

**With thanks to North Nibley W.I. The following extracts are taken from:**

**“The Story of our Village within Living Memory”**

“North Nibley lies on the South West of the Cotswold Hills in the County of Gloucestershire. It was once called Nubbelei, and as the name implies, (Nubbe means mist – lei is ancient British for pasture lands) is under the hills among the mists and yet the village itself is not in the valley. Nibley Green and Waterley Bottom are in the valley...”

“The old Roman Road through Waterley Bottom confirms the belief that the village was at one time a flourishing place with its cloth mills and many industries...”

“The Tabernacle (Congregational Church) which stands in the centre of the village is an old stone building of plain design such as were put up in the Cromwell Period. It was rebuilt in 1861 at a cost of £250. The Schoolroom was then used as a girl’s school for the village. Stone steps led up outside to the schoolroom...”

“...The Old Church Vestry and Chantry house was once the boy’s school...”

Buildings of Historical Interest

“Near the centre of the Village stands a house which was called ‘Tyndale Institute’. Colonel Buckton was the owner and it was the only place in the village where concerts and such like could be held. It was then used for a Sports Club where they had billiards and other games. After a time they could get no one to run it and so Colonel Buckton... sold it... at the end of the First World War...”

The Parish Council

“The first Parish Council meeting was held on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1894 in the Vestry Room... In 1906 the Council received notification that the Churchyard of St. Marti’s would be closed. Various negotiations were put on foot to procure land for a cemetery and in 1907 Colonel Noel gave a piece of land adjoining the Wotton road for this purpose and burials then ceased to be made in St. Martin’s Churchyard...”

“Mention is made in 1917 of the possible building of houses ‘for the working classes’. However the Council considered that ‘there was no demand for houses now or likely to be after the war’...”

“Between 1920 – 30 much time was given by Parish Council members to consider the erection of Council houses... Barrs Lane was the favoured site for a long period, but difficulty with water supplies prohibited that. Other sites suggested were near the cemetery, in New Road, one at Snitend Nibley Green, at Howley and Frog Lane.

A special meeting of the Parochial Committee was called in February 1930 to review the housing scheme. It transpired that all the sites previously suggested had to be rejected for one reason or another, so the members reluctantly agreed to a proposition that the present scheme be abandoned...”

“During 1933 and 1934, full consideration was given to obtaining a supply of water from the Springs at the watercress beds at Crowell Brook and at Crowell Brook Mill. This scheme was later given up...”

“...From time to time we read of the Parish Pump undergoing repairs and being locked for a week at a time in order that the supply might increase. One wonders how people managed during the periods of scarcity. The happy ending to the story comes in 1941, a big project having been worked out whereby water in abundance became available from Millend...”

“..The importance of Nibley having a plentiful water supply lay in the fact that house building had been at a standstill in the parish. When a water supply came, houses would go up and the parish would develop at a great rate...”

“...In 1936 councillors first contacted the Central Electricity Board with a view to obtaining a Power supply to the village, but it was not available until 1946. In that decade too the long discussed housing scheme saw results when four Swedish houses were erected on the Barrs Lane site in 1947 and 12 Airey Houses on the Innocks site in 1949.”

“The number of names on the Electoral Roll at the end of 1957 was 510.”

#### Ode

From the monument you can see,  
The Parish Church of North Nibley,  
The Old Village Pump  
Is Replaced with a Tump,  
And Gas by Electricity.