



16 New homes adjacent to New Road

The big subject at April's Parish Council meeting was the consideration of a planning application for the development of 16 houses within the village, to comprise 9 affordable and 7 open market properties. (SDC planning ref S.20/2678/FUL).

We heard from members of the public present at the meeting and received written reports from those who were unable to attend.

The councillors had all spent a lot of time reviewing the application and the accompanying documents and each took time to explain their own findings and views on the application.

Parish Council
 more news
 PAGE 4

PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTS TO HOUSING PROPOSAL

After hearing from all the councillors, the decision on how the Parish Council would respond to the application was put to a vote. Although the councillors were all in support of affordable housing within the village it was felt that the access proposals were substandard and unacceptable and therefore the council unanimously agreed to object to the application. The overall decision on the application lies with Stroud District Council.

In Praise of Technology

As the country slowly emerges from lockdown I've been reflecting on the tools we've employed as a school to minimise the impact of the partial closure of North Nibley Primary, and maintain the precious sense of community that is at the heart of our school. In true 'pub quiz' fashion, how many of these do you recognise or use in these strange times?

1) Class Dojo – originally a behaviour management tool, this app came into its own for communicating directly with individual parents and the community as a whole. Through this platform, work was set by staff and sent back by pupils or their families. Staff feedback provided direct encouragement, support and guidance for our learners. Newsletters and assemblies were also shared here. Daily updates kept everyone in the loop as the government response evolved and control measures changed.

2) Purple Mash is the online provision from 2Simple, a key player in the primary software business. During the pandemic we used many tools in this suite, including a typing tutor. Unlike Class Dojo, Purple Mash allows pupil-to-pupil communication (moderated) and we used the blogging tool to wish each other 'Happy Birthday'.

3) PowerPoint – used to share teaching ideas, content and graphics. Often used on its own, but really powerful when combined with...

4) Zoom. No, we'd never heard of it either! And yet it became invaluable, especially in the Spring 2021 lockdown, when staff significantly increased the

proportion of live teaching. Usually with groups but also with individuals, it played an important part in supporting those in challenging circumstances. In recent weeks our Friday assemblies have also been broadcast 'live', with the Open The Book team from Churches Together in North Nibley playing a major role in reaching out to our pupils.

MyMaths (5), **White Rose Maths (6)** and **Classroom Secrets (7)** provided a source of activities and worksheets, whilst **Times Table Rockstars (8)** provided live competition between pupils and schools in the speed and accuracy of Times Table recall.

9) Oxford Owl. This online library allowed children to make progress through the reading scheme, especially whilst a limited quantity of books underwent 'quarantine' after their visits home.

10) Google Forms was used as a booking system, through which parents of critical workers could book places in school. We also used this to set family quizzes.

11) iPad cameras. These were used to 'shoot' a variety of videos, including the Year 6 'leaver's musical and the Open Day virtual tour for new joiners. **Shotcut (12)** was used for multi-camera editing of the Christmas Carol Service, the Red Nose video and the World Book Day video.

13) Outlook. Still indispensable for the exchange of emails, between school and parents, staff to staff, staff to governors, the local authority and the outside world!

14) Teams – increasingly governors are using Teams for the exchange of documents and collaboration in their work supporting the school. (Honorary mention to Padlet for pupil collaboration too.)

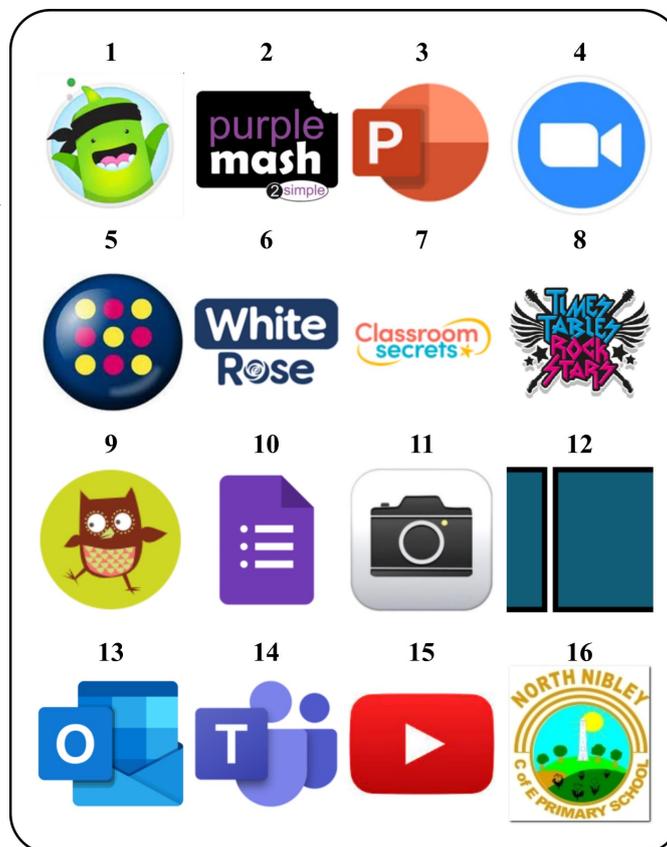
15) YouTube. The 'default' service for video sharing, this site has to be used with parental supervision. Many providers use this to distribute their work and we were able to connect with iSingPop, Bob Hartman assemblies, VeggieTales, Virtual Sunday School and a daily song.

16) The school website. A site which brought together all the guidance, policies, plans and resources.

Of these, 10 are free to schools. I do wonder how we'd have fared without them? School is not blind to the safeguarding risks that are posed by online activity, but the benefits far outweigh the challenges when the technology is properly managed.

Let me know if you have a recommendation for school to use. Keep learning and exploring new tech. Raise your expectation of what you can achieve, and stay safe!

Paul Batchelor
Head Teacher





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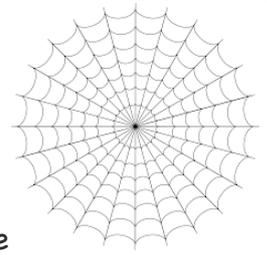
For more information and an application form email general@northnibleyhall.org.uk or contact Theresa Eames 07891 232684

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

We always think there is plenty of time to make bookings for our events/celebrations/parties and more. Once the Covid rules relax you will want to ensure you have a suitable venue securely booked so check your calendars then contact our Bookings Officer .



NORTH NIBLEY PRESCHOOL



The children at Preschool had a lovely week talking about Easter. So many crafts made and baking done, and a little chocolate eaten too! We have had some new starters and they have settled in so well. All the children have been so amazing in settling in particularly in a covid world, where we cannot permit parents in. We have been able to spend much time in the garden and very soon we will have some new equipment in our garden. Watch this space.... When we return we will be looking at insects and we will also be planting in pots and following the life cycle of flowers and some vegetables. Of course we will also be doing our daily walks and talking about colours and letters from the alphabet. We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to the village hall committee who when asked 'Can we have some new children's chairs' said 'yes!' They were so gracious in allowing us to choose the type of chair and the colours. They are a great asset to the preschool and the village hall. The only fundraiser we have booked in is our Quiz & Cocktails evening (covid allowing) on Saturday 16th October. It was great fun last time. Can you believe we are on the down hill slide to the summer holidays?! This academic year has flown by. We only have one little person moving onto primary school this year and as we have said before we are very nearly full. We now have a waiting list for some sessions. So if you would like your child to spend time with us contact us sooner rather than later. We have new bookings as far a head as Spring 2022. You can check us out on Facebook or our website www.northnibleypreschool.co.uk. Take care, from all at North Nibley Preschool.



Parish Council Matters - April 2021

Hello all. I hope you are enjoying the light and colour that has arrived with Spring.

It's been another busy month for the councillors and to reflect this, the council meeting on the 12th had an earlier start time than usual; we trust that this did not prevent anyone from attending who wished to.

Elections

The 6th May is the election date for Local Government, County and Police and Crime Commissioner. North Nibley Parish Council has 7 seats, and as there were 7 nominations there will be no election for our parish council. The PC are saddened to see Chairman Ken Brown move away from his responsibilities of both Chair and Councillor after around twenty years service to the council. Ken has been an invaluable asset to the council and he assures us that we can still rely on his support and outstanding local knowledge.

We welcome to the council a new Councillor, Tim Andrews who will take position at our May meeting. Tim is passionate about the North Nibley community and his enthusiasm is welcomed by the council. Look out for Councillor Andrews' introduction in your next OTE edition.

Councillors Burton, Hay, Larkin, Palmer, Purnell and Symons remain seated on the council and look forward to another term of supporting North Nibley community.

Other Items

Following the road closure, the council is chasing Highways to review and repair the damage caused along Snitend Lane.

We are also following up on our reports of the numerous drainage issues and the blocked gully at the bottom of Wood Lane. On the subject of Wood Lane, a reminder that if you spot any dangerous parking to report it immediately to the police by calling 101.

Upcoming Meetings

The annual parish meeting will be held via Zoom on the 26th April. This is your community meeting, organised by the council but not a formal council meeting.

The council's annual meeting will be held on

Monday 17th May

As the government legislation allowing us to conduct virtual meetings will expire on the 7th May, this meeting will be a face to face meeting. The PC is working alongside the Village Hall committee to make this event as Covid safe as possible and within Government guidelines. In these difficult circumstances, should anyone have any items that they wish to raise at the May meeting during the open public session but would prefer to stay at home, then I will be happy to take written communications up to the day of the meeting and present them on your behalf.

The return to face to face meetings within covid guidelines will be a new learning for the PC and although we are always happy to see members of the public attend our meetings, our main concern is your safety and well being, therefore we would encourage you to consider the necessity of attending in person during this unsettling time.

All the best

Mandy Rossiter

Clerk - North Nibley Parish Council

St Martin's Church

www.northnibleychurch.uk

Rev'd Rachel Cook, Vicar
tyndalevicar@gmail.com

07483 146531

Rev'd Peter Marsh, Associate Priest
pemmarsh@gmail.com

01453 547521 (not after 6.00 pm, please)

Wynne Holcombe, Churchwarden,
smartins.northnibley@gmail.com

01453 542091

Kate Cropper,

Tyndale Benefice/Vicar's Secretary
office@tyndalebenefice.co.uk

01453 842175

Audio-Services continue
Sunday by Sunday
on St Martin's Church
website (northnibleychurch.uk)



The Church will open
during May
for Private Prayer
one day a week
(probably Wednesdays)
10am – 4pm
and we look forward
to Sunday services
live from June.



North Nibley Chapel

www.northnibleychapel.org.uk

Rosie Casken,

Chapel Development Worker,
mailmeroses@yahoo.co.uk

07977454083

Dave Purnell

davidpurnell48@hotmail.com

07775876738

Let's Celebrate!
Join us for a short service in
the Chapel grounds.
Sunday May 23rd at 10 a.m.

This Sunday marks the
birthday of the Church, so
there couldn't be a better day
for us all to get together. And
meeting outside means we'll be
able to sing! **SEE YOU THERE!**

Churches Together in North Nibley

has a very rare attribute - it holds meetings that all its members are happy to attend! But since this is the group that brought you the Alternative Christmas Service and the interview with Noddy the Donkey, not to mention the one responsible for sending grown men in crazy attire scampering round Nibley and the Knoll on a bitterly cold day in the week before Epiphany you can safely assume that a sense of humour is always very much in evidence. Members come from both St Martin's and the Congregational Chapel and the common aim is to bring the message and the love of Jesus to this wonderful village.

In the past, we have held Village Lunches and run Messy Church

sessions as well as arranging the annual Living Crib service. We have also held quieter, more reflective services 'Around the Font' in which music and poetry have been key components.

Last year, because we could do none of the above in the light of national restrictions, we reached out to the children of the village by packing and distribution a hundred-and-something Advent Bags.

I'm writing this as I (Rosie) sit in the Chapel on March 23rd, the Day of Reflection to mark the first anniversary of Lockdown. The decision to hold this at the Chapel rather than St Martin's was made solely because of the Chapel's more central position in North Nibley. We site Messy Church in the Chapel because, having no pews, it is a more

flexible venue. We used St Martin's vicar to be the voice of Noddy the Donkey because.....! The real point is that neither Church nor Chapel leads or takes precedence in this group. We love the fact that we truly work together and, at a recent meeting, one member said what a privilege and a pleasure it was to be part of this team. There can be no better accolade than that. We hope that North Nibley values Churches Together as much as its members do. And we hope and pray that we can soon begin to plan events and face to face activities once again.



Rosie's Ramblings

I like the month of May. Spring is established and Summer lies ahead. And it is the month in which I celebrate my birthday.

I have fond memories of eating birthday cake and sipping a glass of something celebratory in the garden - or even hosting a barbecue in glorious May sunshine.

Maybe not every year, but I am convinced that this has been possible more often than not. So those misery mongers who recite the old proverb, "Cast not a clout till May is out" are not welcome on my parade!

I love the English language and it gives me pleasure to know that 'clout' has many meanings. So, in actual fact, we could be being warned against thumping anyone about the head, throwing lumps of earth or discarding our clotted cream before the month of May is over; but I recognise that the more acceptable interpretation is that we are being advised not to shed too many layers, or ditch the Great British Cardigan, until we are safely into June. Such pessimism - and wilful ignoring of the concept of Global warming.

However, there is another interpretation. The hawthorn, also known as the may tree, comes into beautiful blossom in April or, at the latest, by early May. It is a potent symbol of rebirth and I much prefer to think that I can confidently discard my warmer clothing for another year once the may blossom is bedecking the trees.

Lots of things are open to more than one interpretation; time and understanding change our perceptions, and the place in which we stand affects our view of everything around us. May God defend us from ever believing that only we see the world aright!



Alison's Tree-mendous Challenge



Just a quick update:

We're coming to the end of the bare root planting season for trees and hedging, but I'm pleased to report that Nibley is very close to the 700 target. And still the autumn to come, when bare root planting can begin again.

The figure includes native hedging as well as trees, so I'll be compiling separate lists. It's a great effort, thank you Nibley!

I know a lot of people have been interested to see what will happen on the corner at Stancombe, where the stands of trees originally planted for the the Morelands match factory were cleared. This was very necessary, and long overdue management of an area of trees that had become dangerous. The good news is that Walter Eley has recently planted 25 oak, 25 hornbeam, 9 apple, 4 ash, 1 beech and 14 cherry. Birch will be going in soon, with further plantings

in the Autumn. And already, ducks have returned to the pond, the wild garlic is flourishing, and the muntjac deer are very happy.

I know there have been other plantings not counted, so if you haven't already let me know, please get in touch.



Alison Beer

Tel 546251;
text : 07765869412

Email :
nibley50@gmail.com
facebook messenger

Stop press:

Intelligence from the New Inn reveals that the planting of 8 fruit trees (2 x apples, pears, plums, damson) by mine host Les Smitherman has brought the Nibley total to the original target of 700!

Why stop at 700?? Let's keep planting trees and hedges, and see how many North Nibley can achieve in 2021.



Nibley's Favourite Trees



We probably all know about the great oak at Nibley Green (officially listed on the Tree Register as one of Britain's champion trees) and the Jubilee Tree at the top of Lower House Lane, but what's your favourite Nibley tree?

For our family, it's the monkey puzzle tree at Forthay. On our daily journeys to playgroup and school (many years ago now) it stood out as a marker, proud and tall. Because of the shape of its canopy, our boys called it the tortoise tree and there was always great excitement when we came across the large cones that had fallen from its great height.

Many of us have spent more time walking the lanes and paths of Nibley in the last 12 months, often discovering hidden and unknown delights. Maybe you've spotted a particular tree that stands out for you, or

your family. If you have, send a picture and a few words to On The Edge and we'll publish the collection in the July edition. It could be a photo, or a drawing. It could provide a project for half term!

Please send your entries to :
nibleyote@gmail.com

or any of the editors (contact details on Page 11)

No later than June 10th.





Hello everyone!
Everything as before! If anyone has any news they would like to pass on let me know.

I would like to thank Tony Powell for representing Village Eye on the Hall Committee for several years. Tony is now standing down, so thank you for all your help, Tony. Following on would anyone like to volunteer to go on the Hall Committee, mostly to go to the AGM, to keep us informed as normally we use the Hall for our meetings?

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.
Pat Symons 01453 845154

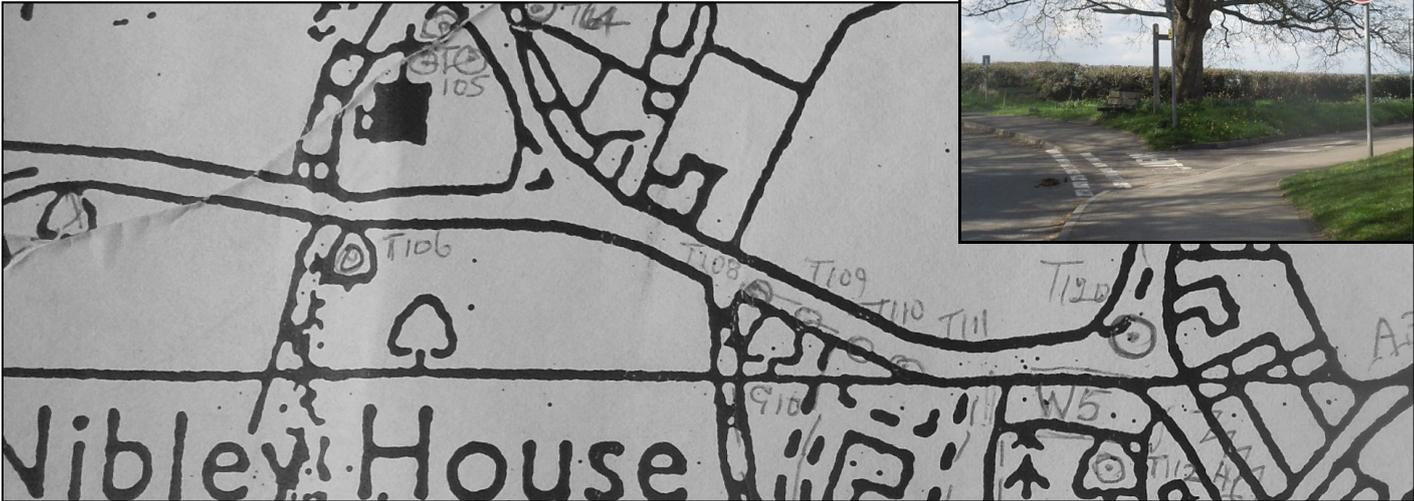
On the subject of Trees —

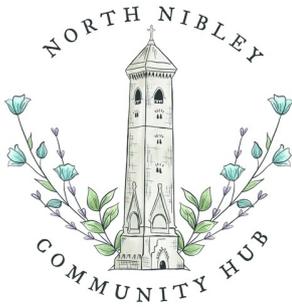
Lorraine Smith and Val Quest are two members of Village Eye, who have accepted a challenge to review a village Tree Survey undertaken by members of the Women’s Institute in 1987.

They are pictured holding the map and survey of the area which covered the village centre and extended from the churchyard to Forthay and Pitt Court and from the foot of Stancombe Pitch/ Crowell Brook to the cemetery and Wood Lane. It identified the height and girth of many specimen trees, commented on their condition, noted particular hedgerows and concluded that “North Nibley appears to be very well endowed with trees.” (an understatement!) Oak, beech, sycamore and ash predominated.

Pat Symons, organiser of Village Eye, has been a member of the Woodland Trust since its beginnings in Devon in the 1970s and remains committed to the importance of trees. She is talking to some of the members of Village Eye who were involved with the original survey to see what they recall

**Still splendid:
The Jubilee Tree**
In 1987 it was identified (T120) as a Norway Maple 50’ ie 15.24m tall and with a circumference at “breast height” of 8’4” ie 2.54m, but the yews (T105) in the churchyard have succumbed to great age and gales recently.





Open from
Thurs to Sun
9:00am-4:30pm

News from the Hub

All being well, and assuming no changes in the timetable for easing the COVID restrictions, we are delighted to announce that the Hub will revert to its **normal opening hours from Thursday 20th May** but, in order to prepare for that event, the the café will be closed from **Monday 10th May to Sunday 16th May inclusive**.

We will finally be able to welcome customers back to sit down in the café. Tables will still be carefully spaced out, and must remain as placed please, and it will be table service only if you are going to sit in, but you are now welcome to come back into the Hub. The restriction of two households per table is still in place and you must either sign in using the NHS Test and Trace app **OR** provide your contact details at the table before you can be served.

Takeaway cakes and hot drinks will still be available as before and orders for these will be taken at the counter. Please be guided by staff and volunteers about the number of people able to be in the building at once, and be aware of your distance from others. Please wait outside if asked.

Thank you so much for your tolerance and patience - we must still keep all of our customers and volunteers safe and will be feeling our way through this new regime slowly and carefully.



Plants, plants, plants ...

Last summer Brian's bench was covered with donations of excess plants from kind villagers. This year we have restored it to its primary function of being a useful and popular place to rest awhile, coffee in hand. However, we have provided some handy green shelving instead, so please feel free to pop your plant donations there. Buyers, please hand your donations into the shop for plants taken, but if it is closed, or just looks a bit busy, simply pop your donation into the black post box above the plant shelves. Thank you so much in anticipation.

News from the NNVSA Committee

Our recent past

Villagers will be very aware that the Village Shop was closed in 2018 after the last tenants departed. A group of enthusiastic 'Nibleyites', with the support of the North Nibley Village Shop Association (NNVSA), which owns the premises, came up with an idea to reopen as a Community Hub, and the old shop was stripped out and refurbished before re-opening as a shop, coffee shop and information point - the Hub that you see today - in October 2019. After eighteen months of successful trading and coping with the challenges of Covid, it is now firmly established. The Committee and a barrage of helpers have worked hard to ensure that the Hub can look forward to a flourishing future and it is once again one of the centrepieces of village life.

Make a difference - Join the NNVSA Committee

Now we must start to plan for the future and we want to broaden the experience on the NNVSA Committee. We would like to speak with anyone who would consider **joining the Committee** and we are very happy to share our experiences. Please do get in touch with me, or the Committee Chair, for an informal chat about what is involved. Our contact details are included overleaf.

Become a stakeholder in our village asset

If being on the Committee is not something you are able to give time to at present then please consider showing your support by **becoming a shareholder**. We can understand that while the shop was in darkness, and indeed starting to light up again, members of the community would not have wanted to join the Association, but now that the Hub is flourishing and here to stay, we would encourage villagers to sign up. The cost is a single payment of £25 and gives you a say in how the shop develops in the future and a vote at the AGM. It is a very small outlay for the knowledge that you have a stake in this important village asset. Shareholder application forms are behind the counter in the Hub and in the documents section of our web site. nnvsa.co.uk. Thank you.

Charles Lamplugh

Secretary NNVA e: charleslamplugh58@gmail.com tel: 01453 549016

John Hay

Chair NNVA, e: john@haymail.net, tel: 07973 327881

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Shareholders:	charleslamplugh58@gmail.com	01453 549016
	http://northnibley.org.uk/villagehub.php/	
	North Nibley Community Hub	
	north-nibley_community_hub	



Spring is a time for new life, particularly on the farm with new lambs and calves arriving. It is also a good time to get out and about walking with your dog and there are some great walks around North Nibley. Sadly, the combination of those things can sometimes lead to loss and it is important to remember the responsibilities of using the countryside and farmland in particular for recreational access. Dogs can unfortunately carry a disease called Neospora, which doesn't harm them and goes undetected, but **which does harm cattle and sheep with pregnant livestock being particularly susceptible as the disease can trigger abortion**. Roly & Claire Brown have recently had blood tests returned to show that Neospora was responsible for one of their beef heifers aborting her calf. The heifer had to have a caesarean to deliver the full-term dead calf and their vet has advised them that they now shouldn't breed from the heifer as a result of the illness. The Neospora disease is found in dog faeces, which then contaminates the animal's grazing pasture, so it is vitally important to pick up after your dog even if you are in open farmland. One dog-walker, when challenged to pick up after their dog, thought that if the dog defecated away from the footpath then it wasn't necessary to clear up after it. **It is always necessary to pick up after your dog.**

And finally, the accompanying pictures (first published on the North Nibley Community Facebook page in April) show that the age of the 'litter lout' is not yet over. Sadly, not everyone who uses the quarry for 'recreational' purposes is considerate enough to clear up after their activities, and we're grateful to the very thoughtful member of the community who, after taking these pictures, went back with a black bag to clear away the detritus from the previous night's revels. The perpetrators were almost certainly from outside the village, but it's still disappointing.



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On The Edge - Editors & Contact Details

Please note that the deadline for items for the June 2021 issue is **10th May 2021**.

Please email to: nibleyote@gmail.com

Sue Devine (543748), Dave Beer (546251),
Dave Earle (546659)
Alison Edwards (543441),
Di Hay (544965)
Alan Shrimpton (544409)

Please contact one of the editors if you would like to use any item from this newsletter.



In remembrance of Prince Philip outside the Chapel

Friday 9th April 2021. Whilst we, as a nation heard about the sad death of HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, it was also the day when I re-attested (or re-joined) back into the military, this time as a reservist. Here I am swearing the Oath with Wg Cdr Sagar. It did cross my mind, as I took the Oath of Allegiance to Queen and Country that it was such a privilege to do so (again) when Prince Phillip himself would have taken the same oath to serve the (then) sovereign and their successors.

Whilst I am 'back in blue' and will be working with 614 Squadron in Glamorgan, I am still serving here in Tyndale of course and I am blessed to be working in 'two camps' (no pun intended!) Being military where you put 'service before self' is very much akin to being a priest and serving in the Christian church in general regardless of whether or not you wear a dog collar.

As we come out of lockdown, I am really excited to get to know you all and hope you will drop in, when able, for coffee with Cookie.

Blessings,

'Cookie'

The Revd. Rachel E Cook.

Vicar: 07483 146 531

Email: TyndaleVicar@gmail.com

Christian Aid Week 10–16 May

In thanksgiving for your COVID vaccination why not make a donation to Christian Aid for its work in third world countries?

Find a link to the Gloucester Diocese Appeal on St Martin's website northnibleychurch.uk



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Cruising the Sound of Jura

It's always a welcome sight, particularly at the end of a long voyage; a sunlit anchorage or marina tucked away in a sheltered spot. And having taken 3 days to cover 650 miles towing our boat **Cloudy Bay** from Plymouth to just south of Oban, we rounded a sharp bend in the road and caught sight of the marina at Ardfern, a mile away and 200 feet below at the head of sparkling Loch Craignish.

We pulled into the marina yard, announced our arrival, and secured Cloudy Bay on the trailer for the night, retiring to the Galley of Lorne Inn for a well-earned drink, meal, and rest.

The Isle of Jura lies a few miles West of Knapdale in the Scottish Highlands; the stretch of sea in between is the Sound of Jura. Among Jura's claims to fame are Barnhill Farm, where George Orwell lived while finishing his novel 1984; the Gulf of Corryvreckan between Jura and the Isle of Scarba, where tides racing through the Gulf form massive eddies and overfalls, among which lurk the 3rd biggest whirlpool in the world; and a small but very fine distillery.

We started day 4 preparing Cloudy Bay for launching, which Marina staff made easy with their tele-handler. Motoring round to our allotted berth, we set about making this our home for most of May and June. Lochgilphead, about 20 miles road journey, was our favoured destination for stocking-up, supplemented by the very well-stocked and friendly Ardfern Village Shop.

Loch Craignish, with the Marina at its North East end, runs 5 miles South West into the Sound of Jura. A tidal Island shelters the marina from the prevailing wind, and with 2 other islands forms "The Lagoon", a delightful anchorage on the North shore. A line of several islands half a kilometre off the South shore provides more anchorages, and an interesting alternative to the main passage down the loch.

Time to meet the locals. We eased out of our berth and headed into Loch Craignish, past Sgeir Dhuhb, a rock which guards the marina entrance, topped with the friendly local seal who takes an interest in boat movements. Heading down the main channel in calm waters and sunshine, surrounded by islands clad in trees and wild flowers, with stunning mountain scenery in the distance, convinced us we had chosen the right cruising destination.

Past the Dorus Mor, a half-kilometre wide channel noted for ferocious tide rips reaching 8 knots (9mph) at the end of Craignish Peninsula, then past delightful islands where seals were hauled out to bask, and seabirds wheeled overhead or dabbled about on kelp-covered rocks. When Alison called

"dolphins!", I stopped the engine, and we drifted while we watched a small pod of dolphins making their way up the Sound. This was to become our mode of



cruising; constantly watching sea, air and land for wildlife, stopping for better views, while keeping a lookout for hazards and the occasional other boat.

In a series of day cruises from Ardfern, we explored further afield, venturing through the Dorus Mor ; an entertaining rollercoaster in which the boat seldom headed in the intended direction for more than a few seconds. Like an aquatic skidpan. Emerging unscathed and looking west, we spotted the notorious Gulf of Corryvreckan. We avoided it, preferring to cruise the Northeast coast of the lovely Isle of Jura, overlooked by the 3 distinctive peaks known as *The Paps of Jura*.



On the East side of the Sound, we explored Loch Crinan; where the Crinan Canal "Britain's Prettiest Shortcut" ends its journey from Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne. (We have entertaining memories of cruising this canal.) Heading north from Craignish Point took us to Loch Shuna, where we called into Craobh Haven Marina for lunch, then on to peaceful Loch Melfort.

Other times we motored up the turbulent Sound of Luing, turning into the Cuan Sound; another 8 knot tide rip, before anchoring in beautiful Ardinamir Bay between Luing and Torsa Islands, for a snack. The entrance to this bay is very narrow and rocky, but with advice from friendly boaters in the marina, we had accumulated some experience in



finding awkward but rewarding anchorages. Such magical, if unpronounceable names as Achanarnich Bay, Eilean nan Gabhar, and Kinuachdrach evoke memories of peace broken only by the occasional splash of a diving seabird or a seal swimming alongside for a closer look, and rewarding sightings of dolphin, porpoises, ospreys, golden-eagles and sea-eagles.

After nearly 2 months living aboard, we loaded Cloudy Bay on to the trailer, and started the long haul home. Even this trip had its highlights; on the A83 near Inverary, an otter scampered across the road in front of us; the only otter we saw that summer!

Dave and Alison Beer