

THE FOUNTAIN

Nailsworth Now and Then

ISSUE 43

SUMMER 2008

THE NAILSWORTH GAMES 6th-20th July 2008 – THEY HAVE ARRIVED!



You have been reading about the Games for the past few months and now you can see the banners and posters around town. Now we invite you to join in and have fun with this feast of sporting events for the first two weeks of July.

The many sporting clubs and youth organisations in town have come together to offer a range of activities in this month leading up to the Beijing Olympics. It is both a festival of sport but also an opportunity to have fun and to have a go at a new sporting endeavour.

Here are some of the activities taking place. See the programme for a full list.

Ruskin Mill College: College based fun event for students only, Friday July 4th.

Stroud Athletics Club: Mini-Olympiad for young people, also for mums and dads. KGV field, Sunday 6 July.

Nailsworth Tennis Club: 'Tennis Factory' at KGV on Sunday 6 July.

Stroud Swimming Club: Competitive events for young people at Beaudesert Park School's swimming pool. Tuesday 8 July 6pm onwards.

Nailsworth C of E Primary School: The two school sports days will be dedicated to the Nailsworth Games – Monday July 7 and Thursday 10th.

Nailsworth Comrades Club: 'Triathlon' open competition – snooker, darts, skittles for ages 14+ on Saturday 12th July all day.

Nailsworth Youth Club Table Tennis group: Open competitions, one for adults, another for young people: Saturday 12 July at the youth club.

Shortwood United AFC: Open competition for children, Saturday 12 July all day at the Club – three events for each of four classes of young people.

Gatewillow Livery Yard: Gymkhana games all day, Sunday 13 July.

Stroud Valleys Cycling Club: Sunday 13 July. At 11am, a 30 mile challenging fun ride. At 2pm a family fun ride.

Forest Green Rovers: 'Playing for Success' – multi-school sports competition, Tuesday 15 July.

Barton End Riding establishment: Evening mini Olympia, Tuesday 15 July.

South Cerney Sailing Club: Sailing simulator at Mortimer Gardens, Sunday 20 July (*to be confirmed*).

Skatejam event at the skateboard facility KGV field, – Sunday 20 July.

Nailsworth Bowls Club: Taster day – Sunday 20 July, all day.

The inaugural event is planned for Sunday 6th July at the King George V playing field. Stroud Athletics Club will be staging a range of athletics events: high jump, hurdles, shot putt, discus, javelin and a fun 'welly wanging' competition plus running. Young people aged 8 and over are invited to compete and there is an adults' run of 3km.

On the same day, Nailsworth Tennis Club will offer a taster day for young people. There will be a hot-air balloon ascent, and Gloucestershire's Lord Lieutenant will open the Games in the late morning.

On Monday 7th July our own Olympic marathon runner, Dan Robinson, will run through town, accompanied by two school pupils, to Nailsworth Primary School, to open their sports day.

In the ensuing fortnight there will be events for young people and some for adults. For most events, young people must be accompanied by a responsible adult and have written consent. Many of the events allow participants just to turn up, though some need pre-booking.

There is a programme of events that can be obtained from many shops and from the Town Information Centre. Where pre-booking is needed you can obtain entry forms from the Town Information Centre and at other places. The events arranged by Ruskin College and Nailsworth Primary School, whilst part of the Games, are designed only for their own pupils and students.

There will be medals for winners, and all young people who participate will receive a commemorative certificate.

Do take this opportunity to take part, to try a new sporting event, and to have fun. Collect a programme from the Town Information Centre and from many other places now!

Norman Kay for the Games Committee



NAILSWORTH TOWN AWARDS

The annual Civic Reception is the opportunity for Nailsworth's Mayor to recognise the valuable contribution made to the town by local people. I announced a number of awards at the reception in April.

Young people are the future of our town, and each year we present a town shield to a young person to mark his or her special contribution. This year the **Young Person's Award** was given to **Sarah James**. Sarah has been a consistent and active member of



the Youth Club for many years and was involved in our successful campaign for a full-time Youth Worker for the town, collecting signatures for the petition and lobbying County Councillors. She helped in the Drugs Education Project, is a member of the Youth Club Committee and now works on Friday evenings in the coffee bar. She is a real credit to the Club, to the Youth Club team and to young people in the town. Sarah is now a student at Stroud College and works part-time at Somerfield.

There were two recipients of the **Chamberlain Trophy for Sport**, and James Chamberlain, a prominent local businessman, was present to bestow the award. The first winner was for swimming and the second for athletics. Fourteen year old **Natasha Johnston** has been a member of the Stroud Swimming Club for 6 years and trains each morning before school at 6am, typically swimming between 4000 and 6000 metres. She is a sprint specialist and is a multi-county medallist as well as an Olympics

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TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

This has been an exhilarating year for the Town Council. We have moved ahead in many areas, often in conjunction or consultation with the District and County Councils. The Town Council works so well because we benefit from an excellent clerk, Linda Meletiou – her assistant – Carole de Lacroix, and councillors, who work well together as a team, all using their various skills and taking on and sharing responsibility. Last year was our election year, so there has been a significant turnaround of councillors, three new councillors being drafted on last May and a further councillor later in 2007.

Here is a flavour of what we have been doing this past year on the Town Council.

First, the **Forest Green Community Centre**. After consultation with local people we agreed to provide Forest Green and Norton Wood with a community centre. A design has been agreed and we now have planning permission. The land on which it will be built is currently occupied by the Marketing Suite for Redrow Homes. We are close to agreeing with Redrow the temporary hire of this suite, for use as a small temporary community centre, a major achievement this year for the town. This will also help to provide us with evidence of demand so that we can approach grant-giving bodies. A more permanent building may take its place in the next 3 – 5 years.

The **stone fountain** saga has extended over twelve years, with our plans to refurbish this listed monument and move it to a better site. Its owner, Stroud District Council is looking for a partnership with the Town Council. Contractors should soon be appointed and – who knows – this year may see the work being undertaken and the fountain moved to its new home outside William's Kitchen at the bottom of Fountain Street.

Mock up of fountain on new site



Let me turn to the **Nailsworth Games**. In July the Town Council will be promoting a fortnight of sporting activities in conjunction with sports and youth groups. The Games Committee comes from many interests: district and town councillors, representatives of sports and youth groups, and the police. It is progressing well and we plan an inauguration at which Gloucestershire's Lord Lieutenant will be present. We hope it will be an enjoyable introduction to sport for all ages.



Youth forum members at South Cerney bonding day

Youth Forum. Nailsworth Community Partnership and the Town Council have been promoting the development of a youth forum for the town. There have now been four meetings of a representative group of teenagers, and a training evening for adults. We take our responsibility seriously to consult with and take notice of our young people. The Town Council has now formally signified its support; the town meets half the salary costs of our highly respected youth worker – the only council in the County that finds itself in this position. The partnership for this with the County Council comes up for renewal next April and Cllr Stephen Robinson and I are seeking to negotiate a renewed contract with the County.

Forest Green Post Office. Less welcome news has been the proposed closure of Forest Green's post office. It has been much cherished by local people and they were concerned to hear this news. The Town Council and the Residents Association organised a public meeting which members of the community, our MP, district and town councillors attended. We produced 800 leaflets which were distributed with Nailsworth News and we lobbied the Post Office. We have yet to hear the outcome, though in all honesty we are not optimistic.

Nailsworth Design Statement. Last year Sue Reed reported on the progress of the Design Statement. This important piece of consultancy is led on our behalf by Helen Bojaniwska. This work will compile a statement of our built environment and our important recreational and adjacent areas. The aim is that the District Council planners will incorporate it as 'material consideration' for future planning applications and hopefully make less likely such development as that proposed for Worley Meadows. The statement should be finished in the next month or so.

The **Urban Design Framework** commenced during the mayorship of Sue Reed. In partnership with the District Council, we commissioned a firm to research and report on a future vision and masterplan for the town centre. We now have its final report; where do we go from there? The framework offers options for the future development and appearance of the town. For example: it includes the possibility of opening up and integ-

rating the Mortimer Gardens and town square area; refashioning Old Market, and making the town more pedestrian and cyclist friendly. I anticipate that it will lead to specific projects aimed at bringing these ideas to reality.

This is just a small part of the work in which your council has been involved. It gives an impression of the tasks that face the Town Council. We have a busy year in front of us.

On reflection I have to admit to two frustrations. First, at just how long it can take for progress to be achieved, even for apparently straightforward issues. The classic example is that of the fountain in Old Market where, as I've said, some twelve years have passed in our efforts to have this listed monument renovated and moved.

Also one cannot but be frustrated by the limited control given to town councils. We have, in effect, minimal powers relating to highways in the town, car parking, planning, housing and environmental responsibilities. Much of our efforts are directed at attempts to influence other councils. So the Town Council is closest of all the elected authorities to our community but with the least powers and resources to deal with its various needs. There is talk of this changing in the future - we shall see.

I am greatly honoured to have served as your Mayor for this year. It is one of the most memorable events of my life, for which I thank you.

Norman Kay

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REPORT of ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 7 April 2008

The Annual Parish Meeting is the event at which the Town Council informs the residents of its activities throughout the preceding year and is a statutory requirement. Nailsworth Town Council has traditionally extended to the town's organisations and associations the opportunity to publicise their activities at this meeting and many of them take advantage of the offer, and their reports are included below.

Report from District Councillors

District Cllr Rowland Blackwell attended his first meeting as District Cllr, having been elected last August to replace Cllr Mrs Bruce following her untimely death. He reported on SDC's involvement in matters relating to Nailsworth; new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Lawnside, refurbishment of bus station toilet block, and installation of electricity in Mortimer Gardens. He commented on the good community work undertaken by Neighbourhood Warden Ashley Nicholson.

Reports from Town Council Committees

Property Management Committee

This committee has responsibility for maintaining the various properties owned by the Council or in which it has an interest, including the Town Hall, the Mortimer Room and the clock tower.

This year we have continued to encourage the District Council in its plan to refurbish the Fountain monument and move it to its new site by William's Kitchen at the corner of Fountain Street and Spring Hill. Planning permission for this has been granted and SDC has received bids from a number of firms to undertake the work. We very much hope that the next few months will see the work started.

During the year we have undertaken various maintenance works at the Town Hall including improvements to the kitchen, the rear patio and rear fencing. Business rental rates in the Town Hall were independently assessed and revised in accordance with current market rates. By contrast, we decided to continue our policy of subsidising the hire charges to local groups of both the Town Hall and the Mortimer Room, since we recognise that local residents already contribute to these facilities through their council tax.



Environment Committee

The Council's Environment Committee has responsibility for maintenance of the Norton Wood, arrangements for the Christmas lights and for

upkeep of the churchyard at All Saints Shortwood. It oversees the Town Information Centre, advises on traffic matters and generally on environmental issues.

This year committee members have been consulted by the County Council on a scheme to reduce the environmental pollution in our street lighting. We organised a public meeting on the issue and there has been wide support in principle for this initiative.

The annual 'push test' on the gravestones at All Saints was performed and three had to be laid flat. Another area of concern is the damage to trees in Norton Wood caused by increasing numbers of grey squirrels. Trapping or poisoning – options proposed by the consultants – were declined.

We have supported the introduction of a Car Club in Nailsworth by allocating a parking space for the vehicle in the Town Hall car park.

For this year the Town Council has agreed to explore how we can promote more sustainable, environmental practices in our town. Plans are well advanced to erect some public sign and map boards around the town.

Recreation and Amenities Committee

The Recreation and Amenities committee deals with many issues throughout the year. Quite often these involve the upkeep of our amenities – for example the maintenance of swings or springers in the play areas or the changing rooms in the King George V playing field. Alongside this continuous programme of 'house keeping' there are some bigger issues being dealt with. These include the transfer of the King George V playing field extension into Town Council administration. The extension – given to the town under an agreement made during the construction of the new Forest Green Rovers stadium – is to the south of the main playing fields. Unfortunately, this package of land, which is the subject of some controversy, is still not entirely in council control, the process of transfer being governed by the timescale of solicitors of both parties – despite the difficulties, we continue to make representations and hope to draw the matter to a conclusion soon.

Another of our larger projects was the commissioning of the Mortimer Gardens footbridge. Now in place, the project required a surprising amount of work from design and gaining planning permission, commissioning a report on the flood risk, to the selection of a company to build and erect the bridge.

(continued opposite)



Miles Marling field has presented one or two issues this year with the continuing damage to the dry stone wall by people unknown giving the biggest headache – the wall crosses a footpath which has been traditionally marked by a stile, however this stile is not easy to use being of the big upright stone variety. Despite several attempts at rebuilding the wall either side of the stile, the damage has been repeated and the wall now is in a sorry state. The stone stile itself is of great age and remains in place but the rubble from the wall has been removed and a fence erected. Other business in the playing field has included removing old furniture, clearing up an old bonfire and the dismantling of turf bike jumps.

The regeneration of the land parcel at the corner of Market Street and Bath Road is still in the pipe line with permission being sought to create a small garden with seating etc. Another recent improvement has been the repair of the stone wall at the bottom of Spring Hill with the reinstatement of the grass verge finishing the job nicely. Town centre visitors will have noticed the work being carried out at the town's public conveniences – although this project is being run by SDC, the Recreation and Amenities committee was consulted throughout the design process.



Planning Committee

The Planning Committee meets twice a month. Its main business is to review the planning applications sent for our consideration by Stroud District Council. In the period under review we have examined about one hundred applications ranging from tree preservation orders to substantial developments such as the proposed executive housing development on the Worley Meadow site. We may only oppose an application on the basis of a conflict with the planning policies set out in the District Local Plan. But we may, and do, comment on applications which fall outside the planning policies, for example those relating to the preservation of local amenities.

We have made site visits and participated in Site Panel visits organised by the SDC Development Control Committee. In addition we have acted as a focal point for the progressing of the Roger Evans Associates 'Urban Design Framework' for Nailsworth's Old Market area, an activity which culminated in a presentation and discussion of the final draft on March 17th. Individual members of the committee have worked on the 'Design Statement' currently being finished. The Planning Committee seeks to be the 'eyes and ears' of the town in matters relating to planning and development. Usually our role is limited to alerting the relevant departments in SDC. Activities this year included looking at parking at the McCarthy & Stone site, work on affordable housing and on empty and derelict buildings – where some limited progress has been made in relation to 'Glendower', the poet WH Davies' one-time residence.

Clubs and Association Reports to Town Meeting

Nailsworth Day Centre for the Elderly Frail

Supported by Age Concern Gloucester Reg. Charity No. 279792

The Day Centre operates every Monday, except Bank Holidays, from 9am to 3pm in the lovely lounge at Concord. We arrange transport where possible, however if relatives can help, we are always grateful. On arrival, members enjoy a chat and cup of coffee and a biscuit. We then do light exercises, arm and leg stretching from a sitting position. Members then choose which activity they prefer – cards, scrabble or work on the craft table. Mary Blunt organises the craft table and never seems to be short of new ideas for members to enjoy. We have eight helpers at the moment, but are always glad of new volunteers.

We finance ourselves through coffee mornings. We have recently had a generous donation from McCarthy & Stone, which was much appreciated, and last year, one of our very dear members died and the family wished for donations in lieu of flowers to come to the Day Centre.

Lunches are brought in from Maidenhill School kitchen at the cost of £2.50 per person; overall charge is £3 which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. We also take members for a coach trip and meal out during the summer, and for a special meal at Christmas. It is a joy to see them all enjoying each other's company and there always seems to be lots of laughter from members and helpers.

Jackie Porter, 832551

Town Archive Office

nailswortharchive@yahoo.co.uk

Although Ann Makemson, founder of the Archives, has left the area, she still returns to help the volunteers, now led by Allan Beale, in their research and cataloguing work. Queries come in from around the

(continued over)

world to trace family histories, and the team is currently researching the names and background of the men commemorated on the town's War Memorial. The Gloucestershire Local History Prize 2007 was awarded to Nailsworth for the best display on 'Non Conformity', and this year's theme is 'Writers and Poets'. Members give presentations to other groups, and provided the name for the new development in Old Market. Artefacts of historical interest are always welcome and residents are urged to think of the Archive Office when clearing out their attics!

Betty Young



Members of Nailsworth Archive Office (with representatives from McCarthy & Stone) chose the name for Old Market development. A donation from the developer was given to the Day Centre

Nailsworth Society

The Society is in good financial shape and membership is the highest ever, with efforts always continuing to attract new members. Programmes for the seven groups are reported regularly in the Fountain; Luncheon Group, Local History Research Group (see Local History Prize above), Theatregoers (13 outings over the year), Arts Crafts and Music, Gardening, Ramblers, Local Studies.

The River Severn boat trip had to be cancelled because of the floods last summer, but a visit to Weston Cider is planned. The Society was invited to join a history workshop at Berkeley Castle and took part in the creation of the resulting dramatisation reflecting aspects of the last 1000 years in Gloucestershire. Members have also been helping with the Nailsworth Community Partnership project to produce a Design Statement for the town. Attendance at the AGM in March was doubled with a change of venue to the Town Hall. The speaker was Michael

Claydon, custodian of Newark Park. *Len Jarman, Chairman*

Society of Friends (Quaker)

In the past year we have been glad to welcome visitors to the Meeting House on several extra occasions – among others, to our 'Set All Free' exhibition (marking the 250th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade) during the Nailsworth Festival in April; and as a quiet space during Christkindl in November.



Quaker meeting room

The year also saw the departure of our Wardens Seren and Alex Wildwood and the arrival in Quaker Close of our new warden, Su Chard and her husband Phil.

Meanwhile, we have continued to hold three well-attended

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meetings for worship and a children's meeting each week, as well as a monthly meeting for worship on Saturday afternoons outside Fairford airbase.

Nailsworth Silver Band



Our new Musical Director Stephen Rockey has been with us since October and produced a very entertaining charity concert at Christchurch in December. We raised £500 for Phoenix Playmates.

Our new Junior Band Leader Philip Storer has been working hard to promote brass in local schools and youth organisations. He has staged a number of workshops and more are planned. Our junior band runs on Monday evenings, beginners at 5:30 and intermediates at 6:15. There are places available at both sessions. Our successful jazz nights are staged four times a year.

The website www.nailsworthsilverband.co.uk has all our latest news. *Tim Robbins, Chairman*

Forest Green Residents Committee

Thanks in part to the successful Lottery funding bid, a new multi use games area (MUGA) for 10-19 year olds at Bunting Hill should be ready by the summer holidays, along with a 4m scramble net. Infobuzz - trained personnel for teenage groups, has been working with members and the Youth Club, and an application to fund the purchase of gym equipment has been made, along with help to employ an Infobuzz trainer for two nights a week. Members are seeking to renovate the dilapidated play area in the Norton Wood estate and are negotiating with SDC to implement a regular cleaning programme in the area. The committee is actively involved in NTC's project to set up a community hall at Forest Green. *Sally Millett, Secretary*

Junction Youth Club and youth work



The Club is open four evenings a week, offering facilities and opportunities for young people aged 8 to 18 and currently sees more than 100 young people a week. Activities include an activity residential at South Cerney, Red Cross babysitting course, open days and trips, environmental projects, lifestyle sessions, 5 a side football, pool, photography, fire rescue training.

Members have been involved in setting up a Nailsworth Youth Forum, and negotiating for the Bunting Hill MUGA. *Mohammed Asmul, volunteer helper and GCC Young Person of the Year*



Nailsworth & Forest Green Scout Group

The 70 members of N&FG Scout Group joined in the celebrations for the 100th birthday of the scouting movement, with a series of activities over the year, including a National Winter Camp, a day of sport and activities in Stroud with 400 other scouts and water sports at South Cerney. Two members were selected to attend the 21st World Scout Jamboree where 52,000 scouts from 216 countries came together for two weeks, and others from the Nailsworth group joined in as day visitors. On 1st August, Nailsworth scouts joined hundreds of others at the Baden Powell stone on Rodborough Common to renew their Scout Promise, at the same time as 28 million other scouts around the world, marking the moment that the very first Scout Camp on Brownsea Island started, 100 years ago. Also in August, Nailsworth Scouts went on a two-week backpacking tour of Europe with an action packed programme of activities across Italy, Austria and Germany, meeting up with other scouts from across Europe.



Nailsworth Scouts exploring Austria while at Scout Village Zellhof near Salzburg

The Group organised the annual fireworks evening for the town and took part in the Remembrance parade and service, and Christkindl evening. Members represented the District at the County Cooking Competition and won the District Scout Chess Tournament, Swimming Gala and Orienteering Competition. Two scouts from Nailsworth were among only three from the District who gained the highest award a scout can get - Chief Scout's Gold Award. *Jacob Harris*

Christ Church

A programme of monthly events was organised during last year to celebrate the Church's 40th



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(continued from page 7)

anniversary as a United Church, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed, with much of the organisation down to secretary Margaret Marshall, who is due to retire after 14 years of exemplary commitment. Several musical performances took place and for the anniversary weekend, we were delighted to welcome back former minister Brian Scott. The Church Rooms are regularly used by a number of community groups, including the Macular Society and Alzheimer Café.

After 10 years as minister, Dilwyn Edwards retires this summer, having very much enjoyed his time in Nailsworth, and in particular the close partnership with other churches in our area. The new minister will be from the United Reformed Church.

Dilwyn Edwards

The Nailsworth Festival

www.nailsworthfestival.org.uk

Nailstock

The Festival has evolved greatly over its 25 years, attracting outstanding contributions from the fields of music, drama and public speaking, with events ranging from dawn chorus walks and star gazing evenings to community activities involving the young. For this, its 25th anniversary, an exciting programme was spread over the period, beginning with Festival Saturday and Nailstock. See photos on page 11. *Tim Glazier*

Nailsworth News

Joyce Affleck, who edited the paper with verve and dedication since 2002, has been replaced by Noel Burgess, and the paper continues to drop through local letterboxes, thanks to the enthusiastic distribution (bag people!) team, 10 months of the



year. 4100 copies of each 20-page issue are produced and it is thanks to almost 100 volunteers that the smooth running of this community publication is ensured. The paper is funded from advertising revenue and, if funds permit, a donation of the surplus is made to worthy causes, this year to Nailsworth Festival.

*Noel Burgess, 0773 155 2959
editor.burgess@gmail.com*

Nailsworth Dramatic Society

has had a very successful year with three major productions in the town and three travelling music hall shows around the district. A membership drive last June brought forth many new members and there are still opportunities to get involved that don't necessarily require going on-stage, so if you would like to find out more about this very friendly group and what we do, why not come along to one of our rehearsal evenings, held most Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Town Hall or contact us through our website at www.nailsworthdramatics.net

Stephen Peart, Chairman

Stroudwater Textile Trust:

The Trust has continued and expanded its programme of Mill Openings. This is the eighth season we have acted as agents for the Town Council in opening Dunkirk. This is all done by volunteers. We also, for the first time, opened The Weaving Shed at Gigg Mill for a full season, including the winter. Members of the Trust had the opportunity to attend weaving courses there for free. It is also exciting to have a

power loom regularly working in Nailsworth after an absence of 120 years.

The major achievement of the year is the recent installation of the eight mill history boards around Nailsworth and the publication of the first of our walk leaflets, 'Streams of Cloth'. We are delighted by the good reception for the boards and hope they will prove an asset for the town. We are very grateful for the help and co-operation of the Nailsworth Archives, the Town Council, property owners and other individuals as well as the grant from the Local Heritage Initiative which made all this possible.

The production of the history boards involved an immense amount of research. Some of this is being used in a second leaflet encouraging walking in the Shortwood Valley. Walking is an activity being promoted by the Trust, and we have a short programme of Healthy History Walks, two of which involve Nailsworth. *Ian Mackintosh*

Town Information Centre



The office is open from 9.30am – 5pm every weekday, and Saturday morning. It is staffed entirely by volunteers under the benign management of Carole de Lacroix. The average footfall over the past years has been consistent at just under 8000. This, according to the South West Tourist Board, equates to an income of over £30,000 to the town economy. Because we are an information office catering to locals and tourists alike, the winter months are almost as busy as the summer ones. We stock timetables, accommodation lists, brochures, maps, the ubiquitous green sacks, pass-



Locks Mill story board

port application forms and perhaps the most important of all, a wealth of local knowledge. At a time when tourist offices are being closed down, Nailsworth is lucky that this town-funded initiative is thriving. Long may it continue to do so.

Nailsworth Car Club

If you want the use of a car without owning one, the Nailsworth Car Club is for you. Since January this year the smart Citroen Picasso estate – kindly donated by John and Marilyn Miles of Northfield Road – has been parked in the Town Hall car park. If you are between 21 and 75 you sign up, pay a monthly membership charge of £12 and then just pay when you use the car – based on the mileage you do and the length of time you use it. Booking of the car is easy through a 24 hour phone line or on the internet. There are several members already using the car as a first or second car, based as far away as Washpool and Windsoregge.

For more information call Fi on 01453 832892
or visit www.svccc.co.uk.



Nailsworth Fairtrade Town Group

We continue to do all we can to raise awareness of trade justice, and to promote the use of Fairtrade products in Nailsworth and Horsley. It is very encouraging to note that FAIRTRADE sales in this country are growing at 40-50% a year, and we want to keep Nailsworth (the first Fairtrade Town in the Southwest) at the forefront of this trend.



We have had a very active year - a small but dedicated band of us have organised Fairtrade Coffee Mornings in the Mortimer Room on the fourth Saturday of most months (to coincide with the Farmers' Market). The popularity of these is growing. Entry is free, and delicious freshly brewed FAIRTRADE coffee and tea is served in a warm and friendly atmosphere. There is also the opportunity to learn more about what fair trade means to those in the developing world, and to buy Traidcraft goods. We also run a mobile coffee service to stallholders, which has been very well received, especially on those chilly winter mornings!

We held an extra special Coffee Morning to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight in March, with displays, world music and a chance to play a Fairtrade version of 'Snakes and Ladders' and to test your knowledge of fair trade with a specially designed crossword and wordsearch. We raised £100 for ActionAid as part of this event.

We have lots of ideas for promoting fair trade over the next year, but we need more people to help us make this happen – either by joining our friendly, informal steering group (4 to 5 short meetings per year) or by working with us to make their own workplaces, schools, clubs, churches or businesses 'Fairtrade' organisations.

We'd love to hear from any one interested in fair trade issues.


Contact Sue Nicholson on 01453 832734 or thenicholsons@shortwood.wanadoo.co.uk

Nailsworth and District Flower Arrangement Society

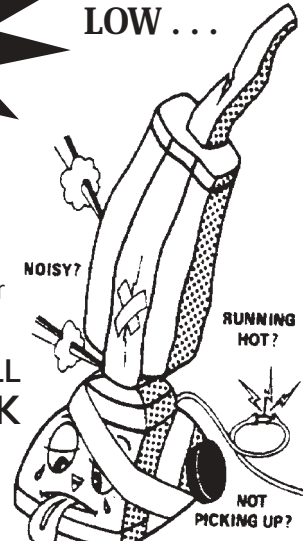
In June the Club visited gardens in Dublin, and in October staged a Flower Festival at Christ Church to celebrate its 40th anniversary. As usual, our Christmas demonstration was in November at Nailsworth Primary School, followed by our members supper in December. On 9 April the Club held a wonderful open day at Wycliffe College, where everything was "just perfect" including the weather! Visitors and new members are welcome to our meetings which are held on the first Wednesday in the month at Nailsworth Town Hall, 7 for 7.30pm.

Jill Robbins

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UP & RUNNING

The **Neighbourhood Warden Service** has been running since July 2002. The scheme was piloted in the South of the Stroud District, the success of which led to Neighbourhood Wardens being mainstream funded by the District Council.

The aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Warden scheme are to provide a non-confrontational visual presence, acting as the eyes and ears of the community. The success has continued due to the multi-agency approach taken in dealing with problems.



In tackling issues within Nailsworth, I have worked with the police and the youth service, and this has helped me to gain an understanding of the needs of Nailsworth residents and I look forward to the future in Nailsworth.

The recent Chip & Pin event held in Forest Green is an example of how the Neighbourhood Wardens, with many partners, aim to improve community cohesion and encourage residents to take ownership of their area and feel proud to be a resident of this town.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that residents contact me to discuss any problems they may be having.

I can be contacted on: 0773 985 2210 or by email: ashley.nicholson@stroud.gov.uk

Ashley Nicholson

The Royal British Legion Forest Green/Nailsworth Branch



Nailsworth Remembrance Day Parade

The local Branch of the Royal British Legion currently has just 18 members, many of whom are senior citizens. There are currently 10 active members who meet in the bar of the Nailsworth Social Club on the third Tuesday of each month. Some people think you have to have been in the Armed Forces in order to be a member; you do not. Some people also think you have to be well into your sixties before you consider membership - again, not so!! If you do have any previous Service, in any of the three Services, whether Regular or Territorial then you will understand the friendly banter that meetings between ex-service personnel can generate. If you are not then you will enjoy it!!

If any individual, or indeed couple, reading this may be interested then please feel free to contact our Secretary, Tony Clarke on 834331.

JANE KENDALL INTERIORS

- Are you the sort of person who finds it difficult to throw anything away?
- Does your house need tidying up ready for putting on the market?
- Do you dread going through the belongings of a recently deceased relative?
- Is your wardrobe full of clothes you do not wear anymore?
- Does your spare room need sorting out?



If you recognise yourself in any of the above, perhaps you need some sympathetic and patient help in organising your possessions, which in turn helps to organise your life. Jane will gently but firmly guide you through the process of making more space for what you really do need and how to find it!

JANE KENDALL 01453 844619
janekendall@onetel.com

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Photos: Sue Reed

NAILSWORTH'S UNIQUE? STONE

When building walls I see a lot of stone and most of the Cotswold stone looks familiar – there is some variation either in colour, hardness, tendency to split, inclusion of shells and other fossils – things like that, but it all generally looks the same.

However in Nailsworth there are some walls that include a stone that I have not seen elsewhere in The Cotswolds, not even locally in Stroud, Minchinhampton, Horsley or Nympsfield.

A good description is crumpet like. It can be seen especially well near Worley, at the junction of The Rollers and Chestnut Hill. It extends up the Nailsworth valley, towards Horsley along the A46 and as far as Egypt Mill the other way.

Apart from its striking pockmarked appearance the main difference is its shear size and irregularity: Cotswold stone, although there are some pretty big examples in Nailsworth (especially near Lloyds TSB) is usually sort of brick sized and manageable for one person to pick up and being easy to work, is often quite regular in shape. 'Nailsworth Crumpet Stone' is large, irregular and very very localised.

One more feature is the way it is used (although there are some exceptions in Newmarket) it appears to be always used face bedded. This means that it is not used in the wall the way it was laid down when formed 50 million years ago – Cotswold stone is used that way so that rain water is less likely to penetrate

the various bedding layers that sedimentary stone contains. Nailsworth crumpet stone, not having bedding planes, has vertical shear planes so that it breaks easily vertically and because these weakness are random, the stone breaks in irregular pieces. So the stone is used to its best advantage on edge. Another oddity is the fact that the stone only ever has one good face, Cotswold stone normally has two but this stone is shaped rather like a big molar tooth with a flat top and jagged bottom.

I have only found one quarry containing this stone – on the edge of Box . It can be seen in situ and is a single bed of stone running horizontally along the outcropping rock at one point forming the roof of a cave. The holes are upper most and it suggests to me a worm cast sandy beach when the tide has just gone out – smooth and full of holes and this is what I like to think it is – a beach that was somehow solidified whilst full of worm holes. Maybe it was then exposed to the rain long enough for the holes to be enlarged slightly and then quickly reburied fossilising the holes as we see them today.

How it got to Nailsworth from Box is currently a mystery – it doesn't seem to occur in Box for instance – and why is it so localised. I wonder if it was all bought or quarried by one mason over quite a short period of time. Whatever the reasons and we can wonder, I suggest that this stone is of great interest and that any wall containing it in any quantity (such as at the top of The Rollers) should be valued as part of the building heritage of Nailsworth.

John Byrne

<p>NAILSWORTH ACCOUNTANCY & TAX CENTRE</p> <p>Town Hall Nailsworth</p> <p>Mike Jefferies FMAAT ICPA & Emma Mills</p> <p>01453 835050</p> <p>ACCOUNTANTS TO THE SELF EMPLOYED, COMPANY DIRECTORS & THE COMMUNITY</p> <p>SMALL PRACTICE FOR SMALL CLIENTS = SMALL FEES</p> <p>Self Assessment Tax Returns, Self Employed Accounts, Paye/Wages Completion, Limited Company Accounts, Limited Company Formations, Vat Returns Completion, Sage & Quickbooks, Manual Bookkeeping, Business Start-Up Advice, DTI Loan Guarantee Scheme Reviews</p>		Annual Sales £	Annual Fee from £
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FROM THE ARCHIVES: Crystal Fountain Village

On 1st April 2008 the northern boundary of Nailsworth was extended northwards to take in a thin strip of Woodchester instead of following the route of the Inchbrook Stream. This was done to bring the whole of the Crystal Fountain Retirement Village into Nailsworth instead of it being spilt between Nailsworth and Woodchester.

Historically the mills on this part of the Inchbrook Stream have lain on the southern bank of the stream. The earliest, known in 1656 as Freames Mill was owned by Thomas Fream of Avening, a clothworker, and his wife Mary. It was sold to Thomas Yeats in 1709. By 1786 the refurbished mill was owned by William Biggs of Forest Green who in 1808 made the mill over to his daughter Elizabeth. Her husband James Norton from Bristol was an amateur artist and painted watercolours of the mill buildings and the mill pond. The Nortons ran the mill as a cloth mill. The Norton name is still to be found in the surrounding area as in for example Norton's Heaven and Norton Wood at Forest Green.



Freames Mill watercolour, looking towards the lodge on Minchinhampton Common

In 1820 the mill was leased to Nathaniel Samuel Marling for 21 years. By 1841 the lease had ended and the cloth trade was deep in depression. The empty property then had a completely new use, when Henry Critchley, Alan Perkins and Joseph Marmont opened one of the first automated manufacturing works for pin making there until success meant they outgrew the site and moved to larger premises at Frogmarsh Mill, Woodchester.

In 1885 another completely new business was set up in the old mill buildings. William "Chemical Bill" Harris ran a borax works called Borax Consolidated Co



Left: Twenty Mule Team

Ltd on the site. The raw material called calcium borate was mined in areas in the US around Death Valley and was brought out in wagons pulled by 20 mules carrying their own water supply. Indeed the company was called "Twenty Mule Team Borax Inc".

It is a little unclear exactly what was made with the Borax, the pictures show very large rough looking candles. It has been suggested that the candle format was merely a form to store the refined mineral for passing onto manufacturers who wished to use it. It has a variety of industrial uses besides the familiar ones of borasic powder or ointment. If anyone has any family memories of working for Chemical Bill and the "candles", or photographs to help solve this puzzle, I would be interested in hearing from them.



Chemical Bill with son and grandson

About 1912 the mill was taken over by yet another user. Harry Grist set up as a shoddy and flock manufacturer there. Flock is material of wool or cotton refuse, or shreds of old rags; shoddy is woollen yarn made from woollen scrap, often old clothes with some new wool added. Both reflected the down market end of the cloth trade. In 1922 he renamed the mill the Crystal Fountain Mills to stress the amount of crystal clear water available to wash the flock and shoddy.



Water supply showing the 'fountain'

The Grist family had been in the area from the 1830s and had operated mills at Ebley, Nailsworth, Merrett's Mill, Woodchester and Capel's Mill, Stroud. The operation at Crystal Fountain continued until the 1960s. Harry Grist was a well known figure locally but I have never seen a picture of him and the Archives would be interested in any that are available.

Apart from the brief use of one of the buildings as a storage facility for props during the filming of a television series about King Arthur in Woodchester Park, the buildings remained empty until taken over by Crystal Fountain Engineering works in 1970. The site was then cleared, the mill pond filled in and an enormous metal shed constructed. In 1980 this was then replaced with an even larger shed, but with a down turn in business, the only use ever made of it was as a store for classic cars. Even this proved to have problems as unstable ground surface caused the building to buckle and twist so great difficulty was experienced in getting the cars out.



In the late 1990s plans were approved for the current use of the site as a retirement village. A mixture of houses and apartments with communal facilities such as a restaurant, lounge, meeting rooms and a Care Home was built - with very effective piling support - using traditional building styles and local materials.

Betty Young, Nailsworth Archives

(continued from page 2)



trials qualifier and well deserves our trophy. She is an active supporter of the Stroud Swimming Club and helps the swimming coaches in their teaching. Joint winner **Roger Briers** is regarded as the best over 60s runner in the area at varying distances from 5km to the half-marathon. He competes at 10km cross-country in all weathers and conditions. A popular member of Stroud Athletics Club, he is a worthy winner of the Sport Trophy with Natasha.

The **Nailsworth Festival Award for the Arts** was given to **Anthony Hodge**. Anthony is an accomplished and successful painter of local scenes in style and colour that is much admired. With a studio in town he is a keen observer, through his works, of the flavour of Nailsworth. He is a greatly admired member of the varied and skilled arts community of our town. Rose Langston from the Nailsworth Festival presented the award and described Anthony as 'painter in residence for Nailsworth'.



There were two special awards given at the reception. The first went to the **Nailsworth Fire and Rescue Service** and was received



on their behalf by Bruce Fenn. In last year's floods they worked so hard with other services to protect Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Nailsworth from the worst effects of the weather and a catastrophic loss of electricity to the whole region.



The second special award was given to **Lesley Williams-Allen** who has been an asset to the life of the town in many areas. A former Town Mayor, she currently serves as President of the Chamber of Trade, secretary of Nailsworth Youth Community Enterprise, and organiser with others of the annual Christkindl evening. Lesley and her husband are now

planning a move to the coast of Wales. We shall be sorry to lose them, and wanted to express our thanks with this award.

Finally, the **Silver Jubilee Town Shield** for outstanding service to Nailsworth was presented to **Joyce and Bill Affleck**. Dr and Mrs Affleck met, whilst students



at Oxford, through acting. They married after graduation and now have three children and seven grandchildren. Joyce taught in Chester and London. Bill worked in product research for Shell. They settled in Nailsworth in 1993 after living in London, Chester, Wales and North America. Joyce took on editorship of the monthly Nailsworth News in 2002, editing more than 50 issues until her retirement at the end of last year. Bill was past President of Nailsworth Valley Probus, continues to be active in Nailsworth News since 2000, was Deputy Mayor of the Town Council, and is taking up the chairmanship of Nailsworth Community Project. As a couple their contribution to the life of Nailsworth has been consistently remarkable and valuable.

Councillor Norman Kay, Town Mayor

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SUN, SANGRIA, SOUTINE

The French twinning trip kicked off before dawn on Friday 2 May with an easy drive to Portsmouth to catch the 8.30 ferry to Caen. Late afternoon saw us in Lisieux where there was time for a quick look around the charming town, a good meal and a good night's sleep, so we were fresh as daisies for the arrival in Lèves on Saturday at noon. Our hosts were especially pleased to see us as we'd brought along some much needed sunshine and, following the traditional welcome drink and speeches in the new school, everyone dispersed with their host families. In the afternoon we had a guided tour of Chartres Cathedral and later that evening, many returned to see the colourfully lit buildings and monuments – the latest vogue in France apparently. On Sunday evening the official reception took place at the Espace Soutine with sangria and paella and dancing to a folk band from the nearby Perche region (not dissimilar to barn dance music). After lots of kissing and waving, off we set again on Monday morning with an essential supermarket stop and lunch in Beuvron en Auge (one of the most beautiful villages in France), before being back in Nailsworth around midnight.



In 2009, it will be the turn of the French to come over here (1-3 May), and we look forward to a weekend of music with returning concert pianist François Cornu and the Lèves orchestras – all very keen to come over and play for us.

*Nailsworth & District Twinning Association:
leguen@btinternet.com 833339*

Photos (top): Traditional houses in Lisieux; No language problems for Liberty (GB) and Chloe (FR); Welcome from the mayor of Lèves (left); Chartres cathedral; Dinner and dancing at the Espace Soutine



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NAILSWORTH SOCIETY

from March to end of June '08

Annual General Meeting, 2008. Doubled attendance was achieved at this year's new format meeting. Held in the Town Hall at the end of March, the streamlined business meeting was preceded by drinks on arrival and followed by a talk by Michael Claydon, Custodian of Newark Park. He showed the restoration of the gardens and walks and particularly the Regency summerhouse. The change in format was agreed to be preferable. For membership details contact Maire Jarman on 750868 or Guy Williams on 834049.

Arts, Crafts & Music Group. Sally Birch's excellent talk 'Art History of Botanical Painting'; a well illustrated talk by Penny Wreford 'A Miscellany of Ballet Music' and entertainment from Nailsworth Dramatic Society. Arts, Crafts and Music – not necessarily in that order. Contact Janet Gower on 835540 or Jean Wiltshire: 832815.

Local History Research Group. 'Nailsworth Archives – what you can find there', an introductory presentation by the archives team, Allan Beale, Hazel Webb and Betty Young. In April, Nigel Brown, who has spear-headed the work to restore the Dunkirk Mill Ponds, talked about the project and the research which preceded the restoration. In May, Ian Mackintosh, (Stroudwater Textile Trust) talked about 'Rediscovering the Nailsworth Cloth Trade'. Contact Anthony Burton on 832228 or Betty Young on 837807.

Gardening Group. Entries were slightly down for the Spring Show but judge, Martin Davis commented that those who did enter had made a great effort. He brought with him a number of unusual plants and talked to the group about each, before offering them for sale. In April Mrs Bourne talked on "Bulbs for the Garden", including bulbs that flower at different times of the year. Also an evening visit to Randwick garden 'Humphries End' and a day out to the north Cotswolds, visiting Milldene. Contact Kath Nielsen on 834046.

Local Studies Group. 'Conserving British Owls' was the subject of Ian McGuire's talk. A bird of prey enthusiast and keen photographer, he introduced us to the range of British breeding owls and their habits, the problems they face and how we can help.

Diana Wall brought us up-to-date with her search for former pubs and beer houses which gives us another aspect when walking around the area. We also had a successful Geology Walk at Hock Cliff on the estuary shore near Frampton. This year the tide was out so we were able to find Devil's Toenails and other Jurassic fossils. Contact Len Jarman on 750868.

Ramblers Group. Walks started again with a visit to the Kingscote and Horsley area to see the snowdrops in Conygre Woods. In March we had a circular walk starting from the Daneway, up to Sapperton and then onto Pinbury Park – glorious weather on both occasions. A 5 mile walk took place in April, starting from Fostons Ash. Contact Alma Williams on 834049.

The Theatregoers. A well mixed agenda: the Russian State Ballet performing 'Cinderella' in Malvern; Cheltenham provided the venue for a wonderful performance of 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'The Magic Flute' by the Welsh National Opera in Bristol. Cheltenham again with three short dances from Birmingham Royal Ballet and, finally, the musical 'Aspects of Love' at Cheltenham in June. Contact Ann or Jinny Marshall on 833857.

Luncheon Group meets at Egypt Mill. Ann Makemson talked at the March lunch about 'My Family History, including growing up in Watledge'. Ann was deeply involved in the establishment and development of the Nailsworth Archives, and herself holds a huge amount of information about Nailsworth. Myrtle White's talk on 'My Life with Cat Protection', was another personal but very different story. Richard Kelly talked about the 'Thistledown Environmental Centre' and in June Allan Beale described 'Nailsworth/Lèves Town Twinning'. Contact Paul Young on 837807.

Town Newsletter Committee:

John Byrne, Brian Jayes, Norman Kay, Carole de Lacroix, John Nicholson, Sharon Wells.

Design and setting: Sharon Wells.

Print: Printco, Bankside, London Road, Chalford, Stroud GL6 8PR Tel 01453 889680

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Half Page £60 (VAT inclusive)

Quarter Page £30 (VAT inclusive)

Eighth Page £20 (VAT inclusive)

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'The Fountain' – Autumn 2008

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