

THE
Nymphsfield
NEWS & ADVERTISER

Jan – Feb 2024



Editorial

The end of the year already – the years fly by. We hope 2023 has been a good one for you and, if not, that 2024 will see happier times. We should see signs of the New year soon: the evenings are drawing out as I type this, and before long the first shoots of wild garlic will appear (I usually find some on 1 Jan in a secret spot in the village).

In this year-end / year-start edition we bring you articles from all our regulars and two farewells.

Don't forget Santa's visit on Friday 22nd starting 5pm.

Christmas greetings to you and yours from the editors

Email: nymphynews@gmx.com

Cover picture: Halloween party at the Nympsfield Club

Deadline for next edition 20 Feb

BOOKING CONTACTS

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Bookings:

npfbookings@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Marie Knight 860115 or nympsfieldvillagehall@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.

POST COLLECTION

**MON-FRI 09 :00 AM,
SAT 07:00 AM**

Classified Ads

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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:

Mon 4 Dec

colinfairbrother@hotmail.com or

mike@leopardpress.com

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Email: leah@farrerfinancials.co.uk

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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

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

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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
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Contact Sue 861117 or 07815 568718

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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

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: Janet 861067 /

SEAL CONSTRUCTION

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www.robkazard.co.uk

EVERYTHING NYMPSFIELD!

Join us in the "Everything Nympsfield!" Facebook group for the very latest news
FLAT SHARE Single room in two bedroom furnished flat in Nympsfield. £500 pcm all bills included Please email
juliabrailsford@hotmail.com for further details.

What's On or Off

NYMPSFIELD CLUB

See separate ad. and our Facebook page for details.

BINGO: Alternate Mondays 7pm.

THE ROSE AND CROWN INN Shut.

ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL Mon to Fri, term time only, 8:55am to 2:55pm, St Joseph's School. We accept children from the age of two. Registered provider for 2, 3 and 4 year old nursery education funded children. We are also registered to offer 30 hours free childcare entitlement. Contact Natalie Finn-Powers 860311 or email stjosephspresch@gmail.com. See Facebook: 'St Joseph's Pre-school' and article later in this edition.

100 CLUB

Week 1. No.78. Gerald Smith.

Week 2. No.49. Julie Dyer.

Week 3. No.95. Paul Trew.

Week 4. No.30. Carol Pittaway.

Week 5. No.33. Rita O'Dwyer.

Week 6. No.54. Diane Davis.

Week 7. No.76. Martin Wooldridge.

Week 8. No.45. Charlotte Stewart.

Due to people moving from the village, we have some spare number. The cost per number per year is only £12, the draw is weekly and proceeds go to the village hall. Please phone Malcolm or Pat on 01453 860696 if you are interested or would like more information.

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



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 .

Halloween at the Club

Wow, what a day! Nympsfield's favourite pub hosted more than 60 goblins! as well as parents, to our annual Halloween Kids Party. From pumpkin decorating, food, DJ and games- followed of course by village trick or treating - it was by far the best Halloween Party the Club has seen. Lovely to see old friends and new, making the day so special. Thank you to all that made it happen.

Remembrance Day Service at the Cross

There was the usual remembrance Sunday commemoration at the Cross, fairly thinly attended in the cold and wet weather. The name of George Edwards was included in those read out (see the last issue of Nymphynews).

As an aside, one of the names on the war memorial is that of Lawrence Clune. A while ago, a friend mentioned that the war memorial in Woodchester was the first to be erected in Britain, started in 1916. A search of names on it showed Lawrence Clune, whose description on the Woodchester web site reads "Private Lawrence Victor Francis Clune. 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards Service No 27047. He died on January 29th aged 19. His foster mother lived in Chapel House, Nympsfield. He is buried at the Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux, France."

This inspired me to do some digging on the Ancestry web site and I pretty soon found him. Several people had included him in their family trees, and I made contact with a lady called Mandy in Western Australia who is his great-niece. *[Mrs Ed knows about some of my meetings with strange women on the internet!]* Lawrence was fostered by Mary Herbert. Mandy wrote: "Lawrence was my great uncle. My brother is named after him!

The Clunes were (and at times still) what in the old days were called 'a funny family', and not the humorous sort! A number of the children were "adopted" out, or just "stayed" with friends. I've only been able to make a story of the pieces and no real idea how factual anything is. Definitely his father was in the army, served in India & Lawrence's 2 elder sisters were born there. As the father moved around with the army, wife with him, I think they at times left the kids with whoever were friends. He had a brother who became a police sergeant and another who joined the army aged ?14 as a drummer boy, served in Boer war, WW1 and died about 1920. On the 1911 census, it says Lawrence was 'child boarded out age 12'. and was staying with Mary Herbert and her 2 daughters, Florence and Emily. Lawrence was one of ten. Most were born in Bradford but they all seemed to move away. My grandfather, Ernest (his brother) moved to Hull, not certain when but he married grandmother in 1919. I don't think there was much communication between them all. I was looking up some of Mary's tree yesterday. Apart from being married to an Irishman I don't see a connection as to how he came to be living with her. Lawrence's parents were both military/from military families. His maternal grandfather was a quartermaster." It's fascinating what one can find with some digging.



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).

Enquiries to Carol 860610.

Next books:

Jan 17 tba at Tina's

Feb 21 The Colour of Bee Larkham's Murder by Sarah J Harris. At Carol's

Christmas Dad Joke

Knock knock. Who's there?

Wooden shoe.

Wooden shoe who?

Wooden shoe like to know what you're getting for Christmas!

WORDLADDER

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



CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

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Pauline Thomas. T: 01453 860047.

Moya Wallis T: 01453 861675

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

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SEE WEB SITES FOR CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS



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, cheap drinks and good company.

All are welcome.



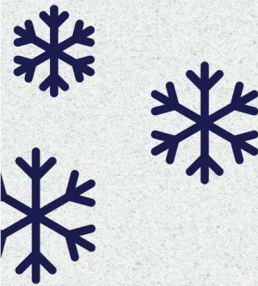
The
Nympsfield
Club



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

NEED A VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?
FOR MORE INFO VISIT..

www.thenympsfieldclub.com



Don't Forget!

Father Christmas will be visiting the village on his sleigh Friday 22nd December from 5pm



SCAN TO
DONATE

As usual, he and his elves will be collecting for the Village Hall so be on the lookout!

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK.....

Dear old Santa's retiring – he's hung up
his sack
I'm really sorry to tell you – he just
won't be back.
He's finding it hard now – he can't
cope anymore
But poor dear old Santa – he is ninety
four!
He's getting arthritic and really quite
stout
He gets stuck in the chimneys and
needs pulling out.
His memory's poor now – he tends to
forget
Which houses to go to and what each
child should get.
And even poor Rudolph – nose no
longer bright
Finds it hard to see clearly when out
late at night.

But please do not worry – the news
isn't all bad
Santa's nephew's come forward – a
young strapping lad!
He's trained a new Rudolph – a whole
brand-new team
A big shiny red nose with a magnificent
beam.

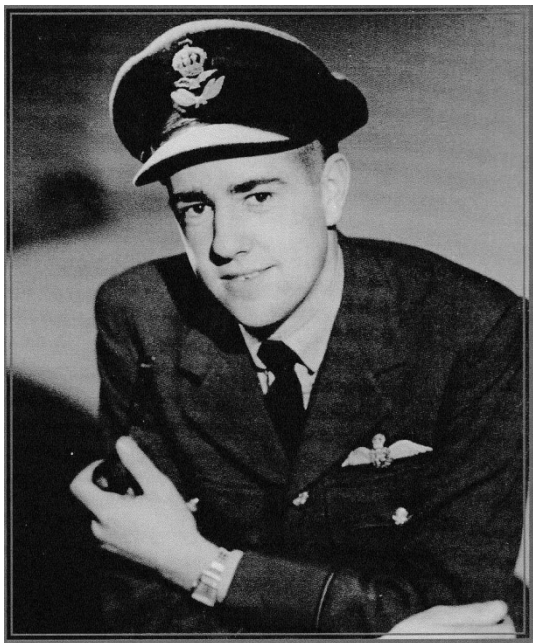
So it's Service as usual on this
Christmas Eve
You must go to sleep early – all of you
who believe.
And I am sure that we all, wish old
Santa the "Best"
On his well-earned retirement – a well
deserved rest!!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Michael Cyril Edward Whittard 27th August 1933 - 31st Oct 2023

Eulogy by his daughter Joan, spoken at his funeral by niece Mary-Jo Elmer

Life is a transient thing. Tomorrow is not promised, so we should enjoy what we have, with who we share it, whilst we have them. It is fragile, delicate and fleeting but leaves an indelible imprint on those we love and leave behind. Thank you all for coming today to help celebrate the life and times of Michael Whittard.



Michael was born in Cam on 27th August 1933, the eldest child of Geoffrey and Margaret Whittard. He lived in Dursley with his parents and younger brothers Christopher and Tony. He attended Dursley Grammar School where he excelled in maths, technical drawing and English. He also

worked as a delivery boy for a grocery store in Dursley to earn some pocket money. This is when the first of Michael's passions was born – flight, the magic of flight. This became one of life's enduring obsessions. Michael joined the ATC and began spending time on air fields, flying in gliders. He also started to build model aircraft.

Rubber-powered, then control line and progressing to radio control.

Michael joined the RAF and intended to pursue this as a career. He trained firstly in Prentice aircraft and graduated to Harvards. In fact, whilst flying a Harvard he has a mid-air collision but earned his wings and became Flying Officer Whittard. After the Harvards came the Gloucester Meteor. However, Dad and the pre-pressure suit jet age were not compatible and after finishing his training he left the RAF as he didn't want to "fly a desk".

Now we come to another passion of Michael's, a very pretty girl called Cecilia. Their meeting was thanks to a lady (who will remain nameless) double-booking a date with Mum's foster brother Alec and Dad – both of them waiting for the same girl. Alec took Dad home where he met Mum. Their 70 year union would produce 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and 2 great-great

grandchildren. Michael wrote articles for a magazine in which Mum would feature as “her madamship”. Michael produced blue prints for kits and got to grips with all the modern digital technology.

Michael raced at Brooklands – on his mobility scooter, a great day out with Antony taking Dad, John and myself out - the last time he and his remaining children were together. It was a good day. I used to take Dad to vintage shows. We would leave the house not

knowing what we would see but knew it would be interesting, my hero.

Throughout his life Michael was involved in many things – flight, the ATC, Wheels and Wings in Dursley, the Nationals, competitions for radio-control models. He made many friends over the years – Sid King, George Ford, Ben and Colin Buckle to name a few and I’m sure there are many (the ones than have passed) up there and up to no good but now flying unaided - Blue Skies Boys.

Nature Notes from Miss Daisy Brussels Sprouts

With Christmas fast approaching these innocuous looking green miniature cabbages will soon be appearing on our plates, along with the Christmas turkey. There are people who absolutely hate them, and those who do not mind them at all – and it is all down to how you were programmed at birth! Seriously, the brussels sprout gene (TAS2R38) was founded in the 1930’s and a survey was done to show that it is all down to whether we are genetically programmed to taste the chemical PTC – which is responsible for the taste of bitterness.

Brussels sprouts are now almost obligatory with the Christmas Dinner and around two thirds of those produced are eaten over the Christmas period.

The sprout’s ancestor was an Ancient Roman crop, but was brought to Europe in the 5th century and cultivated near Brussels in the 1200’s and this of course is where they get their name. The Netherlands are still by far the greatest producers of sprouts, with 82,000 tons being produced annually.

Apart from the taste of sprouts, some people absolutely hate the smell, which is predominantly made up of sulphur, but they contain vitamin K and vitamin C – and are also said to lower cholesterol so there is a lot to be said for including them in your diet. And one final fact which I am told is entirely true, is that in 2015 a group of schoolchildren and scientists managed to power the lighting up of a Christmas tree in Southbank, using the energy of 1,000 sprouts.

Now isn’t that something to think about whilst you are eating your Christmas dinner!
MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE.

OLD NEWS FROM NYMPFIELD

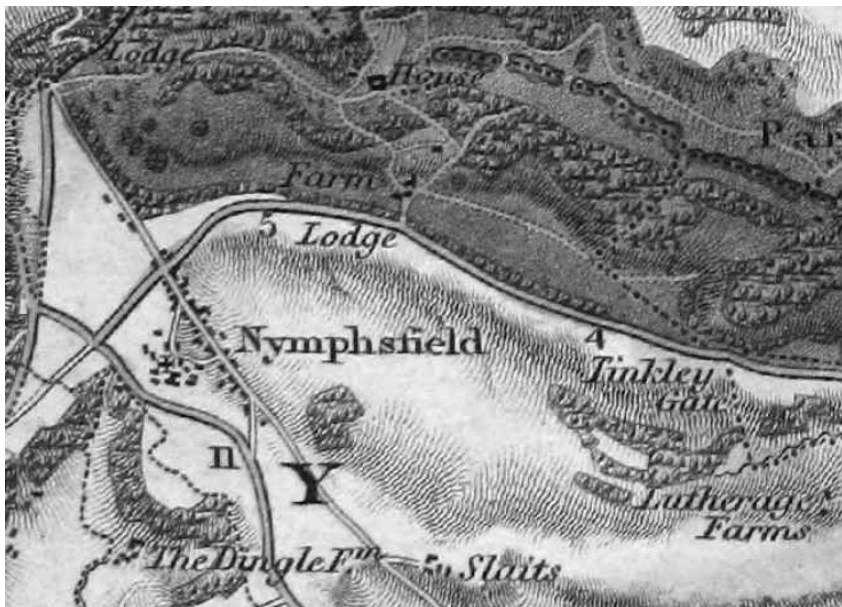
End of Year Wanderings – 2023

2023 was the year of no pub - the Rose and Crown shut its doors and was put up for sale in January. Around the same time the Cotswold stone tiles and battens on its single story extension were removed leaving the rafters exposed. After the Parish Council complained to the owner, the roof was later covered over with blue plastic sheets. The pub is still waiting for a buyer to come forward – the initial asking price was £450k but it looks like you could get it for £350k – go on, you know you want to!.

One crumb of comfort – the Rose and Crown is in better shape than the Air Balloon pub near Birdlip, demolished 2 Dec to allow the A417 to be dual

carriaged [is that a word? Ed]. My daughter, along with hundreds of other volunteers at the nearby Crickley Hill archaeological dig, will have shed a nostalgic tear for the old place, remembering many a boozy evening there.

We still have the Nymphsfield Club, of course, which marches on after reaching its 125th anniversary this year – its quasiquicentennial apparently. In celebration, the July-August Nymphy News came out in an extended full colour issue which retold the Club's fascinating history and how, on more than one occasion, the community came together to keep to keep it alive. Another big village anniversary this



year was the centenary of the building of St Joseph's Church.

With the sale of the Thistledown site to the National Trust, the Thistledown café was re-badged as Caper Café and moved to the Gliding Club in March. The Thistledown site was re-named as "Tinkley Gate" and opened its doors – café and all – not long after. The Trust borrowed the name from Greenwood's 1824 map of Gloucestershire which shows Tinkley Gate further along the lane - where Tinkley Farm now is. It appears that a track from Nympsfield Bottom to Park Farm once crossed the road there.

All change at the two churches with the retirements of Canon Michael Cozens at St Bart's and Father Philip Beasley at St Joseph's. Fr Philip is replaced by his namesake Fr Philip Thomas who comes from the parish of Cirencester and Tetbury and aboriginally from Wales. We await a replacement for Rev Cozens. Also at St Bart's there was an appeal to reboot the church clock and, now, as the Nymphy News goes to press, a team from Centreline Stone has been on site for several weeks repairing the external stone work. One of the stone masons told me that he thought they were actually replacing old repairs that had been done previously with poor quality stone. This time they are using a weather-resistant Bath stone from the Limpley Stoke quarry.

There were some doubts as to whether Santa would be able to continue his glorious tradition of a Christmas Eve visit to Nympsfield and I'm pleased to be able to confirm that he WILL be coming this year but on the Eve of the Eve of Christmas Eve i.e. Friday Dec 22nd. We are very privileged because he's already made an appearance at the Christmas stalls and lights switch on at the Village Hall on 2nd Dec.

Sadly, some village stalwarts passed away this year:

Justin Watts (59) March
David Gazzard (84) May
Ann Fisher (84) August
Mike Whittard (90) October
Goff Smith November (funeral 19th Dec)

See separate eulogies for Justin and Mike in this issue.

That's it from me for 2023. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024.

Ian Crossland.

Emails to the Editors



From Mary Elmer: Christmas Greetings.

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

Mary Jo and Roger Elmer, Theresa Freeman, Cis Whittard.

Justin Watts 1963-2023

The early death of Justin Watts went by with little notice in the Nymphy News mainly because his funeral was held in the north of Sweden (Boden) where he'd settled after leaving the village as a young man. Nevertheless, through family



and friends, he maintained his links with the village and was a regular visitor. He is still well-remembered here as the younger son of Michael and Tessa Watts, brother to Guy, Fiona, Cressida, Alison and Lucy - alongside being a footballer and a general live wire. His wife Sabina (pictured) said that he had happy memories of growing up here and always felt close to the village and its people.

The eulogy at his funeral was written and spoken by his Best Man and lifelong friend, David Bowen. David

recounted that, according to the dictionary, a legend is an admirable person who is the centre of stories passed around and handed down through generations. If that's the case then Justin truly is a legend because that's a perfect description of him. David wrote a long and wonderful poem about the crazy things they got up when they were younger. It had people laughing and crying at the same time. Finally, though, nothing characterized Justin more than his parting, summed up in the final two verses of David's poem shown here.

Justin left behind
Sabina, three children:
Hannah, Ricky and
Sam and grandson
Werner.

His strength through his illness was totally inspiring
His courage, and his selflessness has us all admiring
This legend who knew it was his time to go
But despite all his pain, he just wanted to know
That his family and friends would be OK when he went
To that end much of his last moments were spent
Ensuring that we would be alright
Before he could finally give up the fight

As it was in the beginning
So it was right up to the end
A total honour to call this great man
My friend

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A useful web site for reporting issues with roads, potholes, lighting, flytipping and lots of similar stuff: <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> You can also see if someone has already reported it.

Any reports of suspicious activities to Martin please – 860133.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL

What a fantastic winter term we have had! Fundraising with cakes and sweets at the school PTA fireworks events; celebrating with our Christmas party day; and a wonderful performance of the children's pre-school nativity! We thought they were all brilliant, lots of great singing and actions! Now we are now onto the topics of Space and The Great Outdoors! If you wish to arrange a visit to the setting, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie via 01453 860311 or email natalie.preschool22@gmail.com for further information. Please register your interest now for 2024-2025 academic year places.

NYMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

At the time of writing we continue to have a council vacancy. If anyone reading this would like to learn more about becoming a Nympsfield parish councillor, please do contact the clerk, either by email at clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org or on 0797 3912619 for an informal chat. The work is interesting and worthwhile. Our Councillors give their time voluntarily and manage to make it fit within their busy lives.

The November and December meetings have taken place, with much discussion about the budget for the forthcoming year – high finance! This year NPC have made grants to aid the Village Hall, the Playing Field and the Coronation street party. We hope by careful planning and prudence to be able to continue to fund worthwhile village causes.

We do hope everyone in the village enjoys a peaceful and restful Christmas.

Your Parish Councillors: Cllr Sophia Price (Chair) Cllr Peter Tomiak-Baquero (vice-chair) Cllr Trevor Gaunt Cllr Anne Robertson 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 Siobhan Baillie (Con) siobhan.baillie.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 01453 860612
St Joseph's School 01453 860311
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
Village Agent – we no longer have one!
Vet (Bowbridge) 01453 762350

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