



John & JoJo wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



A Corner Cottage publication
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“THE NAGLES” AN EVERY DAY STORY OF DORSET FOLK

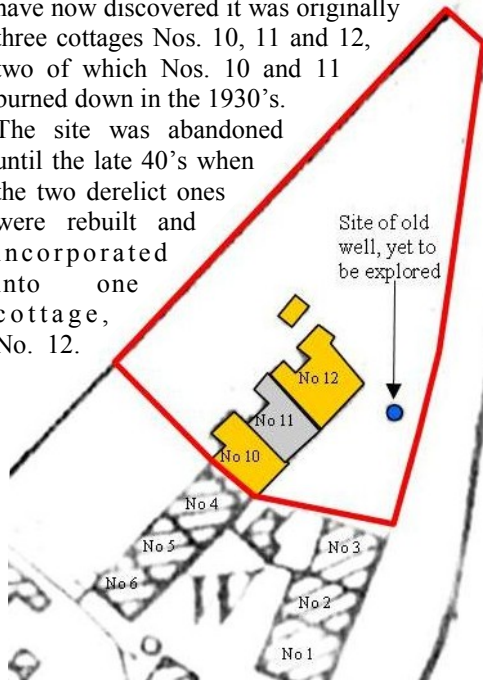


I've got a brand new combine harvester

Well not exactly, it's a lawn tractor! Now that we have loads of grass John couldn't resist buying one to keep the garden in order and keeps threatening to mow all the verges between the cottage and the Blackmore Vale pub as a community service. Why he proposes stopping the work at that destination has not been revealed!

The Cottage

What an adventure and what a success! It was built between 1830 and 1835 and we have now discovered it was originally three cottages Nos. 10, 11 and 12, two of which Nos. 10 and 11 burned down in the 1930's. The site was abandoned until the late 40's when the two derelict ones were rebuilt and incorporated into one cottage, No. 12.



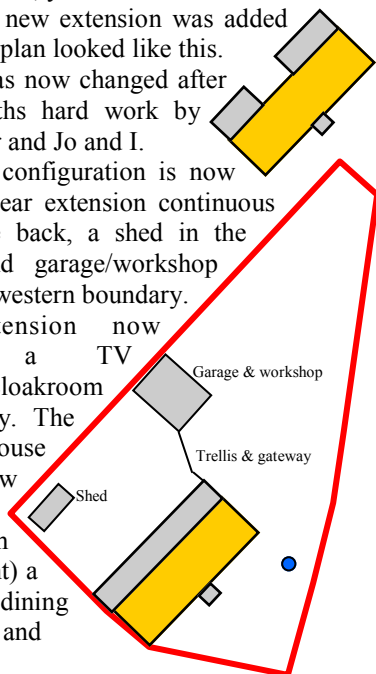
What was originally the ground floor of No 10 was turned into a garage, No 11's ground floor became the kitchen and dining room and No 12's ground floor became the hall and stairway and the sitting room. On the first floor there were three bedrooms and a bathroom with a separate loo about the size of a cupboard, you had to enter backwards!

In 1972 a new extension was added so the site plan looked like this.

All that has now changed after nine months hard work by the builder and Jo and I.

The final configuration is now with the rear extension continuous across the back, a shed in the corner and garage/workshop along the western boundary.

The extension now comprises a TV room, a cloakroom and a study. The main house now consists of (from left to right) a kitchen, dining room, hall and



stairs and a sitting room where we uncovered an excellent large fireplace.

The first floor was completely gutted and rebuilt with two large bedrooms both of which are en-suite.

New fences have been built, lawns created and shrubs and trees removed and planted.

There is still some work to do removing some asphalted drive area in front of the cottage and some more tidying up in the garden. The cottage needs a few small jobs completing and then we are going on strike!



To say that we are pleased with the end result would be a gross understatement and although inevitably we have gone wildly over budget (what's new) it has been a worthwhile venture, resulting in a new home that is spacious and although nearly 200 years old is now in "as new" condition, with all new heating and insulation, plumbing, windows, electrics, water supply, the main roof overhauled, and a new roof on the extension.

Other than that we haven't done anything!!



What of our other activities I hear you ask?

Well, we fitted in several rallies in the little Morris, as well as it being runner up in the "Classic Car of the Year" awards. The Morris Register occupied a goodly tranche of time on admin work, but we still found time to attend

Henley Royal Regatta, fit in a couple of French trips, a splendid holiday



with brother Michael at his lovely villa in Marrakech and organise our dinner at Leander Club for our old business friends, "The Thames Valley Mafia". I don't mind telling you we had a few!

We hosted lots of friends and family to the cottage, and if you would like to visit us you have only to book in with the social secretary, Jo Jo.

We look forward to a less frantic 2014.