

THE

November-December 2021

Nymphsfield

NEWS & ADVERTISER

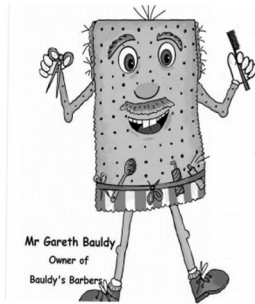


Tamie Dodger

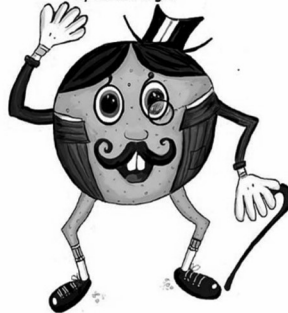


THE BISCUITS

By Rachel Pegler



Mr Gareth Bauldy
Owner of
Bauldy's Barber



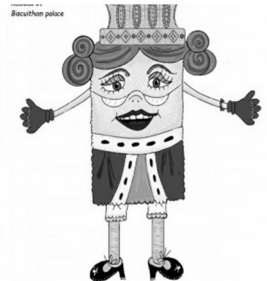
Mr. Richard Tea



The Party rings



beauty salon
& nail bar



Biscuithan palace

Welcome...

to the Autumnal edition. As ever, we hope you will find much to entertain and amuse you. We have the usual classified ads of course plus an assortment of poems, articles and emails from our regular contributors and others.

If fancy contributing something – an article, photo, drawing, joke, whatever we'd love to hear from you and the more Nympsfield-focussed it is, the better.

Erratum to erratum: In the previous issue we (see email) mistakenly reported that Colin Webber who died recently was the son of Mark. He was in fact Mark's father. Apologies again for any distress and confusion.

The Editors

Email: nympynews@gmx.com

Deadline for the early winter edition is **15 December** (earlier than usual so we can get late festive information out, including whether Santa will be stopping in the village!)

Cover picture: an illustration from Rachel Pegler's book "The Biscuits" – see p 13

BUS TIMES

The bus timetables have changed a lot since our last edition. There's an expanded timetable to be found inside on page 9.

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

**CHANGE TO TIME OF POST
COLLECTION
MON-FRI 5-15PM,
SAT 09:00 AM**

BOOKING CONTACTS

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Bookings: npfbookings@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Marie Knight 860115 or
nympsfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Bookings: Wayne 07769 317559

CAVE



FISH

WORDLADDER

Change one letter at a time to move from one word to the other. Each step must produce a real word

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

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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@dtm.co.uk, Phone: 01453 860968, Web: www.dtm.co.uk

HANDYMAN/ GARDENER

Contact: Tommy Guerin 07432650321

IRONING

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

DOMESTIC HEATING OIL

Nympsfield (and surrounding area) oil buying group: next bulk oil orders on 5 July and 4 October. This not only benefits the smaller users but also the bigger users significantly. An example from February order (if everyone ordered individually) - Ford fuel 500 litre order - 45p/L, 2000L - 40p/L, Boilerjuice 40.2p/L. As a group we paid 35p/L, saving £50 on 500L order or £100 for a 2000L order - the bigger the average order the better the prices.

Next order dates: Mon 29 Nov, Mon 31 Jan, Mon 4 April

colinfairbrother@hotmail.com or

mike@leopardpress.com

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

FIREWOOD

Locally sourced seasoned firewood
Contact 861117 or 07860 572905

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 229669.
peterwoodman.notjusttravel.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 Nymphsfield is available for you and your dog to hire on an individual basis. Please visit our website
www.paddocks4paws.com for more info
Contact Sue 861117 or 07815 568718

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

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 /
janet@springsnow.co.uk

PLASTERING AND GENERAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

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

For Sale / Free

Flymo electric strimmer: very lightweight but OK for edging lawns. Martin, 07725 141332

What's On or Off

THE ROSE AND CROWN INN

Open for business. Bookings being taken! B&B rooms coming soon!
www.roseandcrownfarmhouse.com
roseandcrown55@gmail.com, Facebook message (link from web site) or 01453 860612.

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.

NYMPSFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB

Back up and running!

EVERYTHING NYMPSFIELD!

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

WOODCHESTER MANSION has a new Facebook page: search FB for woodchestermansion
www.woodchestermansion.org.uk

ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL

Mon to Fri, term time only, 8:50am to 3pm, St Joseph's School
St Joseph's Pre-school accepts 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 Powers 860311 or email stjosephspresch@gmail.com. See Facebook: 'St Joseph's Pre-school'

100 CLUB WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who has a number in the village hall 100 club. £600 per year is given out in a weekly draw and £600 much needed funds for our village hall. There are a few spare numbers.

Pat is collecting fees for the next 12 months. If you are passing Delahay Townsend, please put your £12 per number in an envelope with your name on it. Or, she will call in and collect sometime. Please phone Pat or Malcolm on 01453 860696.

WiN Women in Nympsfield

October saw us back at the Village Hall for the first time since March of last year, a good turnout considering we had some poorly members so get well soon. We welcomed four new members this evening: the two Janes, Anna and Catherine. Our planned speaker had to cancel at the last moment due to COVID and Pamela our events organiser pulled the "rabbit out of the hat" and called on Caroline Sheldrick, a Medical Herbalist from Stroud, to present Flowers for Healing. Plants we all know (Lavender, Echinacea, Calendula etc) which have an impact on our wellbeing for medical conditions but also how flowers enrich our lives in subtle ways and their importance at social events.

As life opens again, we hopefully will be able to start to enjoy our regular monthly meetings. We gather again next month at the Village Hall on Monday, 15th November at 7.30pm (meeting t.b.a.)

Christmas is approaching fast; our meeting then will be on 20th December at Rachel's a lively evening awaits.

More details will be notified to you all nearer the time on both the aforementioned meetings.

New members always welcome. Please get in touch: catherine860636@yahoo.co.uk or call 07746 594547.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield (part of the Ewelme Benefice): Parish Holy Communion is at 10am, held at St Bartholomew Nympsfield on the first Sunday of the month; all other Sundays at Uley, St Giles.

Other services in Dursley, see website <http://tinyurl.com/ssra4z3>
Vicar Rev Michael Cozens 546459

ST JOSEPH'S RC SERVICES

Vigil Mass every Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday Masses at St Dominic Dursley

Parish Priest Fr Philip Beisly
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). Enquiries to Carol 860610.

Next books:

17 Nov: *Spill, Simmer, Falter, Wither* by Sara Baume (Verity's choice, by Zoom)

15 Dec: bring a poem and/or book to give a brief presentation on: Martin & Kate, Chapel House

SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen raises money for charities in memory of villagers who have recently died. Restarting (one hopes) later in the year, second Wednesday of every month.



Volunteers Wanted

- (1) To help mow St Bart's churchyard. We are currently down to three people and could do with another one or two.
- (2) For a working party to tidy up the churchyard. If you would like to help with either of these activities contact Ann Hardy on 860876
- (3) To help run the village playing field. Contact Ian on 860625

OLD NEWS FROM NYMPSFIELD

Mixed Blessings

The comedian Arthur Smith says The Archers is the only programme that he's compelled to switch off - even if it means getting out of the bath. One sympathizes but, as a Radio 4 addict, it's sometimes difficult to avoid listening. What I notice recently is plenty of talk about government policy turning farmers into land managers rather than food producers. It's not surprising: a recent blog from the Natural History Museum said that the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe and the fall in biodiversity continues despite efforts to reverse it.

A wonderful new book, *English Pastoral: An Inheritance*, by James Rebanks gives some insight into how this has come about. Rebanks, it may be remembered is the shepherd who told his own story of life on a Lake District fell farm in *The Shepherd's Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape*. His latest book paints a picture of the family farm and the changes that have occurred there over the last three generations. He describes his much loved grandfather, whose working practice, tractors aside, had hardly changed since the 19th Century. It was a mixed farm with sheep and cattle alongside pigs, hens and, some years, geese to be sold at

Christmas. Much of the land was on the fells so that the main business of the farm was sheep rearing. The number of sheep that could be kept was dictated by how many could be fed through the winter – these were the breeding ewes supplemented by a few rams to serve them. The old man grew barley and turnips on his best land – and hay of course – for winter fodder so, ultimately, the size of the core flock was decided by the acreage of good land where he could grow these crops. Things appear to have been OK in the early days – the 1960s – but the price of sheep and cattle fell over the years so that the farm made progressively less money. Even so, Grandad's self-sufficient approach meant his outgoings were small and, with children flown, he and Grandma were content to live in near poverty. The compensation: he was his own man and "doffed his cap to no man".

When Grandad died, the farm passed to James's father who was farming on rented ground not far away. He couldn't live the way his father had – he had a family to support. In buying more land he accumulated more debt but the selling price of sheep and cattle continued to fall and it was difficult to keep up with the interest payments. The only way out was to bow to the

market: increase the number of animals by turning every inch of land over to grazing, use nitrogen fertilizer and improved seed to make the grass grow quicker and replace the turnips and barley with industrially made feed. The pigs, hens and geese had to go, hedges were grubbed up. The result: no longer a mixed farm but a monoculture.

The outcome of this specialization was disastrous for the wildlife on the fell farm. Curlews, which had previously been the commonest farmland bird there started to disappear in the 1990s: they couldn't lay eggs and rear chicks in fields that were mowed three or four times each summer. These birds can live up to 30 years and, for years after these agricultural changes were introduced, they would linger on in fields where they had previously brought up their young. One of the least productive fields on the farm was

partly covered in gorse which, of course, had to go. But, along with the gorse, the flocks of linnets and yellowhammers that had lived there disappeared also.

What happened quickly on that Cumbrian farm 30 years ago mirrors what has happened over the past 70 years – and continues to happen - in the rest of the country. The question is 'how to stop it?' Nobody wants food to be more expensive but doing nothing is not an option. Special payments to farmers to incentivise environmental schemes have long been a favoured approach for government but they don't seem to have had much impact to date. After his father's death, James Rebanks took over the farm and has done much to restore some of the old habitats including putting in wooded areas (which have to be protected from the sheep) alongside the streams. He says that he's on the highest

possible environmental subsidy and this accounts for one third of his farm income. It may not be enough - if we want to improve biodiversity, it seems that one way or another we are going to have to pay for it.

Ian Crossland



James Rebanks, Matterdale 2016 © Shutterstock

Bus Timetable Changes

Since our last edition there have been a few changes to the bus timetables from the village; some good, some bad.

There is now only one bus to and from Cam & Dursley railway station, not Saturdays. There are fewer early and evening buses. On the plus side, there is an occasional service via Dursley to Stonehouse and Gloucester (the latter takes about 75 minutes).

The Saturday service is much improved.

I think the ticketing has become cheaper: a return ticket to Stroud used to cost an arm and a leg, but there's now a "day rider" ticket for £4.00 (£3.80 via the Stagecoach app) which covers all travel in the Stroud and Dursley area (I suspect that doesn't include the bus to Gloucester but am open to correction –I've got a bus pass anyway!) There are also West Explorer tickets (£7.50 / £7.00) which cover all of Stagecoach West, and an 853 Gold Rider (£10.00) which covers all of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

More details on the Stagecoach web site: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/plan-a-journey>

Buses from Nympsfield to Dursley: all go to Gloucester bus station except the 17:50 which terminates at Westend, Stonehouse.

09:20 arrives Dursley 09:35

10:21 arrives Dursley 10:33 (onwards to Coaley): Saturday only*

11:20 arrives Dursley 11:35

12:36 arrives Dursley 12:48 (onwards to Coaley): Saturday only*

13:20 arrives Dursley 13:35

14:01 arrives Dursley 14:16 (onwards to Cam & Dursley station 18:20 and then to Coaley): Mon-Fri only

15:50 arrives Dursley 16:05

17:50 arrives Dursley 18:05

Towards Stroud:

08:20 arrives Stroud 08:40 (departs Cam & Dursley 07 :51)

10:25 arrives Stroud 10:56 (via Nailsworth 10:38): Mon-Fri only

11:05 arrives Stroud 11:20

11:17 arrives Stroud 11:32 Saturday only*

13:05 arrives Stroud 13:20

13:32 arrives Stroud 13:47: Saturday only*

15:05 arrives Stroud 15:20

17:05 arrives Stroud 17:20

Above services all Monday – Saturday unless stated otherwise. No buses on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

*Operated by Cotswold Green: the buses going to Coaley do not stop at Cam & Dursley station.

St Jude's on TV

BBC TV's "House Through Time" has been telling the history of 5 Grosvenor Mount in Headingley, Leeds. A recent episode (number three in the current series) featured Percival and Rose King, who were from the Stroud area – their daughter Phyllis was born in Rodborough in 1917. Later records suggest that Phyllis was not a well child: it appeared that she needed constant care.

In the 1920s, Percival took his family from Stroud to Leeds - one cloth manufacturing area to another – and became involved with the development of artificial silk, known as rayon. By the mid-1930s, he was lecturing on the subject in Leeds and it was then that the three moved to Grosvenor Mount, an up-market address.

Tragically, though, Percival became progressively more poorly with mental illness and, finally, was committed to a mental hospital from which he escaped to drown himself in 1938; his age was only 54. The programme speculated that his illness may have been caused by carbon disulphide – a chemical used to make rayon – which is known to damage the brain and cause a range of physical and mental conditions including severe depression. Quite possibly, Percival could have been exposed to this chemical in his work bringing about his early illness and death.

The year after Percival's demise, Rose and Phyllis moved back to Gloucestershire. Sixteen years later, Rose died leaving Phyllis, now aged 37,



Paul and Winnie Morgan being interviewed by David Olusoga for "A House Through Time"



Phyllis with her doll

alone. The programme researchers searched for her through electoral rolls and newspaper archives but could find nothing until they found a funeral notice on the internet which spoke of a funeral held at St Bart's church Nympsfield for Phyllis King, late of St Jude's Care Home. The film crew came

to Nympsfield and David Olusoga interviewed Paul and Winnie Morgan who had good memories to tell of Phyllis whom many residents of the village may remember. She'd obviously spent a long time in care – probably since her mother died – and had arrived at St Jude's in November 2006. She was upset at first but, when Christmas came, Winnie's grandchildren came to show their Christmas presents which included a doll. Phyllis asked to hold the doll but, when handed it, was reluctant to give it back, only releasing it on the promise of a replacement which was delivered the next day. From then on, Phyllis was never without the doll and, whenever pictured, had it in her arms. Phyllis was at St Jude's for five happy years, dying in January 2011 aged 93. See <https://tinyurl.com/stjudesbbc>

Emails to the Editors



From Julie, Marie & Sue. Macmillan Coffee Morning:

We would like to Thank all those who came to the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Sat 25th Sept & a big thank you to the Working Men's Club for letting us hold it there.

Thanks also to those who made delicious cakes & donated raffle prizes & money & huge thanks to our ever-loyal helpers. We made the fabulous amount of £435.35!

Amazing for a small village. Thanks again.



From one of the editors: many thanks to Jo, Michelle and anyone else who helped for their efforts in organising the village progressive supper. It's been such a long time since we had an event like that. What a great evening, and an excuse to put the fishnets and a new frock on! – Martin/



And from the other one...

Apologies from me to anyone who was upset or confused by my mixups over the deaths in the Webber family. All my fault and nothing to do with my co-editor. Ian

Nature Notes by Miss Daisy

MISTLETOE

Probably the last thing you want to be reminded of when reading this, is that Christmas is on the horizon! But there is no escaping the fact that in a few short months, we shall no doubt be eating too much, drinking too much, and probably spending too much money!!!

Hopefully, though, this year, it will be a much happier Christmas for all of us – unlike last year, when we were in the grip of the pandemic and a great number of people had to abandon their festive plans to isolate in their own homes.

Before “bling and glitter” were invented, many people would decorate their homes with holly, ivy, fir trees and of course mistletoe – and there are some interesting facts to be found on the mistletoe plant..... “Why do we kiss under the mistletoe, rather than a bunch of holly?”

In Pagan times the white berries of the plant were a symbol of male fertility, whilst the Romans regarded it as a symbol of peace and love – hanging it over doorways to protect the household.

In the Christian era however, it became associated with Christmas – as a decoration under which lovers are expected to kiss - and the earliest reference to mistletoe tradition in popular music was in the 1952 hit “I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” which was recorded in the US.

Interestingly it is the floral emblem of Oklahoma and the official “flower” of Herefordshire.

If you find yourself under a bunch of mistletoe this Christmas, I hope you will be with the right person – and that you will have a very Happy Christmas.

THIS IS PROGRESS

I used to enjoy banking
At the Branch just down the hill
The girls were always helpful
When I went to pay a bill
They always used to stop and chat
Discuss the weather – this and that
But now the branch is closing
There's a notice on the door
I must do online banking
I can't go there anymore
A computer or a laptop
Is something I must buy
Connect it to the internet
With something called Wifi
I have to have a password

Something easy to recall
I mustn't ever write it down
That wouldn't do at all
And now it seems because of fraud
There is a new addition
To let me use my laptop
There's facial recognition
So I have to smile at my computer
And then it smiles at me
If we recognise each other
Then it lets me press a key
So tell me please what do you think!
Wasn't it simpler with just pen and ink?

Jenny Nisbett

St Joseph's Pre-school - what's been going on?

During 2020-21 we managed to spend time updating our outdoor area. We have created a construction site, climbing frame area and a fake grass area which helps us continue to exploring outside, whatever the weather! To see pictures, visit the "Exploring the Pre-school" in the Pre-school section of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's website.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas preparations with our nativity and pre-school Christmas party day, where we have our annual visit from the wonderful Magic Marie.

Pre-school places are filling up but we currently still have availability on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, with a waiting list in operation for Thursday. Please encourage anyone who is interested in their child attending to enquiry early to avoid disappointment.

The Pre-school has a well established team, now in its ninth year. The continuity of staff has meant that we are able to build a strong team which helps to create a secure base for the children, which in turn allows us to nurture a safe and happy environment for all children.

THE BISCUITS

from Rachel Pegler

For 22 years now we have struggled to keep our daughter Molly well. Just lately we have been at a loss with how to help her, with professionals telling us this could be as good as it gets. Molly is 22 she sits in her chair all day every day asleep or in pain. I do not accept that this is how it is, she deserves a good life like our other 3 children So I will do anything in my power to try & get the best and newest treatments available.



The Biscuits book series has been in my head for a long time. Duncan Biscuit was the first character probably thought up about 20 years ago. I've previously published an art therapy book with well-known guest artists to raise funds for my Molly's fix me fund in 2018. Thankfully it

was a big success buying her a powerchair an oxygen machine & other treatments she needs.

Molly was born with a life-threatening illness which was not discovered until she was 14. This has left her very poorly. Lack of treatments in lockdown & the whole terrifying experience of worrying we may lose her if she caught covid was over whelming. I started sketching out the characters to keep my mind off the horrible reality & fear that covid brought us in the early days. I wrote a few stories & then spent about a year illustrating the first book. Molly couldn't leave the house for over 18 months, so it was a good opportunity to finally get it done. When finished I sent the first draft & illustrations to my dear friend the lovely Jilly cooper to see what she thought. She has been a big encouragement to Molly & I & helped out with my first book.

To my utter surprise Jilly sent it to her agent which gave me so much confidence in getting it published 😊 although Jilly's agent specialises in adult literature it gave me so much encouragement to pursue the idea. I've been an illustrator for 30-ish years, so I know how tough breaking into something like this is. In April Mr Richard Tea was published by MT publishing. I'm currently working on Custard Queen

which will hopefully be out at Christmas time.

I'm amazed by the great 5* reviews it has had, and I really hope the Biscuits become a thing. All proceeds are going towards Molly's treatment & care. I'm hoping to get her to Harley Street soon to have an adrenal pump fitted. This is the same pump as a diabetic would use but giving life sustaining cortisol instead of insulin. Molly currently takes 4 tablets a day to keep her alive. She is having huge problems with side-effects from them at the moment which makes her feel even more poorly so the adrenal pump will be of massive benefit to her. It will hopefully give her a more normal & awake life. Unfortunately, it is not on the NHS as Molly's condition is 1 in 100,000 & it's a relatively new treatment. The pump with all related costs will be about £5000.

The books are for sale worldwide on Amazon & other outlets locally. You can see more about them on the Biscuits of Crumbleton website and can also order copies there. More about books to come, colouring pages, reviews & outtakes from the first book are also available on the website:

www.thebiscuitsofcrumbleton.co.uk

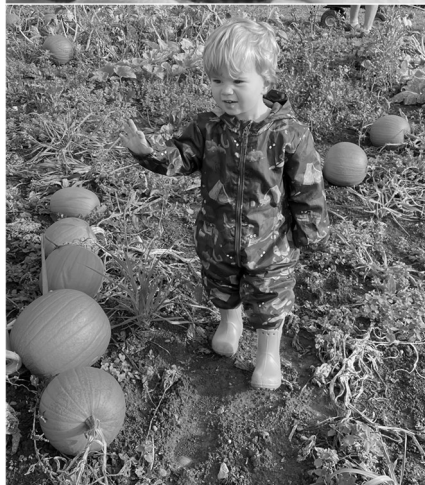
More about Molly & our quest to make her well again can be found

here: www.mollysmiracle.co.uk

[A good Christmas present? – ed]

Birthdays

Congratulations to Natalie and Terry Smith on the birth of Rex Terence born 2 September this year. Also to big brother Bernie who was two on October 9th



From St Joseph's School

Back to some sort of normality.....

Well, this year has started in a very different way to the end of last. Gone are the class bubbles, social distancing, spraying touch surfaces as you go and masks in the corridors. School life has felt more like it was pre-covid. Lots to learn for our young ones and remember for our older ones. For our reception, their first year at school in their bubble with their teacher and remote assemblies is all that they know of school. It had taken some adjusting for them to come in through the main school gates with the rest of the school, come into assembly, having lunches in the hall, share the playground and the field with the rest of the school. The staff watched at the first break time as children came excitedly out of school and stopped, unsure of what to do, questioning was it ok to be on the field all together? After a frozen moment in time, it did not take long for their play spaces to be forgotten and for all the children to be enjoying the school field, playing together. Coming together as a school is probably the thing that we all missed the most last year. We still had whole school assemblies on TEAMS, but it is not the same. It has been so lovely to be able to go to Mass again this year. When we held our first hymn practise, we were shocked that the children couldn't remember some of their favourite hymns. But of course, the last time that our current Year 6 would have

been in a hymn practise, they would have been in year 4. With a bit of work and commitment from the children to REACH in all that they do, it didn't take long before they were singing just as well as they have always done.

There are of course some measures still in place, classrooms are still well ventilated, children still regularly wash their hand throughout the day and use anti-bac hand gel, each class still uses their dedicated toilet and sink - this has become the norm. Parents evening was still on TEAMS so as to avoid mass gatherings at school. Children are all dropped off at the school gates in the morning and their parents come onto the playground to collect them in the afternoon – leaving quickly.

We have unfortunately, like many schools around us, have had several cases of covid in the last couple of weeks. We have been caught up in the positive LFD, negative PCR situation. Thank goodness for remote learning, once again some of our children have had to isolate and have continued to access their learning online. Our staff have been incredible. They have changed and adapted seamlessly to ensure that all our children get the best that we can offer. Half term is a welcome break, and we hope that this will give things a chance to settle down ready to come back for the busy and exciting term that leads us up to Christmas.

Neighbourhood Watch

Plague and spam

There are loads of spam texts going around saying that you're now eligible for your NHS Covid pass and adding that you might be fined if you don't get it (via the link provided). Please report to your phone operator by forwarding them (and any other junk texts) to 7726 (that's SPAM on old fashioned keypads).



Covid cases nationally and locally are going up again. Schools are seeing large numbers of cases (there are quite a few kids and staff out at St. Jo's). The reproduction rate R is just above 1.0, and will probably increase further as we move indoors for the winter. The government is telling us that there is no need for a "plan B", whereas the scientists say that we need to take precautions *now*, before the situation worsens. I know which I believe. I don't think anything major is required, being cautious and wearing masks indoors and in busy outdoor situations may suffice.

At the time of writing, over-50s and clinically vulnerable people can get booster vaccinations if six months have elapsed since their second jab. They should get a letter or text from their GP, but boosters can be booked via the national system when you are eligible: <https://tinyurl.com/nhsboosterjab> As GP surgeries are very busy (and some are suffering staff shortages due to Covid infections) please don't call them unless you are vulnerable or long overdue your booster.

Forward phishing emails to GCHQ: report@phishing.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch: Any reports of issues to Martin 860133 please.

There have been a few incidents around Benton Court of stuff being nicked and attempted entry to houses at night. Please keep an eye open for suspicious activity.

From Glos Police: We're appealing for information following a burglary in The Plain, Nympsfield which took place sometime between 10.00am on 20 October 2021 and 10.00am on 21 October 2021. If you have any information concerning this incident, contact the police using incident number 0112 of 21 October 2021.

From St Joseph's School: Please keep your dogs out of the school grounds and pick up poo anywhere in the village. Some children's ball landed in some dog faeces by the main gate when they were coming into school the other morning. The school field is not a place to play with your dog - play equipment has been damaged over the weekend (chewed by a dog). Also, the children's goal posts have been broken whilst being dragged into new positions over the weekends – they are only plastic and not up to it. Unfortunately, the school can't afford to replace them.

NYMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A busy couple of months have seen interest in developing the bus shelter as a location to site vending machines for milk and milk products. This is against the background of a firm refusal by the bus company to take the bus as far as the bus shelter, now or in the future. The vending machine initiative might turn out to be a valuable resource for the community and make a positive use of the shelter. Discussions are ongoing and no final decision has been made.

High on the agenda have been; support for the campaign to resist the closure of Uley medical practice, getting to grips with supporting initiatives for climate action locally and supporting an initiative to improve play facilities at the village playing field. The Uley practice appears safe for 12 months and we will be following developments closely. The parish council will be inviting residents with interest in forming a local climate action group to come forward. Rosie Hughes and Ava Clements were invited to join a walk round the village with the CEO of Stroud DC and District Councillor Piercy. There was discussion around the difficulty of pedestrian access from the village to the playing field and possible improvements. NPC have encouraged Rosie and Ava's initiative and offered ideas for funding – this is an ongoing process!

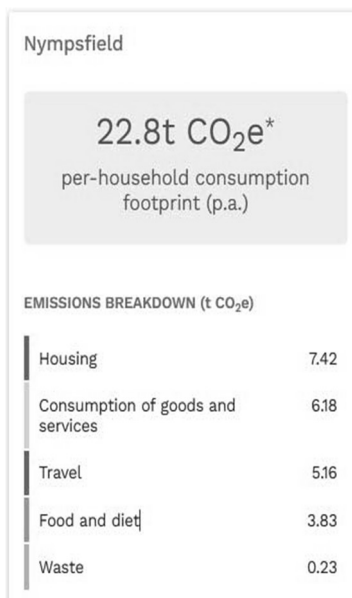
Defibrillator Training - at time of going to press we have received interest from 5 people – meaning we have up to 7 places left to fill. This is your chance to attend a highly subsidised course which will equip you to effectively deal with a cardiac arrest situation and perhaps save the life of a loved one. The course lasts 3.5 hours, is available to Nympsfield residents of 16 years or older, and will cost £20 per person.

Council vacancy - there remains a vacancy on the Nympsfield Parish Council. Anyone interested in serving their community should contact the clerk. Please contact

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

Nympsfield Climate Action

The Parish Council wants to declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY to make climate change a Parish Council priority and set up an action group to



Source: Exeter University impact-tool 2021

discuss ideas to support the people of Nympsfield in their efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

There is a lot of confusion and uncertainty about what we as individuals and the village/county/country should be doing- what is the Plan?

- How can a community the size of Nympsfield make a difference?
- What 'extreme weather events' could impact our village and what we can do to prepare for them? How could we work together to become more resilient?
- How we can actively promote biodiversity within the village through planting and managing our green spaces, verges, trees, and what we can do in our gardens and allotments?

You are invited to the Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th November 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Council would like to hear from villagers who have an interest in any aspect of these issues. We are not asking you to commit to join anything but would like to hear your views and opinions - just being there will show your support. We have arranged for a short presentation and question session with Fred Barker from Transition Stroud and our local district and county councillors to tell us about what other local villages, towns, councils are doing.

It would be helpful if you can email your intention to attend (or if you can't come but have a question for any of our panel please email this in advance), to the Parish Clerk:

clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org

*Your email details will be used solely for the purpose of communicating with you about a Nympsfield Climate Action group and the Nympsfield Climate Emergency.

<p>Your Parish Councillors: Cllr Sophia Price (Chair) Cllr Elizabeth Sturgess (Vice Chair) Cllr Peter Tomiak-Baquero Cllr Trevor Gaunt Vacancy All can be reached via the Clerk: clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org</p>	<p>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</p>
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USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergencies		Police (non-emergency)	101
Electricity	0800 6783 105	Police: Neighb'd Policing, Dursley & Cam Team (non-emergency)	01453 753500
24h Floodline	0845 9881188	Rose and Crown Inn	01453 860612
Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	St Joseph's School	01453 860311
Police	999	Stroud District Council	01453 766321
Childline	0800 1111	Building Control	01453 754871
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Dog Warden	01453 754491
Doctors' Surgery Nailsw'th	01453 832424	Pollution, noise, bonfires etc	754478
Doctors' Surgery Uley	01453 860459	Neighbourhood Warden - Andy Beamish	07834 419332
Glo'ster Royal Hospital	0300 422 2222	Rubbish collection	01453 754424
NHS Direct	111	Village Agent – we no longer have one!	
Nuisance callers (Information Commissioner Office if you are registered with telephone preference service)	0345 070 0707	Vet (Bowbridge)	01453 762350

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