

THE  
**Nympsfeld**

July - August 2022

NEWS & ADVERTISER



1898-2023



## A year to remember...

2023 represents the Nympsfield Clubs Quasquicentennial – yes, that is a real word. 125 years... wow!

Like most villages, much has changed over the years in Nympsfield. People may come and go, business and pubs and even post offices may disappear, however it's comforting to know that the likes of the Club and Village Hall remain focal points where the community can still come together as one and celebrate the uniqueness of Nympsfield.





## History

By the late 19th century, Working Men's Clubs began appearing in earnest across the UK. As alternatives to profit-taking pubs, the movement was rooted in collective ownership and self-management. Some were set-up by workers in the same industry or political persuasion, while many clubs drew members from the neighbourhood. It was often said that people clocked off at work and then 'clocked on' at the club, where they could socialise, bond and provide support for one another.

Our own Nympsfield Working Men's Club was started in 1898 by Miss Blanche and Beatrice Leigh, in Chapel House at the Cross. Prior to this it was a night school for learning wood carving – in fact, an example can still be found in the alter railings in St. Josephs Church to this day. It housed a reading room on the right-hand side and even an area for needlework for the ladies. It's said that the Leigh's started the Club in part because The Rose and Crown at the time was a 'spit and sawdust pub and not very hygienic', where 'bad language was the norm'. The club itself was run by Emily and Florrie Herbert, and boasted a billiard table, a dart board, and other table top games to occupy it's patrons.

*Pictured above: The original Nympsfield Working Mens Club guest book dating back to 1929.*



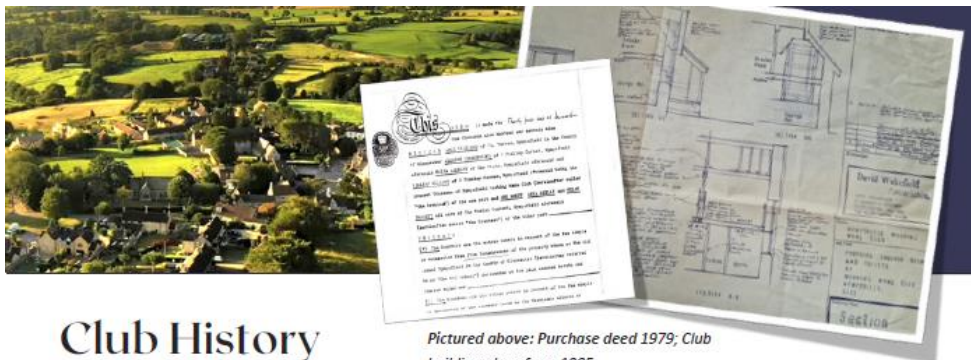
*Pictured Left: Chapel House, Site of the original Nympsfield Working Mens Club.*



3 / 8







## Club History

*Pictured above: Purchase deed 1979; Club building plans from 1985*

Many years later, the owners of Chapel House opted to sell their property, leaving the clubs future in doubt. It was around this time that original St. Josephs schoolhouse appeared on the market. Rose Westwood (now Beach) approached and negotiated with the Bishop of Clifton who agreed to sell the property to the Working Men's Club for £2500! Mrs Doris Blackwell arranged a mortgage with her Building Society, while Rose, along with Bill Stonebridge, Bill Billet, and Brian Walkley volunteered to become Trustees – all placing their own property as collateral to see the purchase through.

From there started a new journey at its current site atop the barrow- in an old schoolhouse. With only £65 pounds to its name, and minimal stock from its previous location, the Club persevered. Jobs needed doing. Bench seating was put in as well as a new bar, while Brian Walkley worked diligently in restoring the parquet flooring. The roof leaked, and so the Cotswold stone tiles were sold to pay for the new roof, fitted with reconstituted tiles.

Even into the 2000's, when the Club faced financial pressure to close its doors, the likes of Terence Smith, Bill Billet and others stepped up to ensure its continued presence in the village. Their efforts, and the work of so many in the Clubs storied history, exemplify what makes it such a gem, and one that's near and dear to the hearts of everyone.



# Today

Today's Club is thriving hub of activity. From quiz nights, bingo, bake sales and kids parties, to live music, holiday celebrations, BBQ's or simply watching the big game -there is always something happening. Likewise, the Club remains focused on helping charities as seen throughout the years with events like Macmillan coffee mornings, and quiz or race night proceeds going to worthy causes.

If you have visited recently, you'll have seen it has gone through a series of renovations, providing a new look and feel to the interior. And in July the Club will be launching a newly renovated beer garden, offering a lovely space to unwind and socialise on those hot Nympsfield summer days; all in time for our three day anniversary celebration later in August.

But what makes it so special is the people, the passion, and the fond memories we share of our local Club - *your* local Club. We hope you enjoy being part of its history and, importantly, its future.



The  
Nympsfield  
Club 2023



Pictured Above: Coronation weekend 2023.











# Hello! Summer



The  
**Nympsfield**  
Club



Cool off this  
summer with Over  
**70 Ales, Lagers,  
Wines & Ciders!**

Plus... a wide selection  
of spirits, soft drinks,  
and snacks

- ✓ Open 7 days
- ✓ 2 big screen TVs
- ✓ Darts
- ✓ Snooker
- ✓ Beer Garden
- ✓ Live Music
- ✓ Charity Events
- ✓ Book your own event!



Visit us on Facebook for up-to-date  
information on upcoming events!



Dog  
Friendly



01453 860273 [nympsfieldclub@hotmail.com](mailto:nympsfieldclub@hotmail.com)



## Editorial

Welcome to the mid-summer edition of the Nymphy News. We hope you have been enjoying the fine weather (and keeping up with the garden watering).

In this bumper issue we're celebrating 125 years of the village club (with thanks to that organisation for letting us have a full-colour edition). On a sadder note, we mark the death of David Gazzard. All the usual stuff is here too with grateful thanks to our contributors.

The editors

Deadline for the next issue 20 August

Email: [nymphynews@gmx.com](mailto:nymphynews@gmx.com)

### BOOKING CONTACTS

#### KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

Bookings:  
[npfbookings@outlook.com](mailto:npfbookings@outlook.com)

#### VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Marie Knight 860115 or  
[nympsfieldvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:nympsfieldvillagehall@gmail.com)

#### NYMPFIELD CLUB

[nympsfieldclub@hotmail.com](mailto:nympsfieldclub@hotmail.com)

## BUS TIMES

### The Cross, to Dursley

09:15 (65) Dursley and Gloucester  
10:21 (65A) Dursley and Coaley (Sat only)  
11:16 (65) Dursley and Gloucester  
12:36 (65A) Dursley and Coaley (Sat only)  
13:16 (65) Dursley and Gloucester  
14:01 (165) from N'lsworth) to Dursley  
then Coaley (Mon to Fri)  
15:48 (65) Dursley and Gloucester  
17:46 (65) Dursley to Cam & Dursley Stn  
(18:20) terminating Westend, Stonehouse

### The Cross, to Stroud:

08:10 (65) Stroud, leaving Cam & Dursley  
Station at 07:51  
10:25 (165) Stroud via Nailsworth (Mon-Fri  
only)  
11:07 (65) Stroud  
11:17 (65A) Stroud (Sat only)  
13:07 (65) Stroud  
13:32 (65A) Stroud & Whiteway (Sat only)  
15:07 (65) Stroud  
17:07 (65) Stroud

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

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.

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

## Classified Ads

### **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](http://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

### **CAPER CAFE at Bristol & Glos Gliding Club**

Open 9:30 - 4pm Fri, Sat, Sun  
Brunch & lunch, menu changes weekly  
Coffee & homemade cake all day  
[caper.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:dan@dtm.co.uk), Phone: 01453 860968, Web: [www.dtdm.co.uk](http://www.dtdm.co.uk)

## Services

### **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 3 July, Mon 2 Oct, Mon 4 Dec  
[colinfairbrother@hotmail.com](mailto:colinfairbrother@hotmail.com) or  
[mike@leopardpress.com](mailto: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](mailto:leah@farrerfinancials.co.uk)  
[www.farrerfinancials.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 229669.

[peterwoodman.notjuststravel.com](http://peterwoodman.notjuststravel.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](http://www.mandnmotorservices.co.uk)

Contact: 860153 or email

[info@mandnmotorservices.co.uk](mailto: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

[www.paddocks4paws.com](http://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](mailto:Janet@springsnow.co.uk)

## **FIREWOOD**

Locally sourced seasoned firewood

Contact 861117 or 07860 572905

## **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**

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](mailto:gazzards@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.robkazard.co.uk](http://www.robkazard.co.uk)

## **EVERYTHING NYMPSFIELD!**

Join us in the “Everything Nympsfield!”

Facebook group for the very latest news

**FLAT SHARE** immediate availability

Single room in two bedroom furnished flat

in Nympsfield. £500 pcm all bills included

Please email [juliabrailsford@hotmail.com](mailto: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** Remains shut. Buyers welcomed!



**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 Powers 860311 or email [stjosephspresch@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephspresch@gmail.com). See Facebook: 'St Joseph's Pre-school' and article later in this edition.

### **100 CLUB WINNERS**

Week 27 No. 66 Barbara Wooldridge.

Week 28 No. 30 Carol Pittaway.

Week 29 No. 15 Barbara Thomas.

Week 30 No. 77 Julie Bleaken.

Week 31 No. 94 Verity Giles.

Week 32 No. 72 John Price.

Week 33 No. 89 Richard Gwyer.

Week 34 No. 81 Amey Guerin.

Week 35 No. 2 Jane Thatcher.

Week 36 No. 18 Paul Fisher.

Week 37 No. 74 Nell Lovegrove.

Week 38 No. 44 Liz Sturgess.

Week 39 No. 6. Judy Whitman. (£25)

100 club subs are due from the end of July.

It is still £12 for the year and raises valuable funds for the village hall.

If you are passing Delahay Nymphsfield please put through the letter box in an envelope with your name. If not, we will call and collect from you.

With have lots of spare numbers due to several people moving away from the village.

Please contact Malcolm or Pat Jones on 01453 860696.

**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](mailto: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@dtm.co.uk](mailto:dan@dtm.co.uk)".

### **MOWING: VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

St Bartholomew's Churchyard.

We are extremely lucky to have a lovely group of volunteers who have an area each to mow in the churchyard.

We are sad to say goodbye to Paul who has been mowing for many years. Plus a very big Thank You to him.

We are looking for someone who would be willing to take on Paul's patch.

Please either speak to a volunteer when you see them in the churchyard or contact me on 01453 860696.

Thank you.

Pat Jones.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

**Parish of Uley with Owlpen and  
Nympsfield**  
(Part of The Ewelme Benefice.)

The Rev'd Canon Michael Cozens.  
Tel. 01453 546459. E:  
mgcozens86@btinternet.com

Churchwardens:  
Pauline Thomas. T: 01453 860047.  
Moyà 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](http://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 Beisly 542039  
[dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk](http://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:** July 19: "Small  
Things like These" by  
Claire Keegan (Lin)

16 Aug: t.b.c.

**We would like more members  
as we've lost a few due to  
people moving out of the  
village!**

*Advice for the  
Elderly  
from James Callaghan*

*Sit down to put your  
trousers on!*

# Nympsfield Village Hall 2023



A few future events for your diary (more information in the next issue): *[and thanks to Jo and her helpers for the street party on the day of the coronation! – ed]*

- 14<sup>th</sup> October progressive dinner party
- A children's Halloween party – (last weekend in Oct date TBC)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas stalls, lantern walk and light switch on with mulled wine and mince pies

Jo Beeston

## WiN Women in Nympsfield

### Monday 17th July - To Be Advised

(Unfortunately our booked speaker has had to cancel due to ill-health, we are endeavouring to book a replacement)

### Monday 21st August - Annual Outing

WiN are off to the Circus!

Giffords Circus at Minchinhampton will be providing us with all the thrills, spills and fun.

Meet at the Village Hall car park at 11.00am for car share arrangements - bring along a picnic to enjoy before the 1.00pm performance.

(Tickets for this event have been pre-booked)

If you are interested in any of our events we would welcome you as a guest for the evening at a charge of £2.00 per session as a non-member.

For further information please get in touch:

[dianebrimley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dianebrimley@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07939508398

## Village Hall Survey

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey in the last issue, and especially to Barbara & Kevin Thomas for compiling the results. They're too long to publish fully here (contact the editors if you'd like a copy, we'll tr to add a summary next time) but, no surprises, virtually everyone recognizes the value in having a Village Hall and most people currently use it up to 3 or 4 times a year. There's a definite appetite for more social events such as themed evenings, coffee mornings etc. and there is also demand for some sort of play group for children.



## **Nature Notes from Miss Daisy**

### **The Bee Fly**

Recently, when sitting in the garden enjoying the spring sunshine we have noticed tiny little furry flying creatures, which hover almost in front of you, and then suddenly they will dart away at great speed. We always joke that they are “aliens” from Outer Space and that they are watching to see what we strange humans are doing, before they veer off like a spaceship, to take the information back to their own world!

So what are they? They look like small furry bees with a very long straw-like tongue – really quite adorable little creatures. They are actually bee flies, or to give them their proper name, Bombylius Major, and they are becoming more common now in the UK due to our warmer climate.

They do not sting – their main pre-occupation is to obtain nectar – and with their long tongue, or proboscis, they are well equipped for this. They can reach right into many varieties of flowers and then carry the pollen onto the next one, so they are great little pollinators. Like us, they have favourite colours, and prefer purple, violet, blue or white flowers.

But there is a dark side to these creatures – the young bee fly is not quite so endearing – the larva is a parasite which actually kills its host – usually bees and wasps, but some target beetles, grasshoppers, ants, moths or caterpillars.

The female dive-bombs her eggs and the larva then burrow into the nest of the bee or the wasp to feed. The larva have what is called a second metamorphosis called a hyper-metamorphosis, which is very rare in the insect world.

There are many varieties of bee flies – but the one you are most likely to see is the dark-edged bee fly – I hope you will spot one soon – these small furry insects always make me smile.

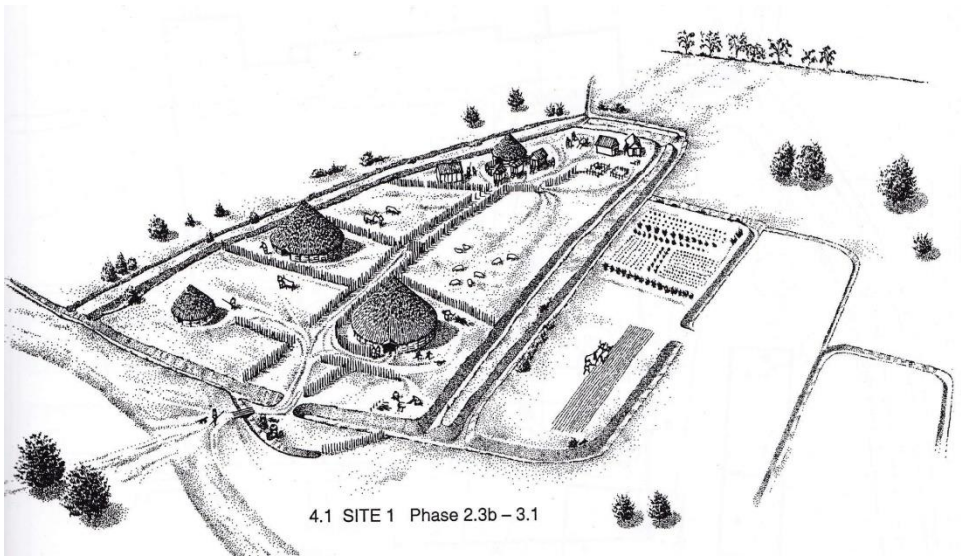
### **St Joseph's Pre-School News**

We have had a very busy academic year in St Joseph's Pre-school! From Teddy Bear Picnic, Nativity, OFSTED, coronation tea party and graduation, we have done it all! The children have had a fantastic year and our numbers continue to rise along with our waiting list for September 2024 onwards! We have limited availability for September 2023. However you are welcome to enquire and arrange a visit to the setting or alternatively to add your child to our waiting list for future academic years. We would like to wish all of our leavers the best of luck for their new adventures in primary school!

We are open Monday-Friday 8.55am-2.55pm. Contact details 01453 860311 or email [stjosephspresch@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephspresch@gmail.com)

## When the Romans Came

Do children still learn dates in school? I remember having to write out a long list of them when I first went to secondary school and then being tested on them the following week. At the top of the page was 55-54 BC - Julius Caesar lands in Britain; at the bottom, 1918 – end of World War I. It seems that, for my school, history didn't exist before 55 BC. And you can understand why: the further one goes back, the more difficult it becomes to be certain about anything whereas for my teachers, keen on facts, certainty was everything. In their defence, when written records peter out, it is archaeology that mostly fills the gap and in those days (sixty-odd years ago) that was still a very unusual occupation, often the work of amateurs.



4.1 SITE 1 Phase 2.3b – 3.1

*Artist's impression of the Frocester settlement in the middle of the first century AD. From Eddie Price's book "Frocester Volume 1: The Sites"*

The late Eddie Price who died, age 91, in 2015 was a case in point. He was a farmer down at Frocester Court and his interest, he said, was to find out "the history of my place, what the people were like and how they lived and farmed there before me". Over a period of more than 50 years, Price assisted and then ran an archaeological dig that is still the longest-running of any in the country. It has provided one of the most detailed descriptions of life over the centuries in a small settlement. The earliest excavations were made close to the farm –

actually just over the road from the mediaeval barn that you pass as you travel to Eastington. From here came traces of human occupation in a boundary ditch that was dug in the middle of the Bronze Age, around 1500 BC. On the same site, more than a thousand years later, came evidence of a farm, already well established by 200 BC, where he found roundhouses, granaries, fenced animal pens and a vegetable patch. All this was enclosed by a ditch whose purpose, most likely, was not defensive but meant to prevent animals from escaping.

By the time of the Roman invasion of Emperor Claudius in 43 AD the farm appears to have been reasonably prosperous with silver coins minted by the local tribe being found along with a few high status goods such as a cast bronze brooch based on a continental design. A few broken clay moulds were found – possible evidence of bronze casting. Unlike areas further south and east, there was no evidence for widespread trade with the Roman Empire. None of this gives us any idea of what people looked like in these times. For that we have to rely on Roman writers - Caesar and others – who had their own agenda. They noted that the men were pre-occupied with fighting each other, that they wore their hair long but shaved their upper lips and that they died themselves blue with woad. Sounds like someone you might meet in Stroud.

The arrival of the Romans would have brought new technology and closer connections to the wider world. The finds at Frocester do reflect this through the pottery and various bronze items. There was also evidence of small scale iron working – an on-site smithy perhaps – and changes in the shape of the buildings, enclosures and site boundaries but for 450 years (200 BC to 250 AD) the main impression is one of stasis – it remained a self-contained subsistence community.

Nympsfield, we know, has Celtic origins (based on its name) and it sits on the junction of two Roman roads – one that comes up the escarpment from Frocester and another that heads straight across the West Field to the Uley Temple (located in the field beyond the underground reservoir on the Uley road). It strikes me that 2000 years ago Nympsfield must have had a similar settlement to the Frocester one. There are bound to be traces of Rome here too. Would anyone be interested in a village-wide archaeological project? The usual format is to bring in expert help to identify likely spots and interpret finds. Volunteers dig small exploratory squares (typically less than one metre by one metre). If there are enough of us, we may be able to organize a project for next summer. Who knows what lies beneath your lawn? Email me at [nympynews@gmx.com](mailto:nympynews@gmx.com) if you are interested.

Ian Crossland



## School News

It's the summer term already, the sun is shining and Nympsfield is looking its best. The summer term is one of the busiest of the year.

School life is definitely back to normal with sports events regularly taking place and classes going out on trips. The children have recently taken part in a key stage 1 multi skills festival, a swimming Gala and the popular District Sports events. When we are out and about, seeing other schools it is always a reminder of how proud we are of the children at St Josephs, their manners and behaviour and the way that they support each other. We have also welcomed other schools to St Joseph's for the local wildlife quiz and Into the Net – a play designed to teach the children about internet safety.

Recently our Year 4 class went on a geography field trip to Purton. The rising cost of transport has led to parents supporting the trips by taking the children in their cars. We are so lucky to have the support of our parents with this. The children had an amazing time with the friends of Purton. They learnt so much and Paul (their tour guide) messaged their class teacher on their return to school thanking her for taking our children, saying what a credit they are and what a joy it was to spend time with them. We truly are privileged to be working with such fantastic children.

It's assessment time! Year 6 have done their SATs, Year 4 their multiplication check, Year 2 their SATs, although the children know them as fun quizzes and Year 1 their phonic screening.

This term started with our section 48 inspection – this is an inspection which is equivalent to OFSTED, commissioned by the diocese to monitor the catholic life and mission of the school. The days went smoothly and the inspectors left thanking us, saying that they had had a lovely time and that our children were 'excellent'. We await their report.

We have met the parents of our new reception class who will be starting in September and there are lots of new faces to welcome to our school family, which is great.

Year 6 are busily working on their end of year production Oliver. This year they have planned 3 performances and would love to invite anyone from the village who would like to come and see it.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and the  
Year 6 leavers proudly presents



Wednesday June 28th / 6.30pm

Refreshments  
available.  
Please bring cash.



The performances are on; Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm and 6.30pm and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from the school office. Please call 01453860311 to reserve a ticket- we'd love to see you there!

There are so many fun events to come, the end of term music concert, house singing competition, Health week including sports day and the whole school picnic on the field and their term will end with leavers Mass and the final celebration assembly (phew!).

Save the date- our amazing PTA are organising an Autumn Fair on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, all are welcome and it would be lovely to see you there, watch out for their posters of the attractions nearer the time.

## FACEBOOK

by

Jenny Nisbett

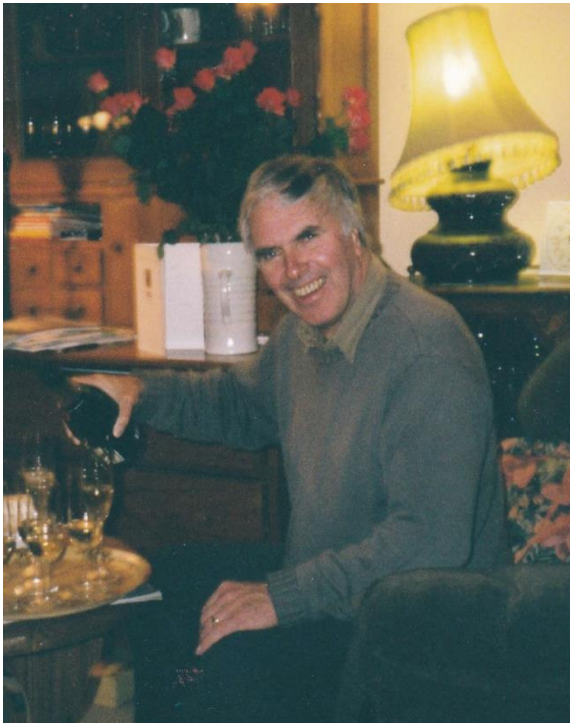
I rarely post on Facebook -I haven't  
much to say  
But browsing through their website I  
found this the other day  
So Mary down in Hampshire tho we  
haven't met before  
I recognised your house, your street, just  
from the picture of your door  
You look lovely there posed with your  
case  
A great big smile upon your face  
You've told everyone today's the day  
You are off for two weeks' holiday.

A picture of your brand new car parked on  
the drive beneath a tree  
You've shared all the details of your life,  
and yet you don't know ME  
The barbecue you had last week – a pic of  
your back yard  
The fence is only four foot high – to climb it  
won't be hard  
Please think about the things you post  
Tell only those you trust the most  
Technology's a super tool  
But don't forget a golden rule -  
Please don't be a Facebook Fool!!!!!!

## David Gazzard – Obituary

David was born in North Woodchester on 15th October 1938, his parents Evie and Arthur had a bungalow there where David had a very happy childhood with his brother John. David's mother was very musical and there was always music in the house, especially while his father was away at war. He was a good violinist and played in the County Youth Orchestra, his love of music stayed with him his whole life and was an ardent follower opera and classical music, his recorded collection of Operas is second only to the National library. David was also passionate about poetry, Latin and the English language and at the age of 20 had a book of poetry published.

David attended Woodchester primary school and went on to Marling Grammar school where he excelled and was encouraged to apply for Oxford, However going away to university wasn't for him and decided to stay in Stroud where he was an articled clerk to a firm of solicitors. During this time he studied Law at college in Bristol and Guildford.



David met Anne when his father Arthur was ill in Tetbury hospital and in the bed next to Arthur was Anne's father Fred, the 2 dads became good friends in hospital but sadly Fred died.

Anne was just starting her nursing training at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, it was during this time that they started Courting, and Anne recalls that David would without fail write 3 letters a week, often with poetry that he had written.

Anne and David were married on 17th November 1962, their first choice for the marriage ceremony was St Pauls Cathedral but their request was rejected and they married in the Church of Holy Sepulchre in Holborn.

From an early age David was very good at spotting opportunities and

one of his first ventures was as a young teenager he persuaded the owner of the print works where his father worked to allow him to use the print press on weekends when the works were shut. David's weekend printing was very successful so much so that the Printers Union were made aware of it which bought his enterprise to an end.

At 21 David set up the Amba Jazz Club at Bear Pools Hotel on Rodborough Common, This venture also proved to be very successful and the Jazz club was thriving. However not everyone was happy, a number of local publicans were unhappy that the Jazz Club was hitting their trade. The firm of solicitors that David worked for were responsible for obtaining the licences for the Stroud Victuallers Association, and the publicans complained that if he did not close the Jazz club they would take their business elsewhere, so sadly this enterprise was also brought to an end.

David's true passion was for architecture and period properties at a time when many cottages and houses were seen as dark, damp and obsolete and were being pulled down. He would fight to preserve them and would often write articles in newspapers and appear on TV to make people aware of what was happening.

He was a founding member of the Period Property Preservation Society, as well as the Stroud Amenities Society, whose aims were to preserve these beautiful houses. The societies had a number of successes including saving the row of Elizabethan cottages behind the Old Fleece at Rooksmoor, they also stopped the demolition of a row of cottages in Horsley, South Woodchester and Cam.

He also tried to stop the demolition of a church by buying the contents, the pews, the altar and organ and then refusing to move them; however on this occasion he was not successful and the altar ended up in the dining room at Whitemoor which proved to be a great hiding place for the children.

On another occasion Anne and David attended an auction at the Grange in Hampshire, a Jacobean Country Mansion which in its heyday had hosted Winston Churchill and Eisenhower.

At the auction they learned that the house was due to be demolished once all assets had been stripped out. David set out to stop this happening and was able to get an article published in a national newspaper, the article was read by members of Save England's Heritage who took on the fight and saved The Grange, which is now a very successful hotel and Opera venue.

David and Anne lived in many different houses around the Stroud valleys and settled at Whitemoor House in Amberley where they lived for 41 years. Whitemoor was a large house on the edge of the common and with the four children, Robert, Richard, Elizabeth and Jonathan coupled with their friends from the village made sure Whitemoor was never a quiet house.

With 2 dogs, goats, chickens, ducks and peacocks there was always something going on. David and Anne would help the RSPB and take in birds that had been injured or had fallen from nests. There were always several boxes of birds in the kitchen or conservatory that needed feeding including a kestrel with a broken wing that lived on the top of the Welsh dresser in the kitchen.

On one occasion David was working in his office and could see 2 magpies attacking an injured thrush in the top of the Walnut tree. After unsuccessfully shouting at the magpies to

clear off David decided the only course of action left was to climb up the tree and really scare them.

Well he certainly scared them when the branch he was standing on snapped and he fell out of the tree landing him in hospital for a night with a bruised kidney

Anne has been very actively involved with guiding throughout her life which David fully supported, going on guide camp most summers and visiting the world guide centres in Switzerland and Mexico as well as accompanying Anne to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for her contribution to guiding.

One of their favourite holiday destinations was the Isles of Scilly where they went on many occasions with the children and their friends.

David had a very good sense of humour and loved playing pranks on people. When Jon was eleven his friend Nigel was staying over, David overheard them planning to walk through the neighbouring graveyard at midnight. When Darkness fell Jon and Nigel nervously headed up the drive towards the graveyard, unbeknown to them David had also left the house and was also heading towards the Graveyard. As the boys edged down the dark path past the large tomb stones David could hear the boys' nervous chatter, and just at the right moment jumped out from behind a large cedar tree. The boys' screams could be heard all across the valley as they ran back to the house.

David was very good at telling jokes and could see humour in most situations except... when Lawrence pushed him off a jetty into the sea with his new leather shoes on, he didn't laugh much then!

This obituary, written by Jon Gazzard, was read out at David's funeral by Rob Woodward, son of Lilla Gazzard and step son of Rob Gazzard.

## **A CELEBRATION OF LIFE – FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST 2023 FROM 3PM**

You are warmly invited to join the family in a celebration of the life of Justin (Wurly) Watts and to share the memories you have of him. We would be delighted if you have any photographs which we could share on our reel. As a mark of respect for 'Gingers' and for a bit of fun if you could wear anything orange eg hat, wig, lipstick, nail varnish etc. We will be spending the afternoon from 3pm onwards reminiscing in Nymphsfield Working Mens Club where there will be LIGHT refreshments, alcohol, music, love and laughter.





# Letters and Emails to the Editors



## From the MS Society – Local Volunteer Vacancies

Across the UK, our local groups play a vital part in supporting the local MS community.

The Cirencester and South Cotswold Group, which covers much of Gloucestershire, is currently looking for an Administration Volunteer, Activities Organiser, Support Volunteer and Group Coordinator to join our small but dedicated team of existing volunteers. Depending on the role this is likely to require a time commitment of 2-5 hours a week.

To find out more about the roles available, or to apply, go to: [Candidate.mssociety.org.uk/ms/volunteering](http://Candidate.mssociety.org.uk/ms/volunteering) and search your postcode to see detail of local vacancies.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was a break-in at St Bart's Church – probably around 10 June. If you recall anything suspicious around that time please contact the police on 101.

No news specific to Nympsfield this time, but any reports of suspicious activities to Martin please – 860133.

## NYMPSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Nothing received this month.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Your Parish Councillors:</b></p> <p>Cllr Sophia Price (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Peter Tomiak-Baquero (vice-chair)</p> <p>Cllr Trevor Gaunt</p> <p>Cllr Rosie Clements</p> <p>Cllr Anne Robertson</p> <p>All can be reached via the Clerk:<br/><a href="mailto:clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org">clerk@nympsfieldparishcouncil.org</a></p> | <p><b>Your District Councillor</b></p> <p>Cllr Martin Pearcy<br/><a href="mailto:cclr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk">cclr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Your County Councillor</b></p> <p>Cllr. Wendy Thomas<br/><a href="mailto:wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk">wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Your Member of Parliament</b></p> <p>Siobhan Baillie (Con)<br/><a href="mailto:siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk">siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk</a></p> |
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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'ith  | 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 -<br>Andy Beamish                        | 07834 419332 |
| Rubbish collection  | 01453 754424 |
| Village Agent – we no longer have one!                        |              |
| Vet (Bowbridge)   | 01453 762350 |

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