesus died on March 25 (in the Western tradition) or April 6 (in the East) – both being based on the Gospel account and the dating of the Passover and Jewish Lunar Calendars. Crucially, they also thought that all great prophets died at a ‘perfect age’ meaning that their conception and death fell on the same date. A nine month gestation then placed Jesus’s birth at December 25 if you went with Western tradition or January 6 in the East. Not that it mattered much at the time because the early church didn’t make much of birthday celebrations, some taking a dim view. Gradually though Christmas increased in importance and, by the fifth century, was widely celebrated. Most Eastern churches eventually moved to 25 December but, because some are still use the Julian calendar, this may fall on our January 7th. But, whichever calendar you follow, whichever dates you prefer, please accept my best wishes for a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ian Crossland

BEARS, CANDLES AND CREPES

Notes on Candlemas

Candlemas in the Christian religion is a feast-day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the temple. Like most religious festivals, it has some interesting and/or wacky traditions associated with it.

It takes place on 2 February, which marks the end of the church's Christmas season and is almost halfway between the winter solstice (shortest day) on 21 December and the spring / vernal equinox on 20 March. It is therefore a sort of festival of lights marking the return to better weather and the first noticeable signs of the evenings drawing out. Candles feature in many of the traditions and superstitions. Candlelit dinners feature in some traditions (what's not to like about that?)

Belgium and France mark the day by eating pancakes (golden discs like the sun, unless spread with Nutella). Pope Gelasius I is said to have given crepes to pilgrims arriving in Rome on Candlemas day in the fifth century CE. In Germany, it marked the start of the farming year and the final payday of the year for servants and labourers. In Hungary, boys dress up as bears, eat honey and doubtless go in the woods. It is said in some countries that if a hedgehog (or a bear or badger according to taste) casts a shadow on Candlemas, winter (and the season for hibernation) isn't over, but in the absence of a shadow it's probably grey and grismal so spring is coming. Likely vaguely related to the USAnian groundhog day. In Luxembourg, school kids go from door to door singing and cadging sweets. The Mexicans have many festivals, often centred around the production of tamales for feasting.

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
Go winter, and come not again.

In many countries, Christmas decorations are taken down on Candlemas unlike here where the feast of the epiphany on 5 January has in recent centuries become more common. *[At the Cross we maintain the old tradition and the lights are on until Candlemas. We hope that others will join us! – one of the eds]*

Martin Phillips

**WANTED:
VOLUNTEERS TO
GRIT ROADS WHEN
SNOW OR ICE IS FORECAST.**

If you live near a grit bin can you kindly help to distribute the grit in your area. When snow or very low temperatures are forecast spread a thin even layer particularly on slopes and hills.

Preferable the night before. In very heavy snow the snow plough should come through the village.

If grit is short, concentrate on tyre tracks - grit bins are only filled once a year so we need to use it, but try and make it last the season

THANK YOU



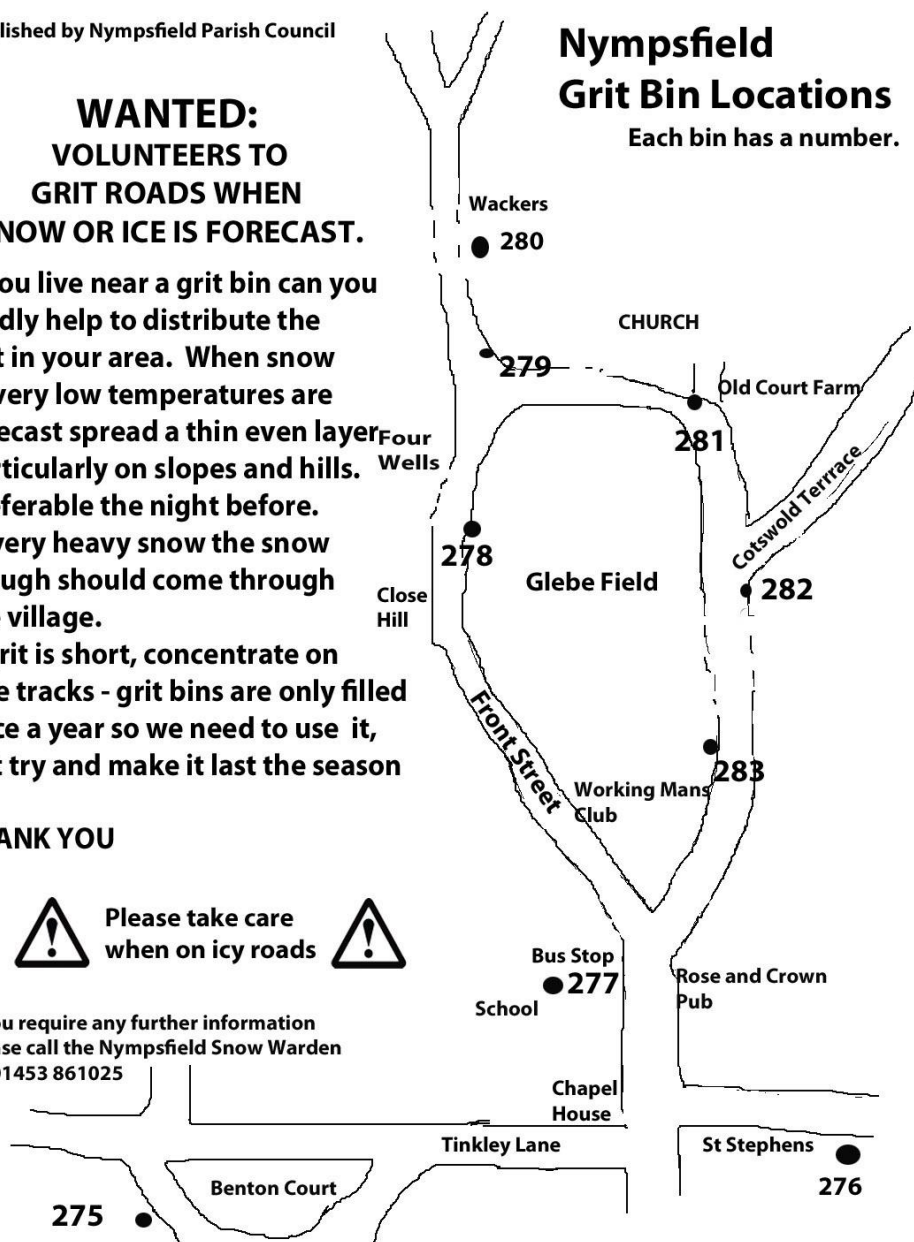
Please take care
when on icy roads



If you require any further information
please call the Nympsfield Snow Warden
on 01453 861025

**Nympsfield
Grit Bin Locations**

Each bin has a number.





Coaley & Uley **C**limate **A**ction **N**etwork
(CUCAN)

REPAIR CAFE

THROW IT AWAY? NO WAY!!



SUNDAY 18TH
JANUARY, 2-4pm

NYMPHSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Bring and learn how to repair your broken
things...



or just enjoy some **DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS**

**For queries or to volunteer your skills to help others repair their things,
contact us on: coaleyuleycan@gmail.com**

The volunteers offer textile repairs, general repairs and tool sharpening for a voluntary donation to help cover costs. Repairs for small electricals, jewellery and spectacles will be offered at future Repair Cafes to be held in Uley or Coaley. Refreshments will be provided by the Village Hall Committee. Come along with your items or just for refreshments.

Scams & Spams

I've been deluged with phishing emails inviting me to review my experience with Boots (also Halfords, Amazon and a few others). Also some fairly convincing emails reminding me to tax my car, possibly from places like Austria, Peru, India, Korea and South Africa. A few emails from "HMRC", and a lot supposedly from the USAnian equivalent of the AA.

Forward phishing emails to report@phishing.gov.uk You won't get a response but maybe a warm feeling.

Reasons to be Cheerful

Hearing the news became near-intolerable during Covid so we mostly avoided the TV news and switched the radio – usually on in our house – from BBC R4 to R3. We haven't changed the dial so we now have classical music all day. R3 isn't as po-faced as it used to be but it's still up-market. For one thing, they don't have DJs, they have presenters, some of whom can be irritating but it may be age-induced irascibility that makes me think this way. As for rationing the TV news I'm afraid there's been some back-sliding and, while the news is not so grim as it was back in 2020, there are more than enough worrying stories to darken the day and convince you that the world is going to Hell in a handbasket. So, with that in mind we here offer you a few reasons to be cheerful:

- Treatment with modern gene editing is transforming the lives of children who would otherwise have desperate and uncertain futures;
- nature-friendly farming and targeted conservation work has resulted in remarkable wildlife good news stories including the historic return of wild beavers and white storks in rewilding projects, the resurgence of pine martens helping control grey squirrels, the return of puffins to Muck Island after a decades-long absence and many more examples;
- We are living longer and healthier lives than ever – strictly speaking this was only true until the Covid setback and, while we haven't quite recovered the deficit, we are getting there;
- Days will soon be getting longer;
- Trump didn't get the Nobel Peace Prize;
- Dark chocolate is good for you!

Christmas by WH Davies, the Nailsworth Poet

Christmas has come, let's eat and drink
This is no time to sit and think;
Farewell to study, books and pen,
And welcome to all kinds of men.
Let all men now get rid of care,
And what one has let others share;
Then 'tis the same, no matter which
Of us is poor, or which is rich.
Let each man have enough this day,
Since those that can are glad to pay;
There's nothing now too rich or good
For poor men, not the King's own food.
Now like a singing bird my feet
Touch earth, and I must drink and eat.
Welcome to all men: I'll not care
What any of my fellows wear;
We'll not let cloth divide our souls,
They'll swim stark naked in the bowls.
Welcome, poor beggar: I'll not see
That hand of yours dislodge a flea,—
While you sit at my side and beg,
Or right foot scratching your left leg.
Farewell restraint: we will not now
Measure the ale our brains allow,
But drink as much as we can hold.
We'll count no change when we spend
gold;
This is no time to save, but spend,
To give for nothing, not to lend.
Let foes make friends: let them forget
The mischief-making dead that fret
The living with complaint like this—



"He wronged us once, hate him and his."

Christmas has come; let every man
Eat, drink, be merry all he can.
Ale's my best mark, but if port wine
Or whisky's yours—let it be mine;
No matter what lies in the bowls,
We'll make it rich with our own souls.
Farewell to study, books and pen,
And welcome to all kinds of men.

WORDLADDER

Change one word
to the other one
letter at a time.
Each step must
be a real word.



NYMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A busy couple of months have flown by.

Highlights include a new effort to control traffic speed through Cockadilly – this time a speed check at either end of the hamlet. Results have confirmed many cases of speeding well in excess of the national limit (60mph), but also much careful driving, such that the average speed was only slightly over 40mph. These results are positive for a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) application, which NPC are considering – it costs many thousands of pounds to make a TRO application and there is no guarantee of success! A TRO is a necessary first step towards the installation of a lower speed limit.

As I write we wait with bated breath for news of a successful conclusion to the purchase of the Rose and Crown – fingers crossed!

The BBC have selected Nympsfield for filming some scenes for Eric Morecambe's 'The Reluctant Vampire'. Filming dates are to be December 18/19th. Some disruption is expected but NPC have been assured that the BBC will man the three road barriers in Nympsfield to allow free passage to Nympsfield residents.

Please contact clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org to register your interest on any of the above topics.

Nympsfield Parish Council wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New year.

Your Parish Councillors: Cllr Anne Robertson (Chair) Cllr Sophia Price (vice-Chair) Cllr Peter Tomiak-Baquero Cllr Trevor Gaunt Cllr Nicola Crabb All can be reached via the Clerk: clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org	Your District Councillor Cllr Martin Pearcy (Green) Cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk Your County Councillor Cllr. Richard Dean (Green) richard.dean@gloucestershire.gov.uk Your Member of Parliament Dr Simon Opher (Lab) simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk
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USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergencies

Electricity	0800 6783 105
24h Floodline	0845 9881188
Severn Trent	0800 783 4444
Police	999
Childline	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Doctors' Surgery Nailsw'th	01453 832424
Doctors' Surgery Uley	01453 860459
Glo'ster Royal Hospital	0300 422 2222
NHS Direct	111
Nuisance callers (Information Commissioner Office if you are registered with telephone preference service)	0345 070 0707
Police (non-emergency)	101

Police: Neighb'd Policing, Dursley & Cam Team (non-emergency)	01453 753500
Rose and Crown Inn	We wish!!
St Joseph's School	01453 860311
Street issues (potholes, lights etc):	https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/
Stroud District Council	01453 766321
Building Control	01453 754871
Dog Warden	01453 754491
Pollution, noise, bonfires etc	754478
Neighbourhood Warden -	
Andy Beamish	07834 419332
Rubbish collection	01453 754424
Vet (Bowbridge)	01453 762350

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