

THE FOUNTAIN

Nailsworth Now and Then

ISSUE 44

AUTUMN 2008

Forest Green Community Hall

**OPENING IN OCTOBER – THE “TEMPORARY”
FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL**



*The Redrow building –
with members of Forest Green Community Hall Working Party*

This is a great opportunity for Nailsworth and particularly the Forest Green area. From the beginning of October, groups and individuals will be able to hire the Redrow Marketing Suite, which is on the Beechwood Close roundabout at the top of Nymphsfield Road.

The Town Council in partnership with the Forest Green Residents Association is hiring the building for at least a year to provide a temporary community hall in the Forest Green area. The Council now owns the marketing suite land and this is earmarked for the site of a permanent community hall.

The Redrow building has a large room which can hold up to 30 people, a small kitchen, an office and a toilet. There is limited parking including disabled parking. The hall is available for hire, at the Council's usual rates.

The majority of people in Nailsworth (65%) live in the area and its long been felt that we need a community centre here. A joint Town Council and Forest Green Residents Association working party has been planning this large project all year. The ultimate goal is to

provide a permanent eco-friendly hall on the same site, providing it can be shown to be needed and viable.

The temporary building is a chance for individuals, groups and organisations to develop new opportunities and community spirit in the area. It is intended to add to facilities which already exist at the School, Forest Green Rovers and the Youth Club.

The hall is for the use of everyone in Nailsworth, but its success will largely depend on residents in the Forest Green area getting behind it.

To hire the hall from 1 October please call the Town Clerk on 01453 833592 (Monday to Thursday mornings).

To find out more about the project and get involved, please ring:

Town Councillor, Sally Thorpe on 01453 872251 or

Margaret Marshall, Chair of the Residents Association, on 01453 834996.

Cllr Sally Thorpe, Chair of the Community Hall Working Party.

INSIDE

Nailsworth Games: 2 – 4

New Councillors: 5

Nailsworth Vision & Sky Highway: 6

Rubbish: 8 – 9

Fair Photos: 10

Nailsworth Society: 11

Community Partnership &

Letter to Editor: 12





THE NAILSWORTH GAMES July 2008

Well, the fortnight of games, sports and fun has finished. Lots of young people and adults participated and they had fun. Clubs reported that they have been really pleased by the numbers who became involved. The town has received lots of positive media attention from local and regional newspapers, Radio Gloucestershire and Severnsound FM. We are pleased with the success of the games.

How did the idea begin?

In July 2007 a number of sports clubs and youth organisations met together with the town council in Nailsworth. Our objective was to plan for a celebration of sport in town during the lead up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which would be a means of attracting more young people into sporting activities and exercise. We went on to form a Games Committee that met regularly at Forest Green Rovers Football Club and we put in a great deal of hard work in its planning over the following months.



Members of the Games Committee were drawn from many groups in town: sporting clubs and youth groups, Town and District Councillors, our Youth Worker and the Neighbourhood Wardens, the Chamber of Trade and the local police. The Committee included PCSO Stephen Phillipson; Youth Worker Tracy Young;

Gail Smith from the Shiny Goodness shop in town; Dorcas Binns; District Councillor John Jeffreys; Town Councillor Stephen Robinson; Jim Ellen from the County Council's Playing for Success Team; Ian Probert from FGR Football Club; Neighbourhood Warden Ashley Nicholson; and myself. They all deserve mention since everybody really worked hard to make

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	Less than	15,000	120
		20,000	180
		30,000	240
		40,000	250
		60,000	280
		75,000	300
		90,000	320
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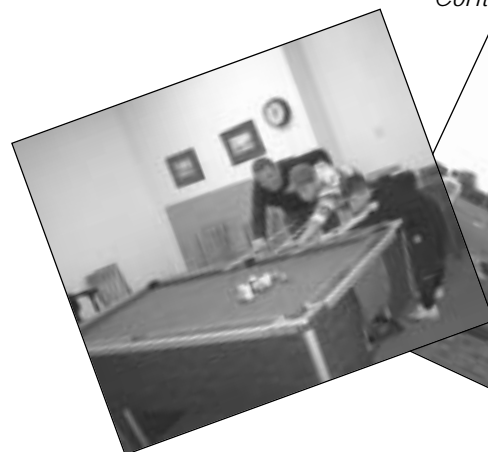
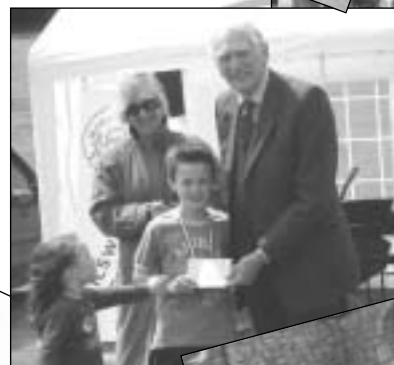
the Games a success. We canvassed local groups to find out their views and we were pleasantly surprised by their positive response. Virtually every sporting club and youth group wanted to participate. So, after almost a year of planning we had some fifteen events together with an Inaugural Family Fun Day on our local playing field. We decided to have a launch event on Sunday 6th July and for the Games to continue over the following two weeks.

Which clubs and groups took part?

At the inaugural event on the King George V Playing Field, Stroud Athletics Club offered a range of activities mainly for young people ranging from running to welly wanging and soft javelin. Nailsworth Tennis Club provided a tennis-related taster day for young people. There was a hot air balloon and a craft fair, food and music. Gloucestershire's Lord Lieutenant Mr. Henry Elwes came along to give an official launch to events and then tried a balloon ascent. We had Olympic-style medals for winners and certificates for everybody who took part. On the day the weather was dismal in the morning, but quickly improved by the afternoon. Many children and their parents came along and the day was a happy success.

During the fortnight of subsequent activities Stroud Swimming Club provided an evening of activities at Beaudesert Park School's swimming pool; there were two equestrian events at local riding stables; a table tennis competition at the Youth Club; the local cycling clubs arranged two events, one competitive and the other a family fun ride; the Bowls Club offered a taster day for all-comers; the Ladies Badminton Club arranged a taster morning; Nailsworth Comrades Club arranged a 'triathlon' of events for grown ups – darts, pool and skittles; and Ruskin College and Nailsworth Primary School each incorporated their own sports events into the Games.

Continued on page 4



THE NAILSWORTH GAMES

Continued from page 3

Nailsworth's own Beijing Olympic marathon runner, Dan Robinson, also took part. On the morning of the Primary School's sports day he jogged from the town centre to the school, accompanied by a relay of six children from the school and from St. Dominic's Primary School Woodchester. They carried a bouquet in the shape of an Olympic torch and this was presented on their arrival at the school. In return Dan was given an honorary gold medal for his efforts.

The fortnight finished with a 'skatejam' at the town's skateboard park where BMX bikers, skaters and bladers were all welcome.

We could not have mounted these Games without the financial support of the Town Council, the County Council's Playing for Success Team at FGR, and other generous donors. We are all very grateful for their assistance. Our local police were really supportive, as was the District Council's Neighbourhood Warden Service. Jacaranda kindly donated the bouquet and Ermin Plant gave some equipment at no cost. Shiny Goodness also assisted us. Our thanks to them all.

We think we have achieved our immediate objectives. The clubs saw new faces taking part and hopefully they will have been sufficiently enthused to carry on. It has helped to foster our town's community spirit for which we are renowned – and we all had fun!

Norman Kay, Nailsworth Town Council



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TOWN COUNCIL CO-OPTS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The resignations of Bill Affleck and Jim Eddyshaw created two vacancies on the Town Council, which it filled by the co-option of Mrs Dorcas Binns and Paul Carter, thus restoring the Council to its full membership of eleven.



Dorcas has considerable previous experience as a Councillor, having served on the Town Council for a spell between 1999 and 2000 before being elected to the District Council, initially to represent Minchinhampton between 2000 and 2004, and latterly Nailsworth between 2004 and 2008. Her interests include membership of the Nailsworth Youth Club Committee and, most recently, a very active involvement in the staging of the Nailsworth Games. She is a long-term resident of the area, having lived at Longfords for over twenty-one years.

Paul is also a long-term resident, having lived in Nailsworth for over twenty-five years, and whilst a newcomer to Council work, has been involved in a wide range of community activities. Perhaps the most significant of these has been his involvement with Woodchester Mansion, where he has been a trustee and Deputy Chairman for the past ten years, whilst also serving a term as chairman of its volunteer group. In his professional life, Paul is an IT manager with a national logistics company.



The Council extends a warm welcome to Dorcas and Paul, and looks forward to their contribution towards the work of the Town Council.

John Nicholson

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Nailsworth Urban Design Framework

What is an urban design framework and why prepare one?



Urban design frameworks are increasingly used to assist in planning physical enhancement and, if appropriate, change in towns. They take ideas expressed as planning policy or vision statements and give them a physical structure and context. They set out intentions for the form and character of projects and describe how projects should be set up to fit together, but frameworks should be flexible enough to allow imaginative interpretation of the content and design of individual elements.

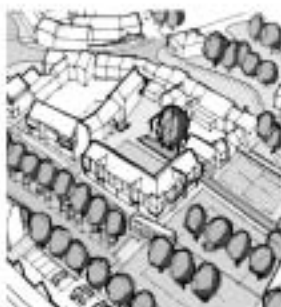


Section 1 of the report sets out the background to the study. In 2006 the Nailsworth Action Plan set out the Vision and Objectives for the town for the foreseeable future and a key one of these was to prepare an urban design framework to provide physical design concepts and proposals. Roger Evans Associates were commissioned by Stroud District Council in partnership with Nailsworth Town Council to produce a 'vision and masterplan' for Nailsworth town centre which would, **'Create a vibrant town centre environment which builds upon positive characteristics of the existing historic core, but also provides for a new range of attractive uses for the future'**.



The brief outlined a number of regeneration opportunities in the town, and specifically pointed toward the possibilities of large scale change in the Old Market area. In parallel, the Town Council has commissioned the Nailsworth Design Statement, which gives a very thorough audit of the town's physical and cultural assets.

Preparation of the urban design framework began with a workshop session at which stakeholders in the town were asked to summarise its strengths and weaknesses and review the objectives of the Action Plan. This helped to prepare an analysis of the town centre that formed an evidential baseline from which to evolve design ideas and is included in section 2 of the report. Key studies include building use and activity, pedestrian and vehicular movement, urban form and townscape, and the quality and function of places and spaces.



Section 3 sets out the main design aims and priorities established in the baseline work. They revolve around five main issues: 1) the built heritage of the town, 2) the cultural heritage of the town, 3) traffic impacts, 4) accessibility, and 5) the role of the town as a local centre. The section sets out broad areas of study which the urban design framework explores in more detail in section 4.

The urban design framework proposes a possible pattern of development in the town centre from Cossack Square to Somerfield's store in George Street. It then provides more detailed, three-dimensional studies of possible development around Old Market. The key concepts are:

- Redevelopment of both sides of Old Market with more sympathetic building designs that allow more interaction between shop fronts and street space: schemes can come forward incrementally as opportunities arise, building by building;
- Redesign of Old Market itself as a tree-lined town street, with on-street car parking and generous pavements;
- A new town square as the centre-piece for town activities, and with a new civic building on the south-west corner to house the library, the Mortimer Rooms and other public functions;
- Landscape improvements to Mortimer Gardens and the waterside;
- Refurbishment of the Days Mill complex;
- General urban design principles to disperse car parking and servicing in spaces behind buildings, rather than dominating the street scene.



Section 5 provides a summary table of all the projects identified in the framework with their significance, interdependencies, key players and likely next steps to implementation.

A Vision for Nailsworth

When Sue Reed was mayor she took the lead in a partnership with the District Council to commission a research study for Nailsworth. She saw this as presenting a Vision and Masterplan for the town – options “to create a vibrant town centre environment which builds upon positive characteristics of the existing historic core, but also provides for a new range of attractive uses for the future”. The final draft of this study by Roger Evans Associates of Oxford Limited (REAL) was presented to a representative group this spring.

The next steps

We now have the final Report from REAL and they have provided the summary opposite. You can read the full report on the Town Council website: www.nailsworthtown.co.uk. It offers us some interesting possibilities. Later this year we hope to approach the Nailsworth Community Partnership and the District Council to form a Partnership to take some projects forward. Your comments are welcome, please send them to me at the Town Council.

Norman Kay, Town Mayor.

OUR HIGHWAY IN THE SKY

Often on a cold clear morning I have looked up into the early daylight sky. The bright blue of the heavens is often lined by the vapour trails of aircraft flying high above. I can see the aircraft at the front of each trail as each makes its way across the sky.

It is actually quite a beautiful sight, with the haze of the trails occasionally criss-crossing. Until recently I had thought that they were the result of high-flying military planes heading to or from bases such as Brize Norton, Fairford, or Lynham.

It was quite a surprise then to find that Nailsworth lies under a swathe of sky leading from the London airports going to north America and out over the Irish Seas. It is one of the major routes for passenger aircraft heading westwards. It appears that above Flight Level 75 over Nailsworth (that is above 7500 feet) the airspace is restricted to aircraft specifically registered for such heights. Smaller aircraft must remain below that height unless given specific permission.

So the vapour trails we see are caused by these larger and usually commercial aeroplanes flying at around 3000 feet.

I had not realised that we had the equivalent of a motorway for aircraft above Nailsworth!

Norman Kay



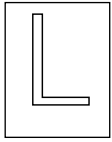
NAILSWORTH & Horsley Shops & Services DIRECTORY 2008



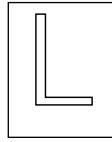

Nailsworth Town Council
www.nailsworthtown.co.uk

The Directory is produced by NW Town Council for the benefit of traders, local residents and visitors. The 9th edition is under preparation and will be circulated in the next Fountain magazine, with extra copies available from NW Information Centre and the Library. If you provide a service for the general public based in NW or Horsley, ask to be included in the update (there is no charge). Similarly, if you are currently listed and wish to be removed, please let me know.

*Carole de Lacroix, tel: 833339
leguen@btinternet.com.*



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SKIP OR TIP?

Yesterday I took the tarmac up off my mother-in-law's drive. Thinking to save money on skip hire (plus the on road licence) I put the tarmac in my trailer. There was about 3/4 of a ton. Now I knew that some people may have been tempted to take it to the local household recycling centre as it could conceivably be classed as household waste but as I am in the building trade I thought this might be antisocial so I planned to take it to a local commercial waste centre (where I may add I would have had to pay about £30 to tip). However, they informed me that my tarmac was in fact classed as hazardous waste and that they could not take it. So I asked them what they would have done if I had put it in a skip and they said I would have had to take it out.

To cut a long story short, I rang Cotswold District Council to ask what they suggested but they had no ideas other than to ring around various skip firms. I tried Gloucestershire County Council.

The helpful advisor there told me that if I had only two wheels on my trailer then I could take it to Horsley recycling centre as it could be argued that it was household waste!

John Byrne

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LITTER – NO MOLEHILL THIS MOUNTAIN!

People can argue about the amount of litter dropped and collected on our streets and country roads but there is no doubt that it is too much and a real problem. We can also endlessly discuss whether the UK is better or worse than other countries, whether our cities are better or worse when it comes to littering. What is beyond dispute is that we could do better – as a country, as a county and as our town of Nailsworth and the surrounding area.

The blame for litter is effortlessly passed between the various participants.

- If we didn't have so much packaging around the stuff we buy, we wouldn't produce so much litter – so it's all the fault of the supermarkets and, maybe the Food Safety Standards folk.
- If more of the packaging were easier to recycle we'd not treat it as litter – so it's either the Council's fault for being too picky about what they accept for recycling or the supermarkets' for choosing packaging which is difficult to recycle.
- If there were more litter bins there wouldn't be a litter problem – so it's the Council's fault for inadequate provision of bins.
- If the streets, public areas and roadsides were properly and frequently cleaned "like they are on the continent" there wouldn't be a litter problem – so it's the Council's fault (again).
- If the 'youth of today' were properly disciplined "like they were in my day" there wouldn't be a problem – so it's parents and schools to blame.
- It's all those dog owners who don't pick up...

In summary it's them not us who are to blame. Somebody ought to be fined...

Well, maybe it is us.

If we put out our black bag of household rubbish for collection the following morning and the cat or the fox tears it open in the night to get at the chicken leg and half the content is scattered in the street (and left there) whose fault is that? We could have put the black bag in a dustbin so that the fox couldn't get at it – but we didn't. We could have cleared up the debris left from the ravaged bin-bag but very likely we were in a rush to get to work and, anyway, shouldn't the bin men deal with that?

We share chocolate bars with the kids on a trip and then there's all those wrappers mucking up the car - so we wind down the window and heave them out. There's lots of rubbish in the hedge


row already and a bit more won't make any difference. And, no, we don't have a rubbish bag in the car.

We've come off the school bus and we buy a bottle of orange and packet of crisps to eat on the way home. Pretty soon we're well away from any litter bins and the crisp packet and the juice bottle are empty – what are we supposed to do with them? Lug them all the way home? Get real!

These are the sorts of situations which produce litter. It's got nothing to do with over-wrapping – that crisp package is pretty minimal packaging. Re-cyclability hardly comes into it, nor does the number and placement of litter bins. The fundamental position we adopt is that litter happens and it's someone else's job to clear it up.

There are lots of good people in the town and its surroundings who do make it their job to clear it; not just on 'clean-up' days but every day as they go about the town. We salute these folk – but we should be working to make their activity redundant by the very simple expedient of not throwing things away but hanging onto them until we can dispose of them properly. That includes the cigarette packet, the coke bottle and the bag of dog poo. We can all do that – young and old alike – and if we all did, the litter problem would disappear - like snow in the Sahara.

Bill Affleck

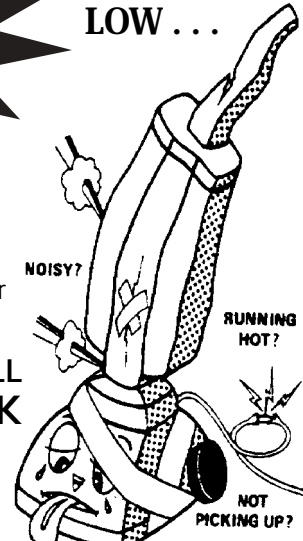


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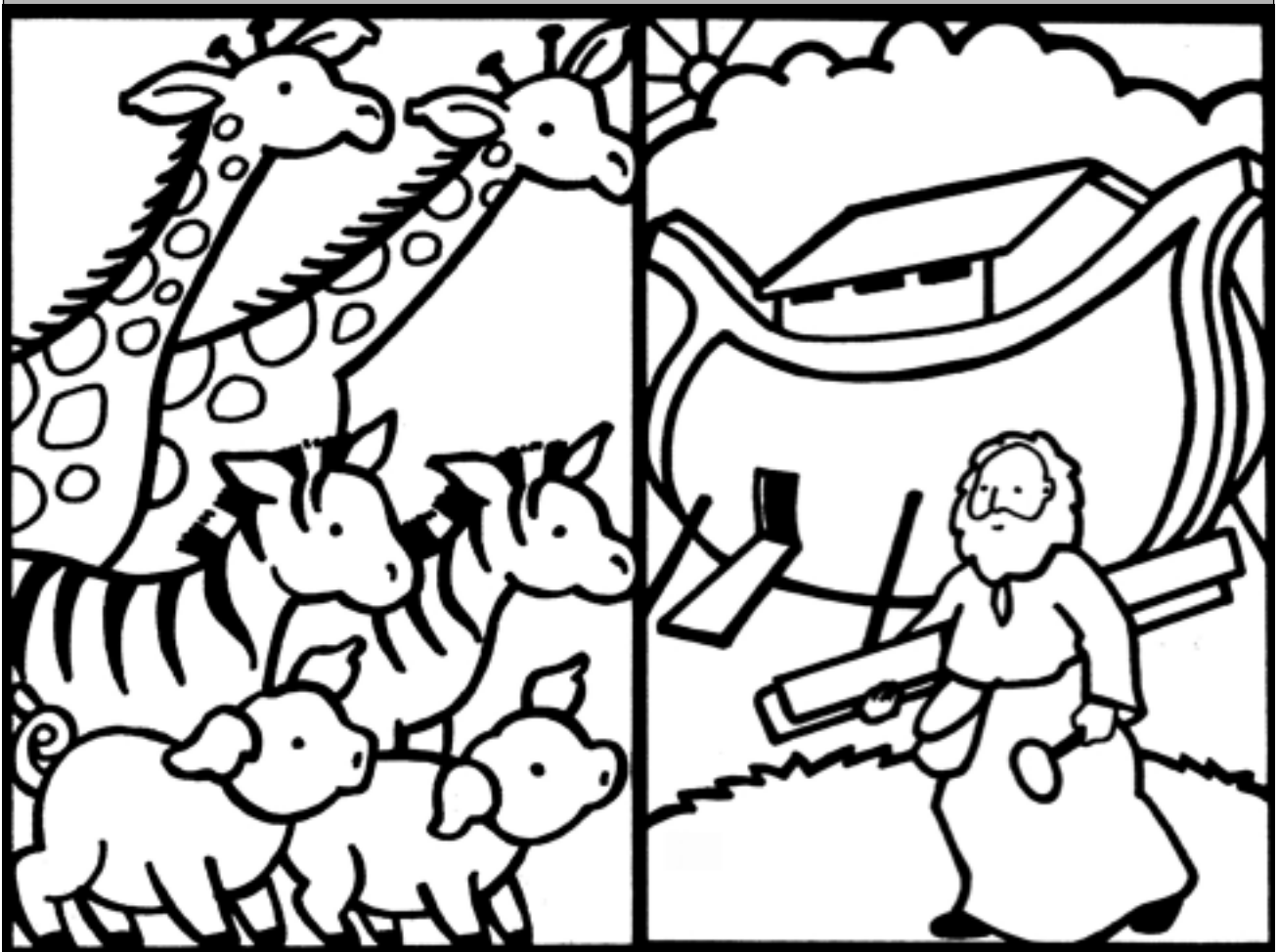
**... WE'LL
SOON HAVE IT
UP & RUNNING**

THE SECOND CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS FAIR

took place in Mortimer Gardens on 21st June, and despite gloomy predictions, the rain held off for the duration. The event was sponsored by Nailsworth Town Council, and interesting and informative displays were provided by the Archive Office, NW Art Group, Christ Church, Comrades Club, NW Dramatic Society, NW Fair Trade Committee, NW Festival & Nailstock, NW Film Club, Forest Green Residents Association, NW Mills Bowling Club, Mothers Union, Neighbourhood Warden, NW Society, NW Rotary, NW & District Twinning Association. Saturday morning shoppers, newcomers to the area and visitors alike were impressed with the large number of clubs and associations NW has to offer. A full list of these is available from NW Town Information Centre.



Colouring Corner



NAILSWORTH SOCIETY

To the end of July '08

Our report this issue is somewhat different – and much shorter. In previous reports we have tried to anticipate what will have happened by the time The Fountain actually appears. From this issue and for subsequent issues we will limit ourselves to (fairly) strict historical reporting.

Arts, Crafts & Music Group. This month's talk was given by Tim Porter who chose the title 'The Road to Damascus' against which to describe the early years of Ralph Vaughan Williams' career as a composer and the things that influenced his development. *Contact Janet Gower on 835540 or Jean Wiltshire on 832815.*

Local History Research Group. The group had its last indoor evening meeting before the summer when the topic was "Researching Family History". Mrs Sue Stafford was the guest speaker who gave a fascinating and detailed description of the sources that could be used - locally from the Gloucestershire and other county archives - from registers of marriages, births and deaths - school registers - from wills and property deeds - and not forgetting family bibles, photograph collections and letters. Census details may now be accessed at home or local library from the internet. A few members made an afternoon visit to the newly refurbished Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks. Some members, working with The Nailsworth Archives have been researching "Poets and Writers" for a display at the County Local History afternoon in Gloucester on 4th October. Suggestions and contributions would be welcomed from any resident of the town. Last year the Group was awarded first prize for its display on "Nonconformity" and which has recently been on view in the library. *Contact Anthony Burton on 832228 or Betty Young on 837807.*

Gardening Group. We went on our annual day trip in June and visited Mill Dene, (not Milldene as previously reported). Blockley, in the north Cotswolds. Mill Dene is an interesting garden, comprising 2.5 acres and includes the original mill pond, vegetable and herb gardens, as well as several traditionally planted herbaceous borders. The sun shone on us and we had time to wander around the pretty village of Blockley and to visit Dobbies Garden Centre on the way home. The Lavender Gardens at Snowhill are on the agenda for July. *Contact Kath Nielsen on 834046.*

Local Studies Group. Our final event before the summer recess was an evening history walk in July around South Woodchester with local resident Mike Hemming. We had a very good turnout to hear Mike describe the development of the area, the people involved and the buildings they constructed, both industrial and residential. He pointed

out the architectural features and their use in dating the structures. *Contact Len Jarman on 01600 869019.*

Ramblers Group. On a sunny day in June we started a walk from the Ragged Cot and headed for Besbury Common, then on to Burleigh and Minchinhampton returning through Hampton Fields to the Ragged Cot for lunch. The walk arranged for July is a 4 1/4 mile 'meander' around Arlingham, Overton, Barrow Hill, Wick Court and the banks of the Severn, followed by lunch at the Red Lion in Arlingham. *Contact Alma Williams on 834049.*

The Theatregoers. A note of sadness: We made our final visit in July to Chavenage to see the play with which Chavenage Productions had started their programme 25 years ago – 'A Comedy of Errors'. We were lucky enough to choose a fine evening with Chavenage at its loveliest. A very good final performance culminating in the Chavenage Productions traditional balletic 'curtain call' – which is of itself almost worth the seat price! *Contact Ann or Jinny Marshall on 833857.*

Luncheon Group meets at Egypt Mill. Ken Sheather enthralled the July lunch with his talk on 'The Pleasures of Belgian Beer'; every bottle had a story attached. The Luncheon Group will meet again in September after the summer break. *Contact Paul Young on 837807.*

CAN YOU HELP?

New members are wanted for the Five Valleys Supporters' Group, which raises money for our local Cotswold Care Hospice.

The Five Valleys Supporters' Group would like to welcome new members to join us. We are a small, informal group, which aims to raise money and awareness of the Cotswold Care Hospice - a service dedicated to supporting people in Gloucestershire living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. Over one million pounds a year is needed for running costs, so that this wonderful service can be free to all who need it.

Our past fundraising successes have included, fashion shows, suppers, stalls and concerts.

All we ask is that you try to attend our meetings, which are held in Nailsworth every two months. At these meetings we discuss on-going and future fundraising ideas. We also need hands-on helpers for occasional specific events (stallholders, serving teas, etc.)

No experience is needed – just your time, ideas and willingness to help a good cause. If you think you would like to join us, please phone:

*Sue Smith 01453 832299
or Anne Baldwin 01453 832844*

NAILSWORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Nailsworth Community Partnership, whose work and aspirations we described in an earlier article in *The Fountain*, has moved on. The Partnership is now registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and has a



bank account as well as a Company Secretary, Sue Arnold, a Board of Directors, and a Treasurer, Dorcas Binns. This should enable the Partnership to undertake projects requiring funding and expenditure, neither of which were readily manageable under the old, informal structure.

The Partnership will still be dependent on the work of volunteers from the community, so if you feel you can contribute your time or share your experience please contact Sue on 01453 839145 (Optical Shop) or email theopticalshopnailsworth@yahoo.co.uk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



NAILSWORTH'S UNIQUE? STONE – a reply

I was interested to read John Byrne's article on what he aptly calls "crumpet stone" in *The Fountain* for Summer 2008. One source of this stone is very close to home for me, namely the Rockness stone mines. The mines at Balls Green in the Avening valley are well known, but the Stroud District has many other small mines such as at Rockness which are little known. There are two mines at Rockness. The smaller mine has its entrance between Cave Cottage and The Bungalow, and this mine also had a lime kiln at the rear. The larger mine runs under the hillside from Greystones to Rockness Farm, with several entrances.

Going back to John's crumpet stone, this is more commonly called tufa limestone, and it occurs in beds with the building quality limestone both here and worldwide. But the particular form of our local tufa may be unique to this area.

Chris Harmer, Rockness

Town Newsletter Committee:

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

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'The Fountain' – Winter 2008

Please send editorial contributions and advertising copy for inclusion in the next issue as soon as possible. The absolute deadline is Wednesday 8 October 2008. There is no guarantee that copy received late will be published. Distribution will be week commencing Monday 1 December 2008.

Copy should be sent to the Town Clerk, Nailsworth Town Hall. Please mark the envelope 'The Fountain'. Correspondence should be addressed to: Sharon Wells, Editor. Electronic copy can be sent to Carole, email: leguen@btinternet.com

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