

THE January-February 2025

Nymphsfield

NEWS & ADVERTISER



Editorial

Welcome to the first Nymphy News of 2025 (even if it does go out before Christmas). It's a specially extended holiday edition with (we hope) plenty to amuse you. Have a lovely holiday!

Email: nymphynews@gmx.com

The deadline for the next issue is 20 February 2025.

Cover picture: Christmas tree outside the Rose & Crown (thanks to Rebecca Peach).

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

BOOKING CONTACTS **KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD**

Bookings:
npfbbookings@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Marie Knight 860115 or
nympsfieldvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

NYMPFIELD 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 N'lsworth) 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

Contact Adam 07789 678025

www.arfencingandforestry.co.uk

AR JONES LIME AND BUILD

Specialising in lime render, plaster, pointing and lime wash. Based in Nympsfield

Contact Ash 07969 672876

BIRDHOUSE MAN

Be the envy of your neighbours with a handmade custom-built birdhouse. All made from reclaimed, locally sourced materials and designed to suit you
Contact: Rich Bloodworth 860635

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

Certified and Insured Makeup Artist. Fully Mobile and available for every Occasion.

Please feel free to view my Facebook page to see all previous work. Contact 07773 595057

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@dttdm.co.uk, Phone: 01453 860968, Web: www.dtdm.co.uk

IRONING

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

HANDYMAN/ GARDENER

Contact: Tommy Guerin 07432650321

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: 3 Feb, 31 March, 30

June, 29 Sept, 1 Dec 2025

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

PLASTERING AND GENERAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE

All manner of wet trades & stud partitioning. Contact: Rich Bloodworth 860635 / 07561 325060

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 facilities. MOTs. Free courtesy cars. Please 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 builds, Carpentry/ Joinery, Rendering/ 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.robkazard.co.uk

EVERYTHING NYMPFIELD!

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, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. We accept children from the age of two. Registered provider for 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 860311 or email sjpleadpractitioner@gmail.com. See Facebook: 'St Joseph's Pre-school' and article later in this edition.

What's on

NYMPFIELD CLUB

BINGO: Alternate Mondays 7pm.
See Facebook page for 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

100 CLUB WINNERS

Week 1. No.9. Dave Lovegrove.
Week 2. No.42. Roger Elmer.
Week 3. No.73. Teresa Freeman.
Week 4. No.41. Graham Clarke.
Week 5. No.3. Bridget Lumb.
Week 6. No.31. Malcolm Jones.
Week 7. No.11. Richard Mayes.
Week 8.No.66. Barbara Wooldridge
Please note that 100 club subscriptions are now due. £12 per number. If you are passing Delahay please put money in an envelope with your name on it. If not, we can call and collect it. Thank you. Or, you can do a bank transfer.
Please phone Pat or Malcolm 01453 860696. Thank you.

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@dtm.co.uk .

Sheep in Winter

John Clare
1793 – 1864



The sheep get up and make their many tracks
And bear a load of snow upon their backs,
And gnaw the frozen turnip to the ground
With sharp quick bite, and then go noising round
The boy that pecks the turnips all the day
And knocks his hands to keep the cold away
And laps his legs in straw to keep them warm
And hides behind the hedges from the storm.
The sheep, as tame as dogs, go where he goes
And try to shake their fleeces from the snows,
Then leave their frozen meal and wander round
The stubble stack that stands beside the ground,
And lie all night and face the drizzling storm
And shun the hovel where they might be warm.

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:

Pauline Thomas. T: 01453 860047.

Moya Wallis T: 01453 619270 &
07719880451

Parish Office T: 01453 549280

E: ewelmeparishoffice@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**



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!) Enquiries to
Carol 860610.

Next books:

15 January: Yellowface by R F
Kuang – Lin's

19 February: tba – Tina's

Coffee Morning

Sat 25th Jan for Age UK.
Nympsfield Club 10 - 12

Quotation Corner

January brings the snow, makes
our feet and fingers glow.

Sara Coleridge

Sunday
Dec 22nd

The Annual
KIDS 3-5pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY

PARTY GAMES - FOOD - CRAFTS
& ELF TRAIL !

Father Christmas returns to Nympsfield!

The Nympsfield Club
The Barrow, Church Street, Nympsfield
GL10 3JA
www.nympsfieldclub.com




Winter is here

Don't be left out in the cold this season.

Pop down to your cozy local and enjoy the warmth of our wood stove, affordable drinks and friendly faces.

All are welcome.

Over 100 ales, lagers, ciders & wines -- 2 Widescreen TVs -- SKY & TNT Sport -- Live events/Music -- Bingo Mondays -- Snooker/Darts

The Nympsfield Club
The heart of the village
www.thenympsfieldclub.com




Join Us For A Special

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Monday
23
December
7PM

Cash Prizes! & Raffle!

The Nympsfield Club
The heart of the village
www.thenympsfieldclub.com

ALL ARE WELCOME




CHRISTMAS AT THE CLUB

CHRISTMAS DAY
OPEN 11-2PM FOR A CHEEKY WEE TIPP!E!

BOXING DAY
OPEN 12 NOON - JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS SQUARES PRIZE DRAW + A
FINBARR MINI-QUIZ

FRIDAY JAN 3RD
LIVE MUSIC

The Nympsfield Club
The heart of the village




Keep Warm and Well

The **Warm and Well** scheme is the local authority approved home energy efficiency scheme and can help householders access grant funding from Stroud District Council. Financial support to make your home more energy efficient

Stroud District Council, along with the six other councils in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, is working in partnership with Seven Wye Energy Agency to run the Warm and Well project, offering free energy advice to residents in the county. Warm and Well administer energy efficiency grants on behalf of the council, which can be used to make a range of home energy improvements. Subject to eligibility, grants are available for:

- heating
- replacement windows/doors
- insulation
- renewable energy options such as solar and air source heat pumps

If your household income is under £30,000 and you privately own or rent an inefficient property, you could qualify for support.

Call Warm and Well free on 0800 500 3076 to speak to one of their friendly and professional advisors. They can support you with the grant application process and offer advice on using energy in the home. You can also make an enquiry on the Warm and Well website. If you want to find out more about the grant schemes available via the Warm and Well project, you can visit the Grants and Funding section of their website <https://warmandwell.co.uk/grants-and-funding/>

Are you struggling with your energy bills?

As well as their energy adviceline, Warm and Well also has a dedicated Energy Advocate who works across the county to make sure that no one has to struggle with their energy bills alone. They hold regular drop ins, work with local community groups and carry out home visits, to tailor their support to residents' needs. An Energy Advocate can help you take control if dealing with your home energy is becoming overwhelming.

They can support you with a range of issues:

- Managing fuel debt and large energy bills
- Accessing emergency credit and grant funding for energy efficiency improvements
- Home visits to understand how you use energy at home, and how to reduce it
- Access to further local support services where necessary

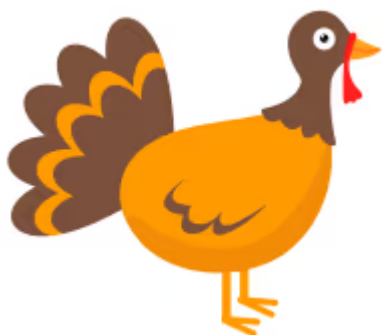
If you're struggling with your bills, you don't have to suffer alone. Call Warm and Well on 0800 500 3076 (Monday-Friday, 9-5) or contact their Energy Advocate via the Warm and Well website <https://warmandwell.co.uk/advocates/>

NATURE WATCH by “MISS DAISY”: “LET’S TALK TURKEY”

Have you ever wondered why we eat turkey on Christmas Day?

Turkeys are not native to the UK – it is believed we have to thank a sailor named William Strickland, who in 1526 brought six birds back from Spain, the Spaniards having brought them from Mexico, where they had been domesticated for many years.

Henry the VIII was apparently the first British Monarch to enjoy eating turkey on Christmas day, but it took four hundred years for them to go from a speciality, luxury item, to the most popular Christmas dinner choice it is today.



Charles Dickens mentioned turkey in his 1843 novel “A Christmas Carol” which increased its popularity as a dish to be served on Christmas Day.

Farming, after the second world war became more efficient and turkey became the traditional Christmas meat rather than chicken, beef or goose – farmers needing the cows for milk and their chickens for eggs, and now ten million turkeys are eaten at Christmas in the UK.

The largest ever turkey was called “Tyson” who weighed in at 86 pounds!

A turkey egg takes 28 days to hatch and the young bird is called a poult, as are all young birds, which are bred for eating.

For all of you who will be tucking into a “turkey dinner” over this festive season, I am sure that it will be a very enjoyable feast, but do bear in mind that several people turn up at A and E each Christmas Eve, having dropped the large bird on their foot whilst taking it out of the freezer, and then there is always the “slipped disc” from heaving it in and out of the oven!

Finally, have you ever wondered why suddenly stopping drugs rather than gradually reducing them, for example as in heroin addiction, is described as “going cold turkey”? It stems from the fact that the sudden cessation in drugs, causes the skin to come out in “goosebumps” which resembles the skin of an uncooked, plucked turkey!

Please take care and have a Merry Christmas.

A Christmas Carol - Mrs Cratchit's Dilemma

There are many screen versions of *A Christmas Carol* and at least one is sure to be on the telly sometime over the next couple of weeks. Whose version of Scrooge do you prefer? There's Alastair Sim 1951, Albert Finney 1970, George C. Scott 1984, Michael Caine 1992 (the Muppet version), Patrick Stewart 1999 and more. So successful was the book that the word "Scrooge" quickly passed into everyday speech. The name will have been very carefully chosen by Dickens because they fascinated him - he kept a list for future use and couldn't start writing a book until he'd settled on what his principal characters were to be called. Scrooge probably has its origins in screw and scrouge (an old English word meaning to squeeze) and he became the "tight-fisted, ... squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" permanently lodged in our imagination. His deceased partner Marley, seven years in the clay (a.k.a. marl) is the first ghost that comes to urge him to change his ways. And then we have Scrooge's clerk, bullied at work but joyfully content in his family - Bob Cratchit, scratching-by on 15 shillings a week.

It's the contrast between the two main characters that lies at the heart of the story - one rich-and-miserable the other poor-but-happy. Dickens doesn't allow Bob to be so very poor though: 15 shillings was a low wage for a clerk in 1843 but it was enough to live modestly and bring up a family. So when, on Christmas Eve, the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to see Bob and his family make merry in their four room house in Camden Town, they'd found enough cash for a Christmas dinner that included roast goose with all the trimmings and a home-made plum pudding. The scene of a family happily celebrating Christmas is set against Scrooge's own isolated, money-centred life. Incidentally, the Cratchits' house seems to have been modelled on a real one in Camden Town where, as a child, Dickens himself moved when his father changed jobs. Charles was miserable there because, although Dickens senior (John) had a well-paid job (earning almost ten times more than the fictional Bob), his spending habits were so extravagant that they constantly put him in debt. This rebounded on the family and especially on Charles, the eldest son. First, his education was curtailed and then, aged 12, he was sent to work in the infamous blacking factory. Compare that with Bob's home life - his children were carefree, shielded from their parents' money worries.

Everyday expenses were one thing but the Cratchit family finances could certainly not stretch to the medical fees that would be needed to save the life of Tiny Tim. And so it is that, when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to the Cratchit house the following Christmas, the family is grieving, the empty chair signifying that Tiny Tim is no more. Finally, Scrooge is shown his own neglected



The Last of the Spirits

grave. His crucial question “Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?” is not heeded by the spectre but implicit in the tale is the answer he wanted. In the night, he’d seen the Cratchits at their Christmas dinner but now he’d just woken up and it was Christmas morning. That must mean that the dinner hadn’t actually happened yet. If that was the case, he could change the menu - and much else including, one imagines, the life of Tiny Tim to whom, Dickens tells us at the end of the book, Scrooge becomes a second father.

But before all that is the scene where Scrooge calls to a boy in the street to bring the prize

turkey on display in the shop window of a nearby butcher (who must have thought he would never sell it). This is then sent off to Camden Town in a cab. But what would have been Mrs Cratchit’s reaction to having all her plans disrupted on Christmas morning by the surprise arrival of a huge turkey from who-knows-where? All that preparation to do (with no refrigeration, poultry came intact). Would it even fit in the oven? And what to do with the goose she’d bought? Surely she’d be irritated? Even Bob’s good will could have been tested. Only Tiny Tim’s response is certain: “God bless us, every one”. Which I echo. Have a joyful Christmas.

Ian Crossland

The Rose & Crown

Merry Christmas from the Nympsfield Community Pub team! We're sad to be facing a second Christmas without the Rose & Crown Inn but are working hard to change that for the future!

Community Share Offer

Since our last update, we have reached an exciting milestone in our Community Share Offer; hitting 50% of our £400,000 target! The current total raised via the share offer stands at £200,326 from 320 applications (as at 9 December). Thank you to everyone who has invested so far!

We saw a flurry of investment in the lead up to the original deadline on 6 November, although progress since then has slowed. It's important to note that our share offer window must end on 31 January; we are not able to extend this again. Our exclusivity period for the purchase will also end on 31 January.

Although not impossible, it becomes much harder and more expensive to purchase the pub if we are unable to raise £400,000 through the share offer. If we reach our



target and buy the pub using only the money raised from the share offer our ongoing costs will be less and more of the funds we raise will be invested into the building and the pub will reopen sooner. If you're keen to see the Rose & Crown Inn remain a pub, please do invest what you can afford and help spread the word and

encourage others to invest! If you have already purchased shares, you can add to these by submitting an additional application form and cheque/BACS transfer. With Christmas approaching, why not do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of home and gift shares to your loved ones for Christmas for a present they can enjoy for years to come!

The share offer prospectus, business plan and share application forms are available on our website (nympsfieldcommunitypub.co.uk). If you, or anyone you know, would like a paper copy of the prospectus and application form, please contact nympsfield.community.pub@gmail.com.

Purchase of the Rose & Crown Inn

We continue to negotiate with the owner to find ways to expedite the purchase of the pub using the funds already raised. We are also considering other sources of finance to bring forward the purchase. An addendum to the business plan will be published as and when we are able to agree terms with the owner.

Grant Applications

Our grants team have been working hard to identify and apply for several grants, including:

- The Rural England Prosperity Fund - we are preparing to submit a grant application for £20k in early January which can be used to support the purchase of the pub.
- The Fore - we have registered to apply for the Spring 2025 funding round and will know on 12 December if we can apply. The Fore award grants up to £30k.
- Pub is the Hub - we spoke with the regional representative and we would very likely qualify for a £3k grant for setup costs for the cafe or shop.
- National Lottery Awards for All - we have been advised by the National Lottery to apply for this open grant worth up to £20k which focusses on community ventures. We will do so after we have purchased the pub.
- Summerfield Charitable Trust - we have spoken with one of the trustees and are encouraged to make an application after we have purchased the pub to fund a specific item such as disabled toilets. The Summerfield Trust fund good causes throughout Gloucestershire and award grants of up to £20k.
- The Royal Countryside Fund - we will be attending a webinar on 17 December in preparation for applying for their new UK-wide grant scheme in January, which awards grants of up to £25k
- National Lottery Heritage Fund - following our expression of interest for a £250k grant we will be meeting the Heritage Fund's regional advisor at the pub on 18 December to discuss our project and when we should submit a full application.

Emails



From Mary Jo Elmer: **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.**

We would like to say a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all our friends and family in Nympsfield and beyond.

Roger & Mary Elmer and Theresa Freeman.



Thanks to those who attended the Remembrance service at the Cross. More people than last year, getting on for fifty and it didn't rain. Also thanks to the school PTA for their excellent firework display, it was good to see it well-attended by villagers as well as those from the school. A lovely community event. Ed

Recycle Your Christmas Trees with Longfield Hospice in partnership with Just Helping

If you are looking for an eco-friendly way to dispose of your Christmas trees, Longfield Community Hospice can help you out with their annual Christmas tree recycling collection service in partnership with charity JustHelping.

In return for a voluntary donation, Longfield charity's team of volunteers will collect your trees from your home, at the end of the festive season, and take them to be chipped and recycled at recycling sites across Gloucestershire, including Painswick Rococo Garden, where they are chipped into mulch and reused locally, making this the most eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree.

Hoping to collect and recycle more trees than ever this year, Longfield are aiming to raise more than £72,000, which could help fund over 1,300 hours of Hospice at Home care, wellbeing, bereavement and counselling services. This is a huge operation for Longfield and last year an army of volunteers collected as many as 3742 trees over four days from households throughout Gloucestershire.

The scheme is endorsed by Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council (working with Ubico) is also supporting the scheme by providing two recycling sites.

To arrange collection of your tree, simply visit www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree and enter your postcode, where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made from 15 November until 7th January 2025

All money raised helps to fund the hospice's vital work supporting patients, families, and carers across Gloucestershire.

WELL WELL WELL

Do you have a well or fresh water spring in your garden or even in your house?

A small history project of the wells of Nympsfield is attempting to map all the wells and springs in and close to Nympsfield. Stage one of the project is to build a map of all known wells, both capped and visible.

Do you have a well? Would you mind having it included on the Nympsfield Well and Spring Map? We would like to know its (or their) location on the relevant property and any stories that you may have about its use and history, such as – when was it dug, if it was to supply water for a special purpose or for a group of houses, or anything that tells a story about your well. Once we have gathered as much information as we can and built the map, we will see if we can test the water of some of them to see what our current well water contains!

To tell us about your well, please put the information in an email to t100home@outlook.com. Alternatively, text your name to 07950 888234 with the heading 'WELL STORY' and we will get back in contact with you.

This local history project is supported by Nympsfield Parish Council.

[To kick off this project see the following article first published here in Dec 2011 and now specially updated - Ed]



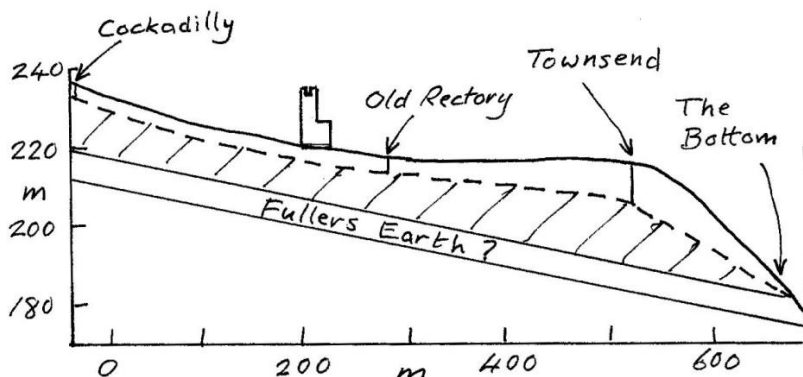
The Source

People have been living around here for at least 4500 years. We know this from the ancient monuments on the Cotswold edge. We don't know where those aboriginal people lived exactly but, wherever they spent their days and nights, they would have needed water - and that means springs and wells. Springs first. There's one on the Holloway, showed in a famous 1937 photograph from the Daily Mirror with old Bill Parslow sitting by it waiting for his bucket to fill. There's another in the cellar of the Rose and Crown. Opposite, where the car park now is, there was once a village pond of course (filled-in in 1946 according to Chris Dove). No doubt you've seen the photo from 1935. That was probably fed by the spring beneath the pub but before

we get too dewy-eyed, I'm told the pond had all kinds of rubbish in it - old prams and the like.

Then there is the "Roman" well situated in the Mead - this is the field that faces you when you reach the big stone stile at the far end of the school playing field. It's surrounded by trees and is actually a spring that's been dug out to form a pond. There's a big old ash, a couple of crab apples, hawthorn and so on. When I was there it had at least two feet of water in it - along with the obligatory bits of junk that ponds seem to attract. The Mead slopes gently down to the Bottom and the well is dug into the slope so that you can walk into it easily at one end (barbed wire and hawthorn permitting) but at the other end there is a steep bank that must be two metres high. My guess is that the pond was made for watering animals and, indeed, 19th century maps show the Mead as pasture, though no pond is marked. Yet another walk-in well is located in Jimpies, the field opposite the Village Hall.

The conclusion we come to from this is that, pretty much wherever you are in the village, there's water not far below your feet. That's because the village sits on alternate beds of limestone and clay (Fuller's Earth). The latter seals the base of the limestone so that rain water, percolating down into the rock, is stored there. To access it you simply need to dig a deep enough hole. Someone told me that the well at Cockadilly is as deep as the church tower is high. One fine day in 2011, I went up there. Richard Gwyer lowered a heavily weighted rope down the well and we measured 4.5 metres down to the water and another 4.25 metres to the base of the well. To dig these wells the old guys had to get down there with a spade, stopping when their feet got wet. That means the water level then must have been quite a bit lower then than it is now. It's deep (nearly 29 feet) but I'm sorry to say that it doesn't outdo the church tower (50 feet).



There's another good well at Dave Arnold's house at Townsend and that was the next stop. This one is deeper still: 10.3 metres to the water and another 1.25m to the base. Interestingly, you can see the water running in the bottom of the well and the water board come along sometimes to measure the flow. Next was a well at the Old Rectory. The house was built in 1929 and this well seems to be contemporary with it so it must have been one of the last to be constructed by hand. Finally, the spring line in Nympsfield Bottom was mapped. That's where the water table comes to the surface.

Translating these measurements onto paper they suggest the simple cross-section shown in the picture. The dotted line is the water table and the shaded area represents the water in the aquifer. No doubt it's more complicated than this but it does tell us why the Townsend well is so deep. It's because it sits close to a steep drop in elevation - you might say the water is draining away into the Bottom.

Ian Crossland

GAZETEER If you know of any other wells, get in touch – see contact details on page 15	
○ in the garden of Highland House at the Barrow ○ Court Fm - 2 wells, one in the field by the granary ○ Old Rectory - one close to the house and another closer to the Old Coach House that has steps going down to it. A third by the garden wall onto Back St was filled in years' ago by Jack Wooldridge ○ Dingle Edge House at Cockdilly ○ Stonehill - in the field opposite the house under the pile of stones ○ Field Fm in the kitchen (now filled in); also a natural spring in the cellar ○ The well that used to go with St Stephens is located in the garden of St Michaels, which used to be part of the same plot as St Stephens. It is marked on the 1883 OS map as a pump, but is now an open well. It is said to be about 20ft to the water	○ Chapel House behind Church Cottage ○ Rose and Crown - three wells - one by the back door by the pantry; a second next to the gas tanks; and another in the dining area of the restaurant - under the carpet. Natural spring in the cellar ○ In the garden at the front of the Convent (near the little gate to the road) ○ St Jude's in the kitchen ○ The Old Post Office in the cellar (filled in) and in the garden ○ Bell Court garden ○ The Plain - on the drive of Déjà vu (now filled in) ○ Whacker's Cottage garden ○ Lark Rise at Townsend (probably belonged to Stone Court originally) ○ In the garden of 1 Yew Tree Cottages

WHO WRAPS THE PARCELS FOR SANTA?

Who wraps the parcels for Santa
Well of course it's his lady indoors
She orders it online from Amazon
She goes by the name, Mrs. Claus.



She orders the paper, the ribbons, and lots of nice shiny bright tags
And when all the presents are ready, they are stored in big coloured bags.

She has Santa's route on the laptop
She's mapped out where he has to be.
Which presents to put by the bedside
And which ones to be put by the tree.



She checks that the reindeers are ready, that they're happy and raring to go
And that Rudolph's nose is all polished, so that it is ready to glow.

On Christmas Eve she helps Santa
Load everything onto the sleigh
They have to keep everything moving
For soon it will be the BIG DAY.



When Santa comes home he's exhausted, for he has been travelling all night
His sleigh is now of course empty – he hopes he's got everything right.

And whilst all the children are waking
And opening their presents with glee
Santa is there with his feet up
Enjoying a nice cup of tea.



Of course we give thanks to old Santa, but remember the lady "indoors"
For she is the one who assists him and she goes by the name, Mrs. Claus.

JENNY NISBETT

Nympsfield Parish Council

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS TO GRIT ROADS WHEN SNOW IS FORECAST

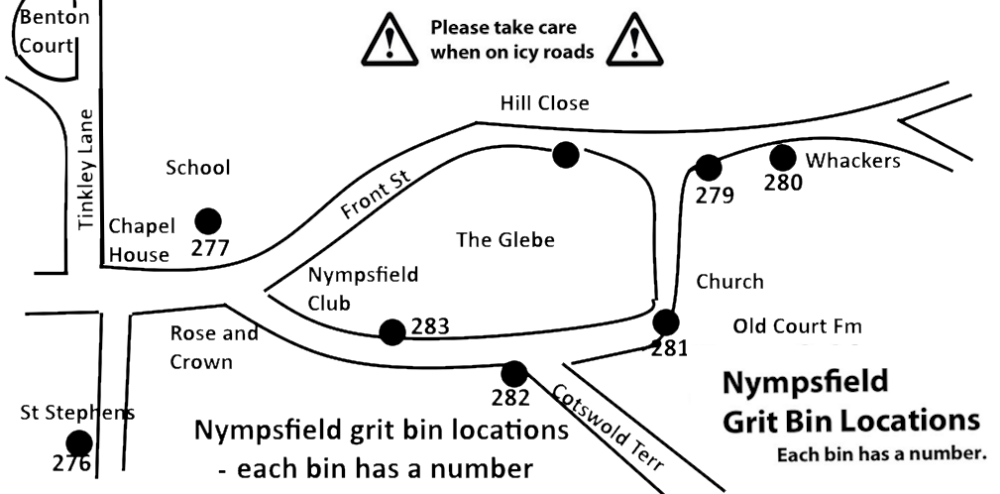
If you live near a grit bin can you kindly help to distribute the grit in your area.

When snow or very low temperatures are forecast spread a thin even layer particularly on slopes and hills and preferably the night before.

In very heavy snow the snow plough should come through the village.

If grit is in short supply concentrate on the tracks. Grit bins are only filled once per year so we do need to use it but try to make it last the season.

If you require more information contact the snow warden on 01453 861025



Christmas wishes from **NYMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

cclr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk

Your County Councillor

Cllr. Wendy Thomas

wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Your Member of Parliament

Dr Simon Opher (Lab)

simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk

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

The Nympsfield News and Advertiser is produced bi-monthly and delivered throughout Nympsfield on a voluntary basis and is free. The cost of printing is met by Nympsfield Parish Council. You can download old copies from www.nympsfieldparishcouncil.org/newsletter. Published in England ISSN 2755-3655 (print) and 2755-3633 (online)

Views published in the NN&A are not necessarily those of the Editors or of any other contributor.

Contributions are published at the Editors' discretion. Please note that the NN&A is merely offering a platform for services and cannot accept any responsibility for the quality of work offered. Information is usually correct at the time of going to print.

Produced in the village by Ian Crossland and Martin Phillips and delivered by Katrina Douglas-Phillips, Lindy and Brian Egglestone, Barbara Thomas, Christine Keith, Rachel Pegler, Ute McFarling, Tayah & Miyelle and Peter Tomiak. The editors can be contacted via email at NympyNews@gmx.com. Copy must be provided by the 20th of the month preceding publication and may be modified without notice (e.g. for reasons of space).

It is free to advertise in the Nympsfield News and Advertiser. All we ask is that you are a resident of the Parish or have a close connection to the village. Advertisements will remain until you ask for them to be removed. Please check for correctness. We accept no responsibility for errors.

Printed by LEOPARDPRESS Tel: 01453 872123