

With grateful thanks to Marlene King for the following information and reminiscences

Michael King was born in 1932 and in 1939 at the outbreak of World War 2 Michael and his sister Barbara were sent by their mother from Paddington Station to Stroud and then by taxi to North Nibley to live with their grandmother. They moved into one of cottages near the shop on Barrs Lane (these cottages have since been demolished). Michael told Marlene he was horrified by the cottage as there was no electricity or water. They had come from London and were used to running water, electricity and a toilet.

In 1945 there were celebrations in the village at the end of the war and on that day Mrs King, Michael and Barbara's mother arrived to stay. They moved into Myrtle Cottage, which they purchased. This was in the Square and had 3 storeys. Later Dursley District Council put a closing order on the cottages and the family were moved to one of the Swedish Houses (the last one on the right just before you get to Highlands Drive). They were given only a small amount of money in compensation for the property they owned.

Marlene came to North Nibley in 1962.

At this time Ken King was landlord of the Black Horse and Pete Waterson ran The White Hart.

I remember the snow in 1962/63. We were living in Stancombe and were cut off for a week. There was a tunnel cut through the snow so we could get through.

In February 1963 Marlene and Michael King moved to Biddesham (next door to Liz Bunn's house). At this time the shop was just a tin shed. Biddesham had electricity, running water but not mains drainage. There was a septic tank. They lived there for about a year then moved to The Grey House at Smarts Green and to Highlands Drive in 1968.

Marlene remembers a time before she lived in North Nibley, when she was about 17, there used to be Bathing Beauty Competitions held at Stancombe Park. The year someone arrived wearing a bikini surprised everyone!!

She also remembers the flooding on The Street (opposite the Powell's house). The water came into the houses from the back, through them and out of the front door!